



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 27

SUMMER 2004

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 9TH KING MIDDLE SCHOOL

4201 Fountain Avenue, at Myra. Enter from Sunset Drive

Refreshments/Reception 6:45, Meeting 7:15 to 9 p.m. In the Auditorium...

...Join your neighbors

Meet your local police, council member, activists, graffiti guru, and FHRA Board members. And possibly the people who live down the block.

This is the time to renew your dues (unless you've joined this year.) For the slight sum of \$30 per household or \$15 per person you can be part of this organization and its accomplishments.

Reports from all officers and the election of Board members for the coming year will be followed by local police and fire reps, maybe Chief Bratton (he's invited) and our councilmember Tom La Bonge all of whom will take questions from the audience. See you there!!

C.S.

INSIDE

Letter from the President	2
Community Phones	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Critters & Conflagration	4
Big News	5
Neighborhood Identity	6
The Nagger	7
Letter to the Editor	8
Zoning	9
Filming on the Bridge	10
Hoover Stairs	11
A Star on the Hill	12
More Things I Love About...	14
Up, Up in Franklin Hills	14
Local Teachers in Japan	16
Los Feliz Library	18
LAPD Northeast	20
Hot Issue on Prospect	21
FHRA new phone number	22
Ogle Old Overviews	23

"THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY NEIGHBORHOOD"
© 2004 CAROL LAY

THE SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE, COMPLETED IN 1926, SPANS AN EXTINGUISHED CREEK BED ON FRANKLIN, JUST WEST OF ST. GEORGE.

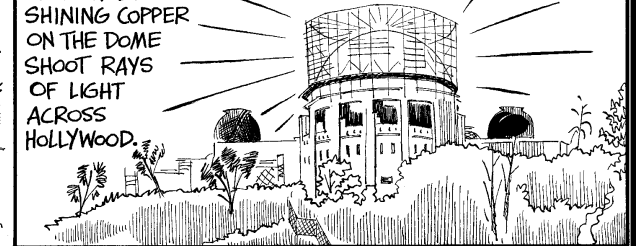
WWW.WAYLAX.COM



THIS TREE ON FINLEY STREET LOOKS LIKE DR. SELISS DREW IT.

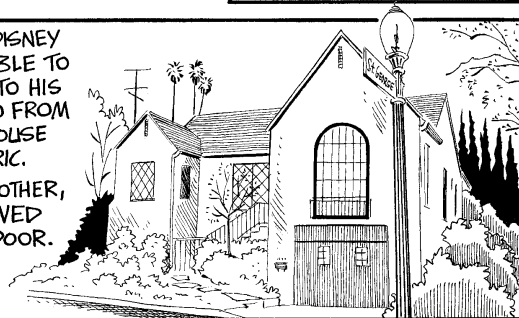


THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY IS UNDERGOING RESTORATION. NEW SHEETS OF SHINING COPPER ON THE DOME SHOOT RAYS OF LIGHT ACROSS HOLLYWOOD.



WALT DISNEY WAS ABLE TO WALK TO HIS STUDIO FROM THIS HOUSE ON LYRIC.

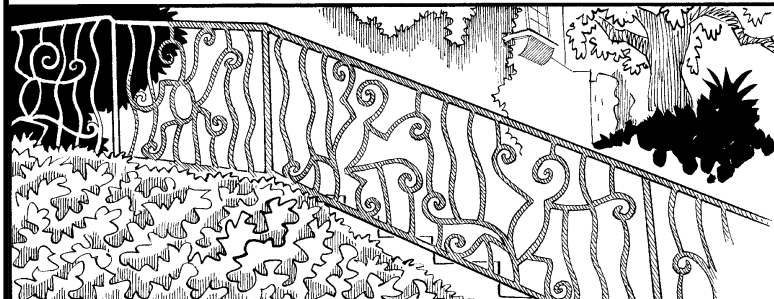
HIS BROTHER, ROY, LIVED NEXT DOOR.



THE NEXT HILL OVER USED TO BE CALLED "SKUNK HILL."



NOW I CALL MY NEIGHBORHOOD "SKUNK HILL ADJACENT."



IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO NOTICE THESE FINE MONKEYS IN THIS RAILING AT De Loz + HOLLYVISTA. I'LL MISS THEM IF I HAVE TO LEAVE.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Charley M. Mims

We are just finishing another year on the Hill. It has been filled with neighborhood volunteers building and re-building our community spirit one by one by one.

Rather than start with our list of accomplishments (more on these later) I want to begin by asking for new volunteers who can donate a little bit of their time to make big differences in our neighborhood.



1. We need a volunteer(s) to meet our FHRA paid gardener at the landscaped median on Franklin Avenue just west of the Shakespeare Bridge to spend two (2) hours a month overseeing the work of weeding and cleaning up trash. You would need to store a few orange cones and vests at your home between monthly visits.

2. We need to re-invigorate the public stairway clean-ups started by Adam Weisman. If residents on the streets near each of these stairways could volunteer to help clean their own local stairway, the FHRA will coordinate tools, trash bags, refreshments, and haul away by the City.

Eric Frase has continued coordinating clean up of graffiti around the neighborhood and will need more volunteers during the coming year.

The Franklin Hills Community Garden is still going strong with residents growing great greens and a waiting list of green thumbed Hill dwellers awaiting their own plot.

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds has coordinated the start up of local Neighborhood Watch groups with the help of our Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) Al Polehonki and Sam Salazar.

George Grace has raised our community consciousness about wildlife in our urban midst. It was at George's suggestion that we produced our "Critters, Conflagration & Crime" FHRA Winter Meeting in February. We were all awed by the gentle Opossum brought to the meeting and by the interesting information shared on how to co-exist with our urban wildlife. Officer Gregory Randall, Wildlife Investigator from the LA City Department of Animal Service gave good advice (See page 4) Los Angeles Fire Department Captains McMasters and Vowels shared fire safety tips for us hillside folk and Al Polehonki and Sam Salazar told us how physically safe we are on the Hill despite some property crimes that left some of us shaken.

Do you remember our Councilman Tom LaBonge promising us at last year's FHRA Annual Meeting that he would complete the improvements under the Shakespeare Bridge on Monon Street? Well last November 15th I had the pleasure of being the Master of Ceremonies at the dedication of the newly landscaped area. This gave me particular joy as my wife, Shirley Mims, reacting to the complaints of local residents lead the effort to improve this area. Monon resident Renata DeMeyer worked closely with Shirley to coordinate our efforts with the City. One more example of how neighbors working together with our Councilman and City departments can make a difference right here in Franklin Hills.

As one year comes to a close and we look forward to the start of another, please attend our Annual Meeting of FHRA which will take place at King Middle School on Wednesday June 9, 2004. Please consider how you could contribute to making our neighborhood a better place to live, whether by volunteering a few hours or by making a targeted contribution to FHRA projects (as David Schindle and George Grace have done for our wildlife project), Chair a committee, serve on our Board of Directors or join as a dues paying member (only \$15 per person or \$30 per household.) Working together we, each one of us and all, can make a difference!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

CHARLEY MIMS

Vice President

CHRISTOPHER BOUTELLE

Treasurer

BRUCE CARROLL

DAVID CAMPBELL

ERIC FRASE

GEORGE GRACE

MARY FRANCES SMITH-REYNOLDS

CAROL SKINNER

Chairman

ADAM WEISMAN

ACTION TEAM LEADERS

PROSPECT STUDIOS, LILA & COMMUNITY:

Adam Weisman 666-4630

CRIME WATCH:

Carol Skinner 662-1775

GRAFFITI REMOVAL:

Eric Frase

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

WEBMASTER / E-MAIL

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

PLANNING & ZONING:

Charley Mims 666-2520

Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

Editor & Publisher:

Carol Skinner

All Photos

Bruce Carroll

Contributing Writers:

David Campell, Bruce Carroll,

Eric Frase, George Grace,

Charley Mims, Al Polehonki,

Carol Skinner

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds,

Pearl Yonezawa

Ad Sales & Distribution:

Chris Boutelle, 666-5548

The **Franklin Hills OVERVIEW** is published as often as possible. We invite readers' comments, submissions and opinions, and will publish as space allows. Please mail to:

Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122,

Los Angeles, CA 90029

or e-mail to FHRA@FranklinHills.org

COMMUNITY PHONES

PROSPECT STUDIOS (323)/671-5785.

