



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 24

WINTER 2002

Overview and Underview

As noted above, this publication is known as the Overview. In our commitment to provide varying views of neighborhood issues we have included the underview of the Shakespeare Bridge. This rarely noticed and long neglected area has recently become the focus of efforts to clean up graffiti and rid the bridge's underworld of undesirable elements.

Photo & Caption by Bruce Carroll

Perfecting the Bridge

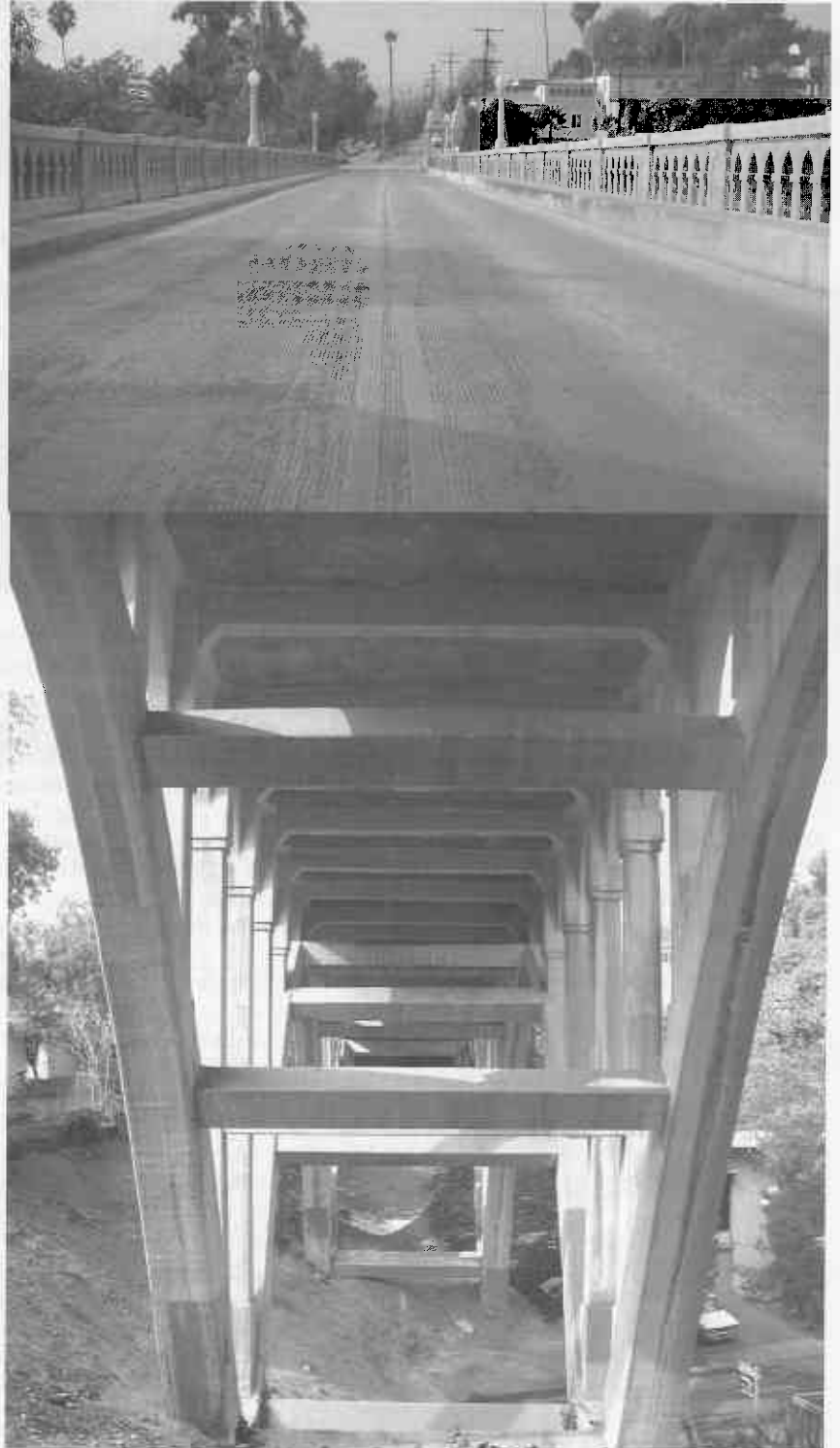
by Shirley Mims

There is a breathtaking view of the Shakespeare Bridge underneath it at the end of Monon Street. From there you can look up at its magnificent arches and see the whole bridge in its grandeur. Monon is a quiet street off of Tracy Street which has probably seen more foot traffic than cars. In recent years the area underneath the bridge had fallen to neglect and loitering. Kids were using it as a hang out spot. There was a lot of graffiti. A homeless camp showed up on the slope. Neighbors made reports of drug dealings and occasional fires.

By the request of neighbors of both Franklin Hills and Los Feliz, Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge and his staff, the Department of Public Works, local schools, and the LAPD are working together with us to clean up and beautify the area under the bridge.

The project started in January with several meetings between neighbors,

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Letter from the President

by Charley Mims

Friends and neighbors:

As we go into this holiday season we have plenty for which to be thankful. I sincerely hope that you and your family and friends are healthy and prosperous.

We have just survived the attempts of the secessionists to divide our neighborhood and our City. We remain united in the City of Los Angeles and in our neighborhood. The vote to keep our City whole was by an overwhelming margin, greater than two to one. Now is the time for all of us to come together and return to those volunteer activities and projects which improve our block, our neighborhood, our community and our great City.



The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) which includes our area was certified by the City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment last June. The end of October saw the election of ten members to the Board of the GGPNC. For District A (north of Los Feliz Blvd.) Cheryl Johnson and Bernadette Soter were elected. For District B (east of Vermont Avenue) Jacqueline Kerr and Andrew Westall were elected. For District C (from Vermont Avenue to Commonwealth) Dora Herrera and Meredith Patten were elected. From District D (east of Commonwealth and north of the Franklin Hills area) Yvette Bryant and James Balesh were elected. From District E (the Franklin Hills area and westerly to Commonwealth/Hoover) Joseph Hahn and Charley Mims were elected. Cheryl and Bernadette are longtime neighborhood activists. Jacqueline is a neighborhood activist and Andrew is a political activist who currently works for the Speaker of the Assembly. Meredith Patten is new to the area and brings a lot of enthusiasm, while Dora is active in the community and is a manager/owner of Yuca's Hut on Hillhurst. Yvette is relatively new to the area and brings leadership skills and enthusiasm, while James is an attorney and active in other volunteer groups. Joseph is also an attorney who spearheaded the successful efforts to string holiday lights on the Shakespeare Bridge last year. Charley is active in his neighborhood (and I am always looking for more neighbors to volunteer a little time and energy to improve our area!).

The elected GGPNC Board has the responsibility to appoint the final nine Board members to complete the first regular Board for the GGPNC. We all hope to increase the cooperation within our community and our partnership and communication with City officials and departments to the betterment of our area. Please participate.

In addition to our work to get the GGPNC organized and off and running, the Franklin Hills Residents Association's volunteers have continued to improve our neighborhood in many ways. Past President Ricardo Gomez has been appointed to Chair a Nuisance Abatement Committee. Ricardo is concentrating on bulky item removals in cooperation with Commissioner Janice Wood of the Board of Public Works and Councilman Tom LaBonge. He met with the Commissioner and Councilman LaBonge to get information on City budget priorities to rid our neighborhood of the unsightly couches and other bulky items that our neighbors leave in front of their residences without calling the Bureau of Sanitation to pick them up. Ricardo found out that the City plans to increase the number of crews devoted to picking up these nuisance items. Another area that Ricardo has been helpful in is testifying at Planning Department hearings on illegal zoning practices of a few local auto body shops. He was successful in his efforts to convince the City to NOT grant variances to allow illegal building and other activities that harm the neighborhood.

