

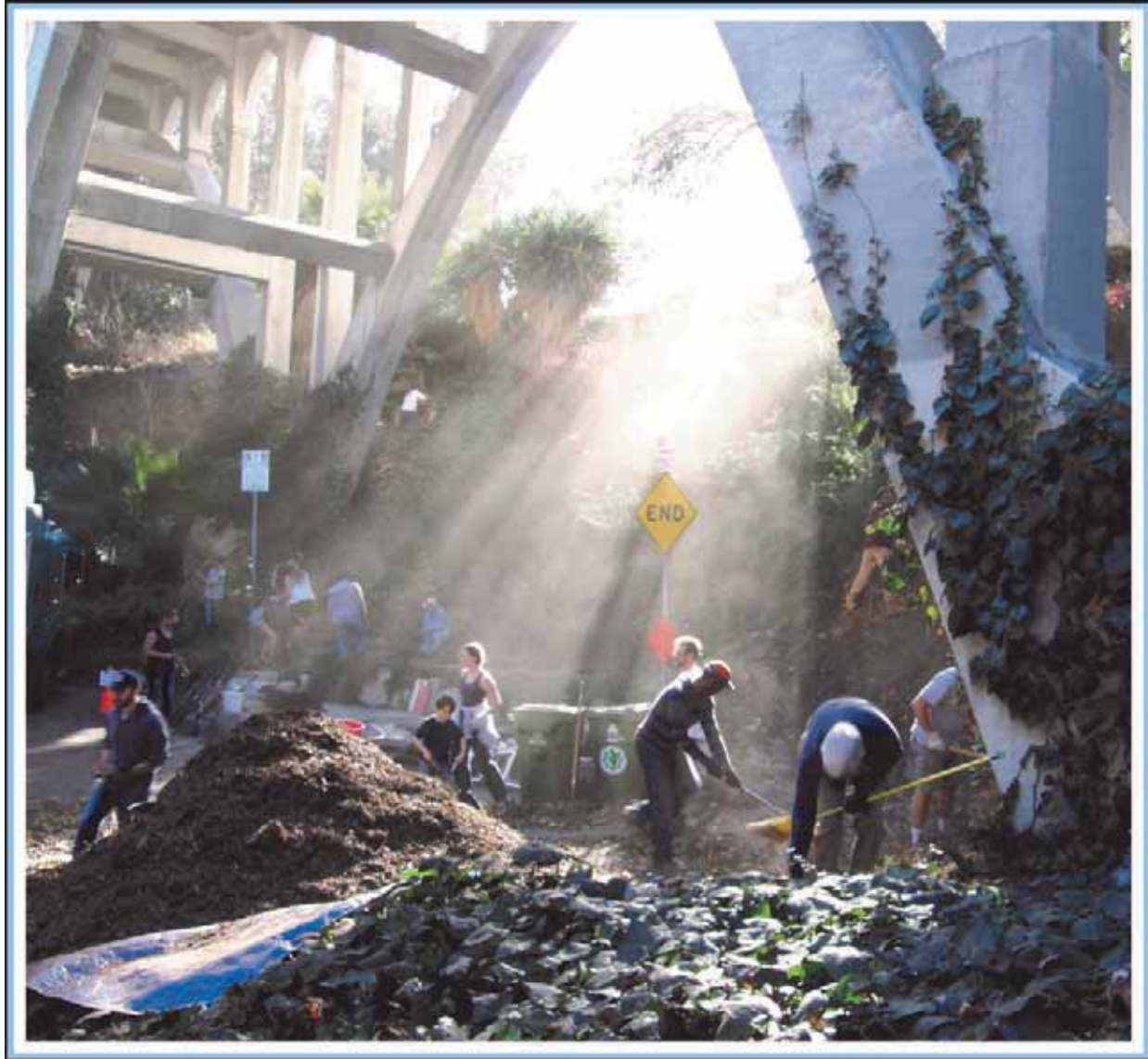
OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Issue #47

Spring\Summer

2014



FHRA Annual Meeting \ Sat. June 21 Noon-2pm \ Prospect Studios \ See Page 4 For More Info

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OVERVIEW



A semi-annual publication created and distributed by volunteer residents, neighbors, friends and supporters of the Franklin Hills Residents Association—a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
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Hello

By Chris Boutelle, FHRA President

Of all the devices we have now for communications, one of the most important ones is the doorbell. Being in touch with your neighbors is a vital part of being a member of the community. The Franklin Hills Residents Association wants to encourage you to get to know your neighbors.

We have “Welcome Kits” that feature past *Overviews*, maps of Franklin Hills and Griffith Park, discounts from local businesses and much more that you can take to your new neighbors to help acclimate them to the area. We can deliver a kit for you to give new people or a Board Member will even accompany you to help “break the ice”, if you like.

Now is the time of year when many properties are changing hands. Welcome the new people into the neighborhood by inviting them to come to our annual meeting which this year will again be held at The Prospect Studios, 4151 Prospect Avenue on Saturday, June 21 between noon and 2 PM. (Due to security concerns, people **MUST** RSVP beforehand, preferably by Thursday, June 19, either by email at FHRA@franklinhills.org or voicemail at 323-908-6078.) A picture ID will be necessary to get on to the studio property. Access will be via the “East (Employee) Gate”, midway up Prospect Avenue close to Sanborn Avenue.

The past year has been a busy one for the FHRA. We have had several successful graffiti and trash clean-up days, including along Hyperion Avenue, Monon Street and various public staircases used by walkers, exercisers and school children alike. We celebrated the 10th year anniversary of the Shakespeare Bridge Garden, under the Franklin Avenue Bridge at Monon Street and had another annual potluck picnic with music, on the grounds of John Marshall High School. Neighbors from all over Franklin Hills participated to make those days productive, memorable and fun. We also started several Neighborhood Watch groups.

