



# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 14

WINTER 1997



PHOTOMONTAGE BY BRUCE CARROLL

## INSIDE:

Bridging the Gap.....	3
Donald Bolton.....	4
Community Page.....	5
Cumberland Watch.....	7
Median News.....	8
Los Feliz Library.....	10
Memory Lane.....	12
Restaurant Review.....	16
Community Police Board.....	20
Basic Plumbing/King of Hearts.....	22
MetroRail.....	24

## Happy Holidays

by Bruce Carroll

*W*ith Santa Claus a comin' to town, better let him know our bridge is down.

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.  
Re-deck our bridge and we'll be jolly.

Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwaanza, this season everyone wants a...

Peaceful world, cured of its ills.  
So let's start here in Franklin Hills...

Wishing Joy to the World...and peace.  
May trust and tolerance increase.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



by Adam Weissman, President, FHRA

OH MY! what a year this has been! For many of you, this last year started out peacefully and ended up with the noise of jackhammers and dust swirling about the bridge. Others have been upset by criminal elements, only to be surprised by the police making arrests and apartment owners exercising their power of eviction.

Still others have struggled with city officials regarding quality of life and adult entertainment establishments along the Hyperion corridor. These three issues alone have emerged almost simultaneously within Franklin Hills and have often struggled to become the main course at each monthly Board meeting. As a result, the board members often feel stuffed after each meeting, having to consume so much material and to make so many important decisions which impact us all. For these efforts and long hours, I would like to personally thank all the members, past and present, for their hard work.

Through the efforts of the Board, this past year has once again seen a great deal of organizational growth. Following our birthday celebration for the median, FHRA held its annual Crime/Disaster Meeting. With a packed house, members were introduced to LAPD Northeast Division personnel and were given a sneak preview of the bridge retrofit project. In March FHRA co-hosted a City Charter Candidates Debate at Theatre West, which was moderated by Century Cable President William Rosendahl. This really boosted Franklin Hills' image as a constructive political action group. In May Thomas Starr King Middle School helped to host our annual meeting. With over 150 residents in attendance, this was the largest FHRA meeting to date and provided an open forum for city officials to present the Shakespeare Bridge Retrofit project. During the summer months we were present at the Los Feliz Street Fair, where our gallery of photographs (always available for purchase) was second to none.

The Shakespeare Bridge closure marked an important test of our communication with both city officials and neighbors alike. Shirley Newland, our lady of the bridge, has stood sentry in helping mediate parking and traffic problems associated with the bridge closure and has provided a single point of communication with city officials to help eliminate confusions or misinformation. Shirley has worked with the Tracy-Talmadge Block Watch Association, which is part of the Los Feliz Improvement Association. She provides a strong link between the FHRA and the LFIA in addressing the impact of the bridge. Her efforts deserve our gratitude.

In the midst of the noise of the bridge, a stronger focus on crime problems has been made by the Cumberland Avenue Block Watch Group. Organized by residents on Cumberland, Myra, Manzanita Avenue and Sunset Drive, they have recognized crime patterns along their streets which were not being sufficiently addressed by the LAPD. With the leadership of Rick Gomez and others, they have worked hard with police officials to place pressure on the points of criminal activity. This has met with success, and we congratulate them! The Cumberland group stands out as an example of community organization working towards quality of life goals. FHRA welcomes the chance to work with the group while respecting their independence.

On a different side of the Hill, the focus has been on a proliferation of sexual encounter clubs along Hyperion Avenue. Residents watched as individuals def-

