



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 28

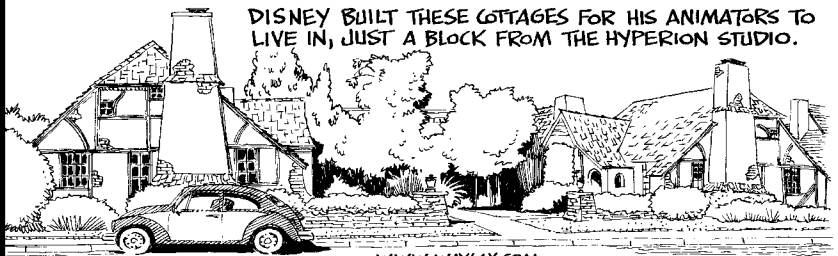
FALL/WINTER 2004

There's no place like home...

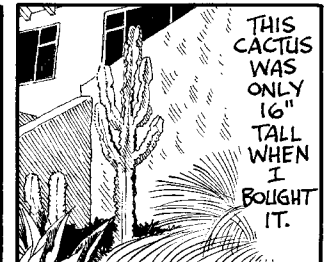
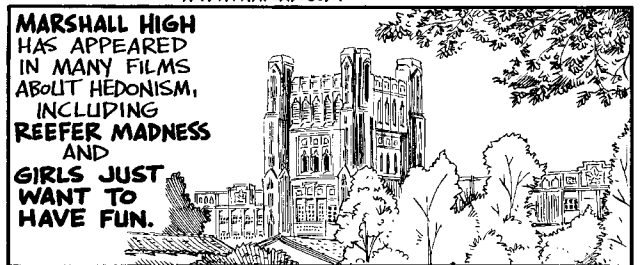
... for the
Holidays-

If you live in
Franklin Hills

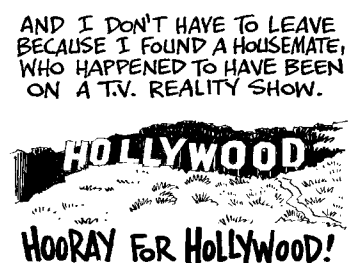
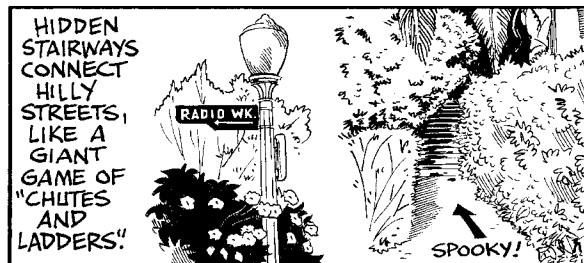
"THINGS
I'D MISS
IF I HAD
TO
LEAVE
MY
'HOOD"
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CAROL LAY



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Carol Lay moved to our neighborhood 4 years ago and lives on Aloha street across from Marshall High. She's been a cartoonist for 20 years and is featured in a number of publications around the world including the LA Weekly and online at Salon.com. You can read a collection of her strips (available for sale) at: <http://www.waylay.com/Store/OrigPages/527.html> This is the third cartoon she has donated to the Overview. We'd like to know if you think we should commission one or two more.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Charley Mims

From the entire Board of the Franklin Hills Residents Association: we hope you have a peaceful and happy holiday season and a wonderful 2005!

This year your association has continued our efforts to beautify our neighborhood and to help calm traffic on our local streets including Franklin Avenue. We plan on putting up the holiday lights on the turrets of the Shakespeare Bridge again this year. The median island on Franklin Avenue continues to look great. Our median committee, with help from our monthly paid gardener, continues to maintain this median island and keep the plants trimmed.



Community activist and former GGPNC Board member Mary Rodriguez presents FHRA president Charley Mims with a certificate of appreciation to honor the FHRA contribution to promoting art on the King Middle School campus.

If you have any suggestions for neighborhood improvements, please call our FHRA Hotline or email us: (323) 908-6078 FHRA@FranklinHills.org

In October of this year two of our local FHRA volunteers were elected to the Board of Directors of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, GGPNC. Bruce Carroll and Charley Mims were both elected to two year terms by the stakeholders as representatives from "District E" which roughly comprises the greater Franklin Hills area. If you want to become involved in community council affairs, please contact either Charley or Bruce.

The GGPNC is the official grassroots organization set up in our new City Charter to keep communication flowing between our local communities and the elected officials and departments of the City of Los Angeles. Please support your local neighborhood council the GGPNC.

Once again, best wishes for a joyous and healthy holiday season and a very happy new year!

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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CRIME WATCH:

Carol Skinner 662-1775

GRAFFITI REMOVAL:

Eric Frase

WEBMASTER / E-MAIL:

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

PLANNING & ZONING:

Charley Mims 666-2520

Editor, layout, Typesetting:
Carol Skinner

All Photos
are by Bruce Carroll
unless otherwise identified

Contributing Writers:

Peter Bedard Bruce Carroll,
Eric Frase
George Grace, Charley Mims,
Shirley Mims,
Al Polehonki, Anne Richardson,
Carol Skinner,
Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds
Elliot Zeelander

Ad Sales & Distribution:
Chris Boutelle, 666-5548

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Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122,

Los Angeles, CA 90029

or e-mail to FHRA@FranklinHills.org

COMMUNITY PHONES

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POLICE: EMERGENCY ONLY: 911
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Spanish: (213) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100
Northeast Division,
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 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) 913-4683
 Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki: (213) 793-0763
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 Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) ((213)) 485-2799

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WE TIP (Anonymous crime tips) (800) 873-7283

Traffic, Crime and Critters Tackled at FHRA June Annual Meeting

By Bruce Carroll

The FHRA welcomed members old and new to its June 9, 2004, annual meeting at King Middle School. The hot topic of the evening was traffic. Board member Bruce Carroll spoke about a Community Redevelopment Agency proposal that might close off Prospect Avenue at Vermont. An FHRA poll of members found sentiment running 3-1 against eliminating the section of Prospect west of Vermont that merges with Hollywood Boulevard.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge, who is also a member of the MTA Board of Directors, expressed his belief that it would be difficult to close off that street. He suggested that the MTA rely more on the subway line that runs under Vermont from Wilshire to Sunset, which could reduce area bus traffic and congestion at the intersection.