LOS ANGELES CITY SERVICES

ALL SERVICES **311**

ANIMAL CONTROL: (888) 452-7381

Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179

BARKING DOGS: (888) 452-7381

BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:
888-LA4BUILD

COUNCILMAN TOM LABONGE,
4th District (213) 485-3337
200 N. Spring #480 LA, CA 90012

FIELD DEPUTY Jeanne Chang (818)755-7630

FHRA (323)-908-6078;
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)
323-686-0950 or 800-339-6993

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (323) 913-4710

ALL CITY SERVICES: **311**

POLICE: EMERGENCY ONLY: 911

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

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

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

SCHOOLS POLICE

Marshall High

Officer Gonzales 323-660-1440 x 240

Thomas Starr King Middle School:

Officer Harris 323-664-1176 x140

STREET SERVICES: (800) 996-2489

TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

Bulky Item Removal (800)773-2484

Missed Trash Pick-up (800) 773-2489

TREE TRIMMING (Hazards): (800) 996-2489

WATER & POWER: (800) 342-5397

FHRA's Financial Fortunes Matched Our Terrain in 2003

Lots of Ups and Downs

By FHRA Treasurer, Bruce Carroll

FHRA's 2003 gross income of \$14,287 was down 11% from 2002 due to a \$1000 drop in government grants and a dip in membership dues to \$3,220 down 20% from the previous year's record levels. Despite those figures our net income was a record \$3,028 up a whopping 1,290%. But as we all know figures are not always what they seem and \$2,500 of that income was a donation from the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council earmarked for the Hoover Stairway Mural Project which is set to be spent this year. Even eliminating that grant, our net income was up over 125% in a year when revenue was down. Don't we wish they could do that in Washington and Sacramento.



As usual our biggest expenditure was the Overview where we spent \$5,463. Advertising revenue covered \$5,265 of the cost of bringing the twice yearly newsletter to every Franklin Hills address. Other big expenses included \$1,068 for Franklin Avenue Median maintenance, down over \$400 from 2002 Insurance went up \$100 to \$1,119. Donations, including \$600 for the Prospect and Talmadge mural, totaled nearly \$1000. Another \$1,000 went for the cost of our annual meeting and events like the November dedication of the landscaping beneath the Shakespeare Bridge. We also spent \$666 on communications the devilish details: phone = \$267, postal expenses = \$195, website = \$120 and copies = \$84.

After Overview and membership dues, the next biggest sources of income were your generous member donations of \$1,750 including special donations for the Median, \$200, and Graffiti Abatement, \$340. The Franklin Hills Community Garden took in \$1,040 and spent \$629. Sales of over \$500 worth of FHRA T-shirts and historic photos, plus \$3.20 in stock dividends rounded out the income. Our small stock portfolio tallied a 25% gain finishing the year worth \$406. Donations of appreciated securities are always welcome and a great way to maximize your tax savings by eliminating the capital gains tax and getting a deduction because FHRA is an IRS 501(c)(3) charity meaning your contributions are tax deductible.

Bruce Carroll, as you probably know, is the treasurer, web master, photographer and scribe of FHRA. He is also well known in the GGPNC and several organizations above the boulevard.

Critters, Conflagration & Crime

By Bruce Carroll

See pictures of the meeting on page 24

The FHRA's winter meeting on Critters, Conflagration and Crime provided a good education for the dozens of Franklin Hills residents and one wary possum who gathered in a King Middle School classroom on February 24, 2004.

First on the curriculum, a crash course in critters from cats to coyotes (aimed at making the former not dinner for the latter) plus tips on other four legged Franklin Hills residents from skunks to possums--one of whom made an invited appearance, but didn't have much to say.

What the two legged experts from the Opossum Society and Camarillo Wildlife Rescue had to say was that residents were not doing any of the wild critters a favor by putting out food for them and that leaving food for your pets--or even having a koi pond--can be the magnet that brings the uninvited to your property. In the end non-domestic animals lose their natural fear of humans which experts agree actually places them at greater danger.

Officer Gregory Randall, Wildlife Investigator from the LA City Department of Animal Services, talked about high-tech ways to keep critters from your property such as motion detector lights and sprinklers activated by the critter's approach. He also explained that trapping by his department "is coming to an end." He noted that most of the infrequent attacks by coyotes on humans resulted from attempts to feed the coyotes-- something that is actually a crime in Los Angeles. Officer Randall even offered to come out and advise homeowners who are seeking ways to keep unwanted critters from their property. His number (888-452-7381) can be found on the "Community Contacts" page of our FranklinHills.org website.

Even more unwanted in any neighborhood is fire, but we have dedicated firefighters stationed 24/7 nearby on Rowena (Station 56 handles the area east from Ronda Vista) and Hillhurst (Station 35 the rest of Franklin Hills). Captains Robert McMasters and Robert Vowels, both 29 year department veterans, mixed stories of the heroism by local firefighters with some of the do's and don'ts of hillside fire safety for areas like ours classified as a "Very High Fire Hazard Safety Zone." During spring inspections the LAFD looks for unsafe amounts of native vegetation, trees that don't have lower branches removed at least 6 feet or 1/3 up the trunk, and of course dead material. In-

formational brochures are sent out each spring and can be found online at www.lafd.org/brush. Both captains agreed that this area and station 35 on Hillhurst is a "great place to work."

The meeting finished with two familiar faces around the Franklin Hills: our two LAPD senior lead officers Sam Salazar and Al Polehonki. They had good news--a continuing drop in crime in our area. In 2003 Northeast Division led the LAPD with the biggest drop in crime and in the first few weeks of 2004 the trend continued with a further 19.9% drop. The biggest problems in Franklin Hills remain auto related crimes. There have been vehicle thefts and several breakins to steal items like cell phones and other small valuable items left on car seats. Graffiti also remains an ongoing problem.

A few lucky meeting attendees came away with more than just a whole lot of useful information and some tasty snacks. Throughout the evening there were drawings for wonderful prizes such as dinners at Palermo's, tickets to the Los Feliz and Vista Theatres, a gift certificate from Skylight Books and even a Franklin Hills T-shirt. Despite the cold evening everyone came away with a warm neighborhood feeling.

**GET A NEW TRASH/RECYCLING/
GREEN WASTE BIN
AT NO EXPENSE TO YOU!**

THE CITY WILL replace the lid, the wheels or the entire bin if these are broken, if you call **800-773-2489. Just make sure that you have the bin's serial number (printed on the front of the bin) to give to the operator when you call. This repair or replacement is free since their machines damaged the bin.**

This number may also be called for Bulky Item Pickup.

Café Los Feliz Serving Lunch Daily

Baking in the best European Tradition!

We are here for all your Summer Needs

Smoothies, Ice Blended Drinks

and all manner of cookies and tarts!

2118 Hillhurst

Los Feliz Village

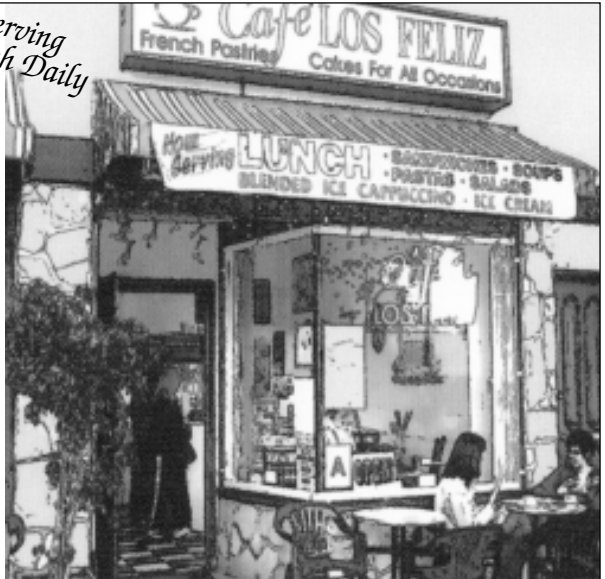
323-664-7111

Our Mediterranean Specialties should not be missed!

Ask about our Catering too. . .

Monday-Saturday: 7:00 am to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm



BIG NEWS ABOUT WILDLIFE DRINKERS

And The Story of Teddy Grace

by George Grace

On March the 9th, I received the following email for an animal rescue friend:

"Last week while looking for a friends lost dog, I stumbled upon a dog that apparently has been living atop Griffith Park near Bronson Canyon. Today, I befriended a Griffith Park Ranger who agreed to help us get access to the top of the park to get the dog. I need several people to assist me, but more importantly I cannot take on the responsibility of fostering the dog. The dog in need of rescue is a black dog, roughly 35 - 50 lbs and very shy. He/she is wearing a choke chain but is extremely timid and scared. Joggers have seen him there for weeks. When I saw him, I also saw three coyotes about 20 feet from the dog but for some reason it keeps surviving. Now with the heat, I feel we are running out of time. Does anyone have a place to put this little guy?"

I was touched. I decided that if he could be rescued that my labs Bootsie and Lucky could make room for one more at our house. I contacted my friend and let him know we would take him. At that point, the rescue group took over, and tried to find the dog. At first, their efforts were in vain. The little dog had disappeared, and everyone feared the worst. But, animal rescue folks are very persistent, and on March 24th she (as it turned out) was located in the pound. They immediately picked her up, and on Saturday March 27th she arrived at my gate, still timid and shy, and physically a mess. I decided to name her Teddy Grace after my 1930's/'40's jazz singer stepmother--besides, she's a chowchow mix and looks like a teddy bear.