For our upcoming Annual Meeting, we have invited L.A. Animal Services Wildlife Officer Greg Randall to tell us about coyotes and other critters in Franklin Hills. Representatives from the L.A. Police and Fire Departments will be on hand to speak as will Councilmember Tom LaBonge who will bring us up to date about what’s happening at City Hall.

Come, vote for new Board Members, have some lunch and enjoy delicious homemade treats by our resident “Cookie Lady”, Vivien Shea and Board Member Tim Cowell. We invite you to learn about some of the history of Prospect Studios, one of the oldest continuously operating studios in Los Angeles. We are hoping to have a soundstage or studio tour at the end of the meeting. Hope to see you there! ■

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The FHRA

FHRA's Treasurer's Report—Things Were Up In 2013

By Bruce Carroll, Treasurer

FHRA's paid membership increased to 269 for 2013, a 1.1% gain from 2012, and member contributions beyond the basic dues were also up, by \$100, to \$1350. That helped increase income from all sources by 1.7% to \$15,580.61 and we ended the year with \$30,141.24...a net increase of \$740, much improved from 2012 when we were down nearly \$3,100.

Our biggest income source, ads in the Overview, totaled \$8,755 in 2013, a big jump of \$3,930 from 2012. That was caused by two factors, some of 2012's ads were not paid for until 2013, and the 20 page fall 2012 issue had less ad space than previous 24 page issues. Sales of FHRA T-shirts and Historic Photos (check them out on our website at (www.franklinhills.org/fh-historicfotos.pdf) brought in \$283 up slightly, contributions to the median at \$125 were down by over 50%, while the Norman Harriton Community Garden collected \$1,000 in dues and contributions down \$135 from 2012. And bringing up the rear, and declining once again, we earned just \$32.29 in bank interest and dividends down 10% from 2012.

As in past years while the Overview brings in the most revenue it also ranks as our biggest expenditure. The 2013 cost came to \$9,447. The next highest expense was maintaining Franklin Ave. Median at a cost of \$1,747. We spent about \$1,200 on other community projects and outreach including our annual meeting, the picnic at Marshall High, the coyote informational meeting, plus graffiti clean-up/paint out supplies, National Night Out, and maintaining the garden under the Shakespeare Bridge. Next came insurance for the FHRA and its volunteers at \$1,176. Community donations followed at \$580, for causes ranging from the Marshall High Academic Decathlon Team to the relay to fight cancer. The Norman Harriton garden spent \$250. And a bit under \$200 was spent on maintaining communication links including our website - www.FranklinHills.org , e-mail - FHRA@FranklinHills.org, voicemail/fax - 323-908-6078, and snail mail - PO Box 29122, LA CA 90029.

We hope all Franklin Hills residents will help to continue to support our community efforts. If you have been receiving our e-mailed FHRAAlerts, but haven't officially become an FHRA member, or your membership has lapsed, now would be a great time to make your contribution. Current members can use the return addressed envelope in the FHRA letter you should have received. If you're not already a member use the convenient membership form printed in this Overview or come to the annual meeting and join us there. Individual dues are just \$15 per year, \$30 for a household and of course extra contributions are always welcome and tax deductible since FHRA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charity. And for those who just can't tear themselves away from their computers, our FranklinHills.org website has a "JOIN FHRA" link where you can make donations using a credit card or PayPal. In 2012 donations via PayPal totaled \$465, but PayPal deducts a fee, reducing the net to about \$450. So why not add what you would have paid in postage plus gas to your PayPal donation. Thank you for your past and continued support for FHRA and the businesses whose ads make this Overview possible. ■

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The FHRA

Events & Projects

FHRA Annual Meeting Saturday June 21 / Noon-2pm The Prospect Studios Rehearsal Hall

Come hear and meet City officials , including Councilmember Tom LaBonge and reps from LAPD and LAFD.

Learn a bit more of the history of "The Prospect Studios" with clips from some of the earliest TV shows when ABC took over the studio 65 years ago.

There will also be light lunch/refreshments served, a couple of raffles, and we are also trying to plan (and confirm) a special on-foot tour of the studios right after the meeting.

Due to studio security, attendees MUST RSVP at rsvp@franklinhills.org

FHRA Welcome Kits

Do you have a new neighbor whom you'd like to introduce to the neighborhood? Come to the FHRA annual meeting on June 21st and get an FHRA Welcome Kit to share.

Bring your neighbor with you – what better way to get acquainted?! The FHRA Welcome Kit has information about the community, area restaurants and amenities, and City services. Let us know if you'd like a kit to take with you to meet your new neighbor. One of the FHRA board members would be happy to accompany you or you can take it yourself.

For more information, contact:



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Activists

Hyperion Avenue Clean Up

Hanna Garth

On February 8, 2014, a group of about 20 residents gathered to clean up Hyperion Avenue between Lyric Ave. and DeLongpre. Hanna Garth and Shirley Mims of the FRHA organized the event. LAPD Capt. Jeff Bert, SLO Lenny Davis, and CD-4 area deputy Dan Halden joined us for the day. FHRA provided water, snacks, and basic tools. The group picked up a lot of trash (including a Christmas tree) along the parkways and gutters of the busy street. We removed graffiti, and trimmed some of the plants that were blocking access to walkways or restricting views. It was a very fulfilling day and our hard work significantly improved the look of the area.

