



# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Issue #51*

*Spring/Summer*

*2016*

## SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS IN THE FRANKLIN HILLS

*Support from Councilmember David Ryu*



*Know Your Neighbors*



*Protect Yourself and Your Pets*

*Meet our SLO Lenny Davis*



*Annual Meeting — Saturday, June 18th — See Page 22 for Details...*

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## OVERVIEW

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## President's Letter / by Tim Cowell



Spring is quickly turning to summer and as we face what will surely be another season of quicker showers and lowered window shades, we should remember to keep looking outside our doors to engage our neighbors.

I have always been a “community” member, but I don’t really consider myself a “joiner”. I find myself in this wonderful community of Franklin Hills, by way of an interesting journey. Growing up on a farm in Missouri, sweating alongside my family to plant, tend and harvest grain crops; we were constantly reminded of our community. The neighborhoods of my childhood were spread over miles and miles of family farms, and loosely defined by centrally located intersections sometimes situated with small stores or a postal office. I grew up in the “Arbela” community of our county, where my paternal grandparents, and several aunts and uncles and lots of cousins also lived. It was a great childhood, filled with gatherings, and “get-togethers”, catching up on what was going on in everyone’s lives. Community has always been important to me.

That is probably what led me to become a member of the Franklin Hills Resident’s Association. I want to be part of the community that I find myself living in and around. When I moved into my husband’s home, his home for the last 21 years, it instantly became more than just a house in this vast metropolis - Los Angeles, it became the center of my community. It feels very natural to talk to our neighbor’s, touching base quickly as we get on with our lives. The folks here in Franklin Hills are naturally warm and friendly. We have neighbors that span a wide spectrum. Some are “lifers” having grown up here, going to Marshall High, others are like myself, new to the area; but we all seem to be grateful for this corner of our city. This neighborhood has retirees, and new families with babies and small children; celebrities and those who might want to be famous. We are diverse, yet a community by common geography and choice.

It is always an adventure meeting new people as we walk our dogs through these beautiful streets. I know most

*Continued, see President’s Letter on page 19...*

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## A non-fiction Earthquake story / by Anonymous

*With a nod to Dragnet:*

*“Ladies and gentlemen: the story you are about to hear is true.*

*Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.”*

Mothers. Daughters. Often a recipe for differing perceptions. My daughter has lived in LA for over 25 years. I've been here for 8. I came from somewhere where the ground was stable. She's lived through many tremors and the Northridge earthquake. I heard about that one when I got a phone call at 6 am Mountain time which led with 'I'm alright.' On a visit shortly afterwards I dreamed weird dreams during the aftershocks.

I'm a planner, not by profession, but by inclination. It made perfect sense to me, the newcomer, to learn about earthquake preparedness. I took a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class (actually twice). Everything they covered seemed rational to me. So when I went over to dinner with my daughter and her family, I wanted to make sure they were prepared and I was on board with the plan. I asked questions like 'Do you have a designated out of state or out of area contact?' or 'Do you have a corded land line that plugs into a jack or are all you phones dependent on electric power?' or 'Do you have a picture of you and your dog so that you can pick her up at the animal rescue and they will know for sure that she belongs to you?'. 'In the event your house (and mine) is totally destroyed, where shall we meet?'

*Continued, see Earthquake on page 5...*

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## LAPD Response Time / by SLO Lenning Davis



Hello everyone.

The number one question I am asked at neighborhood watch meetings is, "Why didn't the cops show up after I called for help?" I would like to take the time and hopefully provide some insight on how we respond to calls.

We reside in Northeast which is one of the 21 divisions in LAPD. Northeast is a big division that covers over 30 square miles. Los Angeles has one of the lowest officers to citizen ratios of any major city in the nation (25.9 officers per 10K citizens compared to New York City with 41.7 per 10K). For the most part, we run between 5-6 basic patrol cars a day/night to cover the area.

The patrol cars ideally are to stay in certain areas of the division but as the calls come out, the cars get tied up with arrests or investigations that can take three to four hours most times. That means the remaining units have to start prioritizing the calls that come out.

Calls that involve crimes in progress always are a priority (our average response time last quarter to emergency calls was approximately 6 minutes). During this time, calls for things like loud parties or people drinking on public stairs can back up. These are handled as time permits. Based on how busy we are, it can take some time before we show up. Sometimes the activity is over before we arrive.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't complete your report. Even if you have to wait, please see it through. Official reports are what we use to

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determine whether certain areas require additional patrol. If you don't make a report we can't know about your problem that needs our help.

I hope this helps to explain how your police department responds to calls. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I also welcome you to meet with me for coffee. You can call my cell phone any time. Take care. ■

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... *Earthquake, continued from page 3*

I was met with the patience of indulgent descendants. Call my son-in-law's sister in Long Beach (I don't have the number). Call my other daughter in Martinez (my son-in-law doesn't have the number). I chickened out of a family dispute and didn't press the point. Yes, they did have a corded phone. And somewhere they had a picture of the dog and her family. When I kept on going and asked about an adequate water supply, I was told by my adored son-in-law that a reputable safety specialist at a certain community college had said there was no need for bottles but instead to fill up my bathtub. But, I wondered, what if the water main is broken.