Now what, you may ask, has Teddy Grace (the dog, not my stepmother) got to do with wildlife drinkers? Some of you may also ask just what is a wildlife drinker anyway? Here are the answers:

Wildlife drinkers are man-made animal watering devices that have been installed by various government agencies in areas that lack year-round sources of water for wildlife populations. Since November, 2002, via articles in the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) Overview Newsletter, at various meetings, and on the Internet, I have been recommending the installation of Wildlife Drinker watering systems for wildlife in Griffith Park. I was "inspired" to seek their installation after seeing coyotes move into my neighborhood during the sizzling summer of 2002. Research proved to me that they were probably here due to a lack of food and water in Griffith Park. Dr. Rosemarie White of the Sierra Club, and I prepared a proposal about installing Drinkers in Griffith Park that you can read at:

<http://www.gmrnet.com/DrinkerProposal.html>. You can see the Chatsworth drinker installation I visited at <http://www.gmrnet.com/DrinkerSurvey.html>.

I believe Teddy Grace's story illustrates how and why coyotes moved into my neighborhood., and why they seem to be in such poor condition. When Teddy arrived, she had a persistent cough. Much of her fur had given way to hot spots. She had fleas and ticks. She was both malnourished and dehydrated. In short, she appeared much like the coyotes that are now living around the corner. My heart went out to her - as it did to the pitiful looking coyote I saw in July, 2002. Teddy is well now, and has bonded with both myself and my two labs. She will be beautiful once her coat grows out. Her journey from the top of Griffith Park to Griffith Park Blvd. (where Animal Services picked her up) parallels that of our neighborhood coyotes who leave the park to search for food and water. Having her has reinforced my determination to help not only the coyotes, but all Griffith Park wildlife through installing Wildlife Drinkers in remote park locations.

And here is the BIG NEWS: On Tuesday, April 27th, the Board of the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) established the Wildlife Drinker Fund to finance their installation in Griffith Park. All donations are fully tax deductible. So far, we have collected \$671. We are aiming for a total of \$2,500, which should be more than enough to install one and maybe two drinkers. The installation plan includes establishing a Wildlife Drinker Study Group to determine the efficacy of the systems for Griffith Park wildlife. I will be making a presentation with more details at the FHRA annual meeting on June 9th, 2004 at Thomas Starr King Middle School. You can make a donation to the fund now by sending your check to Franklin Hills Residents Association, P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

George Grace is an FHRA Board member, and specializes in environmental and animal welfare issues. Teddy Grace has never attended any FHRA meetings.



What is neighborhood identity?

by Adam Weisman

Typically, it is a catchword. A word or phrase that means something. Easy ones are "Malibu" or "Beverly Hills." Toss those words around anywhere in the United States and they generate stereotypic images. Say "I'm from Franklin Hills" and most folks from Los Angeles look perplexed. When we provide geographic markers, some just consider Franklin Hills is similar to the adjacent neighborhoods. Are we?

Much as self-identity develops through one's actions, Franklin Hills has slowly formed a self-identity through its residents and FHRA. Over the last 11 years, I have witnessed the gradual development of a truly unique neighborhood. Moving here in 1992, I only knew this area as "Old Hollywood" or "Los Feliz." I knew nothing about Franklin Hills. When I told others of my great neighborhood, the comment was typically "Where's that?" Slowly, by word of mouth, the world is discovering Franklin Hills.

FHRA has worked hard to enhance our neighborhood identity. Physical developments include the Franklin Avenue

median, Shakespeare bridge holiday lights & restoration, FHRA/LILA community garden, mural sponsorship & neighborhood signage. And we are not done! FHRA is eager to begin new projects to improve the Franklin Hills to set it apart from other neighborhoods.

FHRA has also improved our neighborhood through its intelligent & outspoken residents. For example, in the initial stages of the community policy advisory board (CPAB), FHRA was denied representation. After a "chat" with the area captain, we have been an active participant on the board ever since. FHRA members actively serve on citywide commissions & the neighborhood council. *The Overview* has been recognized as "required reading" among governmental representatives. These are only examples of the intellectual & creative volunteer strength within Franklin Hills.

Many years ago, I wrote in a Presidential Message:

In reaction to cultural trends, this area of Los Angeles has been recognized as "the hip place to live (the secret is out!)." People attracted to the architecture, consumer establishments, public parks, and easy access to Downtown have come in droves to the neighborhood. The local media has highlighted Franklin Hills in trendy articles.

In many respects this trend continues. Long empty plots that seemed an architectural challenge have been developed. The national magazine *dwell*, at home in the modern world, has featured houses within the neighborhood (www.dwellmag.com). What is interesting is how Franklin Hills is defined. In 2001, *dwell* featured a house on Hyperion Avenue and described the neighborhood as "between Los Feliz & Silver Lake." No mention was made of Franklin Hills.

In June 2003, *dwell* focused on Modernica founder Frank Novak's house on Ronda Vista. The house was built in 1937 and renovated in 2000. The house is described as in "L.A.'s Franklin Hills neighborhood, an enclave of small, hillside houses in the 1930s Streamline Moderne and postwar "traditional" modes." Remember that sentence for your next cocktail party. The article continues, the home is, "perched at the top of L.A.'s Franklin Hills neighborhood, it's in the ideal location for a man whose professional philosophy is opposed to the fetishization of once-prosaic items. Though just as picturesque, Franklin Hills is less precious than Silver Lake to the south, that rapidly gentrifying petting zoo of mid-century architecture by the likes of Richard Neutra and Rudolf M. Schindler." Obviously, the writer does not know of the other structures here. So Franklin Hills has been defined by both its physical features, personalities that promote vibrant ideas within it's boundaries, and media pundits that describe the neighborhood with intellectual candy.

Although the Franklin Hills residential area was established over 80 years ago, FHRA is well into its teen years as an organization. Through its actions, FHRA no longer identifies itself as "Baja Los Feliz," but a unique & innovative neighborhood in Los Angeles. And our "teenage" organizational energy is still going strong!

As I resign the Chairmanship & Board of Directors, I depart with lingering concerns. Is FHRA losing its unique identity to the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council? Over its first year of existence, the GGPNC has addressed



Dog poop. It's a serious health problem. Why? Because it contains disease-carrying bacteria that can make people sick. And because there are 3 million dog owners in LA. Do the math. Then do this. Pick up after your pooch. Remind your neighbors to pick up after theirs. Good manners, great health policy. Want more tips? Call 1-888-CLEAN-LA today. Or visit www.erasethewaste.com. Your dog can't help it. But you can.

Erase the
waste

Brought to you by the State Water Resources Control Board

Continued on page 7

A SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE

The Nagger

Surveys report that the average California highway driver exceeds the speed limit by nearly 10 m.p.h.

Speeding on city streets is nearly as bad and just as dangerous. Close to home, Hyperion Avenue was paved a couple of years ago. The smoother surface is partially responsible for the 40- and 50- m.p.h. speeds of a sizable share of the cars and trucks traveling on Hyperion between Fountain and Rowena travels, well over the 30- and 35- m.p.h. posted limit. Two persons were killed on that stretch just over a year ago. Drivers and pedestrians entering or leaving Trader Joe's are especially at risk.

Walkers, parents, and some drivers complain that Franklin Hill residents routinely ignore slow signs at the Franklin/Hollyvista crossroads (15 m.p.h.) and the Shakespeare Bridge (25 m.p.h.) This rush to save 20 seconds on the way to work, to play, or to meet someone leads to numerous close calls from meeting fast-moving fellow-travelers. All of our streets are one-way with limited visibility. Probability laws predict that serious accidents will happen.

Try this experiment. On your next trip, keep strictly to 15 m.p.h. and note how much slower you feel you are moving than when traveling your normal speed. You have been putting your neighbors and yourself at risk. Then, make driving within a safe speed your new normal practice.

Take extra care driving past construction sites, illegally parked vehicles, and oversize trucks and SUVs. Advise all your visitors, gardeners, and repair persons about the dangers from driving too fast on the Hill.

Help make the streets wider and safer by trimming plants and bushes and pulling garbage cans off the street. And slow down.

Footnote: Franklin Hills residents may be considering and arguing the feasibility of repaving our streets within the next five years. Newly-paved streets can only increase auto speeds and possible accidents. Note the traffic bumps that have been placed on recently-paved Commonwealth to slow down the resulting greater speeds.

The Nagger is an FHRA board member who prefers to nag anonymously

. . .identity? *Continued from page 6*

important issues we once attempted to grapple. Others issues remain outside their domain. However, it is important to remember that FHRA does not mean "District E Residents Association." This would dilute our neighborhood identity and confuse the residents. Franklin Hills remains a distinct neighborhood, with important features, people & ideas that complement GGPNC. Such organizational independence is crucial for neighborhood integrity. Best wishes to the FHRA & its board of directors!

Adam Weisman is a long-time president of FHRA, Chairman for several years and the inventor of the Stairway Project (Volunteer neighbors cleaning up the stairs on the hill.)



Have You Seen Me—Lately?

Thirty years ago, I moved here. I was fresh out of grad school in frigid Rochester, New York and eager to move to a warmer, sunnier clime. A school friend offered me a place to roost—

the sunporch of his house in L.A. I drove cross country in my 18-year old car, and when I arrived, I had 190 bucks cash in my pocket. I was 24 and ready to invent myself.

I was lucky, too. Along the way to now, I met some fascinating—and kind—folks. I had some formative experiences, including work as a magazine editor/writer/photographer (I can get paid to have fun?), as a voice-over talent agent (loved the work—hated my salary), as a member of the ground staff of Air France (pandemonium in more than one language), as a legal assistant (what DO lawyers do?) and as a Volvo salesman (intensive sales—and life—training).