Jeannie Shen, from the city's Department of Transportation, fielded many residents' questions about what could be done to control speeds and reduce accidents on our streets, especially Franklin Ave. and St. George Street. She pointed out the intersection gets over 10,000 vehicles per day much of it "cut-through" traffic seeking to avoid congestion on the few other east-west routes through the area.



Traffic expert Jeannie Shen responds to residents concerns about traffic safety

She explained that because Franklin Ave. is classified as a secondary highway such so-called "traffic calming" measures such as speed humps would not be permitted. Several in the audience spoke from personal experience about bad accidents and near accidents from speeding and motorists' failure to stop at the all-way stop signs at the intersection. In May 2004 a speeding motorist crossed over the median and totaled several parked cars and the Median sign. As a result of FHRA concerns new lines have been painted on the roadway adjacent to the median in hopes of keeping drivers on the straight and narrow.

Back by popular demand was LA Department of Animal Services wildlife specialist Officer Gregory Randall who praised the FHRA for helping him save the lives of over 300 animals, including four peregrine falcons on the endangered species list. It was at our February Critters meeting that Randall was introduced to representatives of a Camarillo based wildlife rescue organization that has taken care of the animals.

Randall discussed reports of a mountain lion in Griffith Park and warned hikers not to go out alone, to carry a cell

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THE NORMAN HARRITON COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Marcus Christian

On Sunday, October 31st, a garden dedication ceremony was held at the Franklin Hills community garden to commemorate and honor its founder, Norman Harriton, who very sadly passed away earlier this year. Norm was a well respected and much loved member of the Franklin Hills community, and over 30 guests and gardeners gathered in the garden on a beautiful October afternoon.



Monique Harriton with the new sign

The Norman Harriton Community Garden was reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the elegant new garden sign, on view at 2037 North Sanborn Avenue. Norman's wife, Monique, along with their two children and their families were guests of honor at the champagne ceremony, and were joined by



the community gardeners, members of the FHRA, and friends of the family.

A toast was proposed by Marcus Christian, the community garden coordinator, to celebrate Norm's passion for organic gardening and to thank him for his dedication in setting up the now-thriving community garden. Many others had heartfelt words to offer before the entire gathering enjoyed champagne and patisseries, in true French style. An Alberta

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Old and New Neighbors on the Neighborhood Council

By Bruce Carroll

The Franklin Hills retained its familiar voices on the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council after this fall's elections. FHRA President Charley Mims and Treasurer Bruce Carroll both won as representatives from the GGPNC's District "E."



Newly elected representatives Molly Rysman, Shana Murphy, Ron Weinstein and Joe Cisneros listen intently at the first GGPNC Board of Directors meeting after their election.

But four new faces are also among the 10 district representatives elected at two Town Hall style meetings on September 30, and October 2, 2004. Real Estate attorney and preservation activist Ron Weinstein won a seat from District "A" (north of Los Feliz Blvd.). Both victors in District "C" (between Vermont and Commonwealth) are council newcomers. Shana Murphy is an urban planner who works for the City of LA and Joe Cisneros works to involve students in the political process. The other first time council member is Molly Rysman from District "D" (northeast of Franklin Hills). She works for the non-profit Liberty Hill Foundation analyzing civic engagement projects.

The other nine council members are appointed to make sure all community segments are represented. More than half of those selected in November will be first time GGPNC Board

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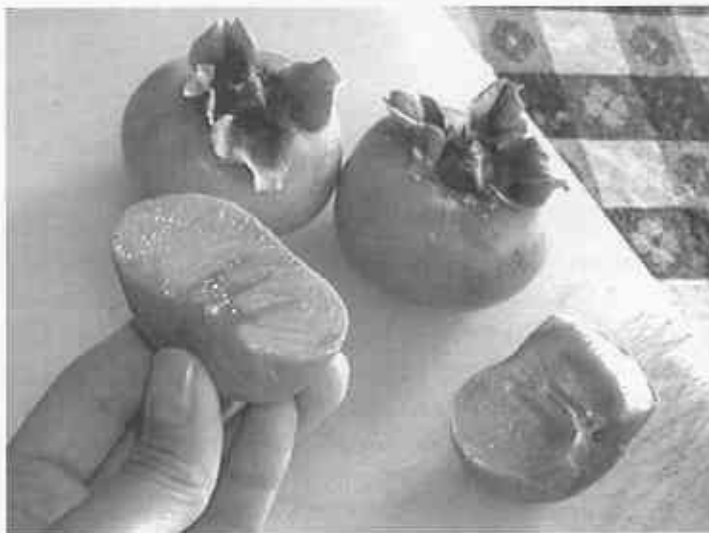
Praise for Persimmons

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

For the first 38 years of my life I did not know of The Persimmon. Five years ago, when we bought a 1925 house in the Franklin Hills, we discovered many surprises, the best of which was the leafy shade tree on the slope. The orbs on its branches hinted of something to come in the autumn. The weather cooled down and the shiny orbs turned to yellow then to orange. I harvested, I tasted, and then I converted. I am now a persimmon proselytizer.