What I never worried about was an adequate food supply as their larder has enough food for an army.

At another family dinner, and with a twinkle in my eye as my grandson went green, I recited the four major medical signs they should know, just in case someone is injured:

1. Clear the Airways: tilt the head back, lift the chin, listen for the sound of breathing or watch for a chest rise.
2. Breath rate: 30 breaths per minute or less is 'normal'
3. Blanch test aka Capillary refill: hold hand higher than heart, pinch nail; if color returns in 2-3 seconds that's 'normal'
4. Signs of Shock: ability to shake someone's hand or follow a command is 'normal'.

I don't know about the ability to follow a command since both my daughters have never been able to execute my 'requests'.

By now, my family should have forbidden me to ever come over. They didn't but for family harmony, I have decided to just take care of myself. I have a tool to turn off the gas located right next to the gas meter (available at Baller's) and a 'Go Bag' by the front door with a week's supply of my far too many medications. I have a toilet seat and the accompanying equipment to

*Continued, see Earthquake on page 22...*



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## **P-22 Gets in Trouble / by George Grace**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, a mauled dead Koala Bear was discovered at the L.A. Zoo outside its enclosure. Circumstantial evidence pointed to Griffith Park's resident puma, P-22, as the likely culprit. The ensuing furor elicited a variety of reactions, including Hollywood Councilman Mitch O'Farrell's call to relocate him to a different location outside the Park (a likely death sentence according to wildlife experts). The greater majority however, agreed that even though the Koala's death was a sad occurrence, P-22 was acting naturally, and he should be left in peace. Proponents of this approach included Councilman David Ryu (whose district includes Griffith Park), National Park Service (NPS) mountain lion experts Jeff Sikich and Seth Riley (who monitor P-22's activities daily), other wildlife experts, a majority of the Griffith Park users (who posted many comments on social media and in response to numerous articles that appeared in local and National news reports), and even Zoo Director John Lewis. According to a March 23<sup>rd</sup> New York Times article about the incident, even Councilman O'Farrell has reversed his early opinion about relocating the iconic lion who has lived in harmony with his human Griffith Park neighbors and visitors for over 4 years. This is good.

Coincidentally, a few weeks before P-22 became a subject of international publicity, he had also been the featured subject of a lecture by NPS mountain lion expert Jeff Sikich sponsored by the Friends of Griffith Park. It was a fascinating evening, that included P-22's story, and a summary of the ongoing NPS survey of mountain lions in the Greater Santa Monica Mountains Area. If you missed it, Friends of Griffith Park board member Kathryn Louyse recorded the whole event, and you can watch it on YouTube. Search for SikichLecture (no spaces).

*Continued, see P-22 on page 7...*

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... P-22, continued from page 6



P-22, photo courtesy of National Park Service (NPS)

Jeff is a world renowned feline expert whose NPS team originally captured and collared P-22 after his discovery in Griffith Park in February, 2012. Here are some of the facts he presented at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. P-22 is the son of P-1, the first puma collared by the NPS Study in 2002.
2. To date, 47 Pumas have been collared and tracked. 14 are being followed now.
3. P-22 is unique in that his home range, Griffith Park, is only 8 square miles – the smallest ever recorded. The normal range is 250 square miles.
4. Of the 550 Puma kills recorded for the whole study, 88% were mule deer. Not one domestic cat or dog kill was discovered.
5. Of the 42 kills documented for P-22, 83% were deer, 10% coyotes, and 7% raccoons.
6. P-22 is now 6 years old. Most mountain lions live to around 12 years.
7. Mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains live in an island bounded by the Pacific Ocean, and limited by Freeways on the other three sides.

This is only a smattering of the information in Jeff's lecture. You can learn a lot more about our local mountain lions, including efforts to create a land bridge wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon to increase their range and genetic diversity by watching the video on YouTube. I highly recommend it. ■



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# Let's Talk About Safety in an Emergency...Together / by Carole Nese



***“The Earthquake is Inevitable, but the Disaster is Not!”***

*Lucy Jones, Cal Tech Seismologist*

Saturday March 5th was the day of our first Neighborhood Emergency and Safety Preparedness Meeting. FHRA sponsored the event and provided the hand out materials. Several FHRA board members helped organize the event. Neighbors from several streets including Lyric, Holly Knoll, Monon and Ronda Vista among others came together to learn how to prepare and keep our community safe and unify the neighborhood in the event of any emergency.

Hosted by Carole Nese, the group of more than 15 huddled in her living room to learn about safety and preparedness in an emergency from Ben Park, an experienced disaster preparedness speaker.

