



# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 26

FALL/WINTER 2003

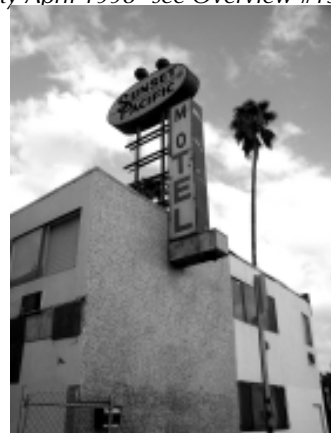


Median early 1995--see Overview #7 . .

Median since Fall 1995--see Overview # 13

Bridge Party April 1998--see Overview #15

## Projects Past - Projects Present -Projects yet to come



Mural on Talmadge & Prospect . See. Overview # 25

Mural -to-be on Hoover Street --October 2003

Motel--May 2002--Overview 23

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## A YEAR OF PROJECTS, PROJECTS, PROJECTS

By Bruce Carroll

The past year has been a bountiful one with three major FHRA improvement projects sprouting around our community. Coming in the year after we worked hard to stomp out the weed of secession the blooming of new projects is all the sweeter.

As FHRA did with the Franklin Avenue median landscaping project eight years ago, aided by the city's generous help, we have tackled community eyesores and tamed them into sights for sore eyes...hoping to grow a lasting source of community spirit and pride. At least that's our wish, a dream which in the case of the first of this year's projects, the Prospect & Talmadge mural, might soon become a nightmare. The dilapidated wall that last spring felt the artistic touch of muralist Ricardo Mendoza's brushes may soon be brushed away by the blades of a developer's bulldozer.

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## President's Message

*Charley M. Mims*



As we approach the holiday season, the Franklin Hills Residents' Association can be proud of a year of healthy achievements for our neighborhood. This year we sponsored a beautiful new mural on the building at the south west corner of Talmadge and Prospect. The mural is by Ricardo Mendoza, who has produced many evocative murals throughout the Los Angeles area. Ricardo has lived here for 20 years and considers himself an Angelino. This mural takes the place of a previously graffiti covered wall. Eric Frase and other neighbors spent countless hours painting over the graffiti before the mural was painted.

On October 25th we participated in the "groundbreaking" ceremonies for another Ricardo Mendoza mural on the wall at the Hoover Street walkway where Hoover Street ends below Prospect. Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds was the Master of Ceremonies for this event. Jacqueline Kerr, Chair of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council's Neighborhood Improvement Committee attended along with Mary Rodriquez of the GGPNC, and Bruce Carroll and yours truly of both the GGPNC and FHRA! Also attending were staff members from City Council District 4: Jeanne Chang, Erik Sanjurjo, Lyn Cohen and Young-Gi Kim. And of course our great City Historian and Councilman, Tom LaBonge! Tom even took one of his (soon to be) famous photographs of the group. This event was also attended by many neighbors and FHRA Board members and supporters. The painting of this mural should begin around the first of the year and the City plans to landscape the dirt area at the lower end of the stairway.

On November 15th Shirley Mims was the Master of Ceremonies at the plant cutting (ribbon cutting) for the landscaping project under the Shakespeare Bridge (on Monon Avenue) that she and several local residents started and pursued for over a year. Installation of an irrigation system allowed the area to be landscaped. This aided the beautification efforts that began with graffiti paint outs and fencing off the pathways created by local school kids. Once again our neighborhood was supported in our beautification efforts by our local Councilman, Tom LaBonge. Tom's staff worked with City departments: the Department of Water & Power, the Board of Public Works' Operation Clean Sweep Office, the Bureau of Street Services and others. The Hollywood Beautification Team did the initial planting with neighbors lending a hand at the dedication ceremony on November 15th. To see their fine work please take a walk up Monon to the underside of the Shakespeare Bridge to admire and enjoy the fruits of our neighborhood efforts to beautify our public places.

Active members of FHRA continue to work with the greater community on the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. Bruce Carroll just completed a term as Secretary and I just completed a term as the first President of the GGPNC. Both of us decided to voluntarily step down to encourage other active neighbors to take leadership positions on the GGPNC Board. Our new GGPNC President is Yvette Bryant. She has experience as a sales and marketing manger and has lots of energy and enthusiasm for our area. Stan Thompson is our new Vice President for Administration. Stan brings his experience as a lawyer and as the Chair of the GGPNC's Planning, Zoning, Transportation and Historic Preservation or, as we fondly call it, the Long Named Committee. Nora Mosqueda is our new Vice President for Communications and Outreach. She is a manager for Prospect Studios and a resident of our community. Kerry Hunnewell continues as Treasurer and continues to do a fine job of traversing the City's financial requirements for neighborhood council funding. Our new Secretary is Andrew Westall. Andrew was the GGPNC's Vice President for Administration and a candidate for President. When Bruce Carroll decided to step aside, Andrew showed us his true character by withdrawing from the race for President to make sure we had a competent Secretary to keep track of meeting agendas and minutes. Kudos to Andrew for his statesmanship and sense of true community spirit!

*continued on page 15*

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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## COMMUNITY PHONES

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**ALL SERVICES** **311**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL:** (888) 452-7381  
 Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179  
**BARKING DOGS:** (888) 452-7381  
**BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:**  
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**COUNCILMAN TOM LABONGE,**  
 4th District (213) 485-3337  
 200 N. Spring #480 LA, CA 90012  
**FIELD DEPUTY Jeanne Chang** (818)755-7630  
**FHRA HOTLINE:** (323) 664-7247 ;  
 FHRA@FranklinHills.org  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** **Emergency 911;**  
 Non-emergency: (213) 485-6185.  
**HOMELESS, Food and Shelter** (323) 974-1234  
**INFO LINE (L.A. County Referral Service)**  
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**LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY:** (323) 913-4710  
**ALL CITY SERVICES:** **311**  
  
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**ALL OTHER CALLS:** (877)-CALL LAPD  
 (877-275-5273)  
**Spanish:** (213) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100  
**Northeast Division,**  
 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:  
 Front Desk: (213) 485 2563  
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 Gang Problems: (213) 485-7538  
 Graffiti: Officer Colenzo (213) 847-0511  
 LAPD on the net: <http://www.Lapdonline.com>  
 Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682  
 Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki: (213) 509-2964  
 Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar (213) 509-3020  
 Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) ((213)) 485-2799  
**POISON CONTROL** (800) 876-4766  
**RAPE HOTLINE** 310) 392-8381  
**RESTRAINING ORDER** (213) 974-5587  
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 Officer Gonzales 323-660-1440 x 240  
 Thomas Starr King Middle School:  
 Officer Harris 323-664-1176 x140  
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 Missed Trash Pick-up (800) 773-2489  
**TREE TRIMMING (Hazards):** (800) 996-2489  
**WATER & POWER:** (800) 342-5397  
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But we're working to keep it from being turned to rubble without a rescue effort. Preservationists have two methods to save The Rite of Culture. One involves taking a very high quality photo that could be printed on canvas and applied to a new wall. The other method is a chemical process where the paint is literally peeled from the wall onto specially coated material that can then be rolled up and reapplied at a new location. If you would like to help save the mural just contact the FHRA.

Fighting to heal our neighborhood's sore spots is typically a long process. It's been over five years since the FHRA threw the City of LA its biggest bridge party to celebrate the reopening of the Shakespeare Bridge after a nearly year long seismic retrofit project. A party that might have been a wake if FHRA had not fought hard to preserve, rather than replace, the historic bridge. Almost since the work on top was finished we have been working to fix the area under the bridge which rapidly became a haunt for graffitists, trash dumpers, and other unwelcome problems. Now the landscaping is planted and with care from its Monon Street neighbors and LILA it will hopefully take root and flourish like the median above. (see Garden, p.5.)