Continued to p. 6

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Chairman*

DONALD WALDROP

*President*

ADAM WEISMAN

*Vice President*

CHRISTOPHER BOUTELLE

*Secretary-Treasurer*

BRUCE CARROLL

TIMOTHY CUTLER

SALLY LINDBLOM

CHARLEY MIMS

ROBERT PAGE

CAROL SKINNER

VIOLET WEBER

MARCELLE ZONTA

### ACTION TEAM LEADERS

**ABC-TV & COMMUNITY:**

Adam Weisman 666-4630

**CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:**

Violet Weber, 663-6427

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta 664-4124

**FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Melinda Taylor 660-5543

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Robert Page 660-0501

**METRO RAIL:**

Bruce Carroll 665-9875

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

Charley Mims 666-2520

### Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

*Published by:*  
Community Computer Services

& Hollyvista Graphics

*Editors:* Carol Skinner

& Donald Waldrop

*Contributing Writers:*

Armida Bolton, Chris Boutelle,

Bruce Carroll, Rick Gomez,

Phillip Lee, Shirley Newland, Robert

Page, John Robertson, Carol Skinner,

Melinda Taylor, Donald Waldrop,

Adam Weisman, Pearl Yonezawa,

Marcelle Zonta

*Ad Sales & Distribution:*

Chris Boutelle, 666-5548

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*

# BRIDGING THE GAP OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

By Shirley Newland  
FHRA Bridge Info Coordinator

**A**UTUMN IS MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE year for strolls through the neighborhood. The air is crisp, the sun is warm, and with skies blown clear by the winds the views from the hills are spectacular. Living just three doors from the Shakespeare Bridge, its span has marked the beginning and end of many of these pleasant walks. Lately, however, I have had to direct my walks to other parts of the neighborhood.

The bridge, built in 1926, was closed in June 1997 for earthquake retrofitting. Progress to date has included removal of the roadway and railways and reinforcement of the abutments. Over the next few months the bridge will be rebuilt with stronger support and have the same appearance as the original architecture. Last I checked, it is still scheduled to reopen in March 1998.

At the beginning of the project I volunteered as the contact person for information involving the closure of the bridge. I figured that as long as I was interested in following along with its progress I would be happy to share this information with my fellow neighbors who would also be affected by the closure. I introduced myself to the FHRA and was immediately accepted.

The FHRA is an extraordinary group of people, each member dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of our neighborhood, each friendly and sociable. Becoming part of this group and getting involved with the bridge project has been a sincere pleasure and given me a sense of belonging in the community.

I have also had the privilege to work with several members of the City. Vince Giron of the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has been instrumental in getting necessary signs to redirect traffic. But, as serious a matter and thought-through the placement of each sign is, I still get a kick from the "Road Closed Ahead" sign that stands at the top of Monon, a street that dead ends at the base of the bridge. Officer Carlos Sanchez and his crew have been quite effective citing trouble spots along the detour route. Dave Spangler, the inspector on site, is very knowledgeable and cordial. He has a great concern for the outcome of the project and makes sure it is running safely and according to procedure. And the contractor, Matt Moetazedi, has been very cooperative and repeatedly says — graffiti and trailer break-ins aside — how much he enjoys working in our neighborhood.

On the day the work began, at 7 a.m. sharp. I was startled awake — as I'm sure many others in the area were — by a loud boom followed by sounds of heavy metal dragging across the road. Boom after boom, steel girders were being unloaded off

a truck. When I called the project manager's office, Raffi Massabki answered and was stunned to hear my complaint (plus, I was cranky from a root canal I had the previous day). While we were talking and he was assuring me the contractor knows to keep within noise limits and to work quietly before 9 a.m., another boom echoed through my phone. There was a long pause in our conversation. At that point Raffi said he'd take care of the matter right away. And indeed he did. The noise, while necessary, has been tolerable ever since and never again before 9 a.m.

To one who looks no further than the apparent, image is everything. Another incident occurred when we were in the middle of negotiating "No Parking" options on Franklin Avenue. Fliers were distributed to neighbors in the area stating that no decision would be made by the City without our input. The very next day "No Parking" signs went up. At first glance, my hopes of working in cooperation with the city became a shattered illusion. Upon further inquiry, it turned out the contractor had an immediate and temporary need for access to the street for a procession of cement trucks to pour concrete into the excavation at the west end of the bridge. DOT had jumped in to help by putting up the signs and didn't have time to notify us. The day after, the work was done, the signs were gone. Negotiations continued and with the support of all involved we have been able to keep parking available and to keep clear the area for turning around at the bridge.

Aside from these two upsets and a few colorful calls regarding the short cut problem on Hazelkirk, the project has run rather smoothly. The cooperative efforts of everyone involved in this project are outstanding. Individually we are each contributing our talents toward the restoration of this grand and beautiful bridge, and together we are working toward one common goal: a great place to live where we all know each other and share our appreciation through our combined involvement within the community.