*Continued, see Emergency on page 9...*



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... *Emergency, continued from page 8*

This first session explained the important basics of unifying neighbors on their individual blocks to help each other and keep the community safe. Using the “Map Your Neighborhood” program and materials, the group participated in interactive videos and were taught the 7 steps of how to help each other in the event of a disaster.

The talk will continue with follow up meetings. The goal for those taking part is to learn how to work with their neighbors on their individual blocks to help each other in a disastrous event. All Franklin Hills Residents are invited to participate.

Please contact FHRA at the following link [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org) for more information. ■

**What About Your Best Friends?  
Pets in a disaster....What to do**

*by Carole Nese*



The Humane Society has a very informative website ([humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)) that outlines detailed information of how to protect your pet in a disaster. And, [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) has a printable pet and disaster safety checklist.

Below are some highlights of what to do and how to prepare an emergency kit for your pets in a disaster:

- ID your pets with tags and microchips
- Pack an emergency suitcase for your pet that includes food, water, medications, leash, harness, carrier, litter and plastic bags
- Include current pictures of you and your pets in the kit
- Make notes of the pet’s feeding schedule and veterinary information
- Always take your pets with you in a disaster

Your pets are part of your family. Your emergency plan should include all family members! ■



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## COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS / by Hannah Spencer

At the end of the Sanborn Ave cul-de-sac thrives the Franklin Hill's Community Garden. Unknown to many in the neighborhood, walking into the garden is as if you are walking into a quiet sanctuary. That is, of course, unless you arrive during school hours, in which case you hear children's laughter all around, a happy predicament from the Lycée International de Los Angeles school which shares the space that the community garden cultivates.

Founded by the late Norman Harriton in 2000, the community garden just celebrated its 16th anniversary. "Each season is a new challenge; I have learned how to prepare dishes based upon what's growing and how to preserve food and seeds for future use. This year I am learning about composting....in a BIG way," says long time Franklin Hills resident Adam Weisman, who was an early advocate with Norm for the garden's development.



Photos by Joni Eckley and Hannah Spencer

Now-a-days you don't need a large space or a green thumb to participate in gardening. "We wanted to join the garden because we don't have any space or sunlight in our apartment," say Frederick and Shu, two new gardeners at the Franklin Hills Community Garden. The sentiment is a

*Continued, see Garden on page 11...*

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... Garden, continued from page 10

common problem for many members. Community gardening solves both problems: space, as well as a place to learn how to garden. Perhaps a slight tinge of green in the thumb is helpful, but with a supportive group of fellow gardeners, it's more than likely you'll pick up how to grow veggies (or whatever you choose) in no time. A few examples of what might be found around the garden include tomatoes, lettuce, snow peas, strawberries, boysenberries, chard, kale, zucchini, fennel, cucumbers, and even pineapple. And speaking of space, each plot is 15'x15', large enough to support a family without becoming overwhelming for a single individual. Membership dues are \$50 a year.

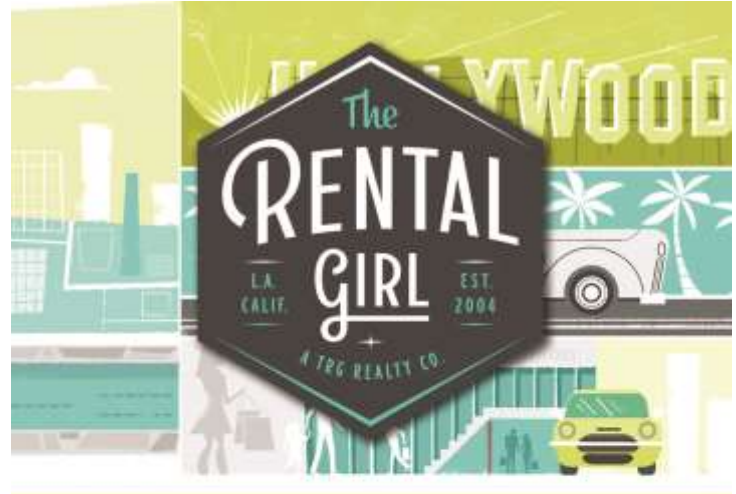


Passion flower in bloom

The garden boasts 28 plots, 4 of which are set aside for the Lycée International de Los Angeles' gardening classes. The space is tended by a diverse group of gardeners at all skill levels, utilizing many techniques from Franklin Hills and neighboring Los Feliz community. Founded with the ideals of

sustainability, the community maintains an all-organic space, including composting practices. Sharing in duties, tools, and knowledge, the Franklin Hills Community Garden comes together to tend to individual plots as well as communal spaces. These include a newly constructed raised herb garden as well as a kumquat tree, apple trees, grape vines, and roses, all chosen by the members in a desire to learn about new plants or to teach others.

