



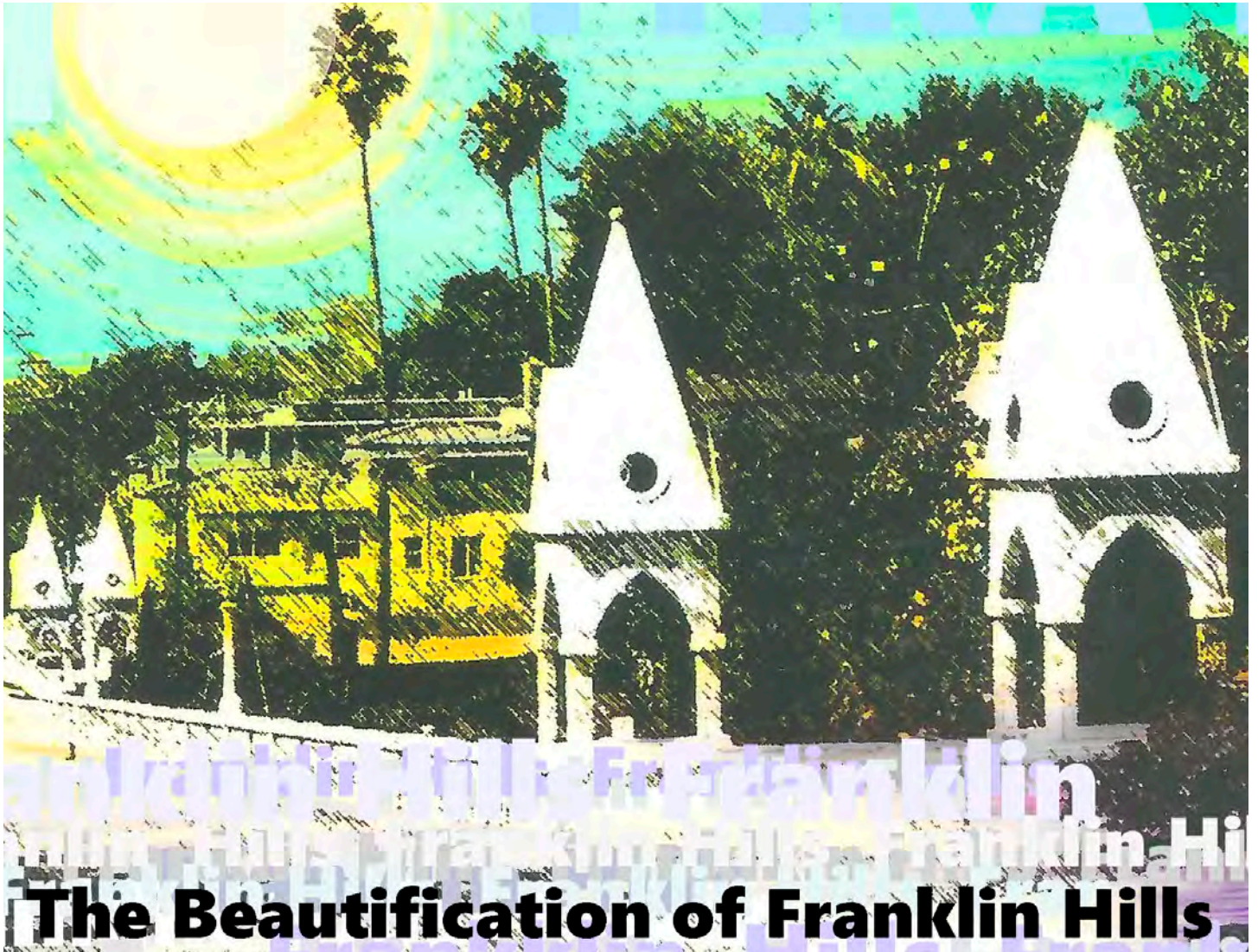
OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Issue #52

Fall/Winter

2016



The Beautification of Franklin Hills

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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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President's Letter / by *Tim Cowell*



Our Fall/Winter Overview (#52) issue is focused on beautification. This subject in Los Angeles gets much attention, especially from the many estheticians, and Plastic Surgeons who can be found abundantly in the communities just west of our Franklin Hills boundaries. As a neighborhood, it means that painters, landscape gardeners and designers have much to keep them busy. The FHRA Board is consistently focused on our neighborhood, and how it appears. We are in the middle of an update to the Shakespeare Bridge median upgrade, to improve the landscaping and repair/replace the irrigation system. Our long standing drought has wreaked havoc with the plant-scape, as we sought to follow regulations and suggested cut backs on watering. The irrigation system that was installed decades ago is falling apart. We are intending to install drought tolerant and xeriscape plants to make sure we use less water in the future. The irrigation system will be a durable and rigorous system that will allow for some flexibility in how we irrigate.

Beautification was one of the main reasons I joined the FHRA over four years ago, and I'm still working on a few personal initiatives, such as how to get our unique cast iron lamp posts repainted and looking good. Our City services need all the help we can lend to them to make sure we do see improvement. Using the "MYLA311" app on your smart phone is one way to send information, about large garbage items/trash pickups, graffiti, potholes etc., to a specific City agency that will immediately respond to you and then follow up with the schedule for corrective action. It follows up on the "see something, MYLA311 something" idea!! Use it – it works!

