

# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 10

WINTER 1993



Bruce Carroll photo

Shear madness as Bill Violante, LFIA Pres. Marilyn Bush, Chief Willie Williams, Councilman John Ferraro and Marisa Antonini cut the ribbon inaugurating the new Los Feliz Police Center.

## HILLHURST BLUES

by Bruce Carroll

They cut a wide blue ribbon to mark the opening of the thin blue line's newest outpost, The Los Feliz Community Police Center. On November 10th, the early morning crowd, gathered on Hillhurst between Los Feliz and Avocado, heard Marilyn Bush, president of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, talk about their nearly two year struggle "to bring our local police officers closer in proximity to our residents, our business, our schools and our churches." City Council President,

See Blues, page 7

A  
TIME  
OF YEAR  
FOR TAKING  
STOCK  
REWARDING GOOD,  
REJECTING SCHLOCK.  
LET'S FIND THE MEANING,  
HIDDEN WELL, BEHIND EACH  
TREE, OR BEARD OR BELL.  
GIVE OF THINGS THAT CAN'T  
BE BOUGHT. TO SHARE, TO CARE  
... THAT MUST BE TAUGHT.  
LET'S SPREAD THIS WORD FROM  
FRANKLIN HILL:

**THERE IS NO PEACE WITHOUT GOODWILL**

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Franklin Median Project  
My View—Bruce Carroll  
Los Feliz Library  
Stairway Cleanup

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Nobody, and Anybody.

When there was an important job to be done, Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it.

So it ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done in the first place.

Your Association needs your help. Volunteer, call the Hotline: (213) 664-7247

## LETTERS

September 29, 1993

Dear Don

I would like to thank you and the Franklin Hills Residents' Association for the splendid job you did in organizing a successful opposition to the intention to build a house at 2127 Lyric Avenue that was in contradiction to the "Hillside Plan" in as much as the builder was requesting

- 1) a maximum height of 45 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 36-foot heights,
- 2) a 5-foot side yard setback in lieu of the required 8 foot setback, and
- 3) a lot coverage of 48 percent in lieu of the maximum 45 percent.

These requests did not comply with the recent changes the municipal code designed to eliminate the trend for out-of-scale, over-sized houses on narrow or small lots, known as the "Hillside Plan". These changes are constructive and deserve the support of organizations such as the Franklin Hills Residents Association who, in representing the community, generate real progress in creating a more qualitative residential environment for the future.

Thank you and your Association again for your invaluable help.

Sincerely yours,  
Dan Hornbeck  
2145 Lyric Avenue  
Franklin Hills

**FRANKLIN HILLS  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
HOTLINE (213) 664-7247**

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The Franklin Hills OVERVIEW is published as often as possible. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, we will publish letters mailed to *Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027*

# Remember the Median Project?

by Riccardo Accorsi

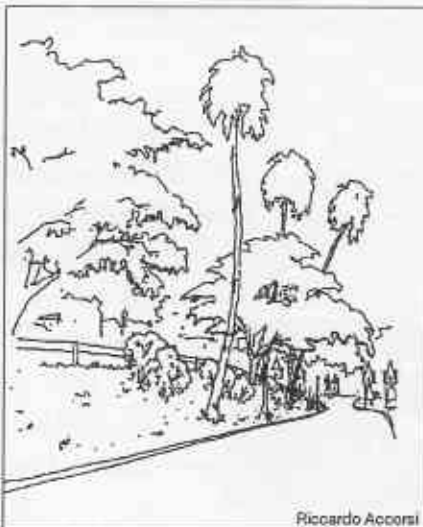
Remember the community-wide "of course!" that echoed across Franklin Hills when the idea of landscaping the Franklin Avenue median was proposed two years ago? Remember the tall palms, purple fountain grass and wild buckwheat we all envisioned when the design was presented last summer? And remember the checks some of you generously wrote right away to help make it happen? Fortunately, the Franklin Avenue Median Landscape Project is still very much alive. It's just been lost in red tape.

After wandering a labyrinth of delays and complications in City Hall, the Median Project has finally found a bureaucratic knight in shining armor. The plans are now in the hands of Paul Racs, Operation Clean Sweep coordinator for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Racs, through the Adopt-A-Median Program, is the liaison between community groups and govern-

ing agencies to oversee public projects.

Like Lancelot on a quest for the Holy Grail—in this case, our permit—Mr. Racs will carry our noble FHRA proposal through the final gauntlet of approvals from the Landscape and Street Lighting Divisions of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation. He will also aid FHRA in securing the help of the Street Maintenance Division for asphalt demolition, guardrail repair and street sign relocation. Street Maintenance will also provide tools for landscaping.

So far, our hero has done well—the plans submitted to Mr. Racs the second week of July have already received favorable comments from the Landscape Division. Our objective is to receive the approvals for permit by the beginning of September. At that point, we will issue the plans for bidding of the irrigation system and



See Median on page 11

## Baller Hardware

# The Business of Making Friends

by Violet Weber

Living in the most transitory city in the Union, it's balm for the soul to do our weekly business with people who have become a staple in our lives—not just for years, but sometimes for decades.

A lot of those people work at Baller Hardware, anchored at Hyperion Avenue and Tracy Street since 1959. The business started off more by accident than design. When Edward Baller retired from California Steel Treating, he began to take daily walks around the neighborhood from his home on Tracy. He often passed the empty corner at the store's present location, and on one of those days he had an idea. Although he had no retail experience, he did have the ability to make decisions. One day he came home and announced to Mrs. Baller that they were going into the hardware business—a decision they never regretted.

I watched the Baller Hardware building go up from our new home on Griffith Park Boulevard, knowing that I would soon be sent by my renovator husband for the nails and other

bits and pieces he needed for his various projects. I always made two trips: one to buy the widget, and the second to get the right one. I was amazed at the depth and breadth of knowledge of whatever clerk waited on me, but most particularly by the friendly, snowy-haired Mrs. Baller. She not only knew where everything was, but also how to use it. She saved me a lot of trips.

Chuck Cowrie, Edward Baller's stepson and one of the current owners, believes Baller Hardware is successful because it offers what the neighborhood

needs, not necessarily the latest widgets popping onto the hardware scene. Opening at the forefront of the home improvement trend, the Ballers were quick to realize that tools for the do-it-yourselfer were going to be their stock in trade. That decision was so successful that it wasn't long before they had to erect another building across the street to project or want to discuss the affairs of the world. You might dis-

See Baller on page 7



# WHAT WE'RE UP TO

by Bruce Carroll

Since the last issue of the Overview the FHRA has held its annual business meeting (May 20) in a very business-like manner so the gathering of several dozen neighbors could get home in time to watch the final episode of Cheers. Membership chair Carol Skinner was elected to the FHRA Board of Directors, replacing Gene Cornell. Five other board members: President Don Waldrop, Vice-President Bryant Crouse, Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Carroll, Chris Boutelle and Arnie Netka were reelected to two year terms.

President Waldrop spoke of FHRA's aims to be a powerful voice for our neighborhood's concerns, and to develop a network of block leaders so we are prepared for any eventuality. Bruce Carroll reported the treasury in good shape, although a lot more will be needed for the Median project. Carol Skinner passed the hat, actually a paper cup, and collected almost \$50 to aid our local library. (see separate story) And Disaster-Prep chair, Vi Weber talked of "training, training, training" as the key elements.

The best part of the meeting, as usual, was the home-baked goodies that followed... accompanied by much more neighborly good cheer than the TV variety.

At the June board meeting, Don Waldrop reported that the FHRA booth at the Los Feliz Village Street Fair in May sold lots of Franklin Hills T-shirts and had a very high level of interest from the crowds, many attracted by the historic photographs on display (see p. 12.)

In July the board discussed ways of helping local merchants and residents

Rowena Reservoir. The DWP wants to build an underground tank and have a park on top, but with no public access. The Hillside Federation, of which FHRA is a member, has opposed the project because there has been no environmental impact report done, hence no public hearings, a decidedly bad precedent.

A decidedly good precedent was followed in August when the FHRA board again bypassed the month's meeting to honor the lazy days of summer.

In our September and October meetings we discussed street lighting and graffiti...working towards more of the former and less of the latter. We donated \$250 to the LA Conservation Corps in gratitude for their assistance with the Talmadge-Prospect tree planting project and worked on plans for the next round of tree planting along south Talmadge.

The FHRA also chalked up a victory in the zoning variance war. With good research and good testimony we sent the owner of 2127 Lyric back to the drawing board to deflate a proposed remodeling project that would have ballooned a 900 square foot house to a 2800 square foot monster... higher and wider on all sides than allowed by the Hillside Ordinance. (See letter, p. 2)

## A REMINDER

Any residents who get a notice of a requested zoning variance near them should call the FHRA hotline 664-7247 to let us know before it's too late to keep a monster from our midst.

coming up with promotions that would keep more of our dollars nearer home. Sadly, Riccardo Accorsi reported that a few of the trees planted in March along Talmadge have not survived on the mean summer streets. Plans were made to insure that no more bite the dust.

Charley Mims had the answers for what's going on at the empty

## • community phones •

### IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

#### ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (310) 557-5000  
Security: (310) 557-5354.

#### CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: (213) 222-7138

#### COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District:

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3337  
District Office, 625 S. New Hampshire (213) 485-4377

#### ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation.  
(213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.  
(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6235.

#### GRAFFITI :

On private property: (213) 253-2687

On public property: (818) 772-7753

FHRA Graffiti Action Coordinator: (213) 661-4351

#### LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (213) 664-2903.

Hours: Mon-Tues 12:30-8:00; Wed-Thurs 12:30-5:30; Fri-Sat 10:00-5:30.

#### PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH: (818) 904-1418

#### POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

#### RECYCLING INFO: (800) CITY SAN

#### SANITATION: (213) 485-4906

#### STREET LIGHTING: (213) 482-5483

#### STREET MAINTENANCE: (213) 485-5661

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS: (TV Cable service) 485-2751

#### TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

#### WATER & POWER: (800) 722-1122

## FHRA HOTLINE

The Franklin Hills Residents Association reminds you that we now have our own telephone number. By calling (213) 664-7247, you can ask questions, leave messages for board and committee members or make suggestions.

It's not exactly a "hotline," and getting an "800" number didn't seem to make much sense, so we hope you find our plain old neighborhood number useful.

## FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-7247

## HAMS

If you are a ham radio operator or if you have handheld Ham or CB radios, or a CB base station and would be willing to help the Disaster Preparedness team, please contact Bruce Carroll at 665-9875

## Patronize "Our" Businesses

Traveling to other areas to shop has become troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much.

The businesses that have shown interest in reaching you and your neighbors by advertising in this news-letter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus supports FHRA on-going projects.

Please support our advertisers by utilizing their services regularly and, by all means, tell them you saw their ads in the "Overview."

## GRAFFITI ALERT

*Plans are being made for another FHRA community paint-out. If you would like to be involved or if you know of a trouble area, call Isabel Dietz: 661-4351 or FHRA HOTLINE 664-7247*