Keeping Hyperion looking good is an ongoing effort. We hope that our cleanup will encourage residents and everyone passing through Franklin Hills to help us maintain the area by not littering, picking up after dogs, and reporting or removing any graffiti. It is important to keep the sidewalks clear of debris or overgrown plants so pedestrians can safely pass and cars have maximum visibility.

The goal is to have several phases of beautification on Hyperion. The February cleanup was the first phase. As the second phase we would like to beautify the area more with plantings along the parkway. We have started on one part of Hyperion with some cacti and succulents. If you live along Hyperion and are interested in sprucing up and maintaining the area along your parkway please get in touch with us! To keep up with Hyperion based issues join our Facebook group Concerned Citizens of Hyperion:

<https://www.facebook.com/savehyperion> ■



Los Feliz Neighborhood Council

Luke Klipp

One sunny Saturday afternoon, I was walking across Sunset Boulevard at Fountain when a driver turned the corner at a high speed and nearly ran into me. They subsequently honked at me, flicked me off, and sped around me as I continued crossing the street with the crosswalk. This isn't an unusual story in Los Angeles, and many of us have been in both my spot as a pedestrian and in the spot of that driver who may not have seen me until moments before they made a blind turn. In a city of millions of people, many of whom are trying to get to far-flung places in a hurry, it's any wonder that this somehow "works" in any way to begin with.

That experience gave me the idea to reach out to our community's leadership, to see if there was any way to make our neighborhood safer. After all, in LA about as many people every year are killed in auto crashes as are killed by guns. For me, public safety - and our community's ability to function - is about the simple things. It's about keeping our streets and medians clean. It's about knowing our neighbors and being patient with one another. It's about being smart and efficient in how we allocate and use our public space, and how we engage our local businesses, to build a community that embraces all its components.

In reaching out to our local leadership, I saw the value of our neighborhood council and the importance of our community having a strong voice in city hall and elsewhere. And that is why I am excited to serve on the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) these next four years.

The Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) has been around for over 25 years, and in that time our neighborhood has seen a lot of change. While I've lived in the area for only a couple years, in that short time I've come to value and appreciate the investment that so many of us have in making our community a better place. From neighborhood watches, to regular clean-ups, every little thing we do makes a difference in keeping our neighborhood safe, clean, and welcoming for us, our neighbors, and our many visitors.

Undoubtedly, there will be times when you and I will find ourselves in disagreement on various issues these next few years. And I believe that the reason conversations become heated and impassioned is that we all care about our community and want to see it succeed. With that in mind, I very much look forward to working with you these next four years and thank you for the opportunity to serve as our representative on the LFNC.

Should you have any questions, concerns or things you'd like to discuss, please send me an email at lukeklipp@lofeliznc.org.

Luke Klipp lives with his husband and two dogs on Hoover Street and was recently elected to serve as one of three representatives of District E on the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC). FHRA is located in both Districts D and E. More information on LFNC is available at www.lofeliznc.org. ■



Water

Familiar Signs

By Bruce Carroll



We've been seeing a lot of these signs lately as the Department of Water and Power is working to upgrade its infrastructure. The 4 inch water main under Talmadge Ave. is being replaced with a 6 inch main to better serve the community which has certainly grown since 1928 when the original pipes were installed. Larger water mains are also being installed on Franklin Ave. and other lesser traveled neighborhood streets. (LEFT)

Getting two for the inconvenience of one was the program of the day outside The Prospect Studios in mid-April. While DWP crews were working on the west side of Talmadge, across the street non-city workers were cutting a trench to install new communication cables. While it would seem like a good idea to coordinate such work to reduce the inconvenience of street closures, one DWP worker expressed his opinion that those other guys should have picked a different day. (BELOW)



Photos by Bruce Carroll

"I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it."

W.c. fields

Big Water Leak? DWP May Help With Big Bill

By Bruce Carroll

As the FHRA treasurer I'm the guy who pays the water bill for irrigation on the Franklin Ave. median. Last year it was averaging about \$20 a month until October when the bill hit a shocking \$153.96. The previous bill was just \$12.93. Clearly something was wrong so I quickly went out to check the meter and the reading matched the bill. After turning the valve at the meter to the off position I found that some of the irrigation pipes had been broken, probably by a car jumping the curb.

After our median gardening service repaired the damaged pipes I called the DWP which has a program to adjust the bills of customers who suddenly have very high usage water due to leaks. It was around the time that the news was reporting widespread errors in DWP billing and that was reflected in endless times on hold waiting to talk to somebody. After several tries I did get someone who told me to write about the situation to the DWP's Field Investigation Unit 213-367-8380 to make a request for an adjustment. I sent them the requested fax to 213-367-8390, and then the real waiting began.

I'd try to call to check on the progress of the FHRA request and was met with messages that said call between 7am and 8am if you wanted to reach a live person, but I got voicemail anyhow. Finally after about 7 months I was actually able to speak with the inspector assigned to the FHRA request and we met at the median a couple of days later. Inspector Cesar Cuevas quickly assessed the situation and reduced the bill by about 50% and made good on the DWP's promise to forgive late charges added during the long wait for resolution.

With the DWP's current aggressive effort to put the billing nightmares in the past, hopefully should any Franklin Hills residents have a similar problem with a high bill caused by a leak, the resolution can be made in a more timely manner. You will need to show the Field Investigation inspector that the problem has been repaired, plumbers bill etc., and you should be able to get about half off the extra water usage attributable to the leak. But be sure it's really fixed because the DWP will only make one such adjustment per year. For those who live near, or pass by the median, if you see water leaking, sprinklers on for long periods or at banned times such as between 9am and 4pm you can call FHRA at 323-908-6078 to let us know. ■



Photos by Bruce Carroll



If you're a handy person you can shut off the irrigation system by using the blue handled valve on the backflow preventer shown highlighted in the photos. But be sure to call and let us know that you did.