We seem to be facing several challenges in Franklin Hills that should focus us. There is increased traffic throughout the neighborhood, which increases speeding and lessens attention to focused driving. Our narrower streets are seeing increased parking. The community has more cars per household, and less use of garages to park their automobiles. Please remember that our streets are not designed for more than 1-2

cars per household, and the overuse of street parking creates firefighting hazards due to blocking access, and keeping our first responders from the quick agility they need to respond to any emergency. Proper trash container placement/and quick retrieval also helps keep order with street parking and full access. It's the little things that can turn our beautiful streets into a mess of confusion and disarray.

Overview #52 (this issue) has great information about how the community is working together. We continue to maintain and improve how we work together to keep this unique area of what can be a plastic and impersonal city. The FHRA is dedicated to all efforts to maintain the Franklin Hills a quiet peaceful and most of all friendly neighborhood that we are all so happy to call home. Looking ahead, Overview #53 will be dedicated to Emergency Response and how each of us can help our neighbors in an emergency, particularly earthquakes. We intend to publish the next edition a bit earlier in the spring as we have moved our annual meeting up to the last week in April.

May the upcoming holidays find each of you filled with blessings and peace. Reach out with a friendly greeting and say hello to one of the many smiling and happy people who call the Franklin Hills "home" ■

Keep Your Pets Safe in an Emergency...Prepare and Think Ahead!

by Kishisa Ross & Carole Nese

Imagine your pet lost in an emergency or disaster. Roaming around aimlessly not knowing where to turn searching for you and home.

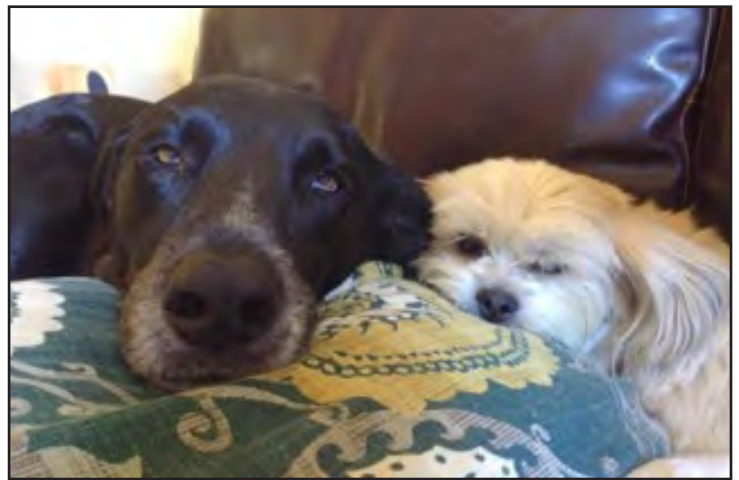
Taking care of your pets in an emergency means preparing ahead of time. Two of the most important things are to make sure they have a tag with their name and phone number and that they are chipped. That is the best way to locate them if they are lost for any reason.

“Putting together an emergency kit for the safety of your pet(s) should be part of your emergency plan. That plan should also include a neighbor or relative who can take in or check on your pet(s) if disaster strikes and you’re not home”, say Peter Bovino and Kishisa Ross, Franklin Hills residents and co-owners of K-9 Trooperz.

What should you pack for your pets? Our local pet experts, Peter and Kishisa, suggest that the “pet kit” include:

- a week (minimum) or two supply of water, food and all medications
- a spare collar and harness or leash
- a blanket
- a chew toy or two and
- a photo of you and your pet, just in case

Your pets are family. Don’t forget about them in an emergency. Prepare and think ahead to keep them comfortable, safe and well, so in the event of a disaster, they won’t be wandering around looking for you! ■



Two of the K-9 Trooperz Troop.



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As Above, So Below / by Shirley Mims

Water has not only been an issue for the state of California, it has been a problem for our gateway and bridge gardens. While the FHRA deals with repairing the water system on the Franklin Avenue median, we've been working with City agencies and local residents to restore the Shakespeare Bridge Garden at the end of Monon Street underneath the Shakespeare Bridge.

The FHRA started the Shakespeare Bridge Garden in 2003 in response to neighbor requests to eliminate loitering, lewd acts, drugs, graffiti, homeless camps, and fires under the bridge. Over the years the FHRA has hosted several work parties and celebrations at the garden. Many residents have helped to maintain it. Shortly after celebrating its 10 year anniversary, the water supply was irreparably damaged.



Construction work began in September. The slope has been cut back where a retaining wall will be installed.

Several years ago, the garden was excavated for an emergency sewer repair. A couple years after that, a sanitation truck hit the backflow preventer, twice!, which cut off the water supply. This doomed the garden plants to suffer without water. Since then, the FHRA has worked with Engineering and Sanitation to restore the garden which includes the addition of a retaining wall to hold up the slope.

Construction finally began in the first week of September. Barring any delays, planting is originally scheduled for the end of November. The heritage roses which were dug up and cared for by several residents will finally be returned to their original site. Draught tolerant California native ceanothus will be planted on the hill. Rosemary, grasses and lavender will be placed with the roses for neighbors to enjoy as they stroll to the end of Monon for an afternoon or morning walk.

We are grateful to the Bureaus of Sanitation and Engineering for providing the resources necessary to reestablish the garden. Councilmember Ryu's office recently arranged with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to clear the slope of dry weeds and fallen palm fronds to help reduce a fire hazard that is a concern for neighbors who live near the bridge. Ryu's office also addressed a homeless issue that sprang up in recent months. The FHRA has continuously supported the garden project to help minimize these kinds of problems. We are looking forward to seeing it finished and returned to a state that can be enjoyed once again by local residents.

If you want to receive notification about the reopening, sign up for FHRAAlerts at fhra@franklinhills.org.