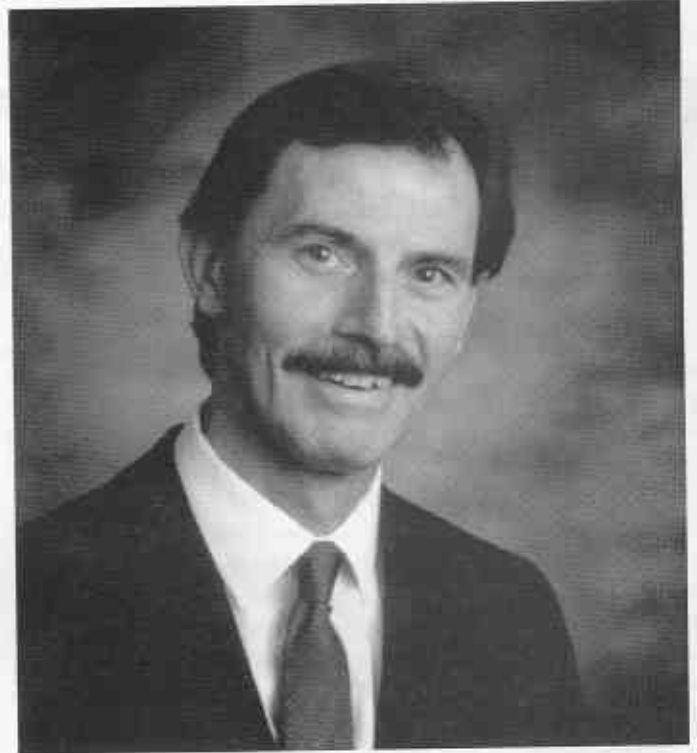
Growing up I never lived in a place long enough to establish any roots. Consequently, when I moved out on my own I hadn't developed a feeling of connectedness to the community. As I got older I began to need this sense of community, and when I moved to Franklin Hills I found it among my neighbors, the City of Los Angeles, and especially from the members of the FHRA. My relations with these people has built a lasting bridge of community spirit that has further joined me with humanity.

When the Shakespeare Bridge reopens we are planning a celebration. Everyone will be invited and I will look forward to seeing you there.

continued to p.10

# DONALD BOLTON

By Armida Bolton



The Franklin Hills median is very special to me. As a long-term resident of Franklin Hills and a former member of the FHRA Board of Directors, I have been pleased to be a participant in an important effort to beautify a part of our neighborhood. Most of all, I've been pleased that through the median project my dream of establishing an appropriate living memorial to celebrate the life of my husband, Donald R. Bolton, was realized. Before the bridge retrofitting project closed part of Franklin Avenue, I made it a point to drive past the median every day, noting the changes that were taking place as the tiny native plants that had been put in the ground in November of 1995 took hold and flourished. Often, with a quick glance at my rear-view mirror, I would slow down to catch a glimpse of "the rock" and the plaque dedicated to Donald.

The plaque says simply:

*This patch of green, once covered with asphalt  
and weeds now blooms in memory of  
Donald R. Bolton (1932-1991)*

*Teacher, nature lover, and resident who enjoyed  
nothing more than the beauty of Franklin Hills.*

I am not sure how Donald would have reacted to being the subject of an Overview article or having his name on a public monument. Although warm and out-going, he was a very private person who shunned attention.

Donald and I moved to Franklin Hills the summer of 1968, just one year after our marriage. Here, we shared our lives with six cats and the diverse creatures that also claim

Franklin Hills as their home—blue jays, possum, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, and others. Donald enjoyed these critters plus the varied vegetation that covers our hills and loved living here. Whenever we spoke about the possibility of moving away, we could never think of a place we might prefer, so we remained.

Donald, who had been born in Santa Monica and had lived much of his life near the beach in places like San Diego and Redondo Beach, quickly adapted to life in the central city. He so loved this area and the community that when the opportunity arose to teach at the local high school, he quickly accepted. He was a public school teacher for 33 years—the last eight in the foreign language department at John Marshall High School. As an army lieutenant in his 20's, he served his country based not far from the demilitarized zone in South Korea. Before that he attended UCLA, played tennis, and sang in the Methodist Church choir.

At the median dedication ceremony two years ago, I noted that—because of exploding development and population growth—this country paves over an area the size of Delaware each year.

Donald would probably have been more than a bit embarrassed over the attention the memorial has given him, but would have been thrilled that our Franklin Hills neighbors have done something to reverse the trend of environmental degradation by converting an asphalt, half-covered eyesore into a lovely island of trees and shrubs.

I am especially happy that those who knew and loved him—his family and friends—were able to contribute toward doing this in the memory of Donald R. Bolton.