



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 13

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PHOTO BY BRUCE CARROLL

The Franklin Avenue Median on its first year anniversary of landscaping by the Franklin Hills Residents Association

D-DAY FOR OUR SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE

By Bruce Carroll

We all learned as kids that London Bridge was forever falling down. City engineers have determined that the same fate could befall our Shakespeare Bridge. But fear not, hopefully before that happens, the City will close it and fix it.

See **BRIDGE**, p. 8

WE FINALLY DID IT!

By Melinda Taylor
Landscape Designer

In 1990 members of the Franklin Hills Residents Association agreed that the median's asphalt covered slope just west of the Shakespeare Bridge, had a visually degrading effect on the bridge, and recognized what a positive influence a well-landscaped median could be. For five years FHRA members developed plans, obtained permits, solicited grants, gathered donations, and negotiated the labyrinthine maze of agencies at City Hall, and on November 11th, 1995, neighbors and community joined together to plant and celebrate the median's transformation.

Many of the people who participated in the celebration planted trees or shrubs in memory of someone particular. One individual, Armida Bolton, gave a generous donation to the project in memory of her late husband Donald, who had a special appreciation for Southern California and for the Franklin Hills. For others the act of planting was a more general way of caring for and participating in the neighborhood. Many of those who turned out last November to plant have returned to the median for the maintenance days scheduled occasionally throughout the past year, tending the plants they personally put in the ground.

See **MEDIAN**, page 9

INSIDE:

Los Feliz Library	3
DWP Cover-up	4
Community Page	5
My View	6
Board of Directors	12
Phone Scam	17
ABC & D	20
For What It's Worth	22

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two years ago, I was asked to take the administrative helm of the Franklin Hills Residents Association as its President. Aside from some positions during my school years, I had never been saddled with such an important and complex responsibility. The job has provided some growing pains (and bruises), but not without a great sense of happiness and personal growth.

Over the last two years, FHRA accomplished a number of goals. As President, it has been my goal to focus on each project and systematically move it towards completion. This has meant a great number of hours in small work groups, piecing over details, drinking a few bottles of beer, and bringing residents together towards a common goal: improvement of our neighborhood.

The results are printed in this Overview and can be seen in the neighborhood: the Franklin Hills Median, our 501(c) (3) tax deduction status, improved communication with police and city officials, improved membership and fund raising, public stairs cleaning and reconstruction, two end-of-summer festivals, and The Overview, to name a few. Most important, is that Franklin Hills has emerged as a unique and special neighborhood in Los Angeles. It is no surprise that each month, the hot line gets calls from people wanting to live in Franklin Hills.

With the long list of FHRA's accomplishments, we can not ignore a growing problem: our declining volunteer base. With a governing board of eleven, FHRA's working groups typically consist of a subgroup of board members. A few non-board members have worked a great deal, however, this phenomenon is the exception rather than the rule. A common post-event comment has been: "Sure the board members were there, but what about the rest of our residents?" Residents have made suggestions to improve our neighborhood, but they often disappear into the hills when it comes down to implementation. The ideas often are left on the board's table, simply because there are not enough volunteers to handle the present work load.

In the last decade, citizens have been torn between their vocation and community service. Often times, it become a pragmatic choice based upon time. Many ask, "What's in it for me? What will I gain from my volunteer work?" Community service is not for profit, but an individual process of self-understanding. This comes through applying one self within a social network. For FHRA, the network is made of your own neighbors. In sum, community involvement is really a mystery, in which you will not know the outcome until you begin the adventure. As President, I invite the residents of Franklin Hills to approach the mystery with excitement and begin the adventure through FHRA.