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Gardens

Shakespeare Bridge Garden Makeover

By Shirley Mims

On a sunny day late in January an extraordinary mix of more than 30 neighbors, students, Los Angeles police officers, CD4 reps, and City personnel came together under the Shakespeare Bridge to clear the slope of overgrown ivy, to prune the rose garden, to spread mulch that was donated by the neighboring school, LILA (Lycee International de Los Angeles), and for other sprucing up of the area. The event was so successful that neighbors on Monon held a second clean up in February to finish the work. The garden is now primed for new plants, if only there was water.

The water system has suffered a comedy of damages over the last few years. After the Bureau of Sanitation excavated the garden to make emergency sewer repairs a few years ago, the slope was not restored to its original grade nor was the garden replanted to its original design. In recent months, a City trash truck hit the backflow preventer device, twice, leaving the garden without water unless one of the neighbors drags a hose from his house over to the garden. FHRA's Bruce Carroll was able to repair the backflow preventer the first time. The second hit soon after broke a pipe that is buried under concrete and caused more severe damage that is not as easily fixed.

The City is working with the Franklin Hills to replace the water system and to locate it further back from the curb to prevent this type of damage from happening again. The City will also build behind the rose bed a short retaining wall decorated with river stone to keep dirt from falling forward onto the flat part of the garden. Landscape experts will meet with residents for ideas to replant the barren slope with low-care, drought tolerant plants.

The garden was devised to create a beautified area that is enjoyed by its neighbors and to avert graffiti, loitering, crime, lewd activity, fires and homeless camps. It has seen a lot of changes and has received a lot of attention over its ten plus years. For



more information on its history, go to the FHRA web site at www.franklinhills.org. Transcripts of the talks that were given by bridge expert Clark Robins and local historian Don Seligman at the garden's ten year anniversary are posted on the web site as well as more photos and coverage of the clean up event. ■

Photos by Rick LaRocca

*The Norman Harriton
Community Garden*

By Bruce Carroll

The Norman Harriton Community Garden is currently comprised of an eclectic mix of households united by their love of organic gardening and a strong sense of community. The garden was founded in 2000 by the late Norman Harriton at the suggestion of FHRA board member, Adam Weisman. Norm's determined leadership transformed a thicket of weeds into a bounty of organic vegetables.

The Garden, located at 2037 N. Sanborn Ave., is a joint venture between Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA) and the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA). There are bylaws that govern membership. Currently the elected garden coordinators are Pascha Goodwin and Daphna Lapidot. To learn more about the community garden or to get on the list for your own garden plot, send an email to: garden@franklinhills.org ■



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Info

Coming Events

FHRA Annual Meeting—June 21
At The Prospect Studios
Noon-2pm / rsvp@franklinhills.org

Franklin Hills Summer Picnic
Sun. July 19 on the
Marshall High School lawn

National Night Out
Tues. August 5

See the FHRA web site for more details on these
and other events.
www.franklinhills.org

Community Contacts

LAUSD School Police.....(213) 625-6631
Marshall High School—Main#-.....(323) 671-1400
King Middle School—Main#-.....(323)644-6700

Prospect Studios.....(323) 671 - 5000
City Services..... 311
Animal Services.....(888) 452-7381
Dead Animal Pickup.....(888) 452-7381x2
Lost Animals.....(888) 452-7381x2
Barking Dogs.....(888) 452-7381x3
Building & Safety Violations.....(888) 524-2845
Councilmember Tom Labonge

4th District213) 485-3337
email: councilmember.labonge@lacity.org
Field Deputy: Kristy Noochlaor
.....(213) 473-2344
e-mail: kristy.noochlaor@lacity.org

FHRA Voicemail.....(323) 908-6078
e-mail: FHRA@franklinhills.org

Fire Department:

Emergency.....911
Non-Emergency..... (213) 485-6185

Homeless Services.....211
LA Info Line.....211
Los Feliz Public Library..... (323) 913-4710

Police:

Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis.....(213) 793-0763
Sr. Lead Officer Craig Orange.....(213) 793-7062
Non-Emergency.....311

Northeast Division..... (323) 344-5701

Gang Problems..... (323) 344-5754

Graffiti..... (213) 847-0511
Parking Enforcement..... (213) 972-8470
Poison Control..... (800) 222-1222
Rape Hotline..... (310) 392-8381
Restraining Orders..... (213) 974-5587
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Community



Volunteers turned out for three recent “clean up” projects in and around Franklin Hills. Clockwise from top left: The Hyperion Avenue clean up organized by Hanna Garth; the Radio Walk staircase clean up as part of the city-wide “Big Sunday” day of service; and the “makeover” of the community rose garden under the Shakespeare Bridge (also seen in Bruce Carroll’s striking photo on the cover of this issue of the OVERVIEW.) ■

Community

Spring Cleaning "Big Sunday" Style

By Bruce Carroll

On a sunny warm Saturday in mid May about four dozen volunteers from six local organization, including the FHRA, teamed up to clean up our neighborhood. Our local efforts were part of the annual "Big Sunday Weekend" event. "Big Sunday" started in LA sixteen years ago and has now spread to seven states, but as in almost everything, California is the biggest with over 500 projects, in over 100 communities, with 50,000 volunteers.