Joseph Hahn is once again leading the effort to string holiday lighting on the Shakespeare Bridge. As mentioned earlier, Joseph has also just been elected to represent our area on the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. I will have the pleasure of working with Joseph on this important neighborhood project. We plan to bring to bear the combined efforts of all groups within the Council area to improve our neighborhoods and to create better communication with City officials and the dreaded bureaucrats!

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Garden Art

by Foongy Lee

The Franklin Hills Residents Association community garden on the grounds of the Lycee Internationale de Los Angeles flourishes and grows. Even here in Southern California, gardens are about changing seasons. Recently, Norm Harriton stepped down as garden coordinator, and Tori Kjer took his place. We will continue to benefit from Norm's friendly leadership and gardening savvy.

We have seen other changes in our gardeners and our garden plots. Babies have been born and adopted. Children have grown. People have moved out of our city and new people have arrived.

Everyone has a unique style, something unusual to contribute. Some of us garden chaotically, other are structured and precise. Some of us prefer flowers, the taller the better. One member plans on devoting her entire plot to corn next summer. Another gardener grew a zucchini the size of a large muffler. Okra flowers in several plots with creamy yellow petals and magenta centers were unexpectedly beautiful and prolific. Two of our gardeners installed competing irrigation systems on timers. They offhandedly discussed water pressure and dispersal while secretly planning advances in their system design. A tomato blight, which quickly spread to all plots but one, was the subject of a staggering number of conversations. In June we mourned our tomato crop and envied the gardener of the one successful plot. I became so obsessed with tomatoes that I dreamed about them—juicy, succulent, filled with the flavor of the earth and sun.

In July a kitten we named Balzac joined us. She basked in the sun on the paths and stretched in the shade cast by our vegetables. She is a three-legged, one-eyed, gray striped beauty, and she practices her feline instincts undeterred by her handicaps. We took her to the vet and members contribute cans of cat food.



Many of the fall plantings are in. We expect onions, fennel, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, squash, and more. Please feel free to stroll by and see our progress. We are located at the Sanborn cul-de-sac below the Shakespeare bridge. All the plots are currently occupied, but there is a short waiting list. If you are interested in adding your name, please contact Tori Kjer at 213-482-2160. We will gratefully accept any donations of cat food or veterinarian expenses for Balzac.

Attacking Graffiti

by Eric Frase



After a spike in graffiti vandalism in July and August, particularly on the western perimeter of the Hills, it seems that our neighborhood has established a reputation of "zero-tolerance" regarding the antics of local taggers. By removing graffiti within hours of its occurrence, involving our Senior Lead Officers from Northeast and (do NOT try this at home) confronting the guilty teens face-to-face in the dark of night, the flurry of IFT and FHC tags that scarred the vicinity of Fountain, Talmadge, Myra, and even the Shakespeare Bridge, came to a halt.

In 2001, the Franklin Hills were bombarded by hundreds of scrawls, large and small, by the IFT tagging crew. After documenting many of their tags before removal, the FHRA Graffiti Abatement Committee passed this information on to Officer Colenzo from Northeast's PACE unit. Using some of our information, police officers were able to catch several IFT members tagging a stairway one morning near Marshall High School last year and the appearance of IFT tags suddenly came to a stop.

The year 2002 saw the emergence of a new crew - FHC. According to Officer Colenzo this was a local group of kids calling themselves Franklin Hills Criminals. Officer Colenzo thought these were kids just "talking tough" and were not gang-related. This summer IFT and FHC tags began appearing more frequently throughout the area, often written next to each other, and apparently were being done in tandem. One evening, around midnight, a resident spotted a small group of youth spraying IFT and FHC tags on Myra near Cumberland. Several area residents went out and confronted the teenage boys and attempted to apprehend them while several of the offenders ran away into an apartment building at Myra and Sunset Drive. One of the boys said that FHC stood for Franklin Hills Crips. Within a week or so of this incident, a resident in the area of Sunset Dr. and Talmadge spotted after-

school tagging in that area and alerted the police. L.A.P.D. officers followed the trail of spray painted evidence up Talmadge to Franklin, and eventually stopped several youths at the east end of the Bridge who were "packing paint" as well as homework. After additional FHC and IFT tagging was witnessed again on Myra during the night, a neighbor contacted one of Franklin Hills' SLOs and the police paid another visit to the apartment at Myra and Sunset that seemed to be harboring the group of kids who were relentlessly defacing our neighborhood. It is unknown if any arrests took place or what became of the adult in that apartment who was aware their under-age charges were out after curfew, but the rash of graffiti by IFT and FHC has come to a sudden stop.

This is another example of how community involvement, such as direct reaction by residents, like painting out graffiti after work (and to the extreme, confronting ne'r-do-wells), and working with our community resources, such as L.A.P.D. Northeast, brings change to your neighborhood much more quickly (and is easier) than trying to form a whole new city.

(FHRA Board member Eric Frase chairs the Graffiti Abatement Committee. To be kept abreast of graffiti abatement efforts and news send your e-mail or phone number to him in care of FHRA@franklinhills.org or the FHRA message line at 323-664-7247.)

Northeast Division News



As you know, Chief Pomeroy is leaving the Los Angeles Police Department after serving the city for 31 years. His goals while serving as the interim Chief for the past six

months were to unify the department toward a single purpose: make the LAPD a better place to work, improve morale and to increase recruitment and retention. The department he now retires from is a more competent and stable organization. Many thanks and happy retirement wishes.

We welcome William Bratton as the new Chief of Police. Chief Bratton's goals include the reduction of Part 1 crimes such as robberies, burglaries and Grand Theft Auto. He also will focus on "quality of life" issues like gang activity and graffiti. He is also a firm believer in a strong community / police partnership. Everyone should take an active part in helping to reduce the incidence and fear of crime in their neighborhood. Consider starting or joining a Neighborhood Watch or participate in the Northeast Volunteer Surveillance Team. Information on both of these programs can be obtained by contacting the Community Relations office at Northeast station, (213) 485-2548.

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By working together as a team we can accomplish many things. Several examples can be seen in the area just south of the Franklin Hills community along Sunset Boulevard.

We saw the closure of the Sunset Pacific Hotel and the sealing of the pedestrian stairways on Myra Avenue earlier this year. More recently, there are improvements taking place at the Tangs Donut shopping mall. Criminal activity plagued each location and extended into the Franklin Hills area. Recent crime statistics show a significant decrease in violent crime and an improvement in "quality of life." Participation by area residents, members of Neighborhood Watches, business owners, and community organizations like FHRA came together and helped make these changes possible. Each of you has my sincere thanks and praise for the important roles that you played. A special thanks to the many officers that worked so hard, the numerous city entities that were involved and especially Councilmen LaBonge and Garcetti for their support.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to future successes by working together. Oh, and don't forget to check out the Los Angeles Police Department's official website at WWW.LAPDONLINE.Org.

Sincerely,

Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki
Northeast Division, LAPD

A Meeting Report For the Record

By Bruce Carroll



It's been a record year for the FHRA. With a 15% increase in membership we easily broke last year's record of 347

and are now hitting 400. But we also broke new ground in other areas. Our internet website: www.FranklinHills.org got off to a great start featuring results from our poll on Hollywood Secession. The website had more than 2000 hits in days surrounding the crucial decision on whether to include parts of Franklin Hills in the proposed new city.

This year's annual meeting was held June 12th at ABC-TV Center Studios. The meeting also boasted record attendance, with more than 160 turning out to hear and question featured speaker City Councilman Tom LaBonge. He stressed the importance

of keeping the city together through promoting more resident input and improving services.