Have a happy and productive new year

Adam Weisman
President

**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*

OUR LIBRARY IS ON ITS WAY

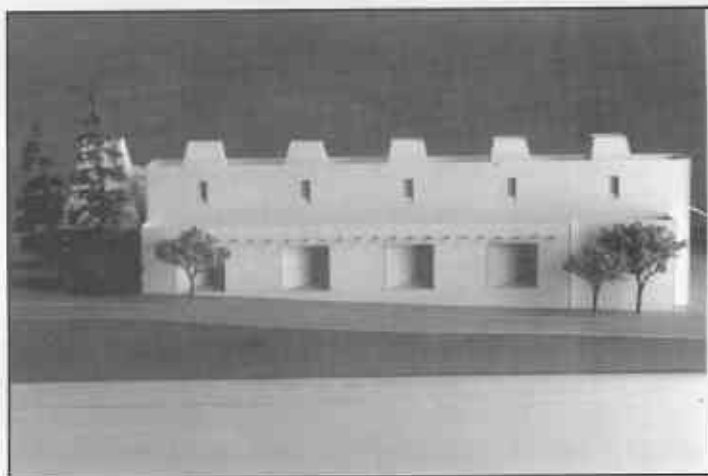
by Carol Skinner

The Northridge earthquake had a strange assortment of long-term impacts on our hill. Surely we all remember the months in which there was a dumpster and a pile of bricks at every third house. And who can ever forget FEMA? And, the departure of our Los Feliz Branch Library from the dark, grungy, incredibly crowded storefront which it had occupied for so long.

The bad news was that we were without a library for months. The good news is that the library reopened in a *much* nicer storefront. I haven't felt the need to take a flashlight back into the stacks since. Space for children's circles, space for magazine readers, tables and chairs—no more homework circles in the alley.

The photocopier works. If you read the article in *The Los Angeles Times Magazine* a month or so ago, you must have noticed that the reporter was impressed at how well a library *can* function in a storefront.

There is a row of computers on one side. One can access on-line information about holdings from the entire LAPL, and request an inter-library loan from the branch which has the desired



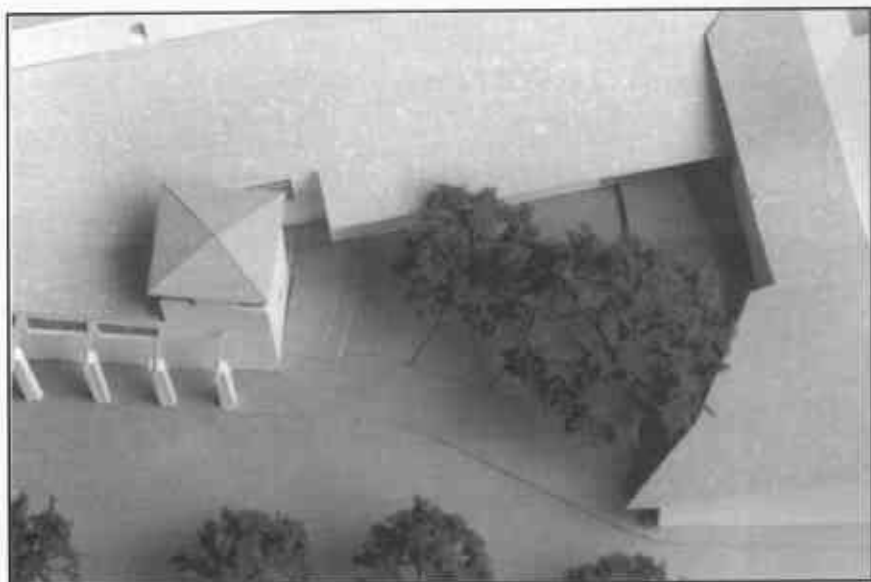
book. And, a picture behind the charge desk of the new library building, as it will be. The best news is that we will at last have a real library building. Friends of the Library committees have been working on fundraising plans to add even more features—and we expect to see every hill dweller make whatever contribution you can.

Peter Mann, the senior librarian was asked about the immediate future of the project:

"Library construction plans are pretty much complete. Very minimal changes will be made to meet the *Americans with Disabilities Act* requirements. Ground breaking will probably begin in January or February of 1997; possibly even in December of this year. Construction is usually about 18 months, could be as much as 24 months if unforeseen problems develop. I have the utmost confidence that due to the diligence with which things were done initially, the whole project should go along quite nicely.

"The new building will be mostly as described in previous publications, incorporating Mediterranean, Spanish revival and Southwestern styles. It will include a story telling tower, a bookstore, a community meeting room and

See LIBRARY, p. 7



DWP COVER-UP FOLLOWS MAYVIEW RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS

by Bruce Carroll

Anyone who's been on Mayview Drive recently has surely wondered why the driveways were littered with asphalt, and the curbs lined with temporary water mains...and your street could be next. The answer is simple according to the DWP's Fernando Cano. "Basically what it is, is you have a bunch of tuberculation in the pipe there." In non-engineer speak that's rust and corrosion. In neighborhood speak that's dirty water. And a lot Mayview residents have been speaking to the DWP. "We were really deluged with water quality complaints."