Then came real estate. Everything I'd experienced before seemed to come into play. My luck held, too. After 17 years' worth of market ups and downs, after over 500 transactions, I'm still here, and a bit wiser, I hope. They tell me I'm the "#1" Coldwell Banker agent in Los Feliz and in the top one percent of over 55,000 Coldwell Banker agents nationally. Acclaim, however, is not my goal—it is the byproduct of the work I do with the clients whose trust and confidence I am lucky enough to enjoy.

Thirty years in L.A. The last 17 years in real estate. Never would I have envisioned my life today from my vantage point in 1974. Fortunate and thankful I am, indeed, to live and to work here. Every day truly has been a bonus. So, here I am—lately, at right. Any regrets? One: how did I EVER let someone talk me into that "body wave" in the photo above?

Richard Stanley
(323) 906-2417



Please visit my web site at www.richardstanleyrealtor.com.

Letter to the editor

Ever since the birth of the *Overview* I have been blessed with a copy of each issue which I share internationally with other Mayview Drive ex-patriots. I have felt like an adopted denizen of the charming enclave known as the Franklin Hills since first caring for the home of my dear friends Mary and Geoff Scott during their six month annual sojourn to their alternate home in London.

CHEESE
WINES, OILS, GIFT
BASKETS & TRAYS

3926-28 W. Sunset Blvd
(In the Sunset Junction Plaza
Corner of Sunset & Sanborn)

323-644-7511
(parking in Sunset Junction
lot on Sanborn)

THE CHEESESTORE
OF SILVERLAKE

\$10 off
any service
with \$50 minimum purchase.

Open Tue-Sat 9-7

Alberto
SALON

2115 Hillhurst Ave.
323.666.8850
Parking in rear

cuts • highlights • perms • facials • manicures • pedicures • waxing

Although a third of a century has passed, I still keep in contact with Mary Scott, my delightful neighbors the Bolzern family who lived just south of me at 2144 Mayview and Bruce Carroll on the other side

All this came about over my being asked to start a "tour desk" at the LA office of the now sadly defunct TWA. The late Geoff Scott, then manager of Gateway Holidays, became a valuable mentor and friend. I still send Mary Scott, now a Toronto resident, every issue of the *Overview* after I have thoroughly perused it. After she's done the same, Mary sends the well traveled *Overview* on to the Bolzern family who many years ago traded the Franklin Hills for the slightly more famous Swiss Alps.

It all began during Christmas eve dinner in 1970 with Mary lamenting that they had not yet found a housesitter for their home at 2150 Mayview. Off hand I commented how delightful it would be for someone to stay in their charming home with such a magnificent view.

Nothing more was said and I had forgotten about the conversation when months later Mary called to tell me to get ready to move in because they were leaving in two weeks. It was a dramatic change in my life to pick up and begin housekeeping on Mayview. The fabulous view, their cozy house, the picturesque surroundings and a garden to tend; "Seventh heaven" barely describes how I felt. The following year, 1972, I repeated my six months atop the hill.

The unforgettable memories of my life in the Franklin Hills are too numerous to recount, but I often thank Mary and Geoff for changing my life by enticing me to leave the flatlands. For the last 31 years I have looked down on a charming view of Silver Lake.

Irene Osburn

PALERMO
RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Delicious Italian Cuisine In The Old World Tradition

OPEN DAILY 11:00 A.M.
CLOSED TUESDAYS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
HOME DELIVERY

1858 N. VERMONT AVENUE • LOS FELIZ, CA 90027 • 323/663-1178 • FAX 323/660-0284

Zoning : Not by the Book

By Bruce Carroll

If you went to look for LA City's zoning laws in the library, perhaps the best place to start would be in the fiction section. Based on how the city handled a recent case of an oversized building on Myra Ave. that was granted 7 zoning variances without a public hearing--the gap between intent and implementation is often a tall tale.

At its April meeting East LA Area Planning Commission president Greg Wesley declared he was "having trouble with the fact" that there was no public hearing. Zoning Administrator Daniel Green explained, "most cases like this one do have a public hearing--when you look at the volume of [zoning variance] requests it does seem quite lengthy."

Yet in the end, despite those sentiments and the



fact that more than a dozen area residents, including representatives of the FHRA, Greater Griffith Park and Silver Lake Neighborhood Councils, and the Silver Lake Improvement Association spoke against the five story Laguna project as oversized and inconsistent with the neighborhood, the Commission voted 4-0 to uphold the project's approval, including the seven zoning variances, with a few minor conditions. The more stringent of the conditions, suggested by the SLIA, were removed from the list when the developer objected.

Many of the speakers in favor of the project were connected with the developer or agencies that fund such senior/disabled housing projects. They pointed out the need for affordable housing for low income seniors. Those from the neighborhood agreed there is a need and would welcome a properly scaled project on the Myra Avenue site. One resident who lives directly across the street described the proposed building as being "like a Titanic next to a tiny raft in the ocean." But even such a graphic word picture was not enough to sink the project.

Developers plan to build the five story high, low income, Laguna Senior Apartments

continued on page 19

Libby's

vintage home & garden

NEW LOCATION!!!!

3815-1/2 sunset blvd.
silver lake, california 90026
323.663.2600
www.libbysvintage.com

furniture
garden tools
birdbaths
plant stands
art
pottery
plants
linens
books
gift certificates
wedding registry

Mention this ad for your FHRA 10% discount!



DRESDEN

RESTAURANT

... a Los Feliz tradition for over 60 years

Having a Birthday?

Your Lunch or Dinner will be complimentary
the month of your birthday with your party
of 4 or more!

"Home of Certified Angus Beef"

Lunch Served: 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Dinner Served: 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday Dinner: 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm


1760 N. Vermont Avenue
(323) 665-4294

Marty & Elayne
at the piano bar



Valet Parking in Rear

Total Tech Support
Macintosh
Windows



TECH-PAL

friendly service for a technical world®

www.tech-pal.com

Home or Office

No Tech Talk

Fast & Friendly

323.928.4141

DSL Email Web Wireless Networks Fix & Repair Training

Lights! Camera! Traffic!

A Familiar Scene in our Franklin Hills

By Bruce Carroll

Although two years ago we made it decisively clear that we didn't want to be included in a proposed City of Hollywood, for over 90 years the Franklin Hills has welcomed the illusionary industry that the world thinks of as "Hollywood." That ongoing relationship has been very evident along our streets in the last few months.

While the Entertainment Industry Development Corporation, responsible for issuing permits for on-location production doesn't breakout figures for neighborhoods such as Franklin Hills, area wide production, especially for TV series is up significantly this year over 40% in February and March. EIDC sources attribute this to a "pilot season that started early and ran a little late."



At a time when fears linger that runaway production will turn "Tinsel Town" into a ghost town, recent filming of a pilot for the proposed UPN "dramedy" series

Silver Lake may have brought its own ghosts to the Shakespeare Bridge location. According to the Hollywood Reporter, the show, starring Kerr Smith, (familiar to *Dawson's Creek* fans) is about a record store owner who can communicate with the dead. It could air as soon as June says a production company insider. We'll try to let you know via e-mail if we get the promised advance notice. Its easy to join our list-just e-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org with your info: name, address, etc. Let us know what you think about neighborhood filming or any other subject.

Long time FHRA member Tad Brady, who's bridge-side home makes an ideal location, has been very helpful to the FHRA by letting us know when filming will be taking place and letting production companies know that working with the FHRA is a good way to allay neighborhood fears and head off potential problems.

The producers of *Silver Lake* made a generous \$1,000 dona-

continued on page 22

collar & leash
PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES

\$2off
\$18 worth of merchandise
coupon expires 6/30/04

\$5off
\$40 worth of merchandise
coupon expires 6/30/04

\$15off
\$100 worth of merchandise
coupon expires 6/30/04

COLLARS, LEASHES
 TOYS, TREATS, BOOKS
 BEDDING, CARRIERS
 HEALTH & BEAUTY PRODUCTS
 HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS & ALL NATURAL PET FOODS

Now
In Silverlake!
1836 Hyperion Ave.
(Near Fountain)
(323) 665-2215

West Hills
8393 Topanga Canyon
(Topanga Canyon/Roscoe)
(818) 887-7388

Pacific Palisades
516 Palisades Drive
(Sunset/Palisades Dr.)
(310) 573-6262

West Hollywood
8555 Santa Monica Blvd.
(1 Block West of La Cienega/
Santa Monica)
(310) 657-6638

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
9AM-9PM



Update on the Hoover Stairwell Mural Project

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

The beloved public staircases in our neighborhood are used for exercise, movie shoots, and convenient short cuts, and soon one of them will become a three-paneled canvas for a colorful mural. Starting in the early fall, Los Angeles artist Ricardo Mendoza will paint a mural at Hoover Walk, the stairwell between Prospect Avenue and North Hoover Street.