VOLUNTEER!

We're always looking for new volunteers and interested board members. Let us know at: fhra@franklinhills.org.

Safety Preparedness Neighborlyness – FHRA’s Annual Meeting

by Bruce Carroll

Franklin Hills residents were welcomed to the FHRA’s 28th Annual Meeting on June 18, 2016, by our host the Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA) with a lively video montage of campus activity. Then FHRA President Tim Cowell turned to some official business: introducing board members, announcing that the board had decided to change the schedule for the Annual Meeting from its traditional mid-June time to April for 2017, and calling for members at the meeting to vote on a motion raising FHRA dues by \$5. Individual dues going to \$20, or \$35 per household membership. The proposal passed overwhelmingly with one “no” vote from Treasurer Bruce Carroll who complained he’d have to spend more time counting the extra money. In his Treasurer’s report Carroll declared “the treasury is healthy and people are generous.” He also noted that FHRA had switched Overview printers and saved nearly \$1000 per issue.

The first guest speaker was LA Fire Department Capt. Richard Fields who spoke of LAFD’s reorganization. Our area is in the West Bureau (213-485-6282). He joked that “El Nino decided not to visit this year” emphasizing that “critical brush conditions continue to exist in our city.” He pointed out everything has an ignition temperature and low humidity drastically reduces ignition temperatures, explaining, “our role inside a brush fire is we don’t go in and try to put it out. We try to draw a line around it. Your brush clearance helps us to do that.” For more info about brush clearance you can go to www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush. Capt. Fields also repeated the message about checking smoke detectors every six months noting that fire deaths are reduced by 22% in homes with working smoke detectors. He recommended hard wired detectors with a backup battery.



The next speaker was Capt. Arturo Sandoval commander of LAPD’s Northeast Division (3353 San Fernando Rd. 323-561-3211) who said he was “very, very honored and inspired by the attendance here on a Saturday morning” and spoke in glowing terms about their new “absolutely beautiful station.” He explained that there was a public meeting room available and plenty of visitor parking, but no employee parking yet which he admitted will be “very trying for the next couple of years.”

Capt. Sandoval had good news noting: Northeast year to date was one of only two LAPD divisions with a drop in violent crime, but also “Bad news for Northeast our property crime is toward the bottom...we have a double digit increase”.

Specifically “for Franklin Hills I’m sure it’s not news to anyone here in 2014,15,16 burglary from motor vehicles is the top crime.” He explained “in almost 40% of the burglary from motor vehicles it’s people that leave their window open, leave their vehicle unlocked and, or leave valuables, or not valuables, it could even be just a phone charger, in plain sight that draws crime to their vehicle. We have videos time and time again where we see individuals going down the street pulling on car doors...1,2,3,boom! This one opened and guess which vehicle they go into?” He also emphasized the importance of following the “see something say something” rule.

Annual Meeting, Continued on Page 6...

...Annual Meeting, Continued from Page 5



John Marshall High School Principal Patricia Heideman was next on the agenda. She spoke of neighborhood concerns about the unsightly look of the ongoing project to restore the school's aging iconic façade. "We have a new [decorative] scaffolding in front of the building and that's a direct result of the neighbors saying, 'what's that awful black thing doing there.' Unfortunately scaffolding is going to be there another four years." She explained that originally the work was just to repair the tower, "but when they started digging deeper they found that there was a lot of water intrusion into the building." So a what started as a \$1 million project has grown to \$11 million. She advised neighbors that if the construction work is very loud, in violation of the city's noise ordinance, they should call LAPD who will deal with the contractor. And, "If you find that our students are doing anything they shouldn't be doing in your front yard, or whatever, the number for the school police is 213-625-6631." She agreed to look into audience concerns about what can be done to ease traffic congestion at school drop-off and pickup times.

Our final guest speaker was City Councilmember David Ryu who congratulated Principal Heideman for Marshall's third consecutive online decathlon championship and congratulated FHRA's former President and Chairman, Charley Mims, who is now President of the Hillside Federation, the group that represents 44 LA neighborhood organizations which share many common hillside interests.



Knowing the neighborhood concerns over our crumbling concrete streets Ryu said he was, "very proud we got into the budget this year \$750,000 for concrete streets." He termed the Hancock Park repairs a "pilot project" which he hopes will provide info on how to reduce costs for concrete which now runs five to 20 times more than asphalt. The more durable concrete is important in hillside areas "because of rains, mudslides and more of a *Annual Meeting, Continued on Page 7...*

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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, or cell: 213-793-0763.

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....Annual Meeting, Continued from Page 6

public safety issue.” Ryu staff researched 70 years of city records and found “concrete streets have not been repaved, have not been fixed.”

Ryu promised “anytime your neighborhood association wants to do a cleanup I will bring trash bags cleaning supplies, actual cleaners, I’ll bring other volunteers.” Ryu also explained they are looking at ways to relieve some of the frustration and inconvenience of No Parking on street cleaning days. For residents who complain: “they went by already why can’t I park there.” Street cleaning equipment will be fitted with GPS devices to track where they are so routes can be planned efficiently and parking enforcement can determine if the street sweeper has already passed so no ticket would be issued. Ryu stressed he’s working to get city departments to coordinate with each other.



FHRA Vice President Shirley Mims (left) and Boardmember Carole Nese presented our emergency safety plan. Nese explained the importance of having a hard hat, gloves, hard soled shoes, and a flashlight handy under your bed, as well as plenty of food, water and first aid supplies. The heart of the program she said is “neighbor helping neighbor and working together to help them survive block by block.” Mims passed around a sign-up sheet

for those who want to get started by having a safety meeting at their home (see page 10 for more information about this vital program). She said she always has a whistle with her because “if you get trapped in a building and you can’t get out you are going to use a lot more oxygen yelling. You can whistle a lot longer for help” to let rescuers know where you are.