FHRA members voting by mail and at the meeting added three new faces to the FHRA Board of Directors. The names that go with those faces are Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds who has revitalized the area's Neighborhood Watch program, Eric Frase who's led the way in our uphill fight against graffiti and David Campbell, a retired college professor and

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A YEAR TO CHEER

by Bruce Carroll

*It's that time of year. let's rate '02.
Have the 12 months past been good to you?*

*For affairs impacting us Franklinites,
See below. FHRA's highlights.*

*Drug dealing denizens of the "Bates" motel.
Finally got the boot, and the crime rate fell*

*When a smelly auto shop asked to expand.
We showed the zoning board
the shop shud be banned.*

*Though taggers sprayed lots of "IFT,"
Volunteers erased most their graffiti.*

*Our membership numbers hit record height.
Ditto for e-mail, and our new website*

*Neighborhood Watches were re-energized...
Now crooks must be wary of many more eyes.*

*We battled secession, united we stood.
Against those who'd split us in-to Hollywood.*

*Another year of more good than ills.
More ups than downs for the Franklin Hills.*

*We hope your '02 was trouble free...
And the World will get better as we head to '03*

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FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION MEMBER?					<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Median Update

Shirley Mims

The flat area of the median looks a lot better since the FHRA board acted on a suggestion by board member, Norm Harriton, to cover the area with decorative wood chips. To prevent the hoards of weeds from sprouting every month, Norm first laid down and secured a felt weed barrier. While some weeds still grow, there are not nearly as many as there were before.

Mark Bruna, Franklin Hills neighbor and median volunteer, now has his own tree trimming business and continues to trim the palm trees on the median. We are thankful to him for his volunteer service to the community.

Please join me in welcoming our neighbor Terri White-Abudu who has kindly agreed to take over the organization of the median volunteers. I have enjoyed working with many of you on the median but my schedule has taken a permanent turn towards college studies and I am no longer able to handle it. Since Terri has kids at both Marhsall and King she wants to organize periodic clean up days with both the schools and our neighbors. She and her kids will be making "Stop" and "Slow Down" signs that will help slow speeding traffic when there are volunteers working on the median. Look for future announcements from Terri for the next Median Day.

OCTOBER 28 C-PAB MEETING

Upcoming Events announced: The Semi-annual Basic Car meetings, now called "District Meetings" will be held in December. Meeting for A71 (Franklin Hills) will be on Dec. 10, 2002 at the Hillhurst Community Center, (in the CalFed bldg.)

Northeast Toy Drive is scheduled for early December. Donations of unwrapped toys are gladly accepted; children attending must live in Northeast.

The Senior Lead Officers will now work in a new unit consisting of 8 SLOs, 5 Police Officers II, 1 officer III which will be designated as a problem solving footbeat. This unit will focus on community identified problems relating to crime, fear, and quality of life. Each SLO is asked to identify at least 5 problems within their area. The footbeat unit will also provide support as a chase team for the Volunteer Surveillance Team which focuses on recurring problems (such as graffiti.)

Issues discussed with the Neighborhood Prosecutor and the Captain: Tang's Doughnuts will be placing Security guards as well as painting the center; and will not be open in the evening.

Semi's parking under the overpass on Delay Dr. working with CalTrans and CHP to solve.

If you have an issue for C-PAB to discuss, call or e-mail it to: Carol Skinner, 323-662-1775; carolcantata@yahoo.com

Concerns for the Senior Lead: leave a message on Officer Polehonki's phone ((213) 509-2964)

Round Two Against Hyperion Auto Repair Shops

By Bruce Carroll

The FHRA's fight against polluting auto body shops scored more points last summer. The Central Area Planning Commission upheld the a zoning administrator's decision to just say "No" to requests for zoning variances for the auto shops at the corner of Hyperion and DeLongpre.

While Commission President, Beverly Ziegler, initially complimented property owner Gary Rogers on the appearance of his property, Commission VP Mary Lou Dudas disagreed and showed strong support for area residents suggesting that, since "clearly the applicant has not been a good neighbor, like a slumlord he should be forced to spend time" on the property. They both eventually voted to deny the variance based on the facts that some of the business' buildings were illegal and zoning changes made some uses inappropriate.

Rene Weitzer, Councilman Tom LaBonge's planning deputy, was of enormous help during the hearing frequently strongly addressing the panel about neighborhood concerns after the commission muzzled Franklin Hills representatives with a 2 minute gag rule that was not applied to other participants.

At one point FHRA member Michael Miller, who has long experience as a city attorney, objected to the fact that that he and FHRA past president Ricardo Gomez, who both had detailed information about the issue, were denied equal time with the property owners to explain our case. A commission staff member even threatened to have Miller ejected from the hearing. During Miller's brief testimony he asked the dozen Franklin Hills residents who attended the hearing to raise their hands to show the community's support.

Others raised their hands and voices to give the panel as sense of the community's mood. Hyperion resident Lisa Henschel observed that the property would "have to be upgraded to be an eyesore." King Middle School activist Mary Rodriguez pleaded with the commission to curb the pollution from the many Hyperion body shops that foul the air at the school. And Delongpre resident Garbiel Bristol testified a shop employee told him, "I'm not here to make the neighborhood happy."

The neighborhood can be a little happier after the ruling, but the fight is not over. Many of the shops' activities can continue, so there is far more work to be done and battles to be fought along Hyperion before we can all breathe easier.



Even when it is not open the shop at Hyperion and DeLongpre offers up visual pollution. At least 15 vehicles were packed onto the property...not counting the one on the sign.
Photo by Bruce Carroll



Has your nest egg grown lately?

If you're like most homeowners, your home is your largest nest egg. The reason is simple: over time, real estate in our neighborhood has proved to be the safest store of wealth. No other investment even comes close—especially lately.

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds and Mary Rodriguez



There is very good news to report in the area of community policing. For starters, our new LAPD leader, Chief William J. Bratton, has publicly stated his support for community policing. These are welcome words for Senior Lead Officers, Neighborhood Watch groups and others who are working to prevent crime and improve safety through this law enforcement-community partnership. There are many folks in our area who support this collaboration, as demonstrated at the August 6 National Night Out Community Walk. This evening stroll through the Los Feliz business district drew some 175 participants, a few of whom were then motivated to start new Neighborhood Watch groups.

In fact, around ten Neighborhood Watch groups have started, or have been revived in the past six months in the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Silver Lake and East Hollywood areas. If you have considered starting one on your block, and want materials or information, contact the LAPD Northeast Division Community Relations Office at 213/485-2548, or Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds, FHRA Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair, at 323/668-9069.



Recently, our Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) in the Northeast Division were re-assigned fulltime to their positions, complete with their own office. This is a step in the right direction, allowing the SLOs to concentrate on their specific geographic areas. Their jobs include tackling recurring crimes by getting to the roots of the problems; problem-solving and strategizing to prevent certain crimes from occurring or getting worse; and supporting Neighborhood Watch groups and other community activists in their quest to improve neighborhoods.

In addition, the Neighborhood Prosecutor program, sponsored by the City

Attorney's Office and started this year, is alive and well in our area. This program was designed to work hand-in-hand with the SLOs of every police division. In July, Jeanne Kim of the City Attorney's Office, was assigned to the Northeast Division, replacing Peter Shutan. Her office is located right across the hall from the Senior Lead Officers' new office, which allows them to be in constant communication.

When a criminal problem begins to infiltrate a neighborhood and a concerned citizen contacts the LAPD, their call is usually directed to the Senior Lead Officer for their area. In our community, SLO Al Polehonki covers Franklin Hills, Silver Lake, and the south end of Los Feliz; SLO Sam Salazar covers the Franklin Hills area around Thomas Starr King Middle School and East Hollywood; and SLO Stacy Miyamura covers Los Feliz and Griffith Park. These officers work as a team. They are experienced and have patrolled our neighborhoods for many years. They are still the ones to contact when a citizen suspects a crime or quality of life problem in their neighborhood. Now the SLOs can enlist the help of the Neighborhood Prosecutor for additional assistance. Jeanne Kim believes that the new Neighborhood Prosecutor pilot program, which began in March, has been very successful. She feels the community appreciates the fact that she can "fill the gaps" with the SLOs. She says she does not advise the SLOs, but tries to find alternative ways to problem solve, other than taking all matters into the courtroom.