As volunteers signed in outside the Masonic Temple on Vermont they got a "Big Sunday" t-shirt and supplies like the graffiti cleaning kits prepared by the FHRA and LFIA with solvent and scrubbers to remove graffiti from most surfaces, plus a can of gray paint for when that's the best solution. Similar kits will be available at the FHRA Annual Meeting on June 21st at The Prospect Studios .

City Councilmember Tom La-Bonge thanked the volunteers, posed for pictures, then sprinted across Vermont where he spotted a pile of discarded furniture in the parkway next to the sidewalk. The CD-4 pickup truck and crew were on hand to pickup that junk and the bags of debris harvested by all the volunteers.



Then volunteers broke into four teams, two headed up to Los Feliz Blvd. to clean their way down Hillhurst and Vermont to Prospect Avenue. Another headed to the Vermont Triangle and the FHRA team put their efforts into cleaning up the Radio Walk stairs from Lyric to Claremont.

There, volunteers from Franklin Hills clipped overhanging bushes, shoveled caked on mud, swept leaves, and scrubbed away graffiti. Until it all looked clean...at least for a little while. Then back on Vermont volunteers were rewarded with pizza and the good feeling that comes with good works. ■

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Opinion

Polluting Leaf Blowers:

The millions of leaf blowers contribute to air and noise pollution and climate change. After studying the problem, public officials have made them illegal. Don't you recall your parents using non-polluting rakes and brooms? Don't be afraid to tell your gardeners to put the blowers away. It would be nice if the rest of us could sit on the porch in silence.

The Nagger

Editor's Note: The Nagger is Franklin Hills' longtime resident anonymous commentator who, on occasion, gets so worked up about current affairs that he is compelled to pick up paper and pen and write us. Readers may reply or respond at : editor@franklinhills.org

SAFETY CHECK

Ideas and suggestions to help keep you, your family, and your neighbors safe.

FHRAlerts Bruce Carroll

Almost 600 of your neighbors are on the the FHRAlert e-mail list to receive timely info on neighborhood crimes, upcoming events and safety tips. It's easy to join, just send us your e-mail address to FHRA@FranklinHills.org and ask to be put on the list.

Here's how it works: earlier this spring a Ronda Vista Drive resident e-mailed FHRA about a burglary at his home. His report included a brief description of a possible suspect spotted by an ADT security officer responding to the home alarm. In response we got an e-mail from a Franklin Hills resident on Monon St. who reported that he had called LAPD that same afternoon about a suspicious man, fitting the same general description, loitering under the Shakespeare Bridge. Police had responded and escorted the man away from the area and obtained his identity.

The next day the Ronda Vista resident reported to us that his neighbor had found some of the stolen items in his trash bin, including a glass case that the police were able to lift fingerprints from. Also in the trash was "a little wax candle in the shape of a nun" that belonged to neither of the neighbors but, he wondered, could it have come from a home on Clayton that FHRAlert reported had been broken into the day before?

It's this kind of web of cooperation that FHRA hopes can ensnare the crooks and help the cops put the pieces of the puzzle together to catch the bad guys and keep everyone a bit safer.

There is no schedule for the FHRAlerts. We hate inbox clutter just as much as you. FHRAlerts are only sent when there is some information that we believe could be of help to Franklin Hills residents. In the incidents described above we sent four alerts in a week, other times 2-3 weeks go by and no news is good news. Just send your contact info to FHRA@FranklinHills.org and you too can be in the know.

Neighborhood Watch



One of the best ways you can promote safety for your neighborhood is to know who your neighbors are. If you are not already a block captain, you can easily become one. Start by gathering your neighbors' contact info and sharing it with all who participate. If a suspicious activity is observed, contact the LAPD and let FHRA and your neighbors know about it.

If you'd like more information on holding a Neighborhood Watch meeting, contact Shirley Mims at shirley@franklinhills.org or SLO Lenny Davis at 26028@lapd.lacity.org. Come to the FHRA annual meeting and get a free window decal!

E-Policing

When you sign up for E-policing you will receive emails from your Senior Lead Officer (SLO), who is your liaison with the LAPD.

Each SLO is responsible for a small portion of the community known as a Basic Car Area, and will address local issues to help keep you safe and informed. You'll also have access to LAPD's Crime Mapping service. It's easy. Sign up at:

www.lapdepolicing.org

Texting & Driving

100,000 crashes a year involve drivers who are texting. It's amazing that there are people who just don't comprehend the danger in this activity. Don't text and drive!

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SAFETY CHECK

Safe Passages Shirley Mims

Campus safety is a serious matter. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is protected by a patrol team of school police 24/7 via a network of officers all of whom have been fully trained in a basic police academy curriculum in addition to special training for school policing that includes juvenile law and issues specific to school and education systems. Each school has at least one assigned officer during school hours. The entire team works in staggered shifts to ensure continuous coverage around the schools.

The primary concerns of school police are safe passages for kids to and from school and the safety of kids, parents, faculty and staff both in and around campus. School police work in collaboration with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers. Before and after school, you will see officers patrolling around the campus. A typical day for a school police officer involves taking reports from kids, breaking up fights, and dealing with trespassers.

The Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) is the largest independent school police department in the nation. The LASPD serves more than 1,100 schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District that comprises 655,000 students, and teachers, staff and administrators. As more schools were built and more students attended, their school police staffing did not increase to keep up. Taking into account the reduction of school police officers due to budget constraints, the LASPD is left with a challenge to respond to our schools. Despite this, school police are required to respond to and handle many security issues. The school police force takes this challenge in stride.

Take Marshall High School, for example, which experienced a reduction of 50% in its assigned police, from two officers to one. Officer Lee is the current officer assigned to Marshall. He rises to the challenge by keeping his door open to students and serving as a mentor to help students through periods of crisis and general distress. He also responds to neighborhood concerns, issues tickets for loitering and traffic violations and monitors school events and sports activities as needed.