Gardening has a unique appeal in that it can be done as an individual, family, or community. Our community garden brings all three together in activities that include monthly work days, gardening projects, potlucks, and our annual neighborhood Open House. If you are interested in participating in the Franklin Hills community garden activities, check out our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FranklinHillsCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/FranklinHillsCommunityGarden) for more information on our public events. We currently have a wait list but would love to welcome more Franklin Hills neighbors to our community. If you are interested in cultivating a plot please email garden co-ordinators Joni Eckley and Mia Trachinger at [garden@franklinhills.org](mailto:garden@franklinhills.org). ■



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## Know Your SLO / by Shirley Mims

Earlier this year I had the privilege of going on a ride-a-long with our Senior Lead Officer, Lenny Davis. He showed me the area his patrol covers from the Franklin Hills to Silver Lake and a sliver of Elysian Park. It's quite a large area when you think about it especially when there are only five to six patrol cars on duty at any one time to cover the entire Northeast Area.

Our afternoon started in the role call room in the new station for the Northeast Division on San Fernando Road where, at the start of every shift, officers are briefed on what specific areas they should focus their attention.

**It is very important to report crimes.** Reported crimes show up on the LAPD database which generates daily maps that are discussed at every shift briefing. "Hot spots" are patrolled more frequently. If there is a flurry of crimes in a localized area, then more attention and patrol is focused in that area.

Police will come to take your report, that's their job. It might take a while, you might find it inconvenient to wait. I would be upset if I came home to find my house had been broken into. I would want police to come immediately. This is not always possible. Bear in mind that police might be handling other high priority calls such as an active shooting, domestic violence or a robbery in progress. Police may come hours later to take your report, then do a thorough investigation. There is still a good chance that the burglars can be caught and you might even get your stuff back.



*(l-r) SLOs Lenny Davis and Gina Chovan, Captain Art Sandoval, Officers Robert Chellew, Cesar Silva, Luis Robles, and Patrol Captain Rick Stabile*

**YOU** are the first line of defense in protecting your home and valuables.

- 1) **Protect your property** – keep your car and house locked, use an alarm, install video cameras.

***Lock It, Hide It, Keep It!***

- 2) **Report any crimes** that happen to you, regardless of degree of loss.
- 3) **Know your neighbors** and share information so that you are familiar with your area and know when something unsafe should be reported.

- 4) **Keep your SLO informed**  
Lenny Davis can be reached by email: [26028@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:26028@lapd.lacity.org), or cell: 213-793-0763.

LAPD officers are highly trained to provide the greatest level of safety we can possibly expect. They are sworn to protect and serve the public. If you get to know your officers, you will know as I do that the Los Angeles Police Department is here to help us whether it is to stop a crime or to help solve one.

Police have an extremely difficult and complex job to fill. Wondering about that Plexiglas shield between the front and back seats? No, it's not bullet proof; sadly, it's more of a spit guard. Most times when a person encounters a police officer it is when he or she is getting a ticket, being arrested, or in need of help. These all revolve around negative experiences that naturally get associated with police officers.

This was my first trip in a police car. As any good officer would do, Lenny made sure I stayed safe. He suspended any calls while I was in the car with him. Sure, it would have been exciting to see a burglar or drug dealer caught in action. I was appreciative that my safety was his priority consideration.

Lenny is happy to meet with our community members over coffee. If you want FHRA's help in setting up a "Coffee With A Cop" meeting, let us know! This is your opportunity to let SLO Lenny Davis and other officers know what's special in your part of the neighborhood, what the officers need to look out for, and what you can work on together to make the neighborhood even safer. ■

## Councilman “Ride-Along” with FHRA President / by *Tim Cowell*

Shortly after tax day in April two “newbies” jumped in a car for a neighborhood ride along. This meeting had none of the intrigue and excitement of fellow board member Shirley Mims’ “ride-along” with SLO Lenny Davis with the LAPD, (see article on page 12) but shared equally in importance. New Los Angeles City Council member David Ryu and first term FHRA president Tim Cowell toured the Franklin Hills neighborhood to discuss what issues were being shared with the board from our residents. This annual tradition is one of the best ways to keep our representative up to date, and in this case give personal introduction to Councilman Ryu to our community.

Councilman Ryu and Neighborhood Advocate and aide to Ryu - Adam Miller, spent over an hour driving around the neighborhood. It began with an introduction to the most talked about tree among the thousands that grace our streets. This particular behemoth pine is cracking and shifting a large section of Lyric as it descends down from Ronda Vista Place. Ongoing discussions with the homeowner are positive and hopefully the city can find a way to resolve our own version of the San Gabriel mountain range.

Our trip down to Hyperion Avenue brought up the on-going traffic (too much and way too fast) issues and recent speed related accidents. In March the FHRA spent several hours with neighborhood volunteers cleaning, weeding and removing graffiti along the majority of the street. Ryu and Miller both attended this event.