Currently, Ms. Kim is working on prostitution problems in the Normandie Avenue area, which is the majority of her work. Other issues, such as drug abuse and drug houses throughout the Northeast Division, run a close second. Her area covers four City Council districts: Council Districts 4 (Tom LaBonge); 13 (Eric Garcetti); 14 (Nick Pacheco); and 1 (Ed Reyes).

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Alberto
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At the recent Northeast Division Open House on October 12, the mood was festive and attendance was high. Community members turned out in large numbers to tour the station and meet their area police officers, who hosted guests and barbecued carne asada and hotdogs. We visited the SLOs' new office there, and learned of some technology needs. If you are able to donate any of the items below, please call the Northeast Division's Community Relations Office at 213/485-2548. These items would help the SLOs do their jobs more effectively:

1. Color printer
2. Scanner
3. Power Point projector

Finally, mark your calendars for the upcoming Northeast LAPD Area District Meeting, open to all interested citizens, on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Los Feliz Community Police Center, 1965 N. Hillhurst Avenue, upstairs in the CalFed Bank building. Senior Lead Officers from the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Echo Park and Atwater areas will be on hand to discuss neighborhood concerns.

VOTERS CHOOSE LOS ANGELES

by Charley Mims

On November 5, 2002 voters in the City of Los Angeles went to the polls and by landslide margins chose to stay together, repudiating those who would divide our City. The people of Los Angeles when presented with the facts, chose to use the strengths of unity to build a better tomorrow. Those of us who voted chose to work out our problems together and build on our strengths to achieve our common goals of safe and healthy neighborhoods.

On a personal note I want to thank everyone who helped to get the message out to voters both locally and citywide that we wanted to keep our neighborhood and our City undivided. As President, I chaired an FHRA committee to defeat secession so we could maintain a united neighborhood and City. Neighbors who helped plan these efforts were Mia Trachinger, Nike Irvin, Brit & Jonathan Klein and Rozanna Leo-Fields & Greg Fields. Carlos Alvarado (SEIU Local 347), Cheryl Johnson (Los Feliz Improvement Assn), Rosemary DeMonte (Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District), Andrew Glazier (Hollywood and Los Angeles as One, HALO), were among many individuals from outside our neighborhood who also helped plan our election strategy.



Photo by Bruce Carroll

When the campaign got going, we were aided by the following organizations: the Los Angeles Professional Manager's Assn. donated the lawn signs that said, "Franklin Hills says NO to secession"; SEIU Local 347 donated the bumper stickers that said, "We Love LA" and "Los Feliz and Franklin Hills say NO on SECESSION" and also donated the copying of the Franklin Hills flyers that volunteers distributed door to door in our neighborhood; Tom LaBonge & Eric Garcetti's I Love L. A. campaign donated the "We Love Los Angeles-No on F and H" lawn signs and also coordinated speakers to address groups on the secession issue. Local residents volunteered their time to deliver our flyers giving the reasons why the Board of the Franklin Hills Residents Association voted to oppose secession. Among the many neighborhood volunteers were: Chris Boutelle, Charley Mims, Mia Trachinger, Brit Klein, Charles Greer, Ron Steensland, Arnie Netka, Ellen Burr, Phil Lee, Sheri Mobley, Jim Jack, and many others who placed lawn signs at their

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homes and businesses. While this was a community driven campaign to keep our neighborhood and our community together, we had a lot of help from our elected leaders and from the working families represented by unions in the entertainment, city service and construction sectors of our local economy. IATSE, AFTRA, AFSCME, the Fire Fighters local, the County Federation of Labor and other unions spearheaded by SEIU Local 347 put together a coalition of Los Angeles working families who were essential in helping us keep our neighborhood together. The one person who saw the dangers of splitting up earlier and more clearly than most was our Mayor, James Hahn. Mayor Hahn put together a citywide coalition that brought the message to all Angelenos that we are better off together!

Now that secession's divisiveness is behind us, let's find new ways to work together to improve our schools, our public safety services, our streets, the beauty of our community and our people. If you have not already done so, please volunteer a little time. Pick a small goal like cleaning off one public stairway, keeping one block free of graffiti every day, helping trim and weed the median island, volunteering for neighborhood watch, and so many other little acts that taken together absolutely will create an even better place to live.

JEANNE CHANG:

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 FIELD DEPUTY NOW HAS OFFICE HOURS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Jeanne Chang, Field Deputy for Councilmember Tom LaBonge, is in our neighborhood one day a week to meet with residents and address issues in our community. Ms. Chang will work here, and welcomes neighbors, every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. in the Los Feliz Community Police Center, upstairs in the CalFed Bank Building, 1965 Hillhurst. If she is out, she will leave a Drop-in Sheet, and will return calls to people she misses. Her phone numbers are (323) 913-4628 or (818) 755-7630.

So far, Ms. Chang reports that there has been a growing number of visitors. "There has been some more foot traffic, both for individuals who are seeking police and/or Council assistance. As more people learn that I am there, I am sure I will be receiving more visitors," she said.

Most of the issues and concerns that Ms. Chang has heard about have to do with the condition of the streets, sidewalks and curbs. Other "hot" issues are the traffic, speeding, and parking situations in our neighborhood. She explained, "Several people approach me about when their street will be repaved, or when the sidewalks will be repaired and the trees trimmed. Primarily, most of the requests I receive have to do with Public Works related issues, which the Councilman is personally very strongly supportive of. Transportation-related requests come at a close second."

Ms. Chang reminds residents to contact her if they need more City-related brochures and/or information on the Councilmember or Council District 4.

Coyotes in the neighborhood.

First, I'd like to say that this article represents only my own views, and does not represent any official position of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. Special thanks to Wildlife Activist Mike Bell for sharing his knowledge and contacts.

George Grace

I have two big dogs - labs - that insist on getting a walk every day. This is usually very early in the morning (around 6:00am), and at this time of year, the sun is just coming up. About eight weeks ago, I had Lucky on the leash, and we took our normal route - around the corner and up Clayton towards Mayview. Just before Mayview, there is one of our many public stairs, that we use to cut over to Clayton and walk back home. It was especially foggy that morning, and as we walked up the street, I noticed two grey shapes by the stairs. I saw that Lucky hadn't noticed anything unusual - he was busy checking out the fireplugs, and looking for our neighbor's dogs (they are always great fun to bark at). As I pulled in his leash, the gray shapes bounded onto the vacant lot, and down the steep hillside, without making a sound. I was grateful that Lucky never even saw them. It had been a long time since I'd seen a coyote in the neighborhood, and I was a bit intimidated, but at the same time I was also thrilled to see these ghostly creatures - natives to the habitat way before I arrived here in 1974.

I figured that it must be this terrible drought we've been having for so long. About a week later the same thing happened. We rounded the corner, and there he was. This time there was only one, and as I continued to walk slowly up the hill, I expected him to bound soundlessly away. But he held his ground, and watched us until Lucky spotted him and started to bark furiously. Well, Mister Coyote wasn't having any of that, and in an instant disappeared down the hill. I still felt the thrill of seeing the coyote, but I knew that he really shouldn't be there. About a week ago, I had my third coyote encounter. But this time, it wasn't early in the morning, and I wasn't walking Lucky. I was driving down Clayton, and as I turned on to Mayview to go down the hill, a small coyote appeared at the edge of the road. He looked pitiful. Scrawny, thin, and desperate looking. He looked me in the eyes, like my dogs do, and he seemed to be pleading with me for help. I wanted to stop and let him in the car, but I knew that this wasn't a possibility. This encounter took out all the romance of my previous contacts, and it made me realize that the only explanation for their being here so often was that there was no food and maybe even no water in Griffith Park where the coyotes usually live. It also made me want to do something to help them. I decided to do some research. Here is information from a Griffith Park ranger that I spoke to: There is no doubt that the reason we have coyotes in our neighborhood is that there is a serious shortage of both food and water. The beautiful fountains in the Zoo and park are carefully fenced off from all native wildlife to protect park visitors. She

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recalled that a few days before we spoke, she had to scare off a coyote that was trying to climb a fence to get water. The ranger told me that she expected to see coyotes in the river bed soon. I also learned that Griffith Park has no natural creeks, springs for the wildlife, or man-made watering devices (commonly called "Wildlife Drinkers", or "Water Guzzlers") for the native wildlife including skunks, opossums, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, gophers, coyotes, or the rats and mice that are a coyotes' main diet.