In my recipe file, along with requisite sections for entrees, salads, desserts, and appetizers, I have an entire compartment devoted to persimmons. Articles from my personal persimmon archives tell us that the earliest recorded persimmon cultivation in California was in the 1870s, when grafted trees were imported from Japan. Persimmon history however goes back much farther to ancient Asia and pioneer vitamins A and C. Dried persimmons are an important part of Japanese New Year's celebrations.

Our persimmon tree is the Fuyu variety. There are many types of persimmons, the most common in this area being Fuyus and Hachiyas. While I love the heart shape and delectable pulp of a ripe Hachiya, I am partial to Fuyus because one need not wait until they turn to mush to eat them. They are uniquely delicious in their crunchy state. At this time of year, these less-ripe persimmons find their way into our sack lunches, onto our salads and into pie. I slice them horizontally to marvel at the delicate sand dollar-like star pattern in the middle. When they ripen to a mushy softness they are the main ingredient in a favorite quick bread and a subtle topping over vanilla ice cream or yogurt.



Then there is the aesthetic value of persimmons. Because they ripen slowly, these autumnal jewels fill glass vessels for weeks, and have become as much a part of our seasonal decor as the carved pumpkin and the bountiful cornucopia. The tree itself is an impressionistic masterpiece, each leaf a watercolor painting. I add them to centerpieces and fruit bowls and use them as nametags at Thanksgiving.

After territorial face-offs with squirrels and birds, I've learned that I'm not the only one who believes that from root to fruit, the persimmon is the perfect tree.

SIMPLE PERSIMMON RECIPES

Persimmon Bread

- 2 ripe persimmons, squished up
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg, well-beaten
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)

Blend all ingredients

Grease and flour a loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately one hour.

Fuyu Persimmon Pie

- 4 to 5 cups Fuyu persimmons, cut in wedges (peeled or unpeeled)
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 unbaked (9-inch) pie shell
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup melted butter.

Toss persimmons with cinnamon, nutmeg, and allspice in bowl. Place in pie shell.

Combine eggs, flour, sugar, and butter in a small mixing bowl and pour over persimmons.

Bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 300 degrees and bake until the center is bubbly and cooked all the way through about 45 minutes more.

UPDATE ON THE HOOVER WALK MURAL PROJECT

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

On June 22, City Councilmember Tom LaBonge unveiled a new neighborhood sign on Prospect Avenue. This ceremonial marker labels the top of the Hoover Walk, a public staircase which takes pedestrians down to North Hoover Street. Since its construction in 1923, many feet have walked up and down this stairwell. Still today it is used by dozens of students and residents on their way to Thomas Starr King Middle School, John Marshall High School and other area schools, as well as to shops, bus stops and jobs.

It is a well-traversed shortcut, and soon a beautiful one, too. The Hoover Walk Mural Project, which has been written about in previous issues of the Overview, is still alive, and community members, with help from Council District 4 and other City departments, are moving forward with plans to clean up and plant the slopes, and add a mural on the three retaining walls around the steps.

The original plan for artist Ricardo Mendoza, was to paint the mural directly on the walls. The plan now is to use a different technique, wherein Ricardo will produce the images on fabric in his studio, then adhere them

to the three walls at the stairwell site. This technique has many advantages from production, conservation and longevity standpoints.

The first panel will be installed in coming weeks. In the meantime, clean-up crews will clear the massive, long-neglected brush at the site, and ongoing trash, bulky item and graffiti clean-up by residents and city agencies is expected. Recently, with the help of CD4, the "END" sign on the sidewalk was lowered so that it will not obscure the soon-to-be installed artwork.

The mural project has received a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant given by the City of L.A.'s Board of Public Works, Operation Clean Sweep, along with support from the Franklin Hills Residents Association, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, and Council District 4.

For information on the mural and timelines for volunteer work days and mural and landscape installation, please e-mail me at crandmf@aol.com.

The Myra Avenue Mural Project

The mural was first conceived by Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Al Polehonki and neighborhood activist Mary Rodriguez in 2001. Mary and Al and several other neighbors and neighborhood organizations were actively working towards closing the old Sunset Pacific Motel (Bates Motel). This was achieved along with the closing of the stairs in the Myra Avenue Underpass because of constant vagrancy, illegal dumping and the drug problems that occurred at these stairs.

In 2003 Ricardo Gomez and I worked again with SLO Al Polehonki to remove the semi-trucks that were continually parking at the underpass. Ricardo found three laws already on the books that make it illegal for large vehicles to park in residential neighborhoods and under bridges. This also made a huge difference in improving the underpass as the trucks no longer provided coverage for illegal dumping and graffiti. Also in 2001, I worked with the Hollywood Beautification Team to plant the gorgeous Hong Kong Orchid trees on Myra Avenue between Santa Monica Boulevard and Fountain Avenue.

The Myra Avenue Mural Project is the continuation of all these projects. Now that the area is safer and cleaner and the lighting at the underpass has been improved we are ready to paint some great murals further beautifying the area. Our first muralist is Louie Metz. Louie is a local professional muralist for the film industry. His mural uses a background from FHRA historian Bruce Carroll of the neighborhood and has images of present day people and activities on top of it.

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Highlighted in the mural are the Thomas Starr King Middle School, the Shakespeare Bridge, Bellevue Avenue and the words Silver Lake and Franklin Hills. The mural is an exciting depiction of life in the Franklin Hills and Silver Lake and it acts as a gateway of welcome into both neighborhoods.