*Councilmember Ryu (left) and about 35 other community members including Marshall High students helped with the Hyperion Clean Up, March 2016*



*Franklin Ave. Median Clean Up, Jan. 2016 (photos by Shirley Mims)*

Crossing back along De Longpre, Sunset Dr., to Talmadge we talked at length about the condition of the concrete streets. I shared the extensive overview of our streets that neighbor Bryn Mathieu sent to the board. It was a collection of pictures showing very badly fractured and shifting concrete. This was an opportunity for Councilman Ryu to share that he is a sponsor of a new LA initiative to actually repair concrete streets, which has not been possible due to a ban on concrete repair. He has begun a beta test to understand the cost of concrete street repair versus an overlay of asphalt. Our hope is that concrete repair/replacement becomes the chosen path, quickly!!

The drive traversed back up Prospect, winding around, discussing trash containers left on the street against regulation, poorly kept landscaping which overgrows curbsides, and neighbor’s property. Information will be shared on the best way to let the city intervene for positive results. The councilman got a quick introduction to the Norm Harriton Community Garden down Sanborn, a true bright (and green) spot, in our neighborhood. It shows great

*Continued, see Ryu on page 21...*

## Tower Repair at John Marshall High School / by Charley Mims

Have you noticed the scaffolding at the entrance to the Administration Building at the high school? It's been there for over a year now. Leaders of the Franklin Hills Residents Association noticed and asked for a meeting with Principal Patricia Heideman. Several of us met with Principal Heideman in October 2015 and discussed a Town Hall meeting for the neighbors to go over the schedule for making needed repairs to the Tower.



*New scaffolding graces the front of John Marshall High School*

The Town Hall was held in January 2016 in the Oral Arts room at John Marshall. Alix O'Brien, Director of Planning & Design made a presentation on damage to the building. The Administration Building was built in 1930 in the Collegiate Gothic style using brick and cast stone materials. After it was damaged in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake the interior of the building was gutted to just the frame and exterior walls; structurally reinforced on the inside; then the interior was restored. The building has also suffered water damage over the years. There has been water intrusion damage on the roof of the tower and the main building and at the top of many of the windows.

After much investigation, a schedule of repairs has been developed. After the town hall meeting, they replaced the protective scaffolding to add more attractive protection featuring a mural which blends in with the campus frontage. In 2017 they will start to fix the roofs and about 30 windows while doing more studies to repair the façade of the building. In 2018 they will repair the building façade. Part of this work will entail doing site drainage in front of the main building where sprinklers are doing water damage. They will also provide better accessibility along the west side of the building.

This has been a long process partially because the main building is an historic structure and any repairs or changes must be approved by the Division of the State Architect and must also meet the guidelines of the U. S. Department of the Interior for historic buildings.

We look forward to the completion of this sensitive project over the next couple of years. ■