The meeting was punctuated between speakers by several raffles with winners getting dinners at Palermo, Laemmle Theatres movie passes, Disney themed gifts, and emergency supplies.

Leaving the least surprise for last, the five candidates for the FHRA Board of Directors were elected to the five open seats. New to the Board is Monon St. resident David Brooks who will be joining re-elected board members Eric Frase, Charley Mims, Shirley Mims and Carole Nese.

The meeting was another informative example of how Franklin Hills neighbors can work together to make the neighborhood better ■

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LAPD Update / by SLO Lenning Davis



Hello everyone.

I can't believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of the year! It is true when they say the older you get, the faster time seems to go by. I would like to bring up our iWATCH program and See something, Say something. It is a community awareness program created to educate the public about behaviors and activities that may have a connection to terrorism. Recently there have been suspects, who committed acts of terror, arrested thanks to citizens seeing something and notifying authorities. You can report suspicious activity either on the iWATCH app for your phone or calling your local station (323-561-3211). Please remember, this program is about behaviors and activities, not individuals.



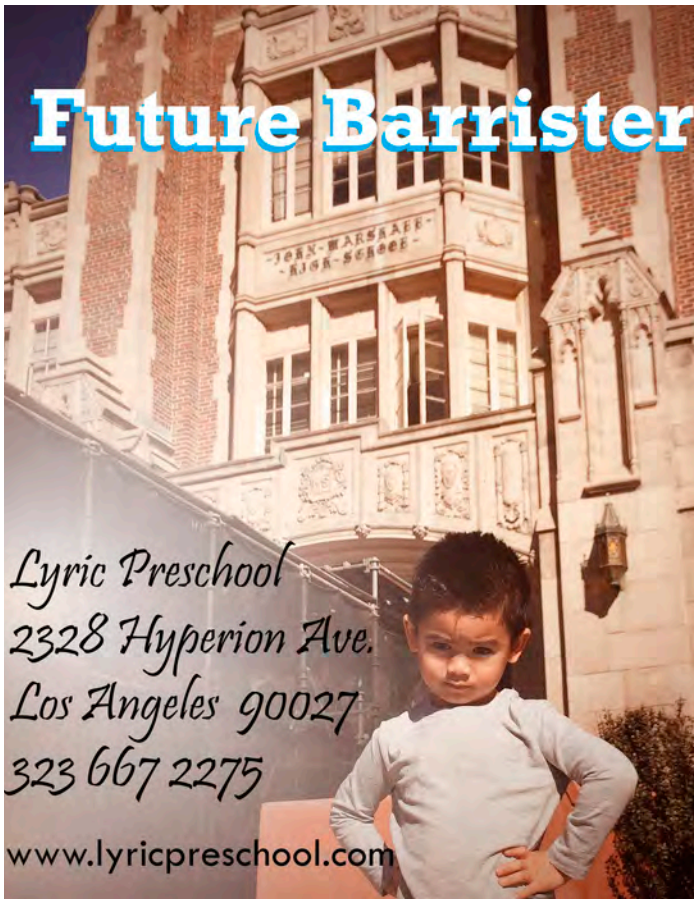
Thanks to the efforts of the Community Police Advisory Board, blue ribbons went up throughout the Northeast Division to show support for our peace officers.

**SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING.**

Go to the following link to get more information and sign up for the **iWATCH program**
<http://www.lapdonline.org/iwatchla>

On behalf of the officers who work at Northeast, I would like to thank everyone for the blue ribbons that were placed all over the division. In a job that is increasingly becoming more dangerous and difficult, it was comforting to see reminders that we are appreciated. Take care. ■

Bringing People Together / Franklin Hills Residents Association



At the annual meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association in 2012 the membership adopted a bylaw amendment to extend the boundaries of the association north along Franklin Ave. and St. George then following Tracy until it meets Talmadge. This was the culmination of over twenty years of service to this area by the FHRA and the request of the leadership of the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch group to “take over” their members who were predominately located in this area.

Two years later in June 2014 the FHRA petitioned the City of Los Angeles to recognize this area as a part of the Franklin Hills neighborhood so we could have a neighborhood community identity sign installed at Talmadge and Tracy. While we more than satisfied all City requirements, there was a substantial delay because the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment did not promptly notify the Los Feliz N. C., who did not hold a timely hearing on this matter.

By the time the Neighborhood Council conducted a hearing several neighbors in the area became upset apparently thinking that if the City approved the petition, they would no longer be in the community of Los Feliz. Nothing could be further from the truth. All of the Franklin Hills neighborhood is contained within the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles. About that time some outside agitators started unfounded rumors that the crime rate was higher in the rest of the Franklin Hills neighborhood and that property values were lower. We checked with our local

LAPD Senior Lead Officers and with the Captain of the Northeast Division who all told us that we had the lowest crime rate in the division and that the crime rate throughout Los Feliz was similar and was low. We also checked with local realtors who all told us that prices per square foot were substantially the same throughout the Franklin Hills including within the adopted area.

Because of the controversy created, our former Councilman, Tom LaBonge, decided to punt the decision and to let his successor in office decide it. When David Ryu was elected, we approached him about this issue. He investigated and agreed to consider our request if we gathered more signatures than the City process required. He also agreed to allow more time to gather these signatures since we had been in limbo for a year and we had already satisfied the signature requirements in the City’s approved process. When this became known, a few folks started agitating again.