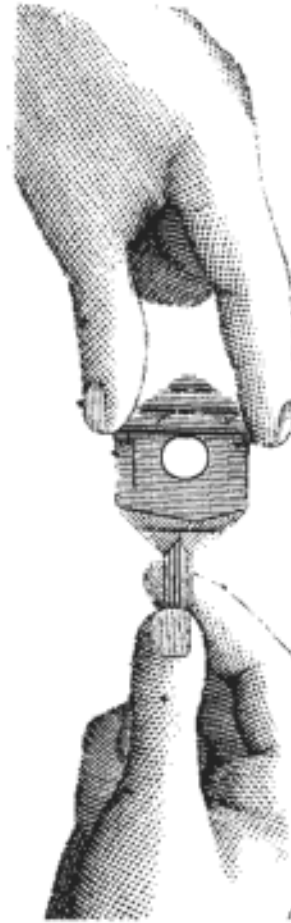
This past October, the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department Public Art Committee approved of the mural. They praised Louie for his exceptional work and applauded the neighborhood for continuing to make important improvements to the area. The mural has received monetary support from the Franklin Hills Resident's Association, Dana Hollister, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, Peter Bedard, CD13, the Kor Group, Michael Locke, Rob Poston, Gilbert Spears, Mary Rodriguez and Mary Francis Smith Reynolds. Once the final funds are transferred from the Department of Neighborhood Improvement to Louie Metz from the GGPNC the mural will be painted. Keep an eye out for Louie and other neighbors cleaning up the underpass and preparing it for painting over the next few months.

Currently, we are preparing for our next mural for the Myra Avenue Mural Project. If you are interested in donating to the project (all donations are tax deductible through the FHRA) please contact the FHRA hotline and let us know.

by Peter Bedard



The Ricardo Mendoza mural at the corner of Prospect and Talmadge looked like an impossible to reassemble jigsaw puzzle last July when the building it adorned was demolished. But like the Phoenix it can rise from the rubble. The image was photographically preserved and through a special process can be re-applied to a new wall and even sized to fit a second, hopefully more permanent, home.



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the key to my
front door..”**

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resumé of over 500 successful transactions? Or maybe, it's the reputation of the largest, oldest and most respected real estate brokerage in the business—Coldwell Banker?

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POCKET BIKES

8

by C.R. Smith

They stand low to the ground. They whine. Their numbers in Franklin Hills boomed this year and - here's where you can breathe a sigh of relief - they're street-illegal.

The subject is pocket bikes, those low-slung, two-wheeled recreational bikes that sound like lawnmowers run amok and started turning up all over the neighborhood a few months ago. Their slight stature makes them dangerous. Their tinny engines make them annoying.

It was a strange craze from the start - highly popular among image-conscious teen boys, even though anybody sitting astride one of these things looks like a runaway rodeo clown or a defrocked Shriner. And it's possible the trend has already crested: Sightings have dipped in recent weeks, which might have to do with resumption of the traditional school year or might re-

flect word being passed about the warnings and citations LAPD has issued.

Here, gleaned from a pair of recent LATimes pieces by Tina Daunt and Jeanne Wright, are some things to know about pocket bikes: First and foremost, they're illegal to ride either on public streets or sidewalks in California, although at least some LAPD dispatchers were confused on this issue in its first weeks. Sales exploded over the summer, prompting auto parts stores and others to start prominently advertising and stocking the bikes. They usually stand 16-20 inches tall, weigh 35 to 60 pounds, and roll at up to 25 mph. They're typically driven by loud 3-horsepower engines and cost \$200-\$400. If you get caught riding one on a public street, ignorance of the law is no defense, the fine could reach \$250, and police have the option of impounding the vehicle.

Now, all local merchants know these vehicles are illegal on the street and sidewalk, but with a \$200 sale at stake, not everybody makes that clear to customers. In September, when Krage Auto Parts was putting \$199 Honda "Sport Racers" at the top of its newspaper ads, the company did include notice saying they're "not intended for street use" (which is almost as responsible as admitting that they're downright illegal). That same month, Pepboys Auto was pushing two kinds of pocket bikes at the top of their newspaper ads - but without a word about legality. Keep an eye out when shopping, and if you like the way your retailer handles this product, say so. And if you don't like it, say so loudly, so he can hear you above the horsepower.



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Sign of the Times

by Shirley Mims

There have been dozens of accidents and hit-and-runs along Franklin Avenue just west of the Shakespeare Bridge (see Overview #23 Spring 2002). I took a personal interest last May when a car flew over the median island and tore down the historic Shakespeare Bridge sign. (See *Right*) Since bringing it up at the annual meeting in June, several neighbors have banded together to look for a solution to slow down traffic along Franklin Avenue and make it safer for the people who live there and their cars that are parked there.

Councilman Tom LaBonge and his field deputy Jeanne Chang have pledged their support to help us with this effort. We are currently trying to coordinate a meeting date to discuss how to downgrade the road from a secondary highway in order to calm traffic flow. Once we determine that, we will be able to schedule a community meeting to discuss our options and decide how we want to proceed.

One option popular with many who corresponded with us is speed humps. Jeannie Shen, the City's DOT Transportation Engineering Associate, acted quickly and ordered a traffic study, reviewed reported traffic accidents, and had the street re-striped. The traffic volume study revealed 11,565 vehicles passed between Talmadge and St. George in one 24-hour period. The maximum allowed for speed humps is 10,000. We will have to reduce the traffic volume before speed humps can be considered.

Please continue to report any accidents to

*continued on
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The sign returns to the median

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Marty & Elayne
at the piano bar

Valet Parking in Rear

Norm *continued from page 4*

peach tree was planted in front of the community garden shed, with all the family and gardeners each adding a scoop of earth. We think Norm would be proud.

The community garden would like to thank all those people who so generously donated to the garden this past year in honor of Norm. The last piece of garden news is that we recently had one plot vacated,



so all you budding organic gardeners please call to enquire at (323)913-0931.