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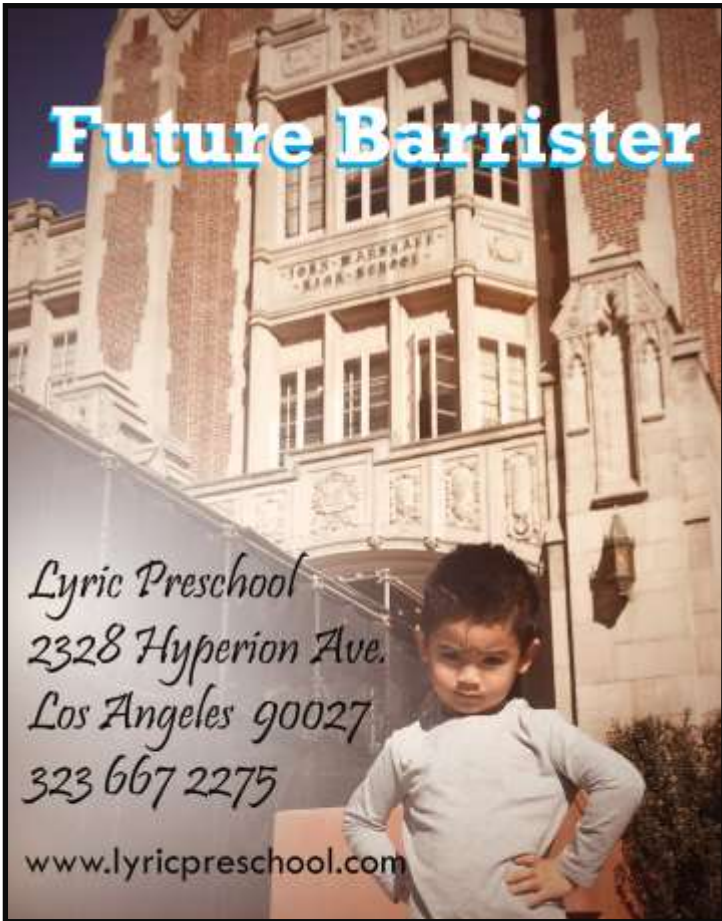
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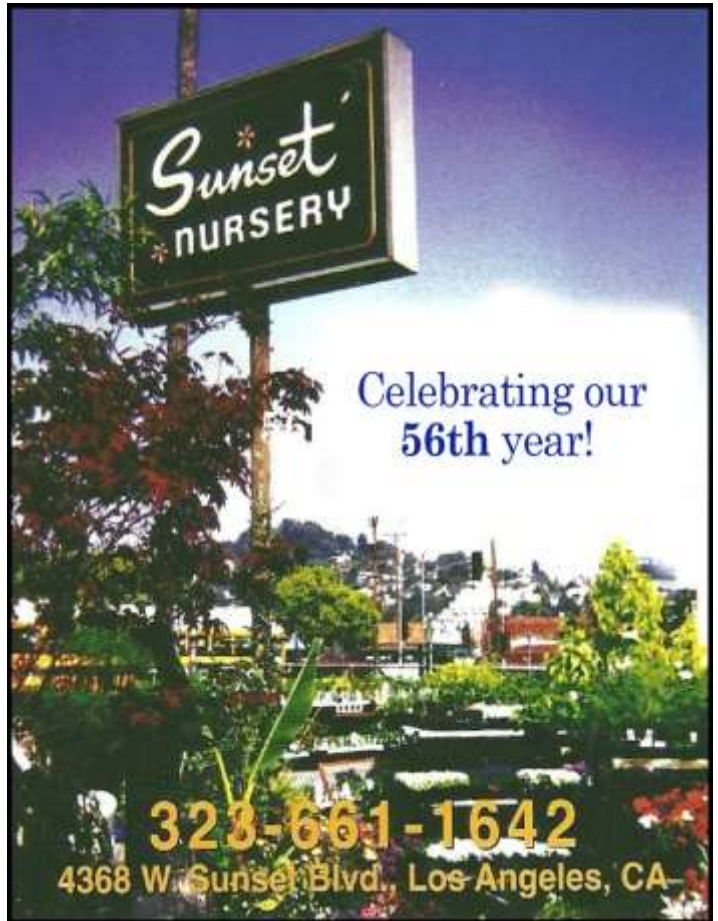
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### January Power Outage / by Bruce Carroll



*DWP Crew Uprights Downed Pole*

It wasn't just the storms that brought strong winds and much needed rain that knocked out power for many in the Franklin Hills the morning of January 7, 2016. It was a city garbage truck that knocked this utility pole over at Melbourne and Sanborn.

DWP power crews responded with a heavy duty crane that lifted the fallen pole and maneuvered it back into an upright position. A crew on the ground carefully maneuvered the bottom of the pole back into



*Workers Set Pole in Ground*

a hole in the ground as the cherry picker crew high above guided the pole so it would fit into the hole.

This was a temporary fix to get the power back on with a more permanent fix to follow. The crew is apparently all too familiar with such operations as the crane operator said they are often called on to upright what the garbage trucks have left asunder. ■





## Community Contacts

City Services ..... 311  
 e-mail..... 311@lacity.org  
 Hours: Sunday – Saturday, 8:30 am–4:45 pm  
 Animal Services ..... (888) 452-7381  
 Dead Animal Pickup (Sanitation)(888) 452-7381x2  
 Lost Animals ..... (888) 452-7381x2  
 Barking Dogs ..... (888) 452-7381x3  
 Building & Safety Violations ..... (888) 524-2845  
 Councilmember David E. Ryu: District 4  
 Telephone..... (213) 473-7004  
 Fax..... (213) 473-2311  
 e-mail..... councilmemberdavid.ryu@lacity.org  
 Field Deputy Catherine Landers .. (213) 473-7004  
 e-mail ..... catherine.landars@lacity.org  
 Neighborhood Advocate Adam Miller(323) 957-6415  
 e-mail ..... adam.miller@lacity.org  
 FHRA Voicemail ..... (323) 908-6078  
 FHRA e-mail..... FHRA@franklinhills.org  
 Fire Department: Emergency ..... 911  
 Non-Emergency..... (213) 485-6185  
 Local Fire Stations serving the FHRA area  
 Station 35 on Hillhurst..... (213) 485-6235  
 Station 56 on Rowena..... (213) 485-6256  
 Homeless Services..... 211  
 LA Info Line ..... 211  
 LAUSD School Police..... (213) 625-6631  
 Marshall High School - Main#..... (323) 671-1400  
 King Middle School - Main#..... (323) 644-6700  
 Los Feliz Public Library ..... (323) 913-4710  
 Poison Control..... (800) 222-1222  
 Police Department, Northeast Div. . (323) 561-3211  
 Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis..... (213) 793-0763  
 e-mail ..... 26028@lapd.lacity.org  
 Sr. Lead Officer Nina Preciado .... (213) 793-0762  
 e-mail ..... 32128@lapd.lacity.org  
 Non-Emergency . 877 ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273)  
 Gang Problems..... (323) 344-5754  
 Graffiti Removal..... 311  
 Noise Enforcement ..... (213) 996-1250  
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 Prospect Studios - Janet Campus .. (323) 671-4022  
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*And please, face the bins opening toward the street and put them away when emptied.*