As a result of all of the stress and upset feelings of a number of residents within the adopted area, *Bringing People Together, continued on page 22...*

Map Your Neighborhood “In the Event of a Disaster, Let’s Prepare Together!” by Shirley Mims and Carole Nese

Within the first 60 minutes following a disaster, people suffer the most injuries or even death. The Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) safety committee wants all area residents to be prepared in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake.

FHRA is using the state wide Map Your Neighborhood program (MYN), to help neighbors prepare for such an event. The MYN nine step plan helps neighbors develop an action strategy to check on one another during the “golden hour” immediately following a disaster. The 9-steps also teach neighbors to rely on each other during the hours or days after the disaster if fire, medical, police or utility responders are unavailable.

The FHRA safety committee will help neighbors create a plan for their “blocks”. FHRA has purchased the MYN booklets and will provide them free of charge to block captains who volunteer to gather their neighbors and host a meeting at their home.

During your meeting, neighbors come together and fill in their address and contact info that is shared only among residents on your block in written form only. The confidential booklets also ask residents to identify their special skills, and list their personal home supplies and equipment that could be very helpful and important in a major emergency.

The goal is to have each neighbor on the block fill out the information in the MYN booklet and keep it readily available along with other important emergency items such as flashlights, spare batteries, sturdy shoes and other emergency items.

At the end of the meeting, participants will determine a meeting place to gather together to canvass the block for imminent dangers. When a disaster strikes, neighbors will meet at the gathering place. Two to

three neighbors in a group will be given assignments such as checking each home and the surrounding area for gas leaks, fires and downed live electrical wires and other hazardous situations. Other groups will go house to house and seek out neighbors who are hurt or need help in any way. Another assignment would be to offer to take in children or pets and/or people who are alone or frightened.

Notes from Shirley and Charley Mims on their First MYN meeting: “Earlier this year my husband Charley and I hosted a Map Your Neighborhood *Map Your Neighborhood, continued on page 19...*”

ORGANIZE YOUR BLOCK!

Would you be willing to host a meeting to organize your neighbors in the event of a major disaster? The FHRA safety committee is here to help you and will provide materials and assistance with the presentation.

Contact either:

Carole Nese at carolenese@gmail.com or Shirley Mims at Shirley@franklinhills.org.

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Community Garden Update

by Hannah Spencer



Hannah Spencer pulling radishes from the Community Garden

Another successful summer season is now history for FHRA's Norman Harriton Community Garden. We had a bountiful summer harvest and are looking forward to a few more yields before winter is upon us. Examples of our successes over the summer include: tomatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard, kale, fennel, cucumbers, Brussel sprouts, butternut squash, peppers, summer squash, and basil. In October we even scared up a pumpkin or two to honor Halloween.

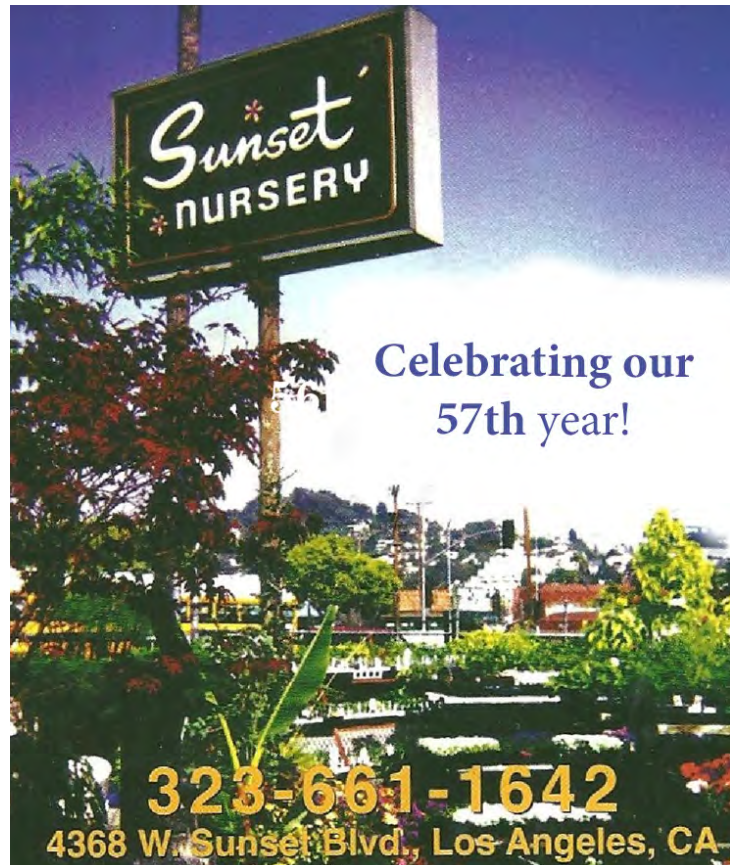
Fall is a thoughtful transitional period in the garden where community gardeners consider their plans for next year, or perhaps attempt a fall crop. As we move into a time where we often let our gardens rest, we reflect on what we've achieved in the last two years.

As the seasons change, so too does the community garden. An integral part of running a community garden requires strong leadership and guidance. Our coordinators are volunteers who step up to take on many duties necessary to organize and run the garden. We've recently chosen two new coordinators Kirby Pringle and Kristen Andersen and we say thank you to our past garden coordinators Mia Trachinger and Joni Eckley.