This year's newest FHRA project combines elements of all of our previous projects. The stairwell down from Prospect Avenue to Hoover Street would certainly get an "F" in any civic grade book. But "D" might be a more appropriate letter to apply to the area...a dirty, dilapidated, dangerous, dead-end, dumping ground. The kind of blight that can bring down the area surrounding it. Now FHRA Board Member and teacher Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds is working on ambitious plans to upgrade the area. Work on replacing rusted railings has already been done. A new Mendoza mural and landscaping are on the drawing board...and you are the ones who can help make them a reality. (see First Steps, p.4). A sad reality amid all of this progress is that despite our "good works" this year FHRA membership has fallen below last year's record breaking level. We were more concerned about the fight against Hollywood secession than we seem to have been about the core FHRA mission of working to improve the community.

### Simple Wish for a Complex Year

*The world has had a rocky year.  
 The USA as well.  
 Californians made it all too clear...  
 They think that Arnold's swell.*

*But down among the Franklin Hills...  
 Home prices just shoot up.  
 So who cares about the world's ills...  
 With plenty in my cup.*

*Now's the time, let's think beyond  
 The profit of today.  
 To calls for charity respond...  
 And make somebody's day.*

*Muhammad, Christ or Adonai...  
 They all preach words of peace.  
 So this season lets ask why...  
 We can't make the violence cease?*

Bruce Carroll

## First Steps Taken in the Beautification of the Hoover Street Stairwell

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

The yellow traffic sign at the Hoover Street Stairwell says "END." But, as City Councilmember Tom LaBonge recently pointed out, what's happening there is actually a beginning.



Revitalization is coming to this pocket of our community. A union of art, structural repairs, and landscaping has commenced in the public stairwell area at the end of the 1600 block of North Hoover Street (above). This block, abuzz with children and grownups, ends at the stairwell which daily leads students, shoppers, and other walkers to and from Prospect Avenue above.

It was these pedestrians and the residents on this block who were the inspiration for this beautification project. In completing an application for a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant (given by the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works) last spring, community members Mary Rodriguez, Amy Schulenberg, and I had these neighbors in mind.

At the end of June we received the happy news that we have been awarded the \$5,000 City of Los Angeles grant. In addition, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) has given a donation of \$2,500 to this neighborhood improvement project. GGPNC board member Jacqueline Kerr has been instrumental in moving this project forward. Further, the NMF grant was matched by a \$400 donation by the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA), and in-kind donations of volunteer hours by many community members.

The Hoover Street Stairwell is part of a well-trodden school route for students at Franklin Elementary School, Thomas Starr King Middle School, and John Marshall High School. The promenade to and from school does not stop during the summer. While well-traveled, this spot has become blighted by neglect. Trash often covers the unplanted slopes, and the walls are pocked with age.

The three retaining walls will be transformed into a triptych-style mural by artist Ricardo Mendoza, whose works adorn public and private walls throughout Los Angeles. About one-half block east of the



Drawing of the new mural

Hoover Stairwell site is a completed mural by Ricardo on the wall at Talmadge Street and Prospect. completed in April of this year. The owner of this property has recently said that he is going to demolish this building soon; there is a sense among some that the soon-to-be started mural will represent something of an artistic reincarnation.



Mendoza, LaBonge, Reynolds

Councilmember LaBonge, whose 4th District includes this area, has been involved in every step. CD4 Field Deputy Jeanne Chang was a conduit to the Bureau of Street Services, which recently completed structural repairs at the site. Hand rails were added, crum-

bling retaining walls along the steps repaired, and the big walls were patched—walls soon to be covered with the colorful, bold artwork of Ricardo Mendoza. Jeanne then worked with the Hollywood Beautification Team which painted the



October 25 event

continued on p. 7

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continued on page 16

## Dedication of the Garden Below the Bridge

by Shirley Mims

Well, this is another "by the time you read this, the event will have already occurred" article. This time it is for the official dedication ceremony for the landscaping project underneath the Shakespeare Bridge on November 15. As I write this it was just yesterday that we roughed out the plans. Here's the sketch.

We're contacting the local schools – LILA, Marshall, St. Casimir's, and King – to ask if the students can perform Shakespearean style readings and music from the era. We're asking local businesses to make donations. The council office is producing a special sign commemorating the occasion that will be installed at the base of the bridge. Neighbors, students, and community members will have the opportunity to plant some plants as part of the ceremony. There will be lunch and refreshments of some kind. And, of course, Tom LaBonge, as well as several other important City folk, will complete the scene with a few words.

For those of you new to hearing about this project it started about two years ago when two neighbors simultaneously asked about the condition underneath the Shakespeare Bridge. One neighbor contacted the council office, the other neighbor contacted me. Between the two, a major project was born to recondition the area beneath the Shakespeare Bridge which had fallen to severe graffiti and loitering problems. (see below) With the council's direction and perseverance, various departments of the City of Los Angeles were called upon to clean up the area of weeds, debris, graffiti, and a homeless camp and to landscape the area for residents to enjoy as a pleasant view to behold. The Franklin Hills Residents Association, the residents of Monon Street, Los Feliz Improvement Association, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, and LILA have all agreed to be a part of the landscaping maintenance through the City's Adopt-A-Median program.



If by the time you read this you came to the ceremony, I hope you had a good time and enjoyed it. If you did not make it, please take a stroll down Monon street to the base of our glorious bridge and take a look at what a cooperative effort between dif-

ferent community organizations, the council office, and several City of Los Angeles departments can do together. (below) If you still want to be involved, keep a look out for announcements for community clean up days when we will get together to pull weeds, pick up any trash, and have a good ol' fashioned community social time!



## RECALLING THE ANNUAL MEETING in the old fashioned sense of the word

By Bruce Carroll

Over 100 Franklin Hills residents, City officials and nearby neighbors gathered at King Middle School for the FHRA Annual Meeting on May 27th. There was a warm welcome by the King Middle School Principal Byron Maltez and a "state of the hill" report by FHRA president Charley Mims (right). Then neighbors elected 6 members to the FHRA Board of Directors, newcomer David Shindle, now FHRA Secretary, plus five returning directors: VP Chris Boutelle; Treasurer Bruce Carroll; Overview editor Carol Skinner; Joseph Hahn, the man behind the Shakespeare Bridge Holiday lighting; and Norm Harriton, founder of the Franklin Hills Community Garden who is now working on transit solutions for our hills. Unfortunately both Hahn and Harriton, while still committed to the FHRA aims, have left the FHRA Board due to the press of other commitments. But fine new energy has been found in George Grace, who's working on making Griffith Park a more attractive home for coyotes than our Franklin Hills streets and yards. If you'd like to serve your community by becoming an FHRA board member please contact us.



After the slate of directors was unanimously approved, the members three times again raised their voices in unison. First to approve a slight shift in the FHRA's boundaries...they now include both sides of Talmadge, Franklin, St. George, Tracy, Hyperion and Fountain. Next they voted to raise the FHRA dues starting in 2004 from \$10 to \$15 per person...\$30 per household. Treasurer Bruce Carroll explained that the FHRA is already spending about \$15 per member for all the FHRA community projects. The final unanimous vote approved a change to the FHRA Bylaws allowing the annual meeting to be scheduled anytime in the second quarter of the year.

Next up were reports from many FHRA committee chairs about everything from graffiti abatement to Welcome Baskets, from the Median to murals, from the Community Garden to Neighborhood Watch highlighted by LAPD Senior Lead Officers Al Polehonki and Sam Salzar (left). They brought the very good news that North-east Division has been honored for the biggest drop in crime in the City.