I learned from Dion Agnew, a retired official of the California Dept. of Fish and Game that these devices have been installed by the hundreds by Fish and Game, and other local Government agencies. I was taken by Jeff Helgager an employee of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in Chatsworth to see a "Wildlife Drinker" that was installed by the water district adjacent to two of the District's water towers. I spoke to Jeff Biging in Santa Monica who manufactures "Wildlife Drinkers" who told me that he sells them for \$395 - not including installation or delivery.



The Coyote was spotted at the corner of Franklin and Mayview on June 1, 2001 he/she was making a left turn from Franklin to head south on Mayview....destination unknown...time about noon...he's a late sleeper.

And I learned some basics about coyotes from Camilla Fox (her real name) from the Animal Protection Institute in Sacramento: That coyotes typically weigh 20 to 30 pounds, are similar to a tan-colored Shephard-type dog, and Native to the western two-thirds of North America. That indigenous tribes revered the coyote for its intelligence and mischievous nature. That Navaho sheep and goat herders referred to them as "God's dog." That coyotes play an integral role in their environment (in our case Griffith Park), by helping to maintain natural ecosystems. That they are omnivorous by nature, feeding on a variety of mammals, insects, and fruit, though rodents are their main food. The Institute's website at www.api4animals.org has a host of information about coyotes, including how to co-exist with them in an urban setting. And I learned from our one-time neighbor Walt Disney that without old Ma Coyote, there would never have been a Pecos Bill, or that silly dogs like Pluto, or my 80 pound Lucky will never catch one of the wily critters.

All this research led me to the following conclusions.

1. Coyotes are here to stay and deserve our respect and gratitude for keeping down the rodent population.
2. Present drought conditions have created an unnatural environment that has forced the coyote to "invade" our streets and neighborhoods, and has created a desperate situation for all the Griffith Park wildlife.
3. A significant remedy for this problem would be for the City of Los Angeles to install "Wildlife Drinkers" in Griffith Park not only for humanitarian reasons, but for the practical purpose of helping to keep coyotes and other wildlife in their natural habitat - in our case, Griffith Park.
4. If the city doesn't have the money, the FHRA-- being a non-profit organization -- could sponsor a tax deductible fund to install and maintain these relatively cheap, practical watering devices. Devices that would help all Griffith Park wildlife, not only the coyote.

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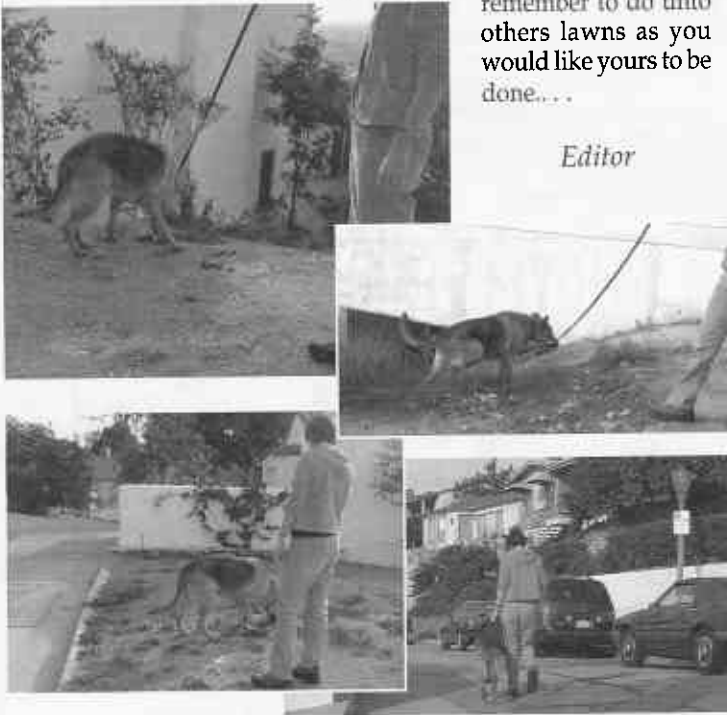
Curb your Dog

We hear that some neighbors have been un-neighborly in one particular respect. We're referring to the folks who walk their handsome dogs on our streets, and make their rounds without anything else to pick up the puppy poop that lands in someone else's garden. We not only see the evidence, we have seen the errant dog-walkers on our streets.

Nobody likes to pick up puppy poop, but no one should have to clean up after other folk's dogs. One of the great advantages of living here is that people are friendly, are involved, and are nice to each other. So, be nice! Please, please when you air your pooch:

remember to do unto others lawns as you would like yours to be done....

Editor



Hail and Farewell. . .

Many of our readers will recognize the name and writing style of Bob Page. He has been a frequent contributor to the Overview. Active in community organizations, as well as working in his huge garden, he and Dick French have been my across-the-street neighbors through the lifetimes of a dozen cats (theirs and ours). It was a bad surprise for Franklinites to hear that they had actually bought a house in Palm Springs and put 1801 Hollyvista on the market. (see page 24—yes, it's sold.) Bob and Dick have been wonderful friends and good companions and we will miss them. (I especially.) So, we offer in print the good-bye they never quite got through in "real time."

Editor

October 2002 Palm Springs
Dear Franklin Hills friends and neighbors,

This is our "goodbye." After twenty-seven hillside years, we are there no longer, and the emotions run just a little rampant. That's not meant to be dramatic, but it is very difficult not to be, with all the passing years and all the close relationships warmly gathered along the way...and with what we have chosen to do that has taken us away from you. It's trade-off, but one not without emotional pain, with a sense of gain, with a sense of loss. This, I hope, will be something of our thoughts of what made the Franklin Hills so special to us, and why we have left after so many years. And why we'll miss so many and so much...

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We moved to Hollyvista from the Palos Verdes area where we had a home in an area that almost dictated that you owned at least half an acre and at least half a horse. After 3 1/2 years we knew the names (but not the people themselves) of two neighbors. Two! The move to Franklin Hills was, indeed, a "fresh of breath air"...I smile as I write...

Twenty-seven years sounds like such a long time, but I can almost recall meeting our immediate neighbors and...with a bonding that lasted: Rose and Sid Quarress, and Linda Thompson/Joe Ortega, and Don and Carol Skinner. Just a beginning that grew and grew as did the rete of neighborly reaching out all along a lot of Hollyvista, and then beyond. We both retired a dozen or so years ago, which quickly allowed us to ease back and enjoy all the more what we actually had at hand with the area and with the people...neighbors/friends. Twice serving as an elected FHRA board member, I came in sharing contact with the other board folk. I suspect that I was considered, more often than not, as the flea on the dog, but I knew I was always a part of what I consider a truly neighborhood association, a "family" of residents concerned enough to spend the time and energy necessary to make that association the highly respected group it is. Every resident in the area should take great pride in the Board, most especially when you see one of those official "City of L.A." signs that announce that you are about to enter the Franklin Hills.