For this beautification project, as reported in earlier editions of the *Overview*, community members received a Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant from the Department of Public Works' Operation Clean Sweep. Sponsoring organizations on the project are the Franklin Hills Residents Association and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council. The mural will culminate a series of other recent improvements at the long-neglected stairwell structure. Last fall, with help from City Council District 4 and the Bureau of Street Services, steps and walls were repaired and railings were added. In February, a group of community members spent a Sunday morning planting donated agaves on the two slopes at the site. The spring rains have provided enough moisture to help the sturdier plants establish themselves without the benefit of an irrigation system.

Soon, the location will get its next improvement: an official name, marked by a sign. With the help of Councilmember Tom LaBonge, his legislative deputy, Eric Sanjurjo, and his field deputy for our area Jeanne Chang, a ceremonial landmark sign will be installed at the top of the stairs, on Prospect Avenue. It will read "Hoover Walk - Constructed 1923." In addition to helping people locate the stairs (and soon the mural), it will give this humble stairwell an identity and its historical due.

Trash and weeds still accumulate at this site, bulky items are sometimes dumped there, and tagging still occasionally mars the walls. But the neighbors are quietly joining forces to pick up garbage, phone in for bulky item pick-up, and call for graffiti paint-over when it occurs. The City is helping with interest and infrastructure improvements. The Hollywood Beautification Team has helped, and will continue to help with maintenance. This spirit of teamwork to improve this crumbling corner of our community is giving it dignity again, slowly but surely. The beneficiaries are the dozens of students and others who walk the stairs regularly. Others who are taking an interest are the residents on and near Hoover Street, including one who recently told me she moved to this block because the stairwell site puts her near nature. Soon it will put her near art, too.

If you're at the stairwell or anywhere else in our neighborhood, and observe graffiti, bulky items, or any other quality-of-life problem, take a few minutes to help out: Call the City's new 24-hour help number: Dial 311. Have the address handy when you call in your request for services.

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds teaches in a local school. She is the moving force behind the murals FHRA has sponsored, and chairman of the Neighborhood Watches. She has a husband, a bird and a cat



COMPLETE GARDENING SERVICES

Jesus Sanchez, Gardener



(323) 660-2413

Franklin Hills references available

Giannino

In Silver Lake
Ristorante
Italiano

*Rediscover the lost art of
excellent food and friendly service
in a romantic atmosphere in the
trendy Silver Lake / Los Feliz area.*

Dinner Only
Sunday thru Thursday

5 P.M. to 10 P.M.
(Closed Monday)
Friday & Saturday
5 P.M. 10:30 P.M.

2630 HYPERION AVENUE
(AT GRIFFITH PARK BLVD.)
(323) 664 7979
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

DISCOUNT MEDICAL PHARMACY

*most insurance plans accepted
free delivery in local area*

(323) 661-8366

FAX (323) 661-0538

2716 Griffith Park Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Franklin Hills Actress debuted in '50s Classroom Mental Hygiene Films

by Eric Frase

The film industry has been an important part of the heritage of the Franklin Hills area, with residents over the years taking part in front of the camera as well as behind the scenes. However, long-time resident/actress Brady Rubin's roots to the "industry" trace aback not to mid-century Hollywood features, but to post-war classroom films that were cranked out in America's heartland in the '50s and '60s,



Baby boomers of all ages watched the preachy and melodramatic messages in scores of short films with titles like *Social Courtesy*, *Joan Avoids a Cold*, and *Are You Popular*. The purpose of these movies, sometimes referred to as "mental hygiene" films, was to adjust the social behavior of their classroom audiences. Most of these films were made in the Midwest—not in Hollywood—by a handful of small production companies. One such outfit was Centron, founded around 1947 in Lawrence, Kansas by two local aspiring filmmakers.

Brady Rubin—then known as Vera Stough—attended high school in Lawrence where her drama teacher was the wife of one of Centron's directors, Harold "Herk" Harvey. Brady's connection to the filmmakers was convenient, but ultimately unnecessary as thousands of Lawrence residents were actors and extras for the dozens of films produced by Centron. In her sophomore year Brady was cast in her first film, playing a small part. After that film was complete the filmmakers at Centron realized that Brady photographed better than expected and proceeded to cast her in starring roles. First was *The Outsider*. This 12-minute production portrayed group bonding by teens as an ideal to strive

for, especially for Brady's out-of-step character, Susan Jane. Spouting dialogue like "I just don't fit in!" she got to cry a lot. Brady remembers the real-life casting for *The Outsider*. "It's all true! (The popular girl character) really *was* the most popular girl in high school.

Next up was 1955's *The Gossip*, featuring Brady, now a drama major at the University of Kansas, in the unflattering title role and directed by "Herk" Harvey. One of the films in Centron's *Discussion Problems in Group Living* series, *The Gossip* was another title that featured malcontents as protagonists, unflattering



close-ups of upset teens, and characters bursting into tears. And once again Brady, like the other teen actors in Lawrence was making about \$35 for two or three days work per film. However, a bigger paycheck lay ahead.

In 1958 as a senior in college, Brady starred in her third film for Centron, *The Snob*. Appearing in [practically every scene, she was paid an amount unheard of for student actors in this type of film—the royal sum of \$100! Although *The Outsider*, *The Gossip*, *The Snob* and hundreds of other classroom shorts were shown for years—sometimes decades—no actor ever received a royalty for appearing in a "mental hygiene" film.

Though the vast majority of actors in these films disappeared into obscurity (one notable exception being a young man in 1947's *Shy Guy* who would later end up as "the first Darrin" on *Bewitched*) others, including George Furth and Brady Rubin moved on to other acting endeavors.

After graduating from the University of Kansas Brady was off to New York City, where between acting classes and varied

ECONOMIC PLUMBING, HEATING, AND AIR CONDITIONING INC.

SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 85 YEARS

24 Hour Emergency Service

• RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL

Drain and sewer cleaning ♦ Broken sewer/gas lines
Leak detection/video inspection ♦ Water Heaters, faucets & toilets

Copper/sewer repipe/backflow test ♦ Heating and air conditioning services & installation

Over 95% of our business is from satisfied repeat customers

Family owned & operated

(323) 664-2996

**You must mention this ad from the Franklin Hills Overview
when making appointment to receive \$10 discount**

Contractors License Number: 655627

temp jobs she found work in commercials, television, off-Broadway and Broadway. Four years later the actress, married but still known as Vera Stough, moved to Los Angeles and fell in love with the hilly section of Los Feliz which would several decades later be known as Franklin Hills. Brady recalls finding a Spanish tile roof from the 40 's perched up on Lyric Avenue in 1963 and knowing that *that* was the home for her . She told a friend who was house-hunting north of Los Feliz Boulevard at the time about the "fabulous" home she had just found south of the boulevard. The friend's reply: "well, the neighborhood *is* spotty." I thought that was so funny," says Brady now. "I don't know what that means, even to this day!" The friend who "saw spots" eventually found, bought and sold north of Los Feliz and moved to the Westside. Vera Stough on the other hand bought the house on Lyric, rented her home while spending a few years acting up in San Francisco, returned with her two children to the house on Lyric, remarried and took the name Brady Rubin, a combination of family name with that of her husband, Ira Brady Rubin.



the Ahmanson downtown in Franklin Hills' own Company of Angeles Theater on Hyperion at Lyric. Other non-acting endeavors in "the Industry" include writing for television (receiving a

An accomplished character actress today with appearances on *E.R.* and *The West Wing*, Brady's acting career is as eclectic as the neighborhood (and home) where she has resided for the past 25 years. Besides appearing in over two dozen motion pictures and over 50 television shows, Brady has worked on stage from

daytime Emmy nomination for *The Judge*) and teaching at USC's School of Film and Television.

A member of the FHRA since its inception and an occasional attendee at Neighborhood Watch meetings in her area, Brady has also been a helping hand with Franklin Hills' recent graffiti removal efforts. Several years ago when the FHRA's graffiti volunteers offered to "adopt" specific areas to keep free of tagging, Brady chose the stretch of St. George between Marshall High and the Shakespeare Bridge, often bringing a small ladder with her to reach the graffiti and stickers high up on stop signs along her route.

Back in the late 1950s we can only imagine students at Marshall High sitting in darkened classrooms watching the on-

screen images of anguished teens dealing with life's problems and responsibilities. It's doubtful that any of the students who became bored and turned their attention from *The Outsider*, *The Gossip*, or *The Snob* to stare out a classroom window would ever have imagined



that the young actress on screen would 40-some years later be right outside, a stone's throw from the campus, tidying up after a new generation of "troubled" teens -- teens in need of nothing more, perhaps, than a few lessons in "mental Hygiene."

Eric Frase is a FHRA Board member and our guru of graffiti. He leads the campaign to keep our walls and signs free of unwanted paint. If you see any graffiti in Franklin Hills, contact Eric via the FHRA phone.

FONDAS ELECTRIC

SERVING FRANKLIN HILLS AND LOS FELIZ SINCE 1952

Residential and Commercial • 24-hour Emergency Service

(323) 661-3825

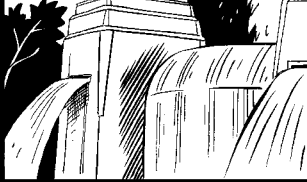
Contractors License Number: 504624

"MORE THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY NEIGHBORHOOD" © Zoo + CAROL LAY

THE ROWENA RESERVOIR LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF THE NILE IMPORTED FROM EGYPT.