*Planting the peach tree:
Marcus Christian
and Monique
Harriton.*

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Surveys done by the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council have shown lack of parking is one of our area's biggest concerns. In some parts of Franklin Hills finding a space seems to become harder everyday. One reason is that too many are garages filled with everything but cars. At times it appears there's no room for even the smallest of cars.

continued from page 9

Signs of the Times

our local police. They help with statistics such as in this area to determine need for services. According to Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki, when he reviews his weekly stats, if there are a greater number of reported incidents in a particular area, he responds by placing more officers there.

The sign was quick to be replaced (with the correct date,) thanks to John Fisher of DOT. Getting speed humps may not be so quick. Thank you to the 75+ concerned residents who signed up with interest for this effort. Thank you to DOT for acting so quickly on restriping the roadway. Thank you to Councilman LaBonge for his commitment to help us. Thank you to our committee chairs Mary Shaw and Alexandra Weiss for their help coordinating neighborhood involvement. Together we will get something done. Stick with us. It might be a long process.

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An Update on Wildlife Drinkers/ Coyotes The Griffith Park Master Plan

by George Grace

email: gmrnet1@gmrnet.com

Wildlife Drinkers

Wow! we've collected \$1,853 for the Wildlife Drinker Fund! Thanks! Send tax deductible donations to Franklin Hills Residents Association, P.O. Box 29122, LA, 90029.

The support of Councilman Tom LaBonge is key to the Wildlife Drinker Project. Please call Tom's Field Deputy, Ms. Jeanne Chang at 323-957-6335 and express your enthusiastic support for installing Wildlife Drinkers in Griffith Park. Your friendly neighborhood wildlife will be forever grateful!

We also need a wildlife expert to evaluate the Drinker's efficacy. I met several distinguished speakers at the recent "Re-Enchanting the City" Conference including Dr. John Hadidian and Susan Hagood from the United States Humane Society, and Dr. Raymond

Sauvajot from the U.S. National Park Service. I plan to contact them for advice.



Photo by George Grace

A few weeks ago, a malnourished Great Horned Owl was discovered in Griffith Park. LA Animal Services delivered him to Camarillo Wildlife Rehabilitation, and after rehab he was released back into the Park. We hope he will be reunited with his mate. Great Horned Owls

live to be 50 years old, and mate for life. The photo shows Mr. Owl just prior to his release

More information about wildlife drinkers, is available at: <http://www.gmrnet.com/DrinkerProposal.html>



Photo by George Grace

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

Neighborhood Coyotes

In case you forgot, we have a website for recording neighborhood coyote sightings. From May, 2003 thru September, 2004, 57 coyote sightings have been reported. On August 3 at The Paddock Riding Club, "two coyotes were spotted in one of the corrals in the very early morning, just after dawn." March 21st: "For the past two days I have noticed a coyote napping in my backyard. It sleeps a little, yawns, moves around and then goes right back to sleep. It's cute . . . but not that cute." And this sad comment February 27th: "As I drove past (slowly) the Coyote got up, walked slowly out to the edge of the roof and stared me in the eye. It appeared thin, coat messy and thin; tired."



Photo by George Grace

Report coyote sightings at: <http://www.gmrnet.com/Coyotea.html>, or from the FHRA homepage.

At 100 sightings, I will post a Coyote Comments Summary on the internet..

Griffith Park Master Plan

The illusive 25 year Griffith Park Master Plan has been delayed again. Word has it that there will be a draft by the end of the year. When the draft is made public, there will be additional meetings for public comment.

The big issue at Rec and Parks now is the proposed transfer of Park Rangers to the City's General Services Division. This controversial issue has created a stir with local civic groups, and rightfully so. If you want to get involved, meetings are happening now. Contact Councilman LaBonge's office at 213-485-3337

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Introducing New FHRA Board Members

Anne Richardson.



I am a new member to the Franklin Hills Board this year. I have lived in Franklin Hills since 1997, and in Silver Lake more generally since 1991. I love the area and the people and hope to contribute a little bit to the community by serving on the board. By day I am a civil rights attorney with a small firm in

Pasadena, and the mother of a two year old (very energetic) boy, Benjamin. I'm also active on the ACLU of Southern California's Board of Directors and teach at Loyola Law School. I hope that the rising tide of children in Franklin Hills can create new possibilities for drawing neighbors together even more than before.

Elliot Zeelander

Hi, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Elliot Zeelander and I am the newest member of the Franklin Hills Residence Association board. I live on Ronda Vista Drive with my wife Lisa and my daughter Zoe. We've



lived in the neighborhood for four years and it is the only one we know in California having moved here directly from downtown Philadelphia. It's great to be in a fun neighborhood and so close to downtown where I work as a stock broker at Crowell, Weedon & Co. I'm sure a few of you know me as I've walked the hills for a

few years now, first with Zoe leading the way secure in her "baby bjorn", now pulling me up and down the hills. As my daughter is getting older, I feel compelled to do what I can to help our neighborhood continue to grow and thrive.

Anne Richardson and I have started a new column in the Overview dedicated to making this a more kid friendly environment. With your help and suggestions I sure hope that we can be a positive force. Feel free to email me with any ideas or concerns at elliott@zeelander.org.

An Issue We Feel Shouldn't Be Duct

By Bruce Carroll

The high values of Franklin Hills homes are of course because we are friendly wonderful neighbors and maybe, at least a little bit, because many of our homes have great views of the rest of the city spread out before us.

One vista most of us don't appreciate is rising atop many new and remodeled homes. It's the dazzling displays of ductwork, the plethora of protruding plenums and the cacophony of compressors and condensers that combine to make rooftop air conditioning systems an emerging eyesore for the folks above.

With a bit more thought to design everyone can keep their cool without making our roofs look like something from an industrial park. It's certainly worth trying—and the neighborly thing to do.