A special place with special people, many of whom became personal friends...special friends for 27 years. Our home was certainly special, and we hope the new owner soon finds that out...especially with the holidays almost upon us. 1801 seems to take on a life of its own at Christmas, something I will dearly miss. But the house and the extensive gardens slowly became senior citizen user unfriendly. With five stairways inside and the large yards below, it was not the place in which to comfortably grow older. It took some time for us to accept that it was time to move, and it took us months to find "the" house here in Palm Springs...a home I like all the more day by day.

The move here seemed to happen with the speed of light. We got so wrapped up (no pun intended) in packing hundreds of cartons that telling people about the move became time-limited, though I suspect we really didn't want to face saying goodbye until we had to. Then it was too late, and here we are. It's been over six weeks overly filled with all the deeds necessary when moving into a new home, a time so busy and tiring that it didn't allow much thought about...back there. But, we really wanted to say goodbye somehow, and this input seemed to be the best way. There are so many people to personally hug with fond farewells; I just hope this kind of does it.



Gotta tell ya...during the weeks of packing up and the weeks here unpacking, I refused (or tried) to keep emotions in check. It worked well enough...until right now. This is really hard. We'll miss you...a lot.

Bob and Dick

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President

continued from page 2

Carol Skinner continues to do the layout and editing of the Overview. Without Carol's efforts, none of us would be reading this wonderful community magazine. Carol also attends the Community-Police Advisory Board at the Northeast Division station of the Los Angeles Police Department. She helps bridge the knowledge gap with our local police officers so we know how to support them and how to ask for their support.

Chris Boutelle continues to gather advertising for the Overview so we can continue to produce this wonderful neighborhood magazine and inform all of you what has happened in the Franklin Hills lately. Chris also is our distribution man-

ager for the Overview. As such he coordinates with the many neighborhood volunteers who hand deliver the Overview to your door step each issue. Chris is also active with the Welcome Basket Committee.

Mary Frances Reynolds has taken over the Franklin Hills Neighborhood Watch program and reinvigorated it. She has reached out to watches in the surrounding areas of Silver Lake and Los Feliz to strengthen our efforts to keep our neighborhood safe. Mary Frances is also helping to organize the painting of murals on public and private walls in our neighborhood to beautify the area.

Have you noticed the decline in graffiti in our neighborhood? Well, thank Eric Frase. Eric is the chair of our Graffiti Abatement Committee. He has developed a great group of neighborhood volunteers who work to paint over graffiti on their streets. We get free paint from our local police and have gotten free brushes and paint from the Board of Public Works' Operation Clean Sweep as well as the Northeast Division of the LAPD. We have also contacted local schools to enlist their aid in letting pupils and students know what a blight graffiti is on the areas around their schools. I have noticed much less graffiti recently. Thank you Eric; and thank you to the kids who are not vandalizing; and to all the volunteers who help paint out graffiti and who educate kids as to its harm. A special thanks to LAPD Officer Colenzo, who employs youthful offenders to paint out graffiti around our community.

And how about the great pictures and articles produced by our Treasurer Bruce Carroll? Bruce is a community treasure! He does so much to keep our FHRA focused on the neighborhood. Bruce is a great writer and contributor to the Overview. He also is our Webmaster (whatever that means!). Bruce is responsible for the content and the posting of information on our web site at "<http://www.franklinhills.org>". If you have not visited it, please do so soon. You will find a professionally done web site that is a great communications tool to keep all of us informed on what's happening in our neighborhood. Thanks Bruce!

Norm Harriton has turned over the responsibilities of the Franklin Hills Neighborhood Garden to another volunteer, while he continues to work his own plot in the garden. Shirley Mims continues to work with Councilman LaBonge's staff to landscape the area directly under the Shakespeare Bridge. While this project is moving along slowly, it is moving!

Isn't it amazing what a handful of volunteers can do to make life better in our neighborhood for all of us? Which leads me to the conclusion of this President's message, the Franklin Hills Residents Association needs a few good volunteers! Our wonderfully successful Welcome Basket Committee needs just three additional people who can devote only a few hours a month to making new neighbors feel welcomed by us. (See story on page 23) If you want to make Franklin Hills a welcoming neighborhood, please call me at 323-666-2520 for more details.

All of us can help keep our neighborhood friendly by just saying hello to our next door neighbors. Volunteering in your neighborhood isn't work, it's fun!

* * * * *

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* * * * *



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Famous in Franklin...Hills

An upcoming feature by Board member Joseph Hahn, illustrated with photos of the houses discussed

Watch for it in the Spring Overview-- maybe you can contribute to it too!

Few know the full extent to which our beloved little hills have also been called "home" by the famous, the infamous, stars, starlets, and movie moguls. Here's a brief sampling:



Charlie Chaplin, best known as "the Little Tramp," once owned the home at 3955 Cumberland and, allegedly, . .

Liberace, world famous piano impressario and flamboyant showman, owned the house at 2024 Mayview and also used it as a sort of . . .

And much, much more!

Know of other famous former residents? Able to help us confirm, deny or refine some of our information? Please let us know! E-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org

Bridge continued from page 1

City folk, and police to talk about the problems, how to solve them, and what we wanted the area to look like in the end. Since then, the City has cleared the slope of debris including the homeless camp, re-graded the street to eliminate water build up, painted over the graffiti on the entire underside of the bridge, and put up fencing at either end of the bridge to discourage foot traffic up to Franklin Avenue. In addition, the LAPD and school police have increased patrol of the area to help reduce truancy. The City will also install lighting to deter night time loitering, put up additional fencing, install a water meter and irrigation, and provide landscaping so that the plants prevent people from hanging out under the bridge in the future.

Final plans are expected to be completed soon. A ground breaking ceremony and community planting event will be announced to everyone. I hope you can come and see all the good work we had been doing together with our neighbors and the City of Los Angeles.

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environmental economist who's a twelve year Franklin Hills resident.

The meeting officially said good bye to three longtime board members. Unfortunately Marcel Zonta left the Franklin Hills for SilverLake, but Peter Bedard has moved even farther—to Acapulco. And thankfully, although outgoing FHRA President Ricardo Gomez chose not to run for re-election to the Board, he has not run from the Franklin Hills and remains very active. He's been working on issues such as getting the city to be more responsive to such blight inducing conditions as old furniture and other abandoned left along our curbs. And he's continuing the FHRA battle against auto repairs shops that have violated zoning and environmental rules along our Hyperion and Fountain corridor.

FHRA members at the meeting also overwhelmingly approved two changes to the FHRA bylaws. Our boundaries are no longer in the middle of the road, but can now include both sides of streets such as Franklin Ave. so that we are no longer technically limited to half of the Shakespeare Bridge or the landscaped median. Should we want to expand farther, the issue would have to be put to a vote at the annual meeting.

The second approved change in the FHRA bylaws was



the matter of dues. Rather than the \$10 per person figure being locked in the bylaws, it is now up to members at the annual meeting to approve any future increase in dues.

With the business out of the way the FHRA showed off the legendary Franklin Hills friendliness by presenting two Welcome Baskets to some of our newest residents.

And one final record that shows the vitality of our Franklin Hills. This year we've enrolled 70 brand new FHRA members more than last year. Welcome aboard new neighbors

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Robert Kalin

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**OUR NEW CONTACT AT
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Yolanda Lloyd is the new contact for our neighborhood at The Prospect Studios. If you have questions or concerns about traffic, noise, the current remodeling project at The Prospect Studios, or any other studio-related issue, give her a call. Her phone number is 323/671-5785.