## FHRA Treasurer's Report—Numbers Adding UP

by Bruce Carroll, Treasurer

Thanks once again to our members' generosity FHRA's 2015 income from memberships, \$4,155, and member contributions, \$2,266, was up nearly 7% from 2014. Our total income from all sources at \$16,047.39 was up \$466.78, a 3% increase from 2014, and we ended the year with \$33,061.45, a net increase of \$2,487.84, about 8% above 2014.


Once again our biggest source of income was from the ads in the Overview, at \$7,750 for the year that was up more than \$700 from 2014. And in a rare occurrence the Overview ended the year with a profit. Sales of FHRA T-shirts and Historic Photos (check them out on our website at ([www.franklinhills.org/fh-historicfotos.pdf](http://www.franklinhills.org/fh-historicfotos.pdf) ) were also up at \$101, a 60% jump from 2014. Contributions to the Franklin Ave. Median held steady at \$200 while the Norman Harriton Community Garden collected \$1,510 in dues and contributions up \$65 from 2014. And bringing up the rear we earned just \$30.72 in bank interest and dividends, up 81¢ for the year.

A very bright spot in the 2015 financial picture was the Overview where expenses were down 18% to \$7,284 allowing it to shed its usual red ink. Also down at \$1,695 was the maintenance cost for the Franklin Ave. Median about 4% below 2014. Most of the savings were from reduced water use to fight the drought. Just behind in spending was the Norman Harriton Community Garden at \$1,683 with several improvements during the year. Spending on outreach, community projects, cleanups, the Marshall High picnic, donations to local charities, etc. came to \$1,248.93 down about 11% from 2014, followed by insurance for the FHRA and its volunteers at \$1,246. The cost for communication links including our website - [www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org), e-mail - [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org), voicemail/fax 323-908-6078, and snail mail - PO Box 29122, LA CA 90029 was up slightly to \$197.99. And we paid \$31.68 in Paypal fees.

We hope all Franklin Hills residents will continue your


*Continued, see FHRA  
on page 19...*

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[info@boxbrosla.com](mailto:info@boxbrosla.com)





*... FHRA, continued from page 18*

support our community efforts. If you have been receiving our e-mailed FHRAlerts, and Overview newsletter 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 membership renewal letter you should receive in June. If you're not already a member, use the convenient membership form on page 23 in this Overview or come to the annual meeting and join us there. Individual dues start at 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 2015 donations via Paypal were about 17% of member dues and contributions, but Paypal deducts a fee, 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 the Overview possible. ■

*... President's Letter, continued from page 2*

of the dog's names and remember few of their owners. I have always been bad that way. We started most of our neighborly conversations in my childhood talking the weather, usually separated by a fence, or through the driver's side of our pick-up trucks. Conversations now usually start around our dogs, during morning or evening walks. It's an easy entrance into sharing just a little bit of our lives with each other. Nothing too deep, but it is essential to our sharing of this community. I learn more about what is happening across our neighborhood during the dog walks, than I do through "Nextdoor" or the "Ledger". Along the way we gain friends.

The FHRA is also a great way to learn what is happening around the neighborhood, by our email updates on news and crime reports. Our annual neighborhood meeting is coming soon, and is the best way to learn what is happening around your home. We are here to make the community stronger, safer and help improve it by bringing our neighbors together. We are working on beautification efforts, safety initiatives, and collaborating with our City's leadership, police, and first responders to keep "our" Franklin Hills the desirable community that is second to no other in Los Angeles.

Growing up in a farm community where the nearest house was ½ a mile away, here it's only a few feet. It doesn't matter the distance, it's important to recognize your neighbors as part of a vital community that can only be stronger by your participation within it.

I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on June 18th. We can talk about our dogs, or just say hello. ■

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Franklin Hills

Before he left office, former councilmember Tom LaBonge put the Franklin Hills community identity sign app for Tracy/Talmadge on hold, pending election for his replacement. At the time of this writing, our new councilmember David Ryu has not made a decision on whether to support the sign. FHRA is deciding on how to proceed. ■

### Is it Done Yet? / by Shirley Mims

The Shakespeare Bridge Garden will be restored. Delays have been disappointing. The first longest delay was due to approval for the heritage roses. Following proper permitting protocol, the roses were deemed dangerous due to their thorns. We were able to convince authorities to approve the roses on the account that they have been historically present throughout the garden's lifetime and the fact

that no injuries have been reported. The second longest delay is due to finding a contractor who will build the wall within budget.

FHRA is working closely with City agencies to keep this project moving forward. While we were anticipating a Spring reopening, I now look forward to this fall. The plants we selected do better when planted in fall, so although more than a year overdue, once done, this garden will promise to thrive in its new environment.

The latest word is that the Bureau of Sanitation will have their own work crews build the retaining wall and install the new irrigation system and landscaping to reduce costs, instead of hiring a contractor to do it. They plan to start on the work soon.

In the meantime, FHRA president Tim Cowell is taking care of the remaining roses on his plot at the community garden.

Also, when Mr. Cowell did a ride-along of the Franklin Hills neighborhood with Councilmember David Ryu, Mr. Ryu told his Neighborhood Advocate for our area, Adam Miller, to follow up on this project.

Thank you to the neighbors who have persevered with us over the last couple years. It is unfortunate that it has taken this long. We will be glad to see it finished!! ■



*Current state of the Shakespeare Bridge Garden*

... Ryu, continued from page 13

collaboration with LILA, whose school children grow vegetables alongside our resident's organic plots (see page 10 for Community Garden News).



Broken concrete and asphalt repairs plague our streets (photo by Chris Boutelle).

Driving up Deloz, we looked at the horrible condition of the concrete at the intersection of Franklin at Hollyvista Ave., and discussed the renovation of what had been a mostly abandoned property at that critical entry point to the hillside. Turning down Franklin and across our iconic Shakespeare Bridge, we discussed the clean up of the median landscaping that the FHRA has overseen for years. Ryu suggested that the City Beautification Team may be of assistance and offered to reach out to connect us with possible help.

Turning onto Myra, we talked about the possible expansion of the FHRA boundaries to include this area, and the status of the initiative. Neighbors in this area had specifically asked about getting the palm trees in the median trimmed and cleaned which was passed along to the city for action during our conversation.

During our visit to the Shakespeare Bridge Garden under the bridge at the end of Monon Street, we shared the need to get the retaining wall re-built and return the roses to their original home. Councilman Ryu is looking to get the Bureau of Sanitation to step in and help.

Councilman Ryu gave me a demonstration on how to use the city's website to report, photo and document potholes, which uses GPS location to pinpoint where the repair is needed (see inset). You can do this anonymously or leave contact info for a follow up. Potholes are to be filled within a few days. You can also report other issue through this procedure.

The hour passed quickly and included discussion about our street lamp's conditions (needing paint, new access covers), the replacement of street signs from quaint existing original to new blades (not really an improvement IMHO). The Councilman and Mr. Miller certainly demonstrated a keen interest in our issues and expectations are that we will get help and response to what we discussed on the drive. FHRA deeply appreciates the time spent by the Councilman and looks forward to working with his team during his time on the Council. ■

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**3444 Ferncroft Road**  
**Atwater Village**  
**\$875,000**

4 Bedrooms  
 3 Baths  
 2,038 square feet, per the assessor



Few properties offer so much ability to satisfy so many diverse needs as does this ideal owner-user duplex. The front house, a classic, vintage, tile-roofed casita has 2 bedrooms and a bath. The rear, attached two-story, later addition offers two one-bedroom, one-bath, upper/lower suites—one is a legal unit. Deep lot backs up to the L.A. River—just open the garden gate and enjoy the revitalized river parkway with its walking and biking opportunities.



**Richard Stanley**  
 Estates Director  
 Architectural and  
 Historic Properties Specialist

rstanley@coldwellbanker.com  
 213 300-4567 cell / voice mail



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## ... Earthquake, continued from page 5

be used if the water is turned off. I photographed the inside of my house (for the insurance company) which took me 40 minutes to actually take, download and transfer onto a flash drive. That, along with the other key information, I will give to my daughters for each of their fireproof safes (I don't have one).

My perception is that all of this is common sense. My beloved daughter's perception is that I'm a little unhinged by moving onto potentially movable ground. We'll never settle it but she approved this article before it went to press and I'm invited over to dinner tonight before I go to the LAFD's Battalion 5 CERT update meeting.

PS: One final 'perception' by my wonderful daughter: "Also, I smiled a little at your suggestion that you just take care of yourself. You have over the years given US a portable toilet, a case of special water that will last 50 years, an Acme Thunderer whistle, a spike so we can get our way out of a car in case it sinks in water, and numerous other gadgets! But you are the author with artistic license, and you are good to go."

PPS: If you have completed your CERT training and want to attend the every other month meetings, email LAFD Battalion CERT Coordinator, Jacqueline Kozak, at lacertbatt5@gmail.com and ask her to put you on the list. ■

## FHRA Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 18th**  
**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

in the Library on the campus of LILA  
*Lycee International de Los Angeles*  
 4155 Russell Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90027

Meet your neighborhood officials, get updates, win raffles, renew your membership, elect new board members, enjoy refreshments and more.



# FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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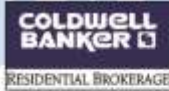
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