WWW.WAYLAX.COM
THE DESIGN & DETAILS OF THE MILHOLLAND MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN SUGGEST A HYDROELECTRIC DAM.



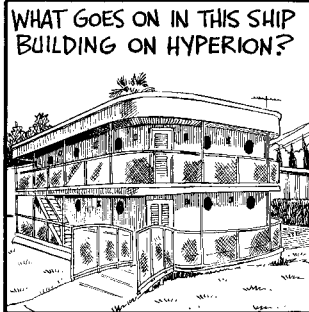
SEVERAL "B" MOVIE STARS HAVE BEEN IMMORTALIZED IN FRONT OF THE VISTA THEATRE, A LA THE BETTER KNOWN GRAUMAN'S CHINESE.

Sally Kirkland
John C. Reilly
← IS REALLY AN "A", THOUGH.
Elvira
Dennis Farbank
John Saxon



INSIDE, THE THEME IS ABSOLUTE EGYPTIAN.

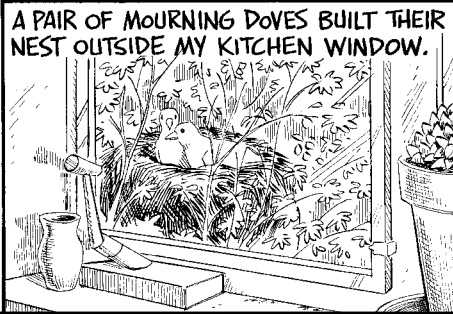
BONUS FEATURE: THE LEG-ROOM BETWEEN ROWS IS THE GREATEST IN HOLLYWOOD.



WHAT GOES ON IN THIS SHIP BUILDING ON HYPERION?



THE ABANDONED ZOO IN GRIFFITH PARK JUST MIGHT BE HAUNTED.



A PAIR OF MOURNING DOVES BUILT THEIR NEST OUTSIDE MY KITCHEN WINDOW.

UP, Up, in the Franklin Hills
By Bruce Carroll

Franklin Hills home prices have "jumped up a huge amount, a huge amount," exclaims veteran area Realtor Karen Weiss who went on to point out, "the great majority have sold over the asking price." Some of those asking prices are now well over the million dollar mark--recorded sales through April had nearly reached that level.

Through the roof real estate prices appear to have sparked a makeover frenzy for everything from roofs on down. Using the DPP scale, a recent survey along Franklin Avenue from St. George to Mayview found a 17% construction ratio. Meaning that 10 of the 58 properties were undergoing work significant enough to require a dumpster or porta-potty--thus the DPP scale.

With demand strong and supply low (on the last day of April there was only one active listing in the Franklin Hills) lots whose terrain has resisted building for millions of years are now economically viable. General contractor Roger Temple, looking down from the 3000 square foot house he's building on a downslope lot at 3808 Franklin, noted that just the seismic and geologic costs for this project were \$200,000 more than another large house he built on Hollyvista a few years ago.

For the Franklin Hills' newest



BOX BROTHERS.

Boxes • Packaging • Shipping

- A full line of moving & shipping boxes & supplies
- Custom crating & packaging specialists
- We package & ship computers, glassware, art and furniture
- Store hours: Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat:10-5; Sun: 11-4
- Locally owned and operated

Authorized UPS & FedEx center
Mention this ad and receive 10% off!

Glendale
133 1/2 S. Brand Blvd. • Glendale
(818) 247-4600

Los Feliz (Opposite Citibank)
1954 Hillhurst • Los Angeles CA 90027
(323) 662-9000



Video Journeys

Largest videotape and DVD selection in Los Feliz and Silver Lake

Hard to find titles

(323) 663-5857

2728 Griffith Park Boulevard



house to be completed early this summer not only did it require drilling down to bury tons of concrete, but also raising the power lines. DWP crews were called out to install a new pole down the hill between Franklin and Hollyvista so that workers won't be endangered when it comes time to stucco the exterior. (See photos left & above)

These days jumping and changing in the Franklin Hills not only refers to the price and architecture of homes, but also to a growing number of their occupants. According to Weiss those looking to move here are "mostly younger couples. A lot of babies have moved into the hill, a lot of babies happened." Perhaps we'll need to change the meaning of FHRA to the Fertility Hill Residents Association.

Photos by Bruce Carroll

Joseph Klice Piano Studio

Nationally Certified Teacher of Music

3984 Prospect Avenue

Los Angeles CA 90027

lessons in the piano studio or in your home

323 665 2386

cellular: 323 428 1621 / e-mail: JKlice@aol.com

Baller Hardware

2505 Hyperion Ave.

Los Angeles 90027

(323) 665-4149

**Family owned and operated
for four generations**

Baller Art Ware

(323) 668-7417

Custom picture framing

Fine art supplies

Student discounts



COMPLETE LINE OF

- TROPICAL & HOUSE PLANTS
- TREES & SHRUBS
- GARDEN SUPPLIES
- INSECTICIDES
- FERTILIZERS
- POTTERY & PLANTERS
- FOUNTAINS, WATER PONDS & SUPPLIES

OPEN 7 DAYS



CORNER OF
SUNSET &
FOUNTAIN

CALL

323 661-1642

DELIVERY
AVAILABLE

4368 W. SUNSET BL. LOS ANGELES

Japanese Cultural Experience Entices Two Local Teachers

by Mary Rodriguez

Selected from a national pool of more than 2,500 applicants, Franklin Ave. Elementary's 6th grade teacher Danguole Varnas, and Thomas Starr King Middle School's 8th grade science teacher Daniel Solkowitz, were among 200 distinguished primary and secondary school teachers visiting Japan last November on the Fulbright Memorial Fund (FMF) Teacher Program.



The three-week visit was a dream come true for Danguole Varnas, a teacher at Franklin Ave. for 13 years. "Dee", as she is called by her friends has wanted to visit Japan for as long as she can remember. She has been a teacher with LAUSD for 34 years and has regularly incorporated Japanese culture into her teaching style to help her students learn valuable lessons about life across the Pacific Ocean. She is one of those teachers that goes the extra mile and knows how to integrate art into the curriculum every step of the way and does it with an incredible flair.

Every February, Franklin Ave. Elementary students from kindergarten through 6th grade perform in the 'International Sing', with an array of multi-cultural songs and dance. This year under the direction of Mrs. Varnas the 5th & 6th grades teamed together in a visual display, which had everyone applauding for the beautiful Geisha girls in their silky kimo-

nos, the boys dressed as Zenidaiko Stick Dancers, the Karate & Judo experts, and the funny Sumo wrestlers in their blow-up costumes. The performances were amazing, clever, and without a doubt inspired by her recent trip.

The November-December 2003 trip was part of a continuing endeavor begun by the Japanese government in 1996. It was launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government's Fulbright Program, conceived by Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright and established in 1946. The purpose of the FMF Teacher Program, which has provided more than 4,000 teachers an opportunity to visit Japan, is to build a bridge between the US and Japanese school systems.

Mrs. Varnas was one of the lucky ones chosen to visit Hiroshima, which she describes as a powerful message of peace, hope, strength, and forgiveness. While visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum she read many moving messages by famous dignitaries from around the world. Her group of 20 U.S. teachers created their own messages of hope for a better future and they were overwhelmed by the Japanese sense of forgiveness and friendship for the Americans.

Daniel Solkowitz has taught 8th grade science at Thomas Starr King Middle School for 2 years. As a former member of the Peace Corp. he learned to love and appreciate other cultures. He found it fascinating to see the way the Japanese teach math and science compared to the U.S. The Japanese take a very traditional approach in the classroom and can spend an entire day solving just one problem, which he observed tested the concentration of all the students and did not necessarily accomplish the goal of the teacher.

Japanese teachers also spend a lot of time lecturing while



GEORGE & EILEEN MORENO
Realtors

Experts In Your Neighborhood

323-668-7600

georgeandeileen.com

Dear Franklin Hills Homeowner, Homes in your neighborhood are in high demand and our listings are selling for Top Market Value. Please call us if you are considering selling and let us put over 28 years of experience in selling homes in the Franklin Hills to work for you!

George & Eileen Moreno



Just Listed In The Franklin Hills!



Mid-Century Architectural + Guest Apt + Jet Liner Views • List Price \$1,175,000

Fabulous home with top of the world views & wonderful architectural details. Spacious 2 story main residence with 3 bdrms & 3.5 baths, Cook's kitchen, Family Room, fireplace & wood floors. Charming & spacious guest apartment with gorgeous kitchen, fireplace & large view deck. Lovely garden w/fountain & fruit trees.

Sold By Us Near You!

1915 Myra Avenue



"Thank you George & Eileen for your hard work & great results selling my home. I've known & referred you over the years to several friends & you've always done a great job!"

Harry Rawleigh

4227 Holly Knoll Dr



"My neighbor recommended that I call you since you are the experts in our neighborhood and I am very glad that I did."