Prospective New Mural Project

by Mary Rodriguez

On a beautiful July afternoon my friend Ricardo Mendoza and I were installing his artwork, concrete sculptural reliefs with Native American designs, onto the wrought iron fence that protects Thomas Starr King's historic WPA sculpture, The Vanishing Race. The statue of a Native American sits in the courtyard of the middle school surrounded by aloe vera and protected by the fence that Ricardo designed. It not only protects the statue from vandalism but it keeps the statue from looking as though it is caged. It is a work of art itself.



photo by Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

On this beautiful afternoon, Ricardo informs me that as soon as we finish the installation, he'll be viewing his next commission on Hoover Street at Prospect Avenue. I know exactly the area that he is talking about: the stairways from Prospect down to the dead end of Hoover Street sometimes referred to as "Sleepy Hollow." He's also talking about the old 1920's corner market at Talmadge Street. I have envisioned a mural on the little building for years.

Now I am very excited about this idea and I inform him that Prospect Studios (formerly ABC) is in the process of redoing their front façade right across the street from the old market.

That's when I call my friend Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds and tell her the good news. She also has envisioned what the market could become. She calls Charles Williams, formerly Vice President of Facility Operations for Prospect Studios, to find out more about their restoration project and tells him about the new mural. He is very curious especially since the new executive offices of the re-named "Prospect Studios" look right out onto the old corner market. In fact, ABC/Disney had already arranged to paint the little building to match the studio's new color scheme. In September they did just that. It does look better.



photo by Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

SPARC (the Social and Public Art Resource Center) is sponsoring the mural project. They called a meeting in August at the little market, which is now an artist's studio for two women. The artists in residence, Pete Gallindo and Debra Padilla of SPARC, Charles Williams, Ricardo the muralist, and community members such as myself, Mary Frances, Carmen (who lives across the street from the market,) and Amy (who lives down Talmadge Street) are all in attendance to discuss what images we envision for this wall.

We talk about a sense of happiness, peacefulness, well-being, historic images of Vitagraph studios, all the film industry people who lived in the area then and the young industry people who are mov-

ing back into the neighborhood now, plus the immigrant families, the diverse cultures, the many young people who live here and pass through on their way to the neighborhood schools.

We talk about what we don't want.

continued on page 20

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The Prospect Studios

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

While the sound stages, scenery, actors and costumes are all on the inside of the Prospect Studios, it is the new outside façade which has the distinct look of a Hollywood movie set. The Prospect Studios, formerly known as ABC Television Center, is in the homestretch of a five-month remodeling project to update its facilities and beautify its property - inside and out.

As part of this massive project, the entry way on the corner of Talmadge Street and Prospect Avenue has been transformed from a generic, standard-issue corporate entrance, to a stylish, retro-design landmark. The



As seen in this 1930s era photo, sometime after Warner Brothers bought the Vitagraph Studios in 1925 they took down the Vitagraph arch over the gateway joining the bungalows at the studio's Prospect & Talmadge entrance

centerpiece of the new design is the archway reading "The Prospect Studios." The archway and its adjacent tiled-roofed bungalows replicate the original 1915 entry gate to the Vitagraph Studios, formerly housed on this lot.

Charles Williams, formerly the vice president of The Prospect Studios Facilities Operations, was the liaison between the studios and the community during the remodeling project. His hands were full during the past six months with keeping the neighborhood updated on the studio project, answering questions about timelines and logistics, and fielding complaints about increased noise and rerouted traffic during the remodeling. In a recent conversation, Mr. Williams said that the beautification project is in its final stages of touch-up painting and planting.

In addition to the corner façade, exterior improvements have been made to the walls, fences and landscaping. A new color scheme of mainly cream, terra cotta, sage and forest greens replaces the duller chocolate brown of the past. Inside the studios, a grassy Employee Commons area (visible from the street), has been added. The verdant new commons area replaces the old Buildings C and D, leveled during the summer. A new Main Gate on Prospect Avenue has been redesigned to improve vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and to incorporate the new design and studio logo. The Main Gate on Prospect Avenue is now open.

History was a guiding influence in the remodeling of the Prospect Studios. One look at archival photos of this corner indicates the success met by architects and planners who strived to recreate the classic façade of this historically significant studio. The new design pays homage to the role the studio has played in the film industry.

When you drive past the corner of Talmadge and Prospect, take note. The beautification of The Prospect Studios did not stop at the

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sidewalk. Across the street, the little square building at 4302 Prospect Avenue has also recently been painted. The materials and labor for this were provided by the Prospect Studios, with the approval of the off-site owner. As a member of the community, The Prospect Studios saw the improvement of this corner as an opportunity to extend the beautification project beyond their own gates. Colors chosen for this little building are compatible with those chosen for the studio and with those of the surrounding adjacent properties. (See article p. 17 for upcoming mural plans at this site.)

The Prospect Studios is one of the oldest lots in Los Angeles. Opened in 1915 as Vitagraph Studios, it was purchased in 1925 by Warner Brothers. In 1948, it was purchased by ABC Television, and remodeled to accommodate their Hollywood television headquarters. In 1996, ABC became part of the Walt Disney Company, and this year, the name of the site was changed to The Prospect Studios. This signifies its availability to all production units in the company, as well as within the industry at large.

Films that have been produced on the property include *Black*

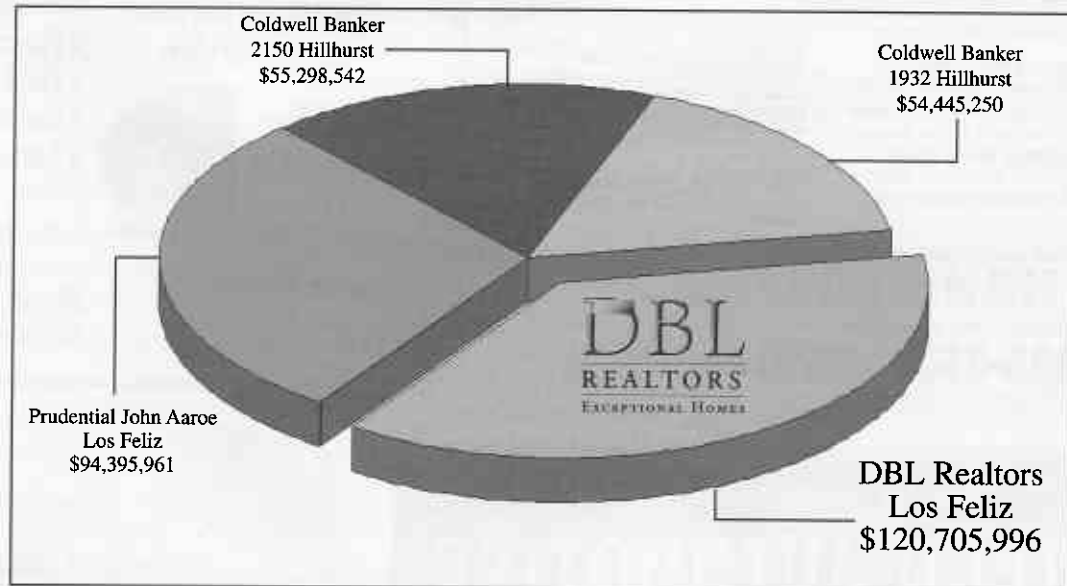
Beauty, The Jazz Singer, Don Juan, Public Enemy, Svengali, Captain Blood, The Adventures of Robin Hood and Noah's Ark. Among the television shows filmed there over the years are, *You Asked For It, The Lawrence Welk Show, The Dale Evans Show, Let's Make A Deal and American Bandstand.*

Currently, daytime dramas *General Hospital* and *Port Charles* are filmed at The Prospect Studios. *Good Morning America* maintains its West Coast headquarters there, and *ABC Network News* houses its Los Angeles bureau in Studio 61, providing a newsroom, a set, and all facilities for ABC News needs. Other programs that have recently utilized studios there are *The Test; The Shield; Just Married; and Push, Nevada.*

An in-house reception at the studios will take place in November to acknowledge completion of the renovation project. Public tours and an event for the community are also being discussed by management. The Prospect Studios may also be sending out another newsletter update to neighbors.