While we're excited to see how Kirby and Kristen will help guide the garden in the next year, we can't help but be inspired and awed by what we've accomplished with Mia and Joni. Once a month, the gardeners came together to work on communal projects, and with the organization and guidance of Mia and Joni, we accomplished a lot. A few of the projects we've completed in the last two years, in addition to our normal monthly weeding and upkeep, include:

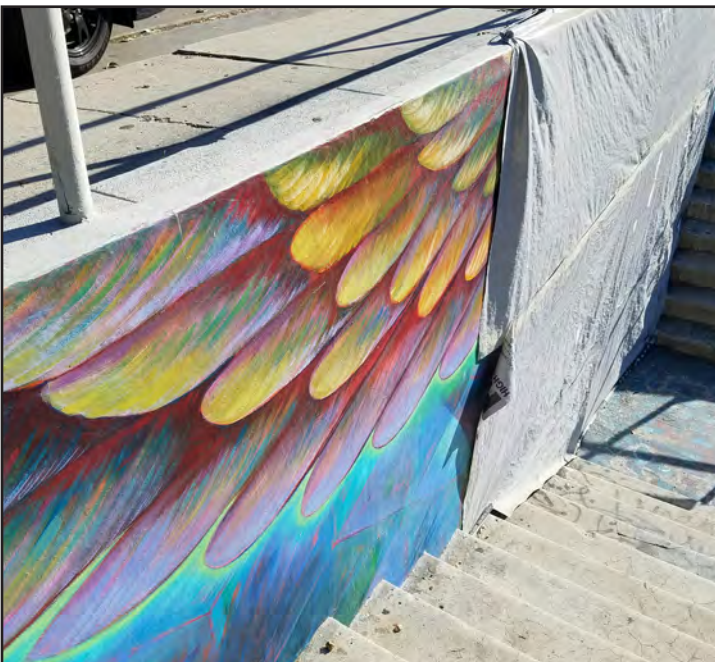
- Renovating and refurbishing our tool shed with new shelving, baskets and tool organization
- Painting a beautiful garden entrance stairway mural
- Building an herb bed with material from an unused compost bin
- Varnishing our children's playhouse
- Acquiring and varnishing a second picnic table
- Planting apple trees, blackberries, and grape vines along the fence

As we move through the Fall season we're excited to see where Kristen and Kirby take us. If you are interested in participating in FHRA's Norman Harriton Community Garden activities, check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinHillsCommunityGarden>) for more information on our public events. We have a wait list but would love to welcome more Franklin Hills neighbors to our community. If you are interested in gardening a plot please email Kristen and Kirby at garden@franklinhills.org.



What's Happening at Our Neighborhood Mural?

by Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds



Protective vandal curtains cover the Hoover mural currently being restored (Photos by Eric Frase)

Fluid City Rising, the Ricardo Mendoza-created mural at the Hoover Walk, needed restoration work. The mural, completed in 2009, is painted on the three panels of the site's retaining wall, as well as the pedestrian steps down the middle.

Ricardo Mendoza placed a vandal screen over the mural to protect the uncoated mural while he is doing the restoration work. This mural was actually originally painted on a membrane, a thin fabric coating that was then attached to the retaining wall panels.

The mural's sacrificial coating was removed, (this coating is like a clear anti-graffiti coating on top of the painting); the vandal curtain was installed; as the torn membrane was patched.

The restoration work includes repainting of extensive areas, and then a reapplication of a top coat, and repainting the steps where needed.

Since its completion in 2009, our neighborhood Mural, continued on page 13...

..Neighborhood Mural, continued from page 12



Muralist Mendoza, in February 2009, applying the panels he painted to the specially prepared concrete. Mendoza and his assistants scraped about a quarter inch of paint, built up over about 80 years, off the walls before they could apply the mural (for more photos and info visit www.franklinhills.org).

mural has become a popular, well-visited, and oft-photographed area landmark. Sadly, the recent restoration work is a necessary response to seven years of tagging and the subsequent graffiti removal. The work is also necessary because of the deterioration of the aging wall.

The creation of the mural was funded by two grants from the City's Office of Community Beautification; from City Council District 4; the Franklin Hills Residents Association; and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council.

It was a creative effort of residents, artists, City employees, and community activists. We look forward to seeing Fluid City Rising rise once more at the intersection of Hoover and Prospect ■



Hoover Walk 'Fluid City Rising' Mural dedication, March 26, 2009

Franklin Avenue Median Upgrade

by Charley Mims

In 1995 the Franklin Hills neighbors celebrated the completion of a long planned rejuvenation of the Franklin Avenue median. It had been covered in asphalt for decades with weeds growing through the cracks. The Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) decided to plan and implement a landscaped and irrigated median island to spruce up the main entry way to our hill. One FHRA board member designed the irrigation system and another neighbor designed the planting. We enlisted the support of the Board of Public Works and of our then Councilman John Ferraro. Public Works agreed to have the Bureau of Street Services remove and haul away the asphalt and they also tested the soil for nutrient value. The FHRA and our members raised the money to fund the new irrigation system and to acquire the plants then place them in the median island. Councilman Ferraro spoke at the dedication in 1995. He thanked Armida Bolton for a large contribution, Ricardo Accorsi for designing the irrigation system, and Melinda Taylor for her expert design of the landscaping.