Later Jeanne Kim of the City Attorney's office talked about their efforts to control neighborhood nuisances including success in closing the notorious "Bates Motel." Public Works Commissioner Adriana Rubalcava and several department reps spoke about service problems and planned improvements. Then it was time for Councilman Tom LaBonge (right) to face questions that ranged from street repair, to bulky item pickup, to traffic concerns on Hyperion, and work on cleaning up and landscaping the area under the Shakespeare Bridge, which has now been completed as promised.



## Law & Order: FHRA

by Adam Weisman

It was a typical Saturday for me. I drove down Cumberland Avenue, weaving my way down Sunset Drive, Mayview Avenue & De Longpre Avenue ending up at Hyperion Avenue. I am on my way to county jail. It is a workday for me to interview murderers and rapists. I am looking for psychological defenses; holes in their fantastic stories exposing the malingering of psychotic symptoms. I may work for defense, prosecution or even the Judge! The shock and awe of such work has worn off for most of my cases. A 90-minute interview, five-page report, and rare testimony comprise a majority of my duties.

So, I find myself on De Longpre Avenue, behind a car that is turning on to Hyperion. However, he is signaling left! "No left turn" says the sign to the right of him. "No left turn" says the sign in front of him. He is still signaling left. You all know the street. Zoom, zoom go the cars. Traffic sometimes seems like the autobahn. So I honk. A friendly reminder to someone that may be a stranger in these parts.

The person gets out of the car and faces me. "What



**Hyperion and DeLongpre: Find the sign**

is the problem?" he says with disgust. "You are not supposed to turn left," I reply. "But what if I want to?" Then I slowly reply, "Then you are in violation of the law, and if you get into an accident you could be involved in a felony." Sorry, it just slipped out. I was getting legal. The person got back in to the car and turned right. Case closed.

Nevertheless, we have seen it. People turning left from De Longpre onto Hyperion. Every Thursday, I see a city garbage truck turning left, just to turn onto Udell Court quickly. Perhaps he has a better view of oncoming traffic in his cab. Even if we have not seen the mistake many of us have heard the noises and sirens when accidents occur on Hyperion.

So what happens if he ignores me and turns left? Obviously, he gets to Trader Joe's or Hard Times Pizza a bit quicker. Sure, no harm done. Vehicle code laws are broken every second in this town. I have been told to watch it on the 15th and 30th of each month because tickets are issued a bit more often (to improve the police statistics). I have never seen a police officer stop anyone for the left turn here. [Sec. 22101(c) V.C.]

So what happens if he ignores me, turns left and gets into an accident? And what if people die? Who is at fault? It is called vehicular manslaughter. Apart from death, injuries, sadness & trauma, there are punishments. [Sec. 192.5 P.C.]

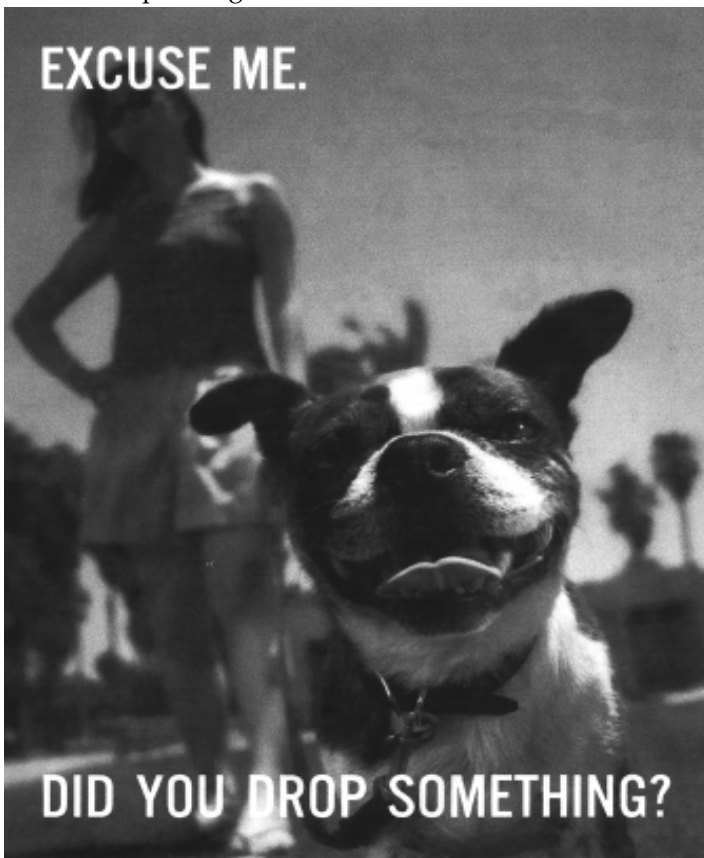
Implementation of the vehicle and penal codes is up to the law enforcement and court system. It is hoped that none of us would be a participant or witness to such crimes. And what would be the defense? Insanity? Duress? Acute hunger? The Inner Child? Mother?

Eventually, defense counsel will give me a call and have me appointed on the case. Another Saturday morning, I will be traversing down the hill on my way to county jail. I would quietly hear the defendant's version of the left-turn manslaughter offense. How they had to turn left for some seemingly plausible reason. I would write the 5-page report, complete with a social history and some sort of conceptualization to use as a complete defense or for mitigation in sentencing. Maybe I could tell the tale of the "child within" urging the driver to turn to get ice cream. Or ignorance or the laws, claiming to be from a different planet.

Do not worry; I would recuse myself from the case if it involved our immediate neighborhood. But if I heard about it, I would be quick to mumble, "Case closed, no defense, lock'em up!" Next case.....

*Section 22101(c) V.C.: when right or left hand turns are prohibited notice of such prohibition shall be given by erection of a sign. (d) When official traffic control devices are placed as required in subdivision (c), it shall be unlawful for any driver of a vehicle to disobey the directions of such traffic control devices.*

*2 Section 192.5 P.C.: ...operating a vessel in the commission of an unlawful act, not amounting to a felony, but with gross negligence; or operating a vessel in the commission of a lawful act, which might produce death, in an unlawful manner, but without gross negligence...*



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## Hoover Street

*continued from page 4*

wall and railings khaki green. The stairwell area looks better already.

At an event on Oct. 25 at the stairwell site, about 40 people gathered in the morning sunshine to hear plans for the beautification project, to celebrate the work that has been done, and that which lies ahead. Munching on pan dulce, guests heard from speakers, including Ricardo Mendoza and Tom LaBonge, both of whom spoke of the value of public art and community involvement in the betterment of neighborhoods. Ricardo applauded grassroots efforts to beautify neighborhoods, and Councilmember LaBonge reminded those assembled of the uniqueness of our area, including its large concentration of public stairwells, including this one at Hoover Street.

Guests included area residents, as well as representatives from CD4, the City's Cultural Affairs Department, and the Bureau of Street Services. Neighbors from nearby buildings listened from balconies and open windows. The upbeat gathering also gave people a chance to socialize and learn about ways to be involved in the community.

The Hoover Street Stairwell mural and beautification project will also eventually include landscaping on the dirt slopes adjacent to the stairs. We are still working to get the necessary approvals from City departments so that the creation of the mural can begin. Realistically, this will probably be in early 2004.

In the meantime, we will continue to spread the word about the project. Mural plans were shared at the FHRA annual meeting in May, and at a recent October meeting of the GGPNC Neighborhood Improvement and Environment Committee, chaired by Jacqueline Kerr. At a dedication ceremony for "Rite of Culture" last April, the vision for the Hoover Stairwell project was shared with guests, many of whom then signed up on the Volunteer Commitment Sheets.

The support and generosity of neighbors, community organizations, and the City has been tremendous throughout this process. Transforming this area from blight to beauty is the work of many hands, hearts, and minds - community work at its best.