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Local History: THE LOS FELIZ THEATER

by Eric Frase

Franklin Hills movie lovers often take for granted the convenience of having four first-run films playing a short drive or walk from our homes. Many of the area's newer residents are surprised to find out that the Los Feliz Theatre was, from the early '40s until 1987, operated by Laemmle Theatres. Known to Angeleno moviegoers for decades, the Laemmle chain's trademark of diverse and unusual film programming was born at this modest art deco movie house at 1822 North Vermont.

After entering the film exhibition industry in 1938 with the operation of several neighborhood theatres in the Highland Park area, Los Feliz resident Max Laemmle later took over the Los Feliz Theatre in the early 1940s, playing everything from second run Hollywood product to lesser-known foreign titles. Max's son Robert, now president of Laemmle Theatres, recounts how there were numerous other theatres playing foreign films in the Hollywood area and "these theatres got the Fellinis and the Bergmans." Laemmle made do with the remaining product and through innovative double bills and creative publicity was able to generate respectable grosses.

As a student (and basketball player) at John Marshall High from 1950 to 1953, Robert worked at the Los Feliz. The teenager's height came in handy while changing the marquee and he could be easily spotted in the auditorium when he carried trays of refreshments in to sell during the brief 10-minute intermissions between features.

By the 1960s, he was participating in the booking of the Los Feliz and came upon the idea of programming three related titles. Robert's "Greek Trilogy" featured "Antigone," "Electra," and "Oedipus Rex" and was a popular success. Another innovative concept was "French Old and New Wave." This series of French double features paired an older title chosen by Max with a contemporary release of Robert's choosing. For these and other engagements, special program notes were offered to patrons and on several occasions Max was even able to persuade Pauline Kael and Peter Bogdanovich to write commentary.

Notable writers also were customers of the theatre during this time. Robert proudly recalls that among the Los Feliz "regulars" were Henry Miller and Anais Nin. The Laemmle's nearby home on Lowry Road doubled as Max's office for many years and it was not unusual for



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Theater

Mrs. Laemmle to prepare lunch for Max and people who might be meeting with him such as Fritz Lang or Francois Truffaut.

Several decades later, the theatre served as the venue for the first AFI/LA Film Festival. As the tired neighborhood facility attempted to accommodate the festival despite antiquated ticketing, cramped restrooms and limited parking it seemed to foreshadow the upcoming change in ownership and lease terms of the building which would eventually cause the Laemmle organization to cease operation there several years later in 1987.

Remodeled and reconfigured into three auditoriums in the early '90s by Five Star Theatres, the Los Feliz Cinema continues to book alternative, independent films that serve as a reminder that the spirit of maverick and innovative film programming in Los Angeles had its roots in the modest art deco movie house at 1822 North Vermont.

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by Bruce Carroll

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Neighborhood Council *continued from page 4*

members. They include Rose Marin, of the Immaculate Heart Community, who has served on many charity and government committees; Nyla Arslanian who heads the Hollywood Arts Council; Merlyn Hernandez, who practices immigration and tax law; Lisa Sergi who is an attorney and a CPA; attorney Philip Gasteier who was active in the GGPNC's formation; as was Richard Spicer who spearheaded the GGPNC's strategic plan. Returning designated members are Nora Mosqueda from Prospect Studios who's the GGPNC's VP of Outreach, Rosemary DeMonte who represents the business community and Jonathan Kaplan, an attorney who's the GGPNC's religious representative.

Everyone is invited to attend GGPNC board meetings...held the third Tuesday of each month...and committee meetings to fit your interests. Agendas are posted at the Post Office, the Library and the Citibank where many of the meetings are held...and of course on the internet at www.GGPNC.org.

Jerry Kvasnicka, (right) Elections Manager from the League of Women voters supervises volunteers from the John Marshall High School Key Club who counted the ballots from the 179 voters in the GGPNC election.



Annual Meeting *continued from page 3*

phone and an air horn. He also suggested a walking stick, golf balls or small rocks or just waving your arms can be used to scare the lion away but you should never bend over or crouch down because you might be mistaken for the lions' desired diet of deer or other four legged creatures. He explained to a resident who recently saw a pack of 7 coyotes on her street that spring is the breeding season so numbers are higher than later in the year when most of the young will have died off from the skin disease, mange and from being hit by cars. The most deadly street being Los Feliz Blvd.

Board member George Grace reported the FHRA fund established to install wildlife drinkers in Griffith park, so coyotes will not be forced to migrate to the Franklin Hills, has already collected over \$1,800. Grace explained the goals of the program and asked those attending to sign a petition in support of the project. He also asked for signatures to retain the wildlife specialist position which was threatened with elimination by the Department of Animal Services. Once again community action paid off and since the meeting the wildlife specialist positions were retained, but hours were limited.

Senior Lead Officer Polehonki echoed that theme of City personnel shortages, noting in LA there is only one officer on duty for every 1,900 residents so that puts us



Carol Skinner, the FHRA's representative on the Community Police Advisory Board, welcomes Capt. Morris Smith, the new LAPD Northeast Division Commander. Capt. Smith told the meeting he is "real big on community policing." and explained the difficulties he has with the LAPD's "very thin staffing."

Skinner, FHRA representative to the Community-Police Advisory Board.

After hearing reports from several FHRA committees, covered elsewhere in this Overview the meeting elected by acclamation new board member Anne Richardson and re-elected David Campbell, Eric Frase, Charley Mims, and Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds all will serve two year terms. They were not the only winners...two lucky residents won raffle prizes of delicious prime rib dinners for two, thanks to the generosity of the Dresden Restaurant on Vermont.

in a lot of hurt." Polehonki reported property crime in our area was down 11% from last year and violent crime was down also, but only by 2%. Captain Morris Smith, the Commanding Officer of North East Division, was introduced by Carol

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Greetings to everyone in the Franklin Hills area,



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Although, there are many techniques that have been used, the most recent have been teams of men, women, and children who work in combination when approaching elderly victims at their homes. They distract the victim, gain entry into the residence and steal money and jewelry.