Well, here we are twenty one years later. After many repairs to the sprinkler lines and replacement of valves and some lines, we are faced with the need to do a complete replacement of the irrigation system. A committee of the FHRA has interviewed a number of contractors and solicited bids to replace the irrigation system. While the committee was impressed with several contractors, we are now reviewing their bids and their qualifications. The FHRA board has agreed to allocate sufficient funds to replace the aging irrigation system with a new state of the art system. FHRA will also clear the median of dead plants and other debris before installing the new system. We will also add plants and rebalance plants throughout the median.

If you want to help to renew the median so our neighborhood puts "its best foot forward", please consider a donation dedicated to restoring the median island to its former glory! ■

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“See Something, Say Something” Sign Success / by Bruce Carroll



We’ve all heard “See something, Say something” in relation to crime or terrorists, but one Prospect Ave. resident has proved it also works for safety with “No Parking” signs. Prospect Ave. narrows by 50% as it goes east up the hill from Sanborn Ave. Because of that narrowness, parking is prohibited on the downhill side of the street. But people often parked on the illegal side of the street creating a potential safety hazard if fire engines needed to navigate the narrow passage between parked cars.

The persistent resident kept trying with former and current City Council offices and finally achieved success when he reached Christopher Rider, Hollywood District Engineer, at the LA Department of Transportation. Rider came out to take a look for himself and walked up Prospect from Sanborn to Deloz. He noted there were existing “No Parking” signs with arrows pointing in both directions, but many were faded and there was none at the intersection with Sanborn. So in September, just two weeks later, the faded signs were replaced and a brand new sign was posted at Sanborn with an arrow pointed up to the restricted area. Rider also noted some of the curbs were in need of fresh red paint.

The concerned resident says he’s now “happy that Parking Enforcement will not be confused whether or not to cite or tow an illegally parked vehicle at the corner of Sanborn & Prospect.” ■



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..... david.ryu@lacity.org
 Field Deputy Adam Miller..... (323) 957-6415
 e-mail adam.miller@lacity.org
 Neighborhood Advocate James Drevno.... (323) 957-6415
 e-mail james.drevno@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..... (213) 978-7878
 Graffiti Removal..... 311
 Noise Enforcement (213) 996-1250
 Parking Enforcement (213) 485-4184
 Prospect Studios - Janet Campus.. (323) 671-4022
 Rape Hotline..... (310) 392-8381
 Restraining Orders www.lapdonline.org
 Street Services (800) 996-2489
 Trash Services (800) 996-2489
 Bin Replacement..... (800) 773-2489
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What's the City Doing About Traffic? Have you Noticed a Change Lately?

by Carole Nese



Have you noticed a change in the timing of the signals lately? You are not alone. Many FHRA residents have voiced opinions about how the city has changed the timing of signals in our area. One reason they have done this is an attempt to allow a greater number of cars to flow through the major thoroughfares during heavy traffic times, thus they have made the green lights longer to accommodate more cars.

An example of that heavy traffic is along Franklin Ave. and St. George St. coming as you approach the Franklin Hills area. Many residents have noticed a heavy build-up of cars driving home from work Monday through Friday. The traffic avoiding congested Los Feliz Blvd. backs up on Franklin Avenue going eastward often times beyond Franklin and Vermont. The result, cars on the Shakespeare Bridge are slowed to a crawl.

Traffic going east on St. George from the Bridge now has a longer green light at Tracy to allow for a greater flow of traffic. The same holds true for the signal at St. George and Griffith Park Blvd.

Once cars reach Rowena and turn toward Hyperion they either turn to proceed over the Hyperion Bridge into Atwater, Glendale or the freeway entrances, or they continue on Rowena for destinations toward downtown or other freeway options.

There have been some issues with the installation of the timing signals. The LA Department of Transportation (DOT) has had to repair the new installed devices at the corners of St. George and Tracy, St. George and Griffith Park Blvd and the left hand turn signal at Hyperion and Rowena several times.

If you notice that you have difficulty crossing St. George from Tracy or Griffith Park Blvd, the DOT suggests you stop behind the yellow line (pedestrian crosswalk) when the signal is red. If you creep
Traffic, Continued on Page 19...

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- Alex A, 2016

Colin Hoffmeister

310.435.4206 / ColinH@kw.com

CAL BRE# 01921784

My recent Franklin Hills sold listings:

1842 Hollyvista	\$1,310,000	1900 Hollyvista	\$1,200,000
2258 Ronda Vista	\$1,412,500	2426 Ronda Vista	\$1,270,000



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...Traffic, Continued from Page 18

into the pedestrian zone (over the yellow line), the sensor will not detect your vehicle and the light will not turn green. This is done for the safety of the pedestrians.

DOT tells us that all is in good order now and they continue to monitor those and other areas in our neighborhood.

How is this working for you? Do you have any opinions or thoughts about how to make this better? Let us know at fhra@franklinhills.org and we will be happy to pass them on to the LA Department of Transportation. ■

...Map Your Neighborhood, Continued from Page 10 meeting in our home to organize the households in our “block” on Lyric Avenue. The meeting had great interest and was well attended!”

Follow Up: “Over the next year we plan to hold a drill to test out our plan and make adjustments to it as needed. Every year after, we will hold a refresher meeting for our neighbors to exchange updated info for people who have moved or who want to be included”.

Your block can be next! The process is relatively simple. All you need to do is determine which houses are in your “block”, set a date and invite your neighbors.

The safety committee stands ready to help you and will provide the materials and help you present the plan at your meeting. There is a lot of information to cover. We have the experience to share with you and help get your neighbors organized. Contact us for more info: Carole Nese at carolenese@gmail.com and Shirley Mims at Shirley@franklinhills.org. ■

Franklin Hills... Home of Roy and Walt Disney

by Carole Nese



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Breakfast Club

What are the four magic words that get local residents' attention? Walt Disney lived here. Even better, five magic words, the Disney brothers lived here.