### Manzanita Street/Sunset Blvd Community Garden

*This doesn't look like a community garden...but you can help make it into one. Volunteers..including you?...are going to start by fencing the site on November 22 & 23, 2003. Any gardener that shows up to work that day and joins the garden gets to pick his/her own plot. While the FHRA community garden at LILA already has a waiting list, this new garden,*



*beside the stairs from Manzanita to Sunset Blvd. still has space available. Contact Peter Bedard at (323) 663-8433.*

## Richard Stanley Ad —

### Pick up from film

## BROOMS ARE OUR BEST FRIENDS

by the NAGGER

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The use of a gas leaf blower is illegal within 500 feet of a residence. The Los Angeles City Council had two good reasons for passing the ordinance. Blowers are noisy; most create more than 100 decibels of sound. Second, gas blowers are big polluters. They can emit more of some pollutants in fifteen minutes than your car does in several weeks.

Closer to home, the noise, the smell, and the blowing dust bothers your neighbors. It is worse during the summer when these annoyances enter open windows and adversely affect many residents who are relaxing outside. They also smell up and dirty your house. The relative quiet of Franklin Hills is one of the positive attributes of our neighbourhood, except when the blowers are operating. The operators of the gas blowers unknowingly damage their own hearing, lungs, and eyes.

The air quality in Southern California gradually improved during the 26 years from 1973 to 1998. The improvement stalled for the past five years and appears to have worsened in 2003 as we are experiencing our smoggiest season in six years. Gas leaf blowers are among the fifty serious sources of our declining air quality.

Does your yard really require a blower? I have watched gardeners blow leaves and debris from one end of a walkway and back, period. There is an alternative.

The solution is a broom and a large dustpan. You or your gardener can sweep up in less time than it takes to handle the blower. Why not start this week?

If your neighbour's blower bothers you, speak politely and ask them to change to a broom. Show them how efficiently and quietly one works. If that doesn't work advise them that gas blow-

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Are you keeping your garbage cans off the street except for Thursday mornings? Look for more nagging next issue.

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## ILLEGAL STREET VENDING

### Remains the Principal Source of Litter Around King Middle School

by Ricardo Gomez

Litter on the streets around King Middle School continues to be a significant eyesore. The litter creates significant environmental pollution when the wind, rain or street sweepers push it into the storm drain system which discharges it into the ocean. Through participating in cleanups around King, we know most of the litter comes from the pushcarts and ice cream trucks which sell food to the thousands of students and others who use the school premises.

For more than a decade, City officials have responded tepidly when asked to enforce the street vending



regulations contained in the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). These regulations are, and have been, unambiguous. The City implemented significant revisions in 1994, in order to achieve broader enforcement in residential areas. Input came from resi-

ing regulations contained in the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). These regulations are, and have been, unambiguous. The City implemented significant

dents, businesses and the street vendors themselves. Residents and businesses wanted strict enforcement, the vendors wanted no enforcement because enforcement, they believed, would deprive them of a living.

After much debate, the City Council left the street vending regulations intact except for one significant change. Previously, the pushcart vendors had no legal status to vend anywhere in the City under the LAMC. As a compromise, the City Council gave pushcart vendors the right to create special sidewalk vending districts, in commercial zones only, under LAMC Section 42.00(m). To do so they would need to file a petition with the Vending Administrator of the Community Development Department. A successful petition would require, among other things, the signatures of at least twenty percent of the businesses and twenty percent of the residents in each block to be included in the proposed district.

Although many citizens opposed this provision, the City Council mollified their outcries by promising in writing, codified in LAMC Section 42.00(m)(1): "Before any proposed vending districts are established, the City Council shall adopt a humane and comprehensive enforcement policy regarding sidewalk vending both inside and outside the proposed districts." Since 1994, at least one street vending district has been implemented in the Pico Union area. However, no "comprehensive enforcement policy" is apparent with respect to enforcing the regulations around King Middle School. At King the vendors operate, unfettered, next to the school yard fence.

The current regulations are unambiguous and need no revisions. LAMC Section 80.73(b)2.A.(5) prohibits ice cream trucks, catering trucks and pushcarts from selling from any location within 500 feet of the nearest property line of any school. Other LAMC regulations: Pushcarts can vend only in a street vending district and never in a residential zone. Ice cream and catering trucks cannot vend from any location within 100 feet of an intersection. Ice cream and catering trucks must obey all parking restrictions applicable to ordinary citizens. They must put out a trash receptacle when vending with a sign requesting its use. Vendors must pick up any trash resulting from their sales before leaving a location. An ice cream or catering truck cannot remain parked for vending in a residential zone longer than 30 minutes for each half mile measured in a straight line from where the operator first started.

These laws exist not because citizens are against the street vendor's right to make a living. They result from a balance to create safety around schools, to keep residential zones quiet and peaceful, to control litter and reduce the volume of trash entering the L.A. River and ocean. Unfortunately, citizens have not been able to get "comprehensive enforcement" in place. At best we get sporadic enforcement against unlicensed vendors while those who have licenses are allowed to sell in violation of the above referenced LAMC sections.

The main obstacle to comprehensive enforcement has been the City Council. Historically, it has not generated any enthusiasm for dealing with illegal street vending and the litter it generates. Only now that City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo made the decision to drop the City's lawsuit against regulations requiring the City to stop litter from entering the L.A. River via storm drains is anyone paying attention to sources of litter. As part of dropping the lawsuit, the City agreed to reduce the flow of trash to the river by fifty percent. Recently our Councilmember, Tom LaBonge along with Councilmember Janice Hahn, generated a lot of press about litter pollution generated from ice cream trucks, pushcarts and catering trucks which violate LAMC regulations. Let's hope they can convince their colleagues to finally implement the "comprehensive enforcement plan" promised by their predecessors almost a decade ago.

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## "COMMUNICATION FROM THE HINGES OF HELL"

by Foreign Correspondent Bob Page

After a bit more than one year in "the desert", and having more or less survived and adjusted to a non-FHRA life, in eastern Riverside County, I thought that I could share some "having fled the city" moments with you.

There was only one consideration ...Palm Springs! For-saking the enclosed enclave environs, we moved to the less fussy . We wanted to find some kind of environment that might have the warmth and closeness of Franklin Hills, and, after a year, we strongly feel we made the right choice. Well...the best choice. Palm Springs is a treat, but the desert does include warts.

This summer for almost two months it seemed to be an endless noisy war going o'er head...Monsoon Madness, a condition that happens each summer as tropical storms funnel through. Nine weeks of really humid Atlanta climes

Palm Springs has steep rising mountains on three sides: the San Bernardinos to the north, the Santa Rosas to the south, and abruptly rising up from the edge of the Village the San Jacintos...all of which caught and caused to rise the humid, humid air coming in. Causing the most dramatic mushrooming cumulus thunderheads that massed and joined and roiled...sounding as if the heavens had terrible indigestion. Did no damage, but I have rarely seen such a display of drama during the day. Beautiful and very exciting, but not going-up-on-the-Tram time. Shirley and Charley Mims were our house guests and we planned to have a picnic Talk about the seat of your shorts, we didn't know what to expect until the morning we were going up. Beautiful day. Bountiful picnic, thanks to Shirley. No, we weren't on the run that stopped...for 4 1/2 hours...

I must assume that you all have enjoyed the frequent legions, the millions of ants that seem to invade if one crumb is left out. We lived there for three decades, and ants caused me to go thoroughly ballistic. An occasional snail and several slugs living, as long as they could, on a munchy garden nosh....

