



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 15

SUMMER 1998

Volunteers have trouble keeping up with the demand for food tickets and the new t shirts



Catherine Metcalf McGowan cuts the ribbon officially opening the Shakespeare Bridge

BRIDGE PARTY IS SMASHING SUCCESS!!

“MOVE OVER, CECIL B. DE MILLE”

**FHRA Produces Gala Gift to the Community
Attended by a Cast of Thousands**

by Sheri Mobley

Franklin Hills, April 19, 1998 - Take one neighborhood landmark, add a handful of hardworking committee members and one beautiful Sunday afternoon and what do you get? One of the most successful events in Franklin Hills history!

Celebrating 72 years of service and the completion of a year long retrofit, Shakespeare Bridge was reopened in style on Sunday, April 19th. Over 2500 people attended the gala in honor of the gothic-style bridge that leads into the Franklin Hills. Highlights of the music and dance party included: The Pat Longo Super Big Band, a 17 piece orchestra, along with singer Mark Copeland (and featuring re-
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Adam Weisman

The Bridge is Finished! The Bridge is Finished! Run for your cars! Grab the children! Savor the moment! April 19th marked the reopening of the Shakespeare Bridge. For those of you who happened to have been out of town that day, our creative bridge committee cooked up a small get together to celebrate the occasion. What an event! Thousands of people from far, wide, and Franklin Hills, celebrated by dancing on the Bridge. I even saw William Shakespeare learning how to swing dance. The event was a gift to the community from FHRA, and also another example of the talent and skill which comes from our community. In the months prior to the event, residents called the hot line asking to join the committee and become involved in the celebration. The time and commitment from members outside of the board was exceptional. It is my hope that this event will lead to similar events and projects developed by our residents. In closing, if you know any of the committee members involved in the party, let them know how much you enjoyed the day.

As a way to continue our celebration of the bridge, the symbol of our association, two new projects are in development. The first will involve the design and installation of holiday lights along the bridge. Thanks to the city officials, electrical outlets have been placed on the upper part of each of the inside bridge turrets. We will have free use of the power during the holiday season, with automatic activation at dusk. The next step will be developing a committee to work on the design and installation. Another project is the establishment of permanent benches along the southern ends of the bridge which would permit citizens to sit at the bridge during their walks in the community. The hope is to purchase benches which will complement the bridge. Of course, this project is in need of a committee. Anyone interested can call the hot line.

Apart from the bridge reconstruction, association members have raised new projects and concerns which will again fill the tables at our Board meetings. By this time this column has hit the streets, our Annual Meeting will have introduced our community to the Metropolitan Transit Association Red Line and Dash shuttle system. (See story on p 18) Through your input, FHRA hopes that the MTA will provide a shuttle system for the community to the Red Line. Your voices are needed to let MTA know its importance—give Marcelle Zonta a call.

During the interim following the last newsletter, we invited Shirley Newland, our "lady of the bridge," to join our board of directors. Congratulations to Shirley, and to Sue Appleton and Ric Gomez, all of whom were elected to board positions at the May General Meeting.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have been assigned a new Senior Lead Officer, Al Polehonki. Officer Polehonki and Senior Lead Officer Sam Salazar are actively involved in the care and safety of Franklin Hills. Carol



President Adam Weisman, one of the few people wearing a tie to the party, accepts an Outstanding Service Award given to FHRA by the City of Los Angeles

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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 90029*

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KEEPING THE BRIDGE OPEN

by Shirley Newland

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished by a group of people dedicated to a common goal. For me it all started when Clark Robins, Principal Civil Engineer with the City of Los Angeles, gave a presentation for the Shakespeare Bridge retrofit project at the annual meeting last year. He promised to maintain the original design and historic charm of the bridge and to work with the residents as changes arose. Clark Robins was the first city official I listened to, heard, and believed. And his promise was never let down. Throughout the project and to its end he and others in the city kept their word. Clark and Senior Structural Engineer, Terry Wong, are responsible for getting the turrets finished in time for the bridge reopening party, a task that was not in the original contract.

Community involvement is key to the success of this whole project. Talking with Dave Spangler, the city's on-site construction inspector, he expressed the sentiment that of all the projects he has worked on, our community has impressed him as being the most actively involved and cooperative. Also important was the cooperation of the contractors of TM Engineering. Matt Moetazedi, Project

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The Last Lonely Night for the Shakespeare Bridge
April 18, 1998



FHRA Secretary Charley Mims (wearing one of the hot-selling new FHRA t-shirts) emceed the official ceremonies.

The Shakespeare Bridge: the old look with new earthquake resistant strength

By Clark Robins and Charley M. Mims

The Shakespeare Bridge on Franklin Avenue was built over a deep ravine in 1926. This gothic-style bridge, known to Angelenos as the Shakespeare Bridge, is a reinforced concrete structure 30 feet wide and 260 feet long with 3 arch spans. The fanciful bridge is architecturally set off with turrets and towers, arches and spandrel columns. The bridge was declared Historic Cultural Monument No. 126 in 1974 by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles.

After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, structural engineers from the City of Los Angeles took another look at the design of the bridge and decided that it needed to be strengthened to resist seismic forces. The seismic retrofit design strategy was to guard against the bridge collapsing in a major earthquake. To accomplish this goal the design elements of the bridge were reviewed and the structural elements found to be deficient in resistance to seismic forces were analyzed. Engineers were confronted with the need to retrofit those structural elements found to be deficient when subjected to seismic loading while preserving the historic appearance of the bridge. To do this they designed a retrofit program that minimized aesthetic impacts and minimized the removal of historic reinforced concrete fabric.

Retrofit work included complete removal and reconstruction of the bridge's deck, sidewalk, and the railing on both sides of the bridge. The abutment walls at each end of the bridge were removed and replaced with stronger rein-

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Annual Meeting Chews on Community Issues ... and cookies

by Bruce Carroll

If you've attended any of the FHRA's past annual meetings you know the highlight was Vivien Shea's delicious cookies. It was the same this year when two score and seven Franklinites found their way to the King Middle School auditorium on May 28th.

After some pre-meeting munching and schmoozing in the foyer, FHRA President Adam Weisman called the meeting to order and recounted a year of accomplishments. Chief among them was FHRA's much praised role as liaison between area residents and the rebuilders of the Shakespeare Bridge. That spirit of cooperation got a firm foundation