The Franklin Hills area is home to several exceptional schools. LILA belongs to an internationally acclaimed education system that produces well-rounded kids who are ready to face the world. King is an all-magnet school which prepares kids for higher education. Marshall graduates have a high acceptance rate to Berkeley, UCLA and other prestigious universities.

Remember – most of the students who attend local schools also live in the local area. They are our neighbors. Many students take pride and participate in the community just like you do. According to LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Lenny Davis, much of the graffiti seen in the neighborhoods is done not by school kids but by young adults who are 20 years and older. If you see graffiti, please report it to Officer Beall, the LAPD Northeast Division anti-graffiti officer. If you

Lenny Davis, much of the graffiti seen in the neighborhoods is done not by school kids but by young adults who are 20 years and older. If you see graffiti, please report it to Officer Molly Beall, the LAPD Northeast Division anti-graffiti officer (her e-mail 32430@lapd.lacity.org) If you see it as it is being done, call our SLO or the school police dispatch at 213 625 6631.

The Franklin Hills Residents Association continues to support relationships between our community and our local schools to work together. For more information, sign up for the LASPD newsletter at www.laspd.com.

Auto Crime Prevention

In response to a recent jump in car break-ins and thefts in our area, LAPD Northeast issued these tips:

1. Never leave valuables in PLAIN VIEW in your car. Thieves know that you hide your property under towels, sweaters and packages. Secure items in your trunk prior to arriving at location. Thieves are watching you.
2. Use some type of anti-theft device (alarm system or steering lock).
3. Park in well-lighted or high-traffic areas.
4. Permanently mark your property with identification. We suggest your driver license or ID card number.
5. Keep serial numbers of electronic equipment, such as computers, iPods, GPS, and cellular telephones.
6. Never leave your car running unattended.
7. Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up.
8. Don't leave personal identification documents in car (Vehicle Ownership Title, credit cards etc. Keep copies of license plate and vehicle identification numbers with you.
9. If your car is stolen or burglarized, immediately report it to the police.
10. Report suspicious activity or people loitering in the area.

CERT Training

Community Emergency Response Team training offered through the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).

www.cert-la.com/

SAFETY CHECK

Private Sidewalks? Anne Richardson

Thinking of re-landscaping your front yard? Wait! Here are three reasons why, before you push your garden wall or bamboo shrubbery all the way to the street, you should at least consider leaving 18 inches open for pedestrian traffic.

When Franklin Hills was created, the City of Los Angeles in its infinite wisdom decided not to provide any space for sidewalks. But as we all know, dog walkers, joggers, parents and children, and pedestrians of all stripes love to walk in the hills, and books have even been published about hiking the stairs. Yet it can be downright hazardous to walk in the streets with cars coming up and down the streets, especially in those places with curves.

As I walk my dog, I have noticed that some of the houses in our neighborhood have included on the edge of their property some open space with a few paving stones, brick walks, or even just bark shavings. If even a few people made the change, we could have a virtual private sidewalk, changing in front of each home, in which to walk. So here goes, the top three reasons to make a private sidewalk part of your landscaping:

Safety for the pedestrians. We try to get all the drivers to slow down – especially the visitors – but we can, maybe, do something about having more space to walk. Just a few extra inches on the front yard can make more space to walk safely without having to flatten oneself up against a wall.

Better visibility. Leaving a little space at the front of the yard also makes it easier to see around corners for both walkers and cars.

Safety for the drivers. Even if you don't walk, you probably drive. You may have been startled by coming around a corner to face someone walking on the street, narrowly avoiding running them over. Having more space for walkers will make the experience of driving on our hills less harrowing for drivers as well.

Not every household can do this, I know. Many houses have retaining walls or garden walls that go right up to the curb. This is just a modest proposal for those who have the ability and the inclination to make a little pedestrian space on our car-oriented hillside streets.



(Above) Property that forces pedestrians to walk in the street to pass by. (Below) A friendlier alternative that welcomes walkers to step up out of the street.



SAFETY CHECK

☑ Earthquake Readiness

During an earthquake, drop, cover and hold on. Minimize your movements to a few steps to a nearby safe place and if you are indoors, stay there until the shaking has stopped and you are sure exiting is safe.

- DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
- Do not use a doorway except if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway and it is close to you. Many inside doorways are lightly constructed and do not offer protection.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Do not exit a building during the shaking. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.
- DO NOT use the elevators.
- If you are outdoors, move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.

Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Many of the 120 fatalities from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake occurred when people ran outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

More info regarding safety and natural disasters is available on the Dept. of Homeland Security's web site:

www.ready.gov

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Wildlife

Coyote Season Will Soon Be Here

By George Grace

Coyote season will be here starting in August, and lasting until the end of November. This is the time of year coyotes will be moving around the neighborhood in groups. Be sure you are prepared by carrying a coyote hazing device when you walk your pets, and be careful to keep them in a safe place at home. At the FHRA Coyote meeting in October 2013, Wildlife Officer Greg Randall recommended a variety of deterrent devices, and advised rotating their use. His list included air horns, coyote rattles, storm whistles, umbrellas, pepper spray, pots to bang together, tennis balls to throw (you can also use rocks or sticks), slingshots, water guns with vinegar spray, and some others. Personally, I find throwing something at the coyote(s) is the most effective deterrent.