I want them back!!! We have traded snails and slugs for crickets and an endless, amazing variety of beetles, any of which can, and do, get through concrete, wood, bricks, double pane doors and windows, sink drains, shower drains. They come in an amazing variety, in some cases as colorful as the scarabs of ancient Egypt. Some large ones fly! Those are amusingly called Palm Beetles. (Dick intones...a cockroach is...).

Both cats stalk them with more vigor than result. Move to the desert...you will have some form of beetle confronting you often, and crickets as well, at the most surprising moments...in the shower, in the toilet, in the bathroom drawers, even coming out of the recently opened dishwasher. It's a real thrill to do a load of laundry and find some very clean beetle parts after the dry cycle... You really don't want to know about the abundant black-widows. One morning I noticed our cat Reji eagerly stalking something...a very big black widow. Leaping out of my chair, rolled-up newspaper in hand, I did the most sensible thing I could do. I swatted the cat first!!!

Without singing a total, off-key paeon to Palm Springs, let me murmur sweet nothings about one aspect, perhaps the best

aspect at that: The center, the core, the heart of P.S. is the Village, user friendly even on the warmest days. The number of eateries and the array of foods is a consumer's delight. When Shirley and Charley were here, we went for dinner on Palm Canyon Drive. It was a very warm evening, but the Village was having itself a party. There were so many misters on that it was like a more than tepid London fog. It wasn't that many years ago when, during the hottest time of the summer, Palm Canyon Drive looked abandoned and many shops and restaurants closed for several weeks. Talk about history.

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## The Griffith Park Master Plan, Neighborhood Coyotes and Wildlife Drinkers

*By George Grace*

### Griffith Park Master Plan News:

The new Griffith Park Master Plan remains a work in process. The Plan was to be completed by year-end, but Linda Barth from the LA Department of Recreation and Parks recently reported that the estimated completion date is now June 2004. At an October 6th meeting of the Parks, River, and Open Space Committee of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, Ms. Barth said that collecting and analyzing the data has taken longer than originally expected. She also told us that additional outreach meetings would be held to discuss the Plan. This is good news. Rushing to complete a Master Plan to guide the use of Griffith Park for the next 25 years is counter-productive. The decision to delay the completion date gives Angelenos more opportunities to be more informed about, and provide input to this vital design for this invaluable resource.

The first public outreach meetings for the development of the new Griffith Park Master Plan were held in June. Over 500 people attended the three GP Master Plan Public Outreach Workshops. Represented groups included The Sierra Club, The Friends of the River, The Tree People, The Friends of the Zoo, a contingent of Mountain Bikers, several Neighborhood Councils and Residents' Associations, Park Rangers and Maintenance, and Councilman Tom LaBonge.

The majority of attendees agreed there should be no further development in the Park, and that all existing open spaces should be preserved.

It is uncertain how much these workshops will influence the final Master Plan, but they enabled many groups to voice their opinions, and facilitated networking among attendees.

### Coyote Sightings:

Sixteen coyote sightings have been posted at the online Coyote Sighting Survey located at <http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html>.

Franklin Hills residents reported coyotes on Clayton, Cumberland, Effie, Franklin, Hollyvista, Mayview, Myra, Radio Walk, Ronda Vista, and Sanborn. My guess is that these sightings represent no more than three or four coyotes. It seems likely these coyotes are permanent neighborhood residents. Sadly, one respondent had lost his cat. In all other cases, the coyotes were not considered threatening. My dog Lucky hardly notices coyotes now, not even barking at the coyote we encountered in July. The two canines eyed each other, then Lucky turned left on our usual route. Mr. Coyote just ambled off in the opposite direction.

### Wildlife Drinkers:

In last November's Overview, I suggested installing Wildlife Drinkers in Griffith Park to provide protected water sources for Griffith Park wildlife, including coyotes. Griffith Park wildlife would greatly benefit from their installation. The project is inexpensive. Wildlife Drinkers cost only \$395,

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photo by George Grace

The wildlife drinker is fairly simple. The open front part is where critters drink. The cover normally conceals the back chamber where the white float controls the water level. When the water level goes down the float drops and opens a valve...like in your toilet...and the water is replenished.

and their effectiveness can be determined by a monitoring system. In August, the board of the Franklin Hills Residents Association approved a motion to support the installation of one Drinker in Griffith Park, and establishing a study group to determine its utility for Park wildlife. In addition, Dr. Rosemarie White of The Sierra Club and I have prepared a proposal recommending the immediate installation of Wildlife Drinkers along established wildlife corridors in Griffith Park. The proposal will be presented to The Department of Recreation and Parks, the Department of Water and Power, Councilman Tom LaBonge, and other Griffith Park stakeholders.

The idea of providing water for Griffith Park wildlife is not new. The 1978 Griffith Park Master Plan supported the development of water sources that would encourage wildlife to stay in the more remote areas of the Park, "giving them greater protection and preventing the nuisance of wildlife going into residential areas in search of water." It recommended a complete irrigation system and called for "the development of water catch basins" in the Park. Catch basins are a good idea,

but Wildlife Drinkers would be more effective. Catch basins fill with water only during the rainy season. Wildlife Drinkers, on the other hand, provide water 365 days a year, and are a more protected water source.

Some critics state that Wildlife Drinkers are "unnatural", and that Griffith Park wildlife should just fend for themselves. We should remember that Griffith Park is an entirely enclosed ecosystem that has been radically changed by man. Recognizing this, the 1978 Master Plan states:

*"1. Griffith Park is not a natural system.... It has been heavily impacted by man and is responding to a greater degree from man's influence than from natural forces."*

*"2. Park ecology is not static, and changes occur whether the environment is managed or not. The important point is that once man has tampered with a natural system to the degree of Griffith Park, he cannot retreat from his involvement. He must take over the stewardship and direct the resources to meet the objectives for its use."*

An important objective for the use of Griffith Park is the preservation and protection of Griffith Park wildlife. Stewardship of this wildlife is the responsibility of those who oversee the Park, and indeed the responsibility of all Park stakeholders.

The complete proposal is on the Internet at <http://www.gmrnet.com/DrinkerProposal.html>

You can also register your opinions about the proposal at <http://www.gmrnet.com/DrinkerSurvey.html>

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## IT REALLY DOESN'T TAKE MUCH

by Frank Zielony

On my almost nightly post-dinner walks through the Franklin Hills, I'm constantly reminded what a great place we live in. As I climb through Hollyvista or Clayton, I marvel at both the eastern and western views, and as a gardener and homeowner, I never tire of the endless array of architecture and horticulture that evolved out of our special topography. And should I feel that my fat-burning heart rate is slowing down, there're always the stairs to keep my cardiologist happy. Then there's the occasional glimpse of the notorious Mayview coyote to add a little spark to the stroll.

### Holiday Greetings



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I think about Trader Joe's and Gelson's and the wonderful shops and restaurants on Hillhurst, Vermont and Rowena. I recall the tantalizing smells of carne asada wafting out of a Mexican birthday party or the haunting sounds of Armenian music. I reflect on green punk hair at EAT WELL and the S and M shop and the Cheese Store of Silver Lake all occupying the same area of Sunset. The list goes on and on.

But what makes a place really special is its residents. The area has always attracted people like me who purposely chose to make it our home because of the eclectic collection of professions and lifestyles. Added to the pot is the Franklin Hills Resident Association, truly special in a place like L.A. where many neighborhoods often feel disenfranchised because of the size of the city.

But no place is perfect. We have traffic problems, a little gang problem and graffiti. We have occasional noise from Prospect Studios and the schools. These are conditions we accept when living in a big city and are willing to trade them off for what the rest of the area offers. Much of it is beyond our control. But one thing isn't and that is litter.

The city of Los Angeles does its best to keep the place tidy with its weekly street cleaning, but simply cannot get it all. What remains is unsightly and really detracts from the charm of the area.