Walt and Roy Disney, brothers and business partners, lived and worked all over the area. They first lived with their uncle and aunt on Kingswell. The new owners of the Kingswell property want to tear the house down and rebuild. The issue is currently being reviewed by the L.A. Cultural Heritage Commission.

The garage on Kingswell is where the brothers continued their work on the dream that was a wish their heart made, the beginning of Disney Brothers Studios. They soon outgrew the garage (which was moved in the 1980's and is now located in Garden Grove) and established Disney Studios on the corner of Hyperion and Griffith Park Blvd, where Gelson's is today.

Disney, continued on page 22...

10 Questions Some Realtors® Hate

Interviewing a Realtor®? Don't be too nice. You're hiring a business advisor, not a new best friend. Ask questions some Realtors® hate. You deserve to know.

- 1. How many times did you take the real estate exam to get your license?** It's harder in California to get a driver's license than a real estate license, yet half the real estate license applicants flunk their first try. Of the latter, half flunk the exam a second try. Many agents have to take the exam three times to pass!
- 2. Has the state ever restricted, suspended or revoked your real estate license?** "Conviction of a crime" or public complaints can cause the Bureau of Real Estate (BRE) to issue sanctions against a licensee. Check an agent's public record at: <http://www2.dre.ca.gov/PublicASP/pplinfo.asp>
- 3. Have you ever been served a subpoena in a real estate-related matter, or been the defendant in a real estate-related arbitration or lawsuit?** If the answer is "yes", ask what happened. A good story is a short one that doesn't change.
- 4. Do you work with a small, medium or large real estate company?** Because lawyers know large companies have the deepest pockets, the larger the company, the better the risk management is. Larger companies' agents are well trained at avoiding litigation.
- 5. In the past two years, how often did you or your team represent both the buyer and the seller in a transaction?** One agent negotiating simultaneously on behalf of two competing interests assumes a conflict of interest. Do you want your own negotiator or a transaction facilitator? Sellers should ask if an agent will agree not to represent a buyer.
- 6. In the past two years, how often did you represent a property that was never listed in the MLS?** Some agents hide listings hoping to sell them themselves off market. Market exposure increases the likelihood of getting top dollar.
- 7. When will the first open house be held?** Holding a public open house before the brokers' open house serves a listing agent who is hoping to find an unattached buyer. Letting the broker community know about your property first allows other agents time to spread the word.
- 8. Have you ever cancelled a listing and within 90 days re-listed the same property?** This popular practice is a fraud on the public. Some agents cancel a listing from the MLS and re-list the property quickly to reset the days on market to zero.
- 9. If you work with a team, will everyone who shows my house be licensed?** Many agents delegate open house duty to assistants, not all of whom are licensed. An unlicensed assistant legally may not perform licensee duties—not even by telling buyer prospects the asking price.
- 10. When is your next vacation and for how long?** If your agent is traveling, who will be in town to do the work? In doubt? Check the agent's Facebook page!

I am happy to answer these questions. CALL ME!

Richard Stanley

#1 Agent - Los Feliz Office, 2015 and 1995-2009
Estates Director

Architectural and Historic Properties Specialist

rstanley@coldwellbanker.com

213 300-4567 cell / voice mail



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...Bringing People Together, continued from page 9
we decided to not pursue this issue at this time. Our goal in the beginning was to get recognition so a sign could be added to the other seven Franklin Hills signs in an effort to bring people together. Since our goal was to bring people together and misunderstandings and upset feelings have led to splitting residents over the issue, we want to let it die down. We will pursue other ways to create a sense of community and neighborliness among all the residents of the Franklin Hills. ■

...Disney, continued from page 20

A unique trivia fact about the Disney brothers is that they built their first houses in the Franklin Hills, side by side at the corner of Lyric Ave. and St. George St. so that they could be close to their studio on Hyperion. The closely matching homes were prefabricated ready cut Tudor style built in 1927 and still stand well maintained in great condition today. A fun fact is the cost of the two homes when originally built was estimated by Roy to be \$16,000 for both!

Franklin Hills is the place where Roy and Walt Disney chose to live right next door to each other. They were active residents and employers in the area and Walt also attended Los Angeles Breakfast Club meetings close by. Walt and his family lived there for about six years before moving to the Hansel and Gretel cottage that he and his wife, Lillian, built on Woking Way.

So, on your next walk down or up St. George St. from Gelson's, Trader Joe's or some other local store, stop at the corner of Lyric Ave. and St. George and whistle that happy tune... M-i-c-k-e-y....M...Oh, You know the rest! ■

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS!

Don't let the next earthquake become a disaster for you and your family. Prepare now by stocking up on water and food for you, your family and your pets. See the article in this issue on safety and preparedness for more ways that you can prepare and get involved.

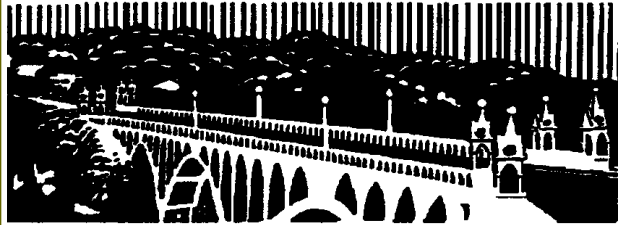
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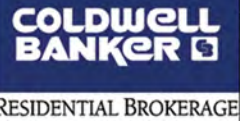
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