The following scenarios have been reported recently in the Northeast Area:

√The team will claim that they are looking for a cat in your back yard.

√The team will tell the resident that they work for a utility company and that there is a problem in the neighborhood.

√The team will contact the resident and claim to be a current or former neighbor.

√The team will contact the resident and offer to do home repairs.

Remember that once inside, the team will attempt to distract the victim so that other members can steal items of property.

Prevention can include asking for identification and calling to verify employment status in the case of city or utility workers. Are they in clearly identifiable company clothing and driving the correct type of vehicle? When in doubt, refuse entry into your residence and contact your local Police Station.

Commendable Arrest

As most of you know, the most frequently type of crimes reported in the Franklin Hills area are Burglary / Theft From Motor Vehicle and Grand Theft Auto. Most of the time we have no description of the suspects or their vehicles. Recently, a black Audi four door with paper plates was reported as the get away vehicle in two Burglary / Theft From Vehicle incidents. The first incident occurred in the Silverlake area and the second in the Los Feliz area.

The description was disseminated to officers assigned to Northeast Division and two days later the following Commendable Arrest occurred.

Officers Gomez #30660 and Ramirez #33275 were patrolling the area of Echo Park Avenue and Sunset Boulevard when they observed a female that they had arrested for Grand Theft Auto on a previous occasion. The female, who had initially been walking on foot, entered and drove away in a black Audi four door with paper plates. They followed and when she negotiated an illegal U-turn, they attempted to stop her. A short pursuit ensued and she was taken into custody when she crashed into a curb

continued on page 21

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MARCELLE ZONTA

1936 — 2004

Marcelle Zonta, one of Franklin Hills' most active and unforgettable residents, passed away from cancer on August 15. Residing on Hollyvista Avenue for over 30 years and active with the Franklin Hills Residents Association from its inception, Marcelle's work for the association was often on environmental and transportation issues.



Born in Vancouver, Canada, Marcelle was a professional opera singer and was featured in Canada with the Vancouver Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and CBC Television. Her performance as Fata Morgana in a Toronto production of "The Love of Three Oranges" was observed by famed soprano Rise Stevens, who immediately invited her to join the Metropolitan Opera National Company the touring arm of the famed New York opera company.

In 1967 she moved to Los Angeles where she became active singing in regional opera and other musical productions, culminating in numerous perfor-

mances with Los Angeles Opera, Long Beach Opera, and the Gilbert and Sullivan troupe, Opera a la Carte.

She retired from singing in the early 90's and began working as receptionist for the consortium of companies tasked with building the Los Angeles subway system. For more than a dozen years Marcelle was the first person who would meet and greet clients and the public on the phone or in person. Handling up to 10 floors of management and engineers in a downtown highrise, she was affectionately known as the "Front Office Goddess" and was loved by all who came in contact with her.

She fought for and won years of life with her intense dedication to a vegetarian lifestyle and personal physical fitness, but in the end, they were no match for an unrelenting disease.

She is survived by her son, Stephen Adolph of Vancouver, B.C.

— Don Waldrop

continued from page 20

in Rampart Division. A check of the Audi's vehicle identification number revealed that it was stolen, having been reported in early August. Inside the vehicle were numerous items of property that are frequently stolen by Burglary Theft From Vehicle suspects.

A lengthy investigation into her involvement in criminal activity in Northeast Division and Northeast Hollywood Division is currently underway. The officers are commended for their observation skills, initiative, and efforts at making the Northeast community a safer place to work and live.

Be safe and wear your seat belts

Sincerely,

Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki #22869

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The House(s) of the Seven Figures

By Bruce Carroll

Just as Nathaniel Hawthorne's *House of the Seven Gables* is full of suspense, our last *Overview* story on real estate within the FHRA area was somewhat of a cliffhanger, with the prices of our hillside houses hovering just below the magic million seven figure price tag.

That threshold was crossed on June 1, 2004 when a nearly 4000 sq ft. Hollyvista home, that had sold at foreclosure in March 2003 for a mere \$925,000, brought a whopping \$1,460,000. That was quickly followed by at least 2 more seven figures sales in June, both on Ronda Vista, both also well above the million mark, and both less than 3000 sq ft.

While realtor George Moreno feels "the frantic element has been reduced a bit," he and partner Eileen recently sold the same Franklin Avenue house twice in a little over three months, both times for well over a million. George observes, "if you're a buyer it's kind of tough now." Realtor Karen Weiss senses that the market has "slowed down" with "not as much hysteria," but she still predicts a 10% rise in prices over the next year with "buyers being a little more cautious."

That caution doesn't seem to have extended to the Franklin Hills building boom. The Franklin Ave. house under construction in our last issue is finished, but work is underway on at least four other brand new houses within shouting distance on Franklin, Mayview and Clayton.