Virginia Stabler

2536 Lyric Avenue



"Thank you for all of your help with the sale of our home on Lyric & with the purchase of our wonderful new home. We couldn't be happier"

David Zeiger & Maryann Nielsen

the students listen but do not take notes whereas, U.S. teachers expend a lot of energy engaging their students in a variety of ways to excite them about their lessons. Daniel prefers a hands-on approach to teaching. One of the ideas that he would like to integrate into his class studies this year is to make "Yakko" style Japanese kites. His students would learn about overcoming the downward force of gravity.

Another idea he would like to try is a joint-venture study with a Japanese science class conducting a biological survey of nearby parks of similar environments. For his King students he would choose Fendell Park to study it's life diversity and the health of the stream. They would then compare their findings, their differences and similarities with the Japanese class.

Another idea inspired by Daniel's visit to Okazaki, Japan was to study the process of fermentation. Okazaki an industrial city is famous for their 400-year old tradition of hand making miso soup. It is also known as the birthplace of "Shogun".

Probably the most stunning fact that both Daniel and Dee learned was that everyone wears slippers while at school. All the shoes are left in cubbies at the front door and after lunch the students are required to spend 20 minutes cleaning the classrooms, hallways, bathrooms etc. and that includes scrubbing and polishing the floors. Unlike their western counterparts that "hire" people to clean the schools the eastern philosophy believes that "any work" equals dignity and enlightenment. Now that's something to think about.

Mrs. Varnas invited the entire community to come to Franklin Ave. Elementary School for a "Visit to Japan" on May 19th in the school auditorium. She wanted to share the gift, which she received from the Japanese people and the Fulbright Memorial Fund.

Mary Rodriguez is a resident of Los Feliz and a good friend to Franklin Hills. If volunteer work is needed in our schools Mary will be there. If there's a meeting or a hearing about serious community issues, count on meeting Mary .



ketti kupper's
art and design inc.

Unique & Creative Landscape Design
as featured on HGTV

- Ponds & Water Features
- Stone Scapes & Hardscapes
- Outdoor Kitchens & Rooms
- Custom Art & Sculptures

323•210•1551
▶ www.kettikupper.com

meet yourself there...



Artisan Tree Company

2449 Hyperion Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90027
Professional Arbor Care

Diagnosis	Pruning
Treatment	Removals
Deep Root Fertilization	

MARK BRUNA
IS a Certified Arborist WC - 5298
Office (323)669-7940 Pager (323) 280-1222

LOS FELIZ LOCK & KEY SERVICE

**24 Hour emergency service • Auto lock specialists • Locks installed
Combinations changed • Master Keying • Residential • Commercial**

1856 N. Vermont Avenue, South of Franklin Avenue

(323) 663-8351

Los Feliz Branch Library

MUSIC, HULA & THE NEXT BOOK YOU READ

Exciting things are coming and continuing at the library. A new program is called "The Next Book You Read". These suggestions, from the librarian staff, are grouped by subjects and copies are available in the library near the reference desk.

The idea is a book group without a meeting.

Special programs will be the Los Feliz Woodwind Ensemble concert on Saturday June 19 at 1:00 p.m., an author panel on Tuesday July 13th at 6:30 and a Hula program on June 23 to kick off the Children's & Teens Summer Reading Programs.

You are also invited to any of the regular monthly Adult pro-

grams. 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 the June 8, 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. The Computer Classes & Clinics for Seniors continue on Tuesdays. The library phone is (323) 913-4710.

You are also invited to enjoy the new garden area in the parking lot patio. This additional reading area was donated by the Los Feliz Library League and is used for storytelling, chess and reading.†

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

We will also be at the Skylight Bookstore booths at the Los Feliz Village Street Fair. Come say hello, register the rest of your family for library cards and enjoy the village.

Pearl Yonezawa, Senior Librarian

AAA SECURITY IRON

SECURING LOS ANGELES FOR OVER 25 YEARS

Manufacturer of Quality Iron Security Products

Folding Gates . Window Guards . Security Door & Gates

Fences . Electric Driveway Gates . Fire Escapes

Telephone Entry Systems . Handrails.

LICENSED . BONDED . INSURED

(323) 665-5215

il Capriccio on Vermont

Authentic Italian Cuisine

We make our own Pastas and Bread Fresh Daily
Homemade Pastas (Black, Green & White) • Take Out /Delivery
Fresh Fish & Shellfish • Steaks & Chops • Vegetarian Specialties

Enjoy One Free Dessert (per table) with this Ad!

Open for Dinner Before the Show! Sun-Thur 5-10PM; Fri-Sat 5-11PM
1757 N. Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles CA 90027 • 323.662.5900

Laguna *continued from page 9*

on the west side of Myra Ave. just north of the Sunset overpass. Because the plans were originally drawn for a larger site on Laguna Ave. in Echo Park, they had to ask for a total of seven zoning variances in order to squeeze the building onto the proposed site. They claimed a funding deadline would have been missed if a proper public hearing had been scheduled.

Without the usual pre-approval public hearing all the variances were granted neither the GGPNC nor Silver Lake Neighborhood Councils were properly notified. After learning of the problem just in time, GGPNC board member Mary Rodriguez filed the appeal. The FHRA sent a strong letter of support noting the proposed building would be out of scale with the zoning plan and other structures around Myra Ave. between Fountain and Sunset. While all supported plans to bring low cost housing for seniors and HIV/AIDS patients to our area, we noted the plans shortchange both the neighborhood and the clients to be served.

As approved there will be 64 one and two bedroom apartments crammed into the space where zoning rules say that 41 should be the limit. Just 32 parking spaces will serve the 75-100 tenants, (plus workers and visitors to the building) about half what the law requires. The building is between 12 ft. and 27 ft. higher than the area's maximum height limit of 45 feet. Instead of the required front, side and rear setbacks of between 8 ft. and 17 ft.

from adjoining properties, building to the edge of the property line appears to have been approved.

Inside the project, things are also outside the bounds of normal zoning rules with a total floor area of 46,000 square feet where less than 30,000sq feet would normally be permitted. Even with all that space the developers have allotted only 4,400 sq. feet for common space less than two-thirds of what the law says is the minimum. They even plan to cut out half the trees that normally would be required.



		
 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Integrity Automotive Services, Inc.</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Auto Repair and Transmission Specialist</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">4206 Fountain Ave. Los Angeles, California 90029 (Cross Street: Myra, East of Sunset Blvd.) (323) 663-8900</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>With Over 20 Years Of Experience</i></p>		
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">FREE <i>Safety and Maintenance Inspection</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">(By appointment or with service.)</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">FREE <i>2-Way Shuttle Service</i></p>	
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">10% OFF</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Most services & repairs To FHRA Members</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;">Not valid with other offers.</p>	 	
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">We Are Honored To Serve The Franklin Hills Community</p>		
	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">We Service Foreign and Domestic Vehicles</p>	

Northeast Division, L.A.P.D.

Northeast Division, L.A.P.D.

While the Franklin Hills area remains one of our safer communities, a variety of crimes are reported. The number of incidents can vary from one to six per week. The most frequently reported crime is Vehicle Burglary with Grand Theft Auto coming in second. Rarely do these crimes develop into a significant pattern. They tend to be scattered throughout the hills making apprehension more difficult but not impossible. Community members have played a key role in keeping our crime statistics low. A good example would be the Burglar who is now serving five years in prison after breaking into a residence. An alert neighbor who noticed the suspicious behavior wrote down the license plate number of his vehicle.

Keep an eye out for activity that appears unusual. Write down license plate numbers and descriptions. Start a Neighborhood Watch or join an existing one. Reduce the chances of having your vehicle broken into by hiding or removing loose items. Utilize an anti-theft device or alarm to keep your vehicle from being stolen.

Lets continue to work together as we move into the summer months.



Al Polehonki

*Sincerely,
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki*

The article below appeared on the department's web site. We have numerous sites around the city that could be potential targets for terrorists. There is no need to become paranoid. Just be informed and aware. Visit WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG for additional statistics and information.

"Threat Advisory"

Recently, Federal officials received an unsubstantiated potential threat, which indicated an attack would take place at a shopping mall in the general vicinity of the Federal Building in the West Los Angeles area. No specific mall was named. The information indicated the attack would occur on April 29, 2004. Now we know that the threat was a hoax but that was *not* known at the time.

We directed additional patrols and asked retail-shopping complexes (malls) to exhibit an enhanced level of security during this time frame. This matter has been investigated aggressively by the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The following suspicious activity may indicate pre-operational targeting by terrorists. Detection efforts should focus on reporting incidents similar to the following:

- *Multiple sightings of the same suspicious person, vehicle or activity at the same location.
- *Individuals or activities that don't "fit" into the surrounding environment.
- *Individuals sitting in a parked vehicle for an extended period of time.
- *Person (s) sketching/taking notes, photographing or videotaping areas or buildings not normally associated with tourist activity.

*Clothing out of place for the weather, i.e. wearing a heavy coat in hot weather.

*Person(s) carrying unusually heavy bags or backpacks.

*Individual(s) setting down backpacks, bags or suitcases and then walking away.