There is a simple explanation for this annual phenomenon based on the coyote's life cycle. Male and female coyotes start court-

ing each other in January, and soon the female develops a relationship with one of them. They will be together for life. In April or May when there is plenty of food, the female gives birth from three to nine puppies a year. The pups are blind when they first emerge from their mother, but their eyes open after about fourteen days, and they leave the darkness of the den a few days later. They drink their mother's milk for about five to seven weeks and start to eat more solid food after three weeks. While the father supports the family on regurgitated food, the mother never lets him come completely into the den.

The puppies play and live in the den with their mother until they are six to ten weeks of age. Around the first of August, Mother Coyote emerges from the den with her pups and begins to teach them how to hunt. It's then that you will see lots of them traveling together – sometimes making lots of noise. Gradually (usually in October and November), the family grows apart and the pups start to hunt for themselves, go their way, and establish their own territory. This doesn't mean all coyotes leave our area, but the younger ones will seek out alternative territories, significantly reducing the local population.

It happens every year. Nature will have her way, so get ready for an influx of coyotes in August. I'm not worried, I've already amassed a supply of desiccated limes to hurl at any coyote that comes too close. ■

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The Cover

Photo & Text by Bruce Carroll



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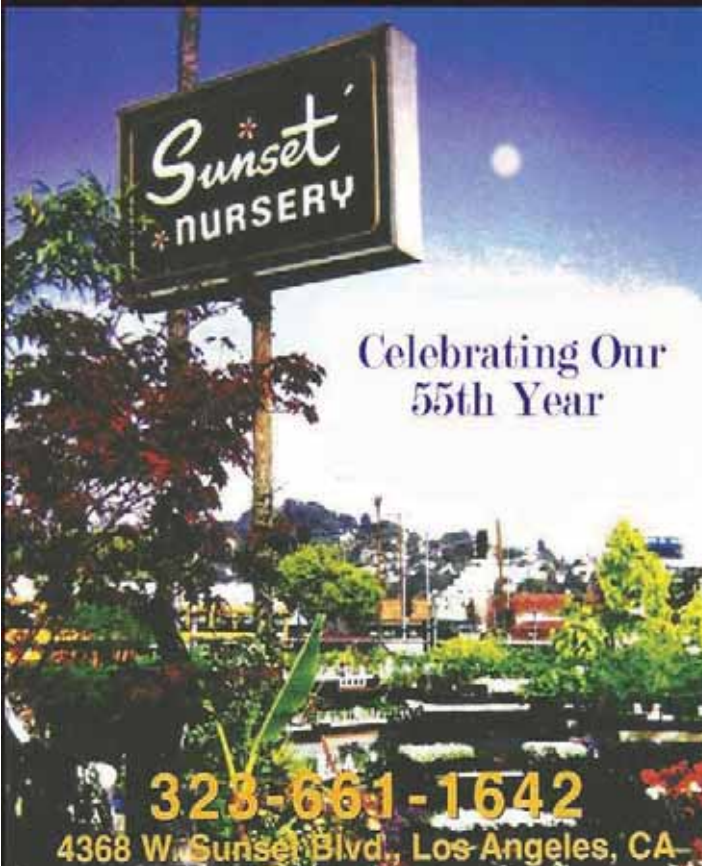
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The dozens of FHRA members and other volunteers who turned out on a Saturday morning in January to clean up the area beneath the Shakespeare Bridge were greeted with plenty of work, congenial neighbors and the Tyndall effect which turned the early morning rays of the winter sun, and the suspended dust from all the chopping, digging and sweeping into an inspiring sight. The hard working volunteers removed loads of dried up ivy and other plants, trimmed and mulched the rose garden and prepared the slope at the dead-end of Monon Street for future improvements to the irrigation system and using plants like sticky plumbago and thorny blackberries to deter those who have in the past made loitering in the area a neighborhood concern.

Among those who pitched in for the hard working morning were LAPD Northeast Commander Capt. Jeffery Bert, Senior Lead Officer Lenny Davis, Councilmember Tom LaBonge and his then deputy Dan Halden, and lots of students from the LILA school at the top of the hill. You can find more than 80 additional views of all the hard work at:

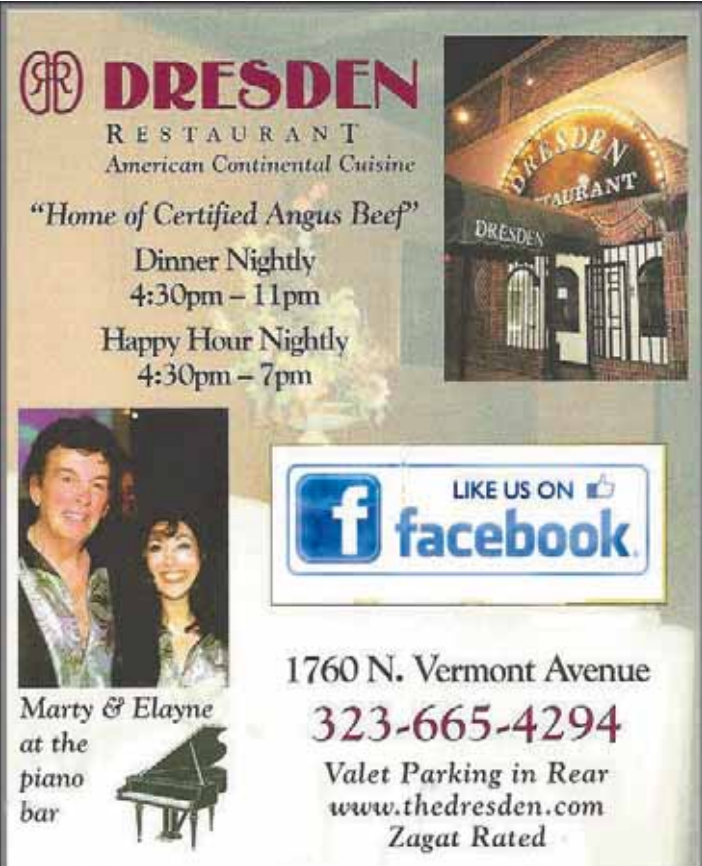
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Pets