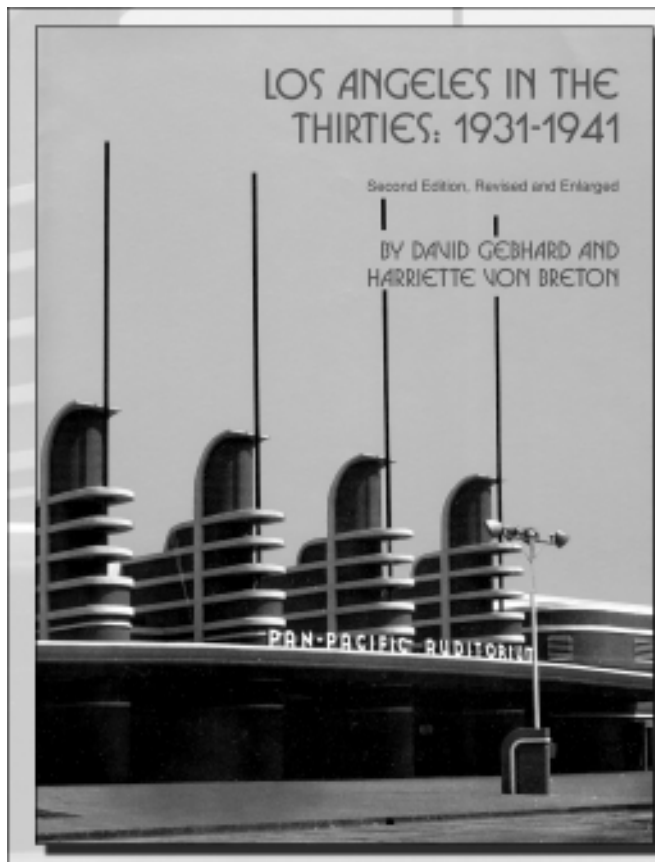
Construction workers seem to be balancing as high as recent prices as they place beams on this upslope Franklin Avenue house that required extensive hillside excavation.



Right: These two houses under construction on nearly vertical Mayview lots are less than 200' from another construction starting up across the way on Clayton.



Left: The FHRA's first House of Seven Figures doesn't look at all like Salem's famed House of the Seven Gables, proof that architectural tastes change a lot over 320 years.



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SOMETHING IN THE WATER? MORE KIDS IN THE FRANKLIN HILLS

by Anne Richardson and Elliot Zeelander

We know we're not the only ones to have noticed an incredible rise in the numbers of strollers and baby carriers walking around the neighborhood, and now, plastic toddler clutter in what passes for front yards in the Franklin Hills. So as parents of some of these new residents, we figured that there might be an interest in a Kids' Kolumn.

In investigating this new trend, we found that our neighborhood appears to be an anomaly since birthrates are down in LA County as a whole, and kindergarten rates are projected to go down in the next decade. (See

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/K12g.htm>.)

So something must be in the water. For those who drink it, here are a few handy tips:

The Glendale chapter of the American Red Cross offers courses in first aid for infants and children as well as for adult and even

pets! (info@arcglendale.org; 1501 S. Brand Blvd.; Glendale, CA 91204; 818-243-3121)

StoryTelling is offered at the Los Feliz Public Library on the corner of Franklin and Hillhurst Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Music Together offers wonderful music classes for infants and toddlers at the Silver Lake Presbyterian Church near the intersection of Rowena and Hyperion. (www.foothillsmusictogether.com)

Fun and Fit in Burbank offers great "gymnastics" fun for anyone who can walk. (funandfit.com; (818) 845-0700)

And for those weekend doldrums, especially on rainy days, here are some places you might not have tried:

- Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach
- Natural History Museum (has a "discovery" room for toddlers)
- Science Museum (has two "discovery" rooms for toddlers)
- The Zimmer Childrens' Museum (it's in the Jewish Federation Building but open to the public but note: check hours in advance, and not open on Saturdays!)

continued page 4

 <p>YOUR FRANKLIN HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD MOVERS</p> <p>http://www.sterlingvanlines.com http://www.moving-cal.com</p>	<p>MOVING? CALL 800 264-6313</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE IN CALIFORNIA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STORAGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVES ACROSS THE U.S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERNATIONAL MOVES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PACKING & CRATING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ODDBALL ITEMS 	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>*FRANKLIN HILLS DISCOUNT— MENTION THIS AD FOR 5% OFF ANY MOVE PLUS FREE USE OF WARDROBE BOXES ON LOCAL MOVES</p> <p>Cal PUC T-189566 ICC MC 290939</p> </div>
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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

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I'm willing to help in: Planning/Zoning Graffiti Crime/Gangs Traffic Library-Tutoring Newsletter

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DUES are \$30.00 per couple or \$15.00 per person; AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$15 \$30 \$50 larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!



The Petersen Automotive Museum (has a Kids' Corner)

And for some parental R&R, Swork is an independent café that has a little kid-space for playing while you sip your latte and eat your muffin. It's at the corner of Eagle Rock Blvd. and Colorado (near that cute kids' store, Twerps). It's hard to believe that none of our local restaurants have caught on to this marketing bonanza. Maybe if enough of us lobby our local restauranteurs, one will create a space so we don't have to gulp down the occasional brunch or dinner out.

Another item on our wish list is trying to arrange to have a few blocks cordoned off for Halloween trick or treating next year, like they do on Armstrong in Silver Lake.

E-mail one of us with suggestions for a good part of Franklin Hills to do this in (preferably a street that is easily cordoned off and with enough people interested in hosting trick or treaters).

Other ideas/suggestions for creating a community for kids? Let us know and we can air it here in the next newsletter. E-mail: arichardson@hadsellstormer.com or elliot@zeelander.org.

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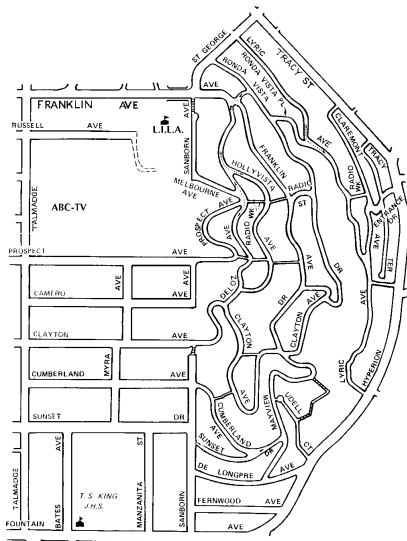
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