*Vehicles, especially vans, U-Hauls, or delivery trucks, improperly parked or parked in locations not normally associated with deliveries.

*Follow your instincts – if "something" doesn't look right, it might not be.

If you observe suspicious activity of this type, for your safety, take no direct action but immediately call 1-877-A-THREAT (1-877-284-7328) or in case of an emergency, dial 911.

SECURITY SERVICE STAR
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

ALARM MONITORING ARMED RESPONSE.

CA LIC# ACO 5362

- **Burglar Alarms**
- **Fire Alarms**
- **Telephone Systems**
- **Surround Sound Wiring**
- **Surveillance Cameras**
- **Offsite Camera Viewing**
- **Alarm Screens**

3202 Los Feliz Bl. LA CA 90039
213 435-2500 323 660-3926

SERVING THE FRANKLIN HILLS

HI-TECH AUTOMOTIVE

SPECIALIZING IN FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILES

4000 FOUNTAIN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029
PHONE: 323-661-2788 - FAX: 323-661-0058

HOT ISSUE---what do you think?

Do you ever come home to the Franklin Hills using Hollywood Blvd. then jogging east onto Prospect Ave.?

Do you ever venture out of the Hills heading west on Prospect and merging into Hollywood Blvd.?

Well, the prospects for your being able to do that are dimming as plans are moving forward to close off the block of Prospect Ave. that extends west from Vermont past the Bank of America.

Closing that section of Prospect, or limiting it to just westbound traffic is part of a grand scheme to remake Hollywood Blvd. and spruce up the forlorn traffic island known as the Vermont Triangle where Vermont, Hollywood and Prospect collide. The goal is to improve the intersection for transferring bus passengers while making the area more visually attractive.

In the next few months the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) which is pushing the project will be sharing proposals with community groups including the FHRA. While we'd all like to see the corner become a soothing sight for sore eyes, I'm sure few of us would appreciate longer waits in more confused and congested traffic to enjoy its beauty, or being forced to waste more gas to drive around extra blocks just to go in a straight line.

We encourage you to weigh in on this subject. Just drop a note, a call or email to the FHRA at the addresses and number oft repeated

in the Overview. We want to know how you feel about the possible street closure--will it force more traffic onto other through roads, such at Franklin? Will having to turn left off of Hollywood Blvd. onto Vermont and then quickly get in the right lane to go east on Prospect be a boon to the auto body shop industry? Or will a magic genius plan solve all our traffic problems? Let's have your vote.



GET TO KNOW THE
AGENT BEFORE YOU LIST
YOUR HOME

HENNI BOUWMEESTER



323-671-2346

AboutLAhotproperties.com

DBL Realtors

**STERLING
VANLINES**

**YOUR FRANKLIN HILLS
NEIGHBORHOOD
MOVERS**

<http://www.sterlingvanlines.com>
<http://www.moving-cal.com>

- MOVING?
CALL 800 264-6313**
- LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE IN CALIFORNIA
 - STORAGE
 - MOVES ACROSS THE U.S.
 - INTERNATIONAL MOVES
 - PACKING & CRATING
 - ODDBALL ITEMS



***FRANKLIN HILLS DISCOUNT—
MENTION THIS AD FOR 5% OFF ANY
MOVE PLUS FREE USE OF WARDROBE
BOXES ON LOCAL MOVES**
Cal PUC T-189566 ICC MC 290939

Filming *continued from page 10*

tion to the FHRA because their project involved closing the Shakespeare Bridge to traffic for most of the day. A few weeks earlier we received \$250 from the producers of a Bank of America commercial. We were able to send advance e-mail alerts to the nearly 300 area residents on our list. We got several replies of thanks and a couple of comments from folks who complained that most of the time the officers there to facilitate traffic movement are too passive and rarely bother to move their butts from a seated position. These concerns were passed on so there would be a heightened awareness of the community's expectations. The EIDC is also working to improve security responsiveness to such concerns.

Historically and today many in the entertainment industry have called the Franklin Hills home, so being able to comfortably accommodate production is a win-win, neighbor helping neighbor situation.



**FHRA's New Number
a win-win equation
(323)908-6078 =
time + money
savings**

There's a new number to call when you want to leave a voice mail message for the FHRA. Calling **323-908-6078** will get your messages to us much faster because as soon as you hang up your voice is sent as an e-mail attachment to an FHRA board member so your actual voice message can be quickly shared with others. Under the old system, we never knew if a message was waiting so board members often skipped the frustrating exercise of going through the message retrieval menu just to find no one called.

But the best part of the new system is the 70% savings. By canceling the regular phone line, installed in a board member's house, plus PacBell's charge for voicemail, FHRA will have an extra \$170 yearly to spend in better ways.



You'll find we're as unique as our customers!

Enlighten Yourself.

If you like being surrounded by interesting new **books**
if you like being who you are ...
We're your kind of **bookstore!**

Now you can **SHOP ONLINE 24 HOURS A DAY!**
www.skylightbooks.com

Search from millions of titles. Have your books sent to your home or pick them up at the store. We're in the neighborhood!

SKYLIGHT
Books

1818 N. Vermont Ave. (between Hollywood Blvd. & Franklin,
across from the post office)
Phone: (323) 660-1175
Fax: (323) 660-0232
skylightbook@earthlink.net
10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



OGLE OLD OVERVIEWS ONLINE

One of the latest additions to our www.FranklinHills.org website is a complete collection of the Franklin Hills Overview from the four page initial edition, unpretentiously titled "Newsletter," to last fall's issue #26. This edition will be added soon.

Something else we'd love to add, with your help, would be a simple index so the many Franklin Hills "newbies" and us old timers with "senior moments" will be able to more easily find all the neat stuff revealed on these pages over the last fourteen years.

Read about the history of then ABC, now Prospect, Studios in issues #3 and #4. Issue #13 headlines "We Finally Did It" about our completion of the Franklin Ave. Median landscaping project. The long process of pre-planting planning can be found in several previous issues. Find

yourself among the throng at our great Shakespeare Bridge rededication party featured in issue #15 or read about our battles against crime and blight in issue #23.

On the Franklin Hills homepage click on Overview "all issues" for the list and publication dates. These are large files so it helps if you have a broadband internet connection.

Anyone one out there who'd like to help in the indexing effort please give us a call on our new message line at 323-908-6078, e-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org, or write us at PO Box 29593, LA, CA 90029. Take a helpful journey down memory lane by indexing just one issue you may be back for more.

Thanks,
Bruce Carroll, FHRA Webmaster

1846 De Loz

The Last 19 Houses Featured Here Sold



Karen Weiss

Your Franklin Hills Real Estate Experts for over 24 years



(323) 210-1421



Specializing in the Franklin Hills

We need your membership, but if you can't bear the thought of tearing the coupon below out of this issue of Overview you can go to our website: WWW.FranklinHills.org and click on "Join FHRA" and you'll get an FHRA membership form that you can print and mail

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 29122, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029

DATE _____

NEW RENEWAL

NAME _____ TEL (H) _____

ADDRESS _____ TEL(W) _____

E-MAIL _____ FAX _____

I'm willing to help in: Planning /Zoning Graffiti Crime/Gangs Traffic Library- Tutoring Newsletter Historic Preservation Environmental Youth Activities Public Relations Prospect Studios legal Telephone tree Membership Beautification DisasterPrep. other _____

DUES are \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$15 \$30 \$50 Other \$ _____

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

IF YOU MISSED OUR WINTER MEETING — HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED:



Left: the charming young possum and her charming guardian were a real "Awww" moment. (She is a rescue possum.) **Below:** Fire Captains Mc Masters and Vowels share information with crowd

Above: Officer Randall & wildlife experts discuss life in the hills with critters
Right: Senior Lead Officers Sam Salazar & Al Polhonki answer questions from the audience



See Story on Page 4



GIBBONS & INATOMI

Your Professional Full Service
Real Estate Sales Team

(323) 671-1202 (323) 671-1249

francisgibbons@prula.com thomasinatomi@prula.com

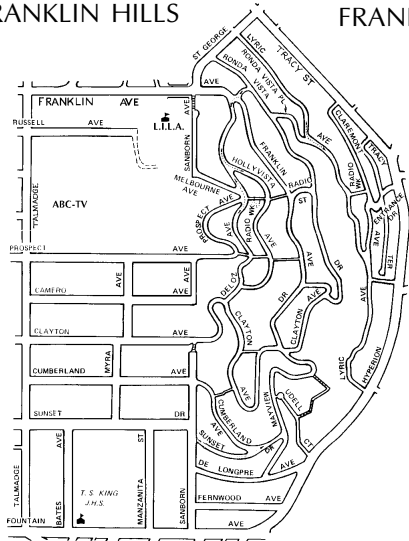
An Independently owned and operated member of the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates Inc.

Prudential California Realty does not guarantee the accuracy of agents, listings, lot size, or other information concerning the condition or features of property provided by the seller or obtained from public records or other sources and the buyer is advised to independently verify the accuracy of that information through personal inspection and with appropriate professionals. This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another broker.



OVERVIEW
FRANKLIN HILLS

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90029



Lithography by PRINCE OF PRINTING - (323)663-8251