Why Americans litter is probably best left for some sociological review. That is not the issue here. The issue is that we do have control over our personal littering habits and how we choose to deal with the litter left by ourselves and others.

So here goes! Next time you're tempted to throw that innocent Styrofoam cup or cigarette pack out your car window, thinking the action is irrelevant, THINK TWICE. Just as you have to deal with the unsightliness of previous thrown litter, the rest of us have to deal with yours. It really isn't nice to look at, now is it?

Let's carry this one step forward. While you're getting in your car in the morning or enjoying a stroll with "Buster" at night, look around and see if there is something you can do to improve the landscape. If you're going to go through all the effort to pick up after your dog, why not grab those extra unwanted pieces of paper and other debris that clutter our streets. Just a few pieces by each one of us will greatly improve the wonderful place that we already live in.

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**Who is this teenage star who is also our neighbor?**

**Tune in to Overview 27 in the spring and all will be revealed.**



## SURVEYING THE HILL

By Bruce Carroll

Fix the potholes/repave the street! Enforce zoning and building codes especially for auto body shops! Those are the two loudest cries for help from Franklin Hills residents in an unscientific e-mail poll conducted at the end of August. The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council asked for FHRA's help in answering this question: "How do you think the City should spend its money to improve our neighborhood?"

About 10% of FHRA's e-mail connected neighbors responded with one or more suggestions: Street repairs/potholes and code enforcement each scored — 12. More policing/Crime control and bulky item trash pickup, — 7 each. Those were followed by Traffic enforcement & flow improvement, graffiti abatement, parking issues and tree planting which each rated 5 or more.

FHRA residents were also directed to [www.GGPNC.org](http://www.GGPNC.org) where they could fill out a more comprehensive survey on city services and city budget priorities. Many Franklin Hills residents also responded to that survey and again street and sidewalk repair was the winner with 28% of the more than 250 survey takers making it a high priority. Safety and law enforcement rated 20%, parks and beautification 17%, followed by bulky item cleanup and trash 15%, parking availability 14%, schools and traffic tied at 11%.

In the statistical part of the survey where city services were rated from 1-5 (very unsatisfied to very satisfied) most of the mailed in responses were from the Franklin Hills and again the leader of the losers was street and sidewalk repair with 58% giving it an unsatisfactory 1 or 2 rating. Other areas of dissatisfaction were: Homelessness 52%, Traffic movement 48%, Parking availability 45%. City services that most satisfied Franklin Hills residents were Trash collection at 68% followed by Library services at 61%.

To see all the comments sent to the FHRA via e-mail and the full GGPNC survey tabulations, as generously provided by FHRA board member George Grace, they can be found by going to [www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org) and clicking on "2003 E-mail Poll Results."

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## President

*continued from page 2*



*Outgoing GGPNC President Charley Mims leaves with a smile. Incoming President Yvette Bryant notes, " We have 99% of the infrastructure in place for the NC, now we must identify, support, and work on projects that improve the area."*

So once again we have sped through a productive year. One in which our neighborhood and our community is better off for all of the many volunteer hours put in by you and other neighbors who want only to make this a better place to live. As Tiny Tim once said, "God bless you, one and all."



*New officers elected in October for GGPNC's second year of operation (l-r) Stanley Thompson - VP Administration, Yvette Bryant - President, Kerry Hunnewell - Treasurer, Nora Mosqueda - VP Outreach & Communication, Andrew Westall - Secretary. All of the officers have the goal of getting more stakeholders involved in the GGPNC.*

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## Guest Columnist: Chris Reynolds

*When the Los Angeles Times decided to start a weekly Outdoors section in September, one of our neighbors wound up responsible for writing the Wild West column every Tuesday, and one of our FHRA board members became a sort of civilian casualty. Here's a shortened version of the column that appeared Oct. 7:, with thanks to Chris and Mary Frances and the L.A. Times.*

Mono Lake, Calif. — The first step to understanding how the trunk of my wife's Toyota became a stinking den of damp little animals — and why I'll be taking my next few meals without salt, thanks very much — is to recognize the insidious power of a pretty picture. You've seen that picture of Mono Lake: the weird rocks and still water, shot at dawn or dusk, with the strange lumpy towers. It's album cover country. In fact, my first glimpse of it came on the inside jacket of Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here." I wondered: Waterfront property on the moon? But then, like so many other Pink Floyd fans, I got hungry or sleepy or something. Time passed. Then, last week, I found myself with an appointment in the Owens Valley and access to an inflatable kayak. Into my head popped that pretty picture. I borrowed my wife's car, which gets better mileage than mine, recruited my friend Doug as a paddling partner, and in no time we were blasting north. And then stomping on a foot pump to fill the limp

kayak. And then tiptoeing toward the water's edge for our first full sensory experience of Mono Lake. "Hmm," said Doug. "What a delightful aroma." Because its water evaporates instead of running off, the lake has always been salty -- too salty for fish but tasty for dozens of bird species and the tiny critters they feed on. Its tufa towers may look like pterodactyl scat, but they're really calcium-carbonate mounds, formed by interaction of freshwater springs and alkaline lake water.

Having laid down an aqueduct to the Owens Valley years before, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in 1941 began sucking water from the lake's feeder streams. The lake, already twice as salty as the ocean, grew saltier and smaller. But the tide turned. In the late 1970s, scientists and locals formed a committee, launched a legal battle against the mighty DWP and prevailed in 1994. Now, the level of the lake, which covers about 60 square miles, is rising again, the bird population growing. As the Mono Lake Committee celebrates its 25th anniversary, its leaders have the liberty of worrying more about the perils posed by tourism. And so, as my present to those who worry about Mono being loved to death, allow me to report that the stink is just the beginning. The shallows and shores are infested with the sort of tiny flying and floating beasts that might turn up in your backyard if the pool man neglected to visit for 700,000 years. It was early morning when we slid in the kayak, and dead calm. Yet when I glanced down at the black-sand beach, the grains



October 7, 2003

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## Franklin Hills' Kids Party, While Parents Look On Helplessly

by Mike Roey

In early May, we had 15 kids under two years of age in our house. I wish we could say that all the kids crawled into our home through our doggie door; but we actually organized it. Yes, we invited all those children into our house voluntarily.

My wife, Jenny Brandt, our neighbors, Lisa and Eliot Zeelander, and I hosted the second Franklin Hills Baby Party. Neighbors brought cool foods and shared great stories as all our children played together (or at least, near each other). If you drove by our house that day you might have noticed we could've used several valets to help park all the strollers.

### Chris

shifted shape. And hummed. And I realized that this was not black sand but a convention of alkali flies, rearranging themselves with my every step. But the flies stick mostly to the shoreline. Pushing off, we entered a new realm, this one dominated by brine shrimp: worm-like, fingernail-sized creatures that float at all depths, trillions of them. We paddled, snapped pictures and watched the light play on the tufa towers like swimming-pool reflections dancing on a stucco wall. But I did decide that admiring Mono for its looks alone is like ogling a bathing beauty before beholding her chronic bad breath and nasal whine. It's an understandable act, but it's not a relationship.

After a few hours, we stuffed the kayak in the trunk and headed straight for fresh water: showers for us and a hose to rinse everything else. We then aimed south, all the while trying to imagine that we sniffed no scent, felt no chalky film on our watches and cameras, suspected no clinging stowaways in the dark folds of the kayak.

But the next time traffic slows on the Hollywood Freeway, have a look around. If you see hungry grebes and gulls dive-bombing a gold-colored Corolla and an angry woman inside, dialing her husband on the cellphone, you'll know that vehicle has experienced a certain lake in Sensurround and that Mono is having some revenge on Los Angeles at last.