While there are long range plans to replace the mains, which are up to 73 years old, the DWP showed it listens and is the kind of old bird that has ears and a heart, as well as its familiar bill. According to project engineer Cano, "it might take us a number of years to get up there and install some new lines so we didn't want the residents to have to put up with dirty water for another five years."

The DWP's solution is to force scrapers and squeegees through the clogged 4 and 8 inch pipes. When they are clean, a 3/16 inch coating of cement is cleverly sprayed on the inside. Cano explained that



It's a messy job but . . . David Trujillo prepares the cement spraying nozzle and spring loaded trowel to be pulled through the 8" water main under Mayview Drive

while the cement cover-up doesn't prevent water from getting to the pipe walls, the alkalinity of the cement inhibits further corrosion. "We figure on extending the life of the existing mains for 50 to 60 years."

While Mayview residents have griped about inconveniences during the project, which was a last minute addition to work in Silver Lake, Cano pointed out, "It inconveniences the residents quite a bit more to put a new line in." It also inconveniences the DWP's pocketbook since cementing runs about \$30 per foot compared to \$100 for new pipes.

The Mayview project coated about 1,500 feet of pipe. A 12 mile cementing project including: Franklin, Lyric, Ronda Vista, Tracy, Hyperion, Prospect, Talmadge, Fountain, and other streets too numerous to mention, is on the drawing board for May, 1999. But Cano, after what he's seen from the current work, hopes to start sooner. "There seems to be very serious water quality problems that should be addressed as soon as possible. That's why I'll be recommending that they try to move that up."

What can we do in the meantime, other than hope the markets don't run out of bottled water...follow the example of Mayviewites who proved that just as "the squeaking wheel gets the grease"...the squawking residents get the clean water.

• community phones •

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABANDONED VEHICLES: (800) 222-6366

ABC-TELEVISION:

Security: (310) 557-5354.

CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: (213) 222-7138

COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District-
(213) 485-3337

Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., L.A. 90012

DEPT. OF ANIMAL REGULATION: (213)485-5761

Barking Dogs: 222-7138 or 731-8281

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

Operation Clean Sweep (213) 237-1797

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6235.

GRAFFITI :

LAPD-NE Graffiti Cleanup (213) 237-0511

Graffiti Hotline: (213) 485-0511

HOMELESS, Food and Shelter (213) 974-1234

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

DUE TO REOPEN IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH

PARKING ENFORCEMENT: (818) 904-1418

POLICE: 911; Spanish: 485-4333; Asian: 893-8100

Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

Main Desk (213) 485-2563

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

Sr. Lead Officer Richard Kanzaki: 847-3138

Sr. Lead Officer Sam Salazar: 847-3135

RAPE HOTLINE (213) 392-8381

RECYCLING INFO: (800) 773-2489

SANITATION: (213) 485-4906

STREET LIGHTING: (800) 303-5267 or 485-3461

STREET MAINTENANCE: (213) 485-5661

SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE: (213) 381-5111

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: (TV Cable) 485-2751

TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

TREE TRIMMING (Hazards) 485-5661

WATER & POWER: (800) 722-1122

DOES GRAFFITI BUG YOU?

FHRA NEEDS YOUR HELP in fighting graffiti in our area. We need someone to organize paint outs and people to work.

We provide all materials.

Call the Hotline to volunteer. 664-7247

FRANKLIN FOTOS

As you have no doubt noticed, the editor of the Overview has an affinity for photographs taken in the early years of the Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake areas. We are trying to assemble a pictorial history of our district and would like to hear from anyone with such photos. If you grew up here, or if your parents built a house here, or if you inherited some photographs, please give us a call on the Hotline or send them to our mailbox.

We guarantee they will be handled very carefully while we have a copy negative made. The originals will be returned to you in their original condition. Look for your old photographs and give us a call!

Disaster Preparedness

FHRA Disaster Preparedness needs to know about the trained professionals living in our area. There is a clear need for doctors, nurses & trained emergency personnel in a disaster. If you are willing to assist in such an event, please contact the Hotline: 664-7247

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