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Mural *continued from page 20*

Mainly, we don't want images that will cause too much excitement and attract skateboarders or loitering. We discuss adding some landscaping to both Talmadge Street and the Hoover Street stairways and just generally improving the area which has been long neglected.

Ricardo listens to everyone's suggestions, takes many notes, and begins the thought process of a muralist creating a new work of art. SPARC contends that, "the finished work is secondary to the coming together of peoples who have heretofore had no voice, no images, no monuments. Through this process they express their history, their frustrations, and their dreams."

Ricardo's design concept is a theme of community as a precious jewel, a lush and luminous living organism protected by a

stewardship of respectful neighbors. He wants to incorporate in part a production studio atmosphere, a place that generates dreams. You can see some of Ricardo's other recent accomplishments along Sunset Blvd. At the corner of Echo Park Blvd. is a work he has entitled Sculpting Another Destiny. A very different work adorns Councilmember Garcetti's office at Sunset and Maltman Avenue.

I used to work at ABC studios back in the late 70's and I'd stop at the market and pick up milk or bread. There were always children buying penny candy or Popsicles. It was a mom & pop store. I have missed it ever since it closed. I know I'm not the only one who's dreamt of what it could become. It evokes a different time in history and I'm glad to know that it is finally getting the attention that it deserves. It will be a gift for the entire community.



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Los Feliz Branch Library

PARKING, PROGRAMS & HOLIDAY WISHES

The best community news from the library is the restoration of parking along Hillhurst Ave. Working with Councilman LaBonge's office and the Department of Transportation, the library has been trying to get these six parking spaces since the new building opened 3 years ago. The Councilman's Office has been instrumental with this issue.

Joining the library staff as the new Young Adult Librarian is James R. Jackson. "JR" has begun to coordinate the many students from John Marshall High and Bravo Medical Schools who need community service hours. Regular Student Volunteer Orientations will be scheduled to help students understand the volunteer process. These students, working along with regular staff, learn to improve their job skills.

Helping teach computer class is our transplanted Australian librarian, Michael Leonard. Assisting Adult Librarian, Catherine O'Connor, Michael teaches a regular Word Processing class and a How to Use the Library computer class. Beginning in 2003 they will teach a For Beginners Only class for Seniors.

The monthly Wednesday morning adult discussion group; Dejavu: all Over Again, meets to share ideas, comments and reflect on current and historical events. Information on the up coming topics and meeting dates are available at the

library information desk. The Los Angeles Opera talks will continue through June 2003 and there are many other special programs being planned. For information about programs please stop by the library.

Children's Librarian, Saralyn Otter will continue to have regular story times and programs including Laura Stickney from Barnsdall Jr. Art Center's monthly art class for children 7 years old and up. And the staff of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center will return on December 7th to read stories

The Teen Chess Club, open to all ages, continues to meet on rotating Fridays and the Scrabble Club meets on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00-4:00. L.A.C.C. Career Counselor, Bob Kort, is also available most Tuesday nights, Saturday afternoons and by appointment to help guide students of all ages through the college experience. You can make an appointment by calling (323) 664-4967.

If you would like to receive notification about up coming library adult programs join our email list by sending us a message at lfeliz@lapl.org and ask to be added.

The library will be open during the holidays except for the 24th & 25th of December and will close at 5:00 on New Year's evening. The entire staff wishes our Franklin Hills neighbors and safe, happy & healthy holiday season.

-Pearl Yonezawa
Senior Librarian



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Welcome Baskets on Hiatus

Shirley Mims and Chris Boutelle



Since the inception of the Welcome Basket program in June 2001 we have delivered 63 baskets to new neighbors of Franklin Hills. As of this writing our last delivery was on July 20, 2002. The current committee can no longer continue to manage the program. We have made several appeals to other neighbors to take over the project but have not gotten any solid commitments. With our current schedules we are not able to keep up and must therefore put the project on hiatus until someone else can take it over.

The entire program is quite labor intensive. However, it can be broken down into smaller more manageable tasks. We are thankful to the several volunteers who have helped us with those tasks. The key to keeping it going now is for someone to oversee the program to coordinate and be sure that each of the tasks gets done on a regular basis. This is a worthwhile program. It would be nice if it could continue. If you feel up to giving it a try, please call one of us: Shirley Mims 323/666-2520, Chris Boutelle 323/666-5548, or Violet Weber 323/663-6427.



The Gem Around The Corner FRANKLIN AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Mark Feldman

Friends of Franklin Co-President

As new parents our dreams were answered on the corner of Commonwealth and Franklin Avenues. How fortunate for us that our neighborhood school, Franklin Avenue Elementary, turned out to be the paradigm for effective public school education.

The combination of outstanding faculty/administration and parental/community support puts Franklin among the elite of LAUSD institutions. Dr. Dauterive, the distinguished principal, has been at Franklin for over twenty years. Our committed Franklin faculty of 23 teachers is renowned for its stability. Turnover is a



Photo by Mia Trachinger



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word absent from the faculty's vocabulary, although they do teach compound words. And they teach more: two years ago each Franklin teacher received a bonus known as the API Governor Performance Award due to the students' achievement in every area of the Stanford 9 test. Teachers stay at Franklin because it's the ideal workplace for them; they are wholeheartedly supported in their efforts to enrich the lives of their little learners.

high parental involvement. Some of that money is being used toward parent outreach through the "Friday Morning Coffee" program: every Friday morning from 8-9 in Room 19, parents are invited to join Franklin's parent leaders for coffee, donuts, and conversation.



The FOF also plays an active role in organizing extracurricular activities for the students. The group puts on an annual Halloween Haunted House and Parade (so popular that the students went on strike when they heard a rumor it was to be

This support comes from both the administration and the community. Parents are welcomed in, and can be constantly found in the classrooms. Franklin's booster organization, "Friends of Franklin," consists of enthusiastic, dedicated parents who are happy to give back to a school that gives so much to their children. These volunteers raised over \$70,000 last year (amazing for a population of about 450 kids), providing weekly art and music instruction, orchestra support, yearly field trips, and classroom supplies to the school. New playgrounds have been obtained through the Friends of Franklin's grant-writing efforts and the parent group was recently awarded a grant from the Mayor's Getty House Foundation, rewarding their



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Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!



Supportive parents, an approachable and effective administrator, superb teachers, a great staff: these are the elements that make Franklin the special place it is. Sending our kids to Franklin makes them feel a part of where they live. People sometimes forget how much that affects children and their sense of belonging.

I've been lucky enough to be able to be involved at Franklin during our kids' time there. You're lucky enough to have found your way into this great neighborhood with this wonderful school. Maybe this is just the beginning for you...



cancelled), a Winter Holiday Dance and Pot Luck (complete with parent DJs), and F.A.M.E Night (Fun Activities in Math & Science Exploration), an amazing June event where every class is responsible for a hands-on activity booth that explores math or science. Through the efforts of parents this fall, Franklin initiated "Camelot Kids," an after school enrichment program modeled on Ivanhoe's, where classes in chess, gourmet cooking, marine biology, and more are offered.

The Last 16 houses featured here sold!



Karen Weiss



Farewell to Bob Page & Dick French,
long time neighbors

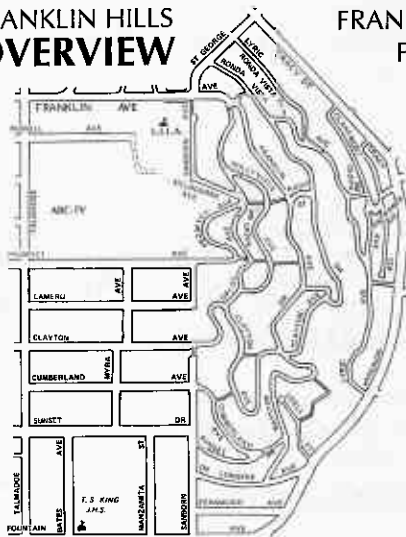
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