I Was Lost: What Happens When Your Dog Gets Lost In Franklin Hills

As dictated in short, sweet sentences by Poppy Nese to her owner, Carole

The Escape and Search

*I went missing the Saturday before Easter
 Shortly after my owner and her young niece (age 3) went to do a few errands,
 I decided to look for them, something I have never done before.
 I seized a brief moment of opportunity, the gate (always closed) was ajar and I quietly escaped
 when the gardener's back was turned.
 Who knows why I did it, but there I was walking down St. George toward Tracy.
 A neighbor spotted me wandering from across the way. Unable to get to me, she quickly called my owner.
 Within minutes, my owner and niece returned and the search was on.
 She engaged the many wonderful, concerned and caring neighbors in the hunt.
 Despite all the good will and all the king's men, I was gone by then,
 Found by a Good Samaritan neighbor, on my way to the Lacey Street Shelter.
 My ID tags had fallen off my collar; the Samaritan wisely left a note on Peter's k-9 Trooperz
 van (our great neighborhood dog trainer) Peter immediately notified my grateful owner.
 After being deposited at the shelter, using the information off my chip, I was processed, photographed
 and placed in a cage, waiting to go home.*



The Shelter and Long Wait Home

*Within minutes, my owner, her niece and a helping neighbor were at the shelter.
 Using the up-to-date information on my chip, the shelter called to confirm I was there.
 With little niece in the back seat, asleep by that time and neighbor watching watch over her,
 My owner raced in to retrieve me, I was almost home, I thought.
**I was sad, lonely, locked up in barely a 4X4 cage, no water, waiting,
 my 63 lb frame feeling cramped.** I could hear my owner's voice, but she was not told I was close by.
 The waiting process began. . . My owner first had to prove my shots were updated
 She could either go home to get records or call the vet, while I sat waiting.
 Or I could have all my shots again at the shelter (**ouch and maybe a reaction!**)
 Fortunately my vet was open and, even though busy, agreed to fax over my records.
There I sat waiting, thirsty and cramped while my owner asked about paying the fees to spring me
 No, the records had to be faxed first! It took a while and **I sat waiting, thirsty and cramped**
 Finally the papers arrived, but they had to be processed, and **there I sat waiting, thirstier.**
Was I going home soon, now? "No!" an unhappy vet tech (who did not identify himself) appeared and sternly declared
"This paperwork will not do. The details of my rabies vaccination were not acceptable" he snarled. And, my owner and my vet should have known better.
 Now frantic, my owner protested, "Look, these records show my dog is well-cared for and her shots are current. What more do you want?"
"No, not good enough and I don't like your tone!" the no name tech declared as he turned his back and walked away disappearing down a long dark hallway.
Oh no, will I never get out of here? Now I am really thirsty and scared, still jailed!!!
 My owner chased after his attitude, phoning the vet at the same time. The tech was reprimanding her and my vet was trying to make sense of what was missing.
And, there I sat, even more scared and thirsty. Has the tech forgotten his priority?
Me, behind bars? Finally, the "tech-acceptable" paperwork arrived.
 More waiting and thirst as the paperwork was finally processed and fees paid.
One hour and forty minutes later, we all piled in the car and celebrated at McDonald's.
 I shared an ice cream with little niece that I could hardly enjoy.
 When I got home, I must have drunk quarts of water and slept the rest of the day.
 With many questions in my head...
 Why did it take so long?
 If vaccinations are the law why do some have the right to refuse them and others don't?
 What if I was totally allergic to vaccinations, would I have ever gotten out of there???
 Well... All's well that ends well, or is it...?*

I would like to express my appreciation to all the wonderful friends and neighbors in the Franklin Hills neighborhood who gathered together to look for me and asked about me after I was found. I am so lucky to live in this wonderful pet loving community with lots of caring people. It really is important to know your neighbors and work together. Thank you one and ALL!!

Poppy

What about the next lost dog in the neighborhood?

Yesteryear

1900 Block of Hillhurst Avenue 90027



January 18, 1994

One day after the Northridge earthquake. Two 2nd-story studio apartments on the south end of the building sustained severe damage, as did dozens of other homes and apartments in the neighborhood.



May 22, 2014

Today, one can still see the slightly different colored bricks used to repair this 2-story wall 20 years ago.

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- 1901 Hollyvista Avenue 2BR/2BA 1,177SF \$750,000
- 2241 Lyric Avenue 3BR/2BA 1,373SF \$775,000
- 2163 Lyric Avenue 4BR/2BA 1,646SF \$875,888
- 2226 Ronda Vista Drive 3BR/3.5BA 2,304SF \$910,000
- 1816 Hollyvista Avenue 2BR/1.5BA 1,406SF \$1,050,000
- 2247 Ronda Vista Drive 2BR/2BA 1,566SF \$1,125,000
- 2449 Lyric Avenue 3BR/2.5BA 2,490SF \$1,150,000
- 3897 Franklin Avenue 3BR/2BA 1,804SF \$1,199,000
- 1928 Hollyvista Avenue 3BR/2.5BA 3,607SF \$1,475,000



If you are thinking of selling or know a friend or neighbor who is, please contact us. We are your Franklin Hills experts.



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