The unfortunate Corolla

The first party was in January and our kids were much younger (so the party lasted about 2 hours). This time, with older children and parents yearning hard for someone else to talk to, the party continued well past 3 hours. I'm sure the children could've handled an even longer event; but, the parents were too tired to go on much longer.

The kids seem to be getting to know each other. It was much fun, we're talking about having another baby party; people say they'd be willing to host one. If you're interested in being added to the Franklin Hills Baby List so you can be a part of the next party, please email the keeper of the List, Eliot Zeelander at [eliot@zeelander.org](mailto:eliot@zeelander.org).

See p. 9 for photos of the party--& if you'd like to host one. . .



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## TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

In mid-October FHRA conducted a survey using our e-mail data base and our website. Some twenty residents of Franklin Hills responded and of these 9 indicated members of their households would use public transportation if available in the hilly portions of the neighborhood. Five respondents are opposed to buses running up and down the hill, because of narrow streets, noise and air pollution, or because "one of the things we love about the hill is how anonymous we are and how strangers rarely venture up here". One respondent suggested designated pickup points for hill dwellers to wait for a ride up or down the Hill from people with wheels, while another suggested a group of volunteer drivers who would make themselves available to transport residents up or down the Hill when called, and a third suggested a ride share program, and a fourth rides by prior reservation. The estimated total number of boardings by 14 residents in nine households

who would use public transportation is 226. Suggested pickup points were Franklin at Radio Walk, Franklin at St. George, Clayton at Mayview

One respondent presented a detailed proposal for a loop connecting the red line and bus stops at Sunset and Vermont with the Franklin Hills. It would go north on Vermont to Franklin, east on Franklin to Mayview, south on Mayview to Hyperion, north on Hyperion to Tracy, west on Claremont to Lyric, north on Lyric to St. George, south on St. George to Franklin, west on Franklin to Vermont and south on Vermont to Sunset.

So much for summarizing the survey responses to date. We were thinking of a small shuttle vehicle as the appropriate public conveyance for Franklin Hills, not a full size bus nor a Dash bus. The "Cityride" program for those over 65 and the disabled, uses such shuttles for rides by prior reservation.

Many residents of Franklin Hills are not accessible by e-mail and haven't visited the FHRA website ([www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org)). The initial survey form is reproduced on page 19. Those without computer access, are encouraged to complete the survey and mail it to Franklin Hills Residents Association, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

Norm Harriton

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*co-listed with Joe Babajian	
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2155 Lyric Ave.	\$674,000
2227 Lyric Ave.	\$640,000
2211 Lyric Ave.	\$631,295
2223 Lyric Ave.	\$619,000
2201 Lyric Ave.	\$619,000
1423 Talmadge St.	\$573,000
3407 Huxley St. #29	\$210,000

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## NEED A RIDE TO GET UP AND DOWN THE HILL?

Hill dwelling is great as long as you have wheels - but what happens when you're temporarily or permanently left without a car? Some of us who have lived in Franklin Hills for decades are nearing the age when we will no longer be able to drive safely; yet when that time comes we will still want to spend our remaining years in Franklin Hills. Residents who have vehicles and drive regularly may still occasionally need supplemental transportation because of car breakdown, or because a member of the household doesn't drive and it's not possible for family or friends to serve as chauffeur.

Unfortunately there's no public transportation which serves the steep portion of Franklin Hills, and the trek on foot to and from existing bus stops and the Metro station is too rigorous and time consuming to be a practical option. Yes, there are taxis available, but cost is a deterrent to their use when a ride is needed to get to the Metro station, the main bus lines, or to shop on Hillhurst or Vermont.

Franklin Hills Residents Association wishes to find out how many residents would likely use public transportation, were a line to run through the hilly terrain of Franklin Hills. If a substantial need is found to exist, FHRA will try to obtain such public transportation.

Please respond to the following survey, if you and/or other members of your household would use public transportation were it to stop within easy walking distance of your residence in the hilly portion of Franklin Hills.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons residing at address who would likely use public transportation were it available: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated number of boardings per month on public transportation which would be generated by persons at this address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please suggest an efficient route and logical stops:

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Los Feliz Branch Library 20  
**NEW GARDEN, PROGRAMS &  
 HOLIDAY WISHES**

We continue to make improvements to the library. Many of you have noticed work on a new garden area in the parking lot patio. Funding for this addition has been collected and coordinated by the Los Feliz Library League. Under the direction of neighborhood realtor, Elisabeth Klock, this group has raised the funds for this wonderful new reading area. Working with the library staff and Library Facilities Management, a plan was developed and the resulting implementation will be beautiful. Come visit the new patio and check out the new books and programs.

Responding to your requests, Adult Librarian, Catherine O'Connor and Australian Librarian, Michael Leonard began teaching a monthly Computer Class for Seniors. You do not have to be a "senior" citizen to attend this class which focuses on teaching the basics of using a computer while showing you how to search the library catalog and databases. There are one-on-one follow up clinics for class graduates. This is an excellent way to join the information super highway with friendly and understanding guides.

For those already experienced surfers, Adult Librarian Lesley Barber, has updated the library web information resources on the Internet and cover subjects like Armenian resources, cooking, gardening, apartment rentals, education, home repair, music, telephone books, stocks. Law, jobs, travel, health, money for college and news. If you have suggestions for additional subjects please let us know.

You are invited to any of the monthly Adult programs. Each program meets only once per month so please check with the library for the date of the next meeting. The Book Discussion group meets the first or second Saturday morning at 11:00, Book Gossip, a readers advisory and sharing forum meets one Tuesday evening at 7:30, Coffee and Conversation, an adult discussion group, meets one Wednesday morning, and the Los Angeles Opera talks will continue through June 2004. There is also a Scrabble Club from 1:00-4:00 on the second Saturday, the Friends of the Library booksale on the fourth Saturday and a regular Friday Chess Club. There are always other special programs being planned so please pick up the monthly calendar flyer and check the lobby display cases.

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

There will be regular holiday programs for Children and Families including the annual Kaiser Doctor Holiday StoryTime.

The library will be open during the holidays except for the 25th of December and January 1. We will close at 5:00 on December 24th and December 31st.

The entire staff wishes our Franklin Hills neighbors a safe, happy & healthy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the library in 2004.

*-Pearl Yonezawa  
 Senior Librarian*

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Greetings to everyone in the Franklin Hills area. The holiday season is approaching fast. Unfortunately the season also brings an increase in the number of drunk drivers on the road. Celebrate, but do it safely and always have a designated sober driver, not the person that had the fewest drinks.

Alcohol affects the following:

- \*Vision.
- \*Coordination.
- \*Reaction time.
- \*Judgement.



It takes the body approximately one hour to rid itself of the alcohol from 1 beer, 1 wine cooler or 1 shot. However, other factors such as body weight, being tired, prescription medications or an empty stomach can increase the effects. And don't rely on caffeine to help sober you up. It will make you feel less sleepy but will not make you less drunk.

Drive safely and have a happy holiday season.

On September 24th an outstanding arrest was made in the Los Feliz area. Officers responded to two Burglary in Progress calls. With the assistance of the Air Unit, one juvenile and two adults were arrested. Northeast Detectives are now handling the case and have identified ten additional suspects and may be able to connect the group to at least two hundred Burglaries and the recovery of thousands of dollars in stolen property. Their investigation is taking them to various communities in Northeast Division and as far away as the City of Santa Monica. Many thanks go to the alert citizens who recognized that something suspicious was taking place and called the police

A second arrest worthy of mention was made on October 15th, also in the Los Feliz area. Officers were patrolling an area that had been identified during a COMPSTAT meeting as having frequent Vehicle Burglaries. The officers spotted a male that appeared to be hiding in a parked car and stopped to investigate. Initially, the male claimed that he was lost but during questioning the officers recognized him from a prior arrest. Responding to an unusual noise nearby, the officers found a second male hiding by a parked car. Several tools that are commonly used to break into cars were recovered and the two were arrested. But wait, the story gets better. After being transported to Northeast Station, an alert Detective realized that the suspects and their car matched the descriptions on two Robbery reports. They were booked and detectives are working to solve additional crimes that may have been committed by these two.

Don't forget to attend the Semi Annual Basic Car meeting on December 4th at 6:00 PM. It will be held in the Citi Bank community room at 1965 Hillhurst Avenue. We hope to have some of your City Council representatives and LAPD command staff there to answer questions. Senior Lead Officers from the East Hollywood, Silver Lake / Franklin Hills, Echo Park / Elysian Valley and Los Feliz / Atwater communities will also be in attendance. We hope to see you there. Take care and don't forget to check those smoke detectors and replace their batteries.

*Sincerely, Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki*

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## The Self-Made Critic

We're months away from the 2003 Academy Awards, nominations haven't been announced, and most of the major contenders haven't even been released in theaters. But there is one thing we know without a doubt.

We know who's going to win Best Animated Feature. Hint: It ain't *Sinbad*.

While *Finding Nemo* took any and all suspense away from the Animated Feature category the day it opened to heaps of praise normally saved for world peace, there are, or soon will be, a ton of movies starring real people that want to win all the other awards.

Here, then, is a quick look at some of the films that may, will, and should grab the spotlight on February 29th. Naturally, none of them were released before Labor Day. Many of them still haven't seen the light of the multiplex.

*Lost In Translation* gave Bill Murray a chance to shine, giving hope to all actors who at one time co-starred with a gopher.

*Mystic River* surprised everyone by not being a sequel to *Mystic Pizza*, while at the same time serving up some serious Best Actor chops from Academy Loverboy Sean Penn. Also, don't underestimate Clint's chance at getting some Best Director and/or Best Picture notice if the film steamrolls its way through the holidays with a strong marketing blitz.

One upcoming heavyweight is *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, which surprisingly, isn't nominated for

the coveted "longest title" award.

Aside from the Picture, Director, Score, Effects, Make-Up, and Craft Services categories, *Return of the King* may well get a Best Actor nomination for Viggo Mortensen, who is after the King who is Returning. Academy voters love it when you're the title (hello, *Gladiator!*).

Speaking of both Best Actor candidates who are the title of their films and movies with long names, watch out for Russell Crowe and Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World. It's another epic, this time on water. It may get nominated for no other reason but to make sure Crowe shows up at the Oscars, which is always good for ratings.

But wait, did someone say epic? What about *The Alamo*? As dry as *Master and Commander* is wet, this Billy Bob Thornton tale about a bunch of people who die is sure to turn Academy heads. After all, a film can always be assured of critical success when everyone in the cast dies at the end of the story. Just look at Shakespeare.

Had your fill of grand epics (and we haven't even touched on Tom Cruise in *The Last Samurai*), and are now hungry for drama? Intense human emotion? Cultured and measured performances that tear out our hearts and souls?

We got your back.

Nicole Kidman throws up two classic "Vote for Me!" movies as she defends her crown. On first glance, her domestic abuse character in *The Human Stain* looks to have more Oscar grit than her turn in the Civil War love story, *Cold Mountain*. Then again, the Academy loves non-American actors



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who pull off an American accent. Like it's hard.

Other usual subjects include Julia Roberts in *Dead Poet's Society 2: Girls Gone Wild (Mona Lisa Smile)*, Cate Blanchett in everything she ever does (*Veronica Guerin* and *The Missing*), Meg Ryan in her first non-cute role in years (*In The Cut*), and perhaps even Gwyneth Paltrow in the cheery, happy, feel-good story of the year, *Sylvia* (as in Plath).

But wait!!! What about the Indies??? Well, first of all, since no one can send out DVD copies of their movies to voters, we really don't have to worry about Independent films, since no one's going to see them.

However, just in case, here are some films and names to keep in mind.

Peter Dinklage, *The Station Agent*. Everybody loves this movie, and Peter's the man of the moment. Even better, he's a dwarf! I, for one, totally want to see a dwarf win an Oscar other than Mickey Rooney.

Paul Giamatti, *American Splendor*. This film has to be seen to be believed. The only question is, will anyone see it? Did you?

Pretty much anyone from *The Magdalene Sisters*. How could anyone say no to the Nuns?

So who will win? What will be the Best Picture of the Year (which may or may not have even been released when you read this)?

You'll have to tune in February 29th to find out. But I'm betting Gollum may have final word.

*The Self Made Critic is a Franklin Hills neighbor. For more film reviews, visit <http://www.selfmadecritic.com>*

We have all been watching the fires last month, and hoping for the best for the people in their path.

Sooner or later a fire or an earthquake or a flood or... some thing will come to us. Have you planned for this? If you have to leave suddenly do you know what you want to take? know where it is? Would you like some expert help in deciding how to deal with disaster?

Are you interested in the critters with whom we share the hill? Would you like to know more about co-existing with the animals (who were here before we were?)

Give us your ideas. We will be planning now for the next FHRA general meeting. What do we want to learn together?

Write to : [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org),  
or: FHRA, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029

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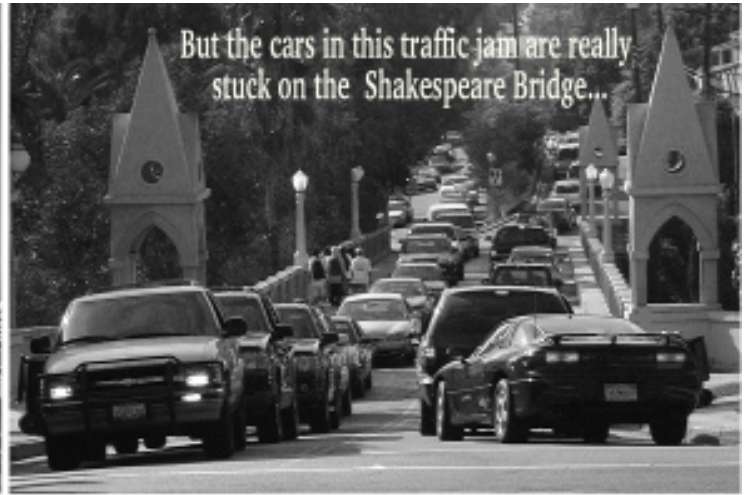
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Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!

Franklin Hills Overview: #26 Fall/Winter 2003



This may look like traffic congestion on the Brooklyn Bridge



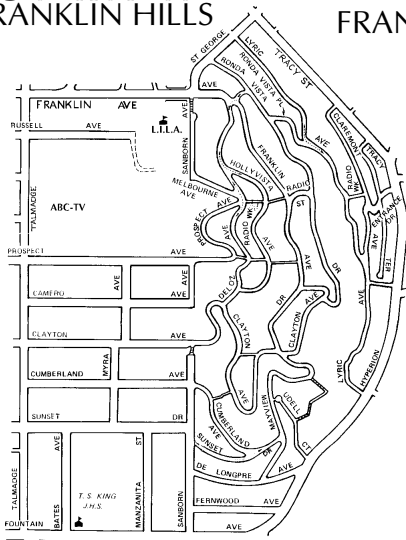
But the cars in this traffic jam are really stuck on the Shakespeare Bridge...

Franklin Hills was a nice quiet place. / You could drive at your own comfy pace. / Now traffic's so thick... / It's makin' me sick. / Half the cars I'd like to erase.

## Kalin Ad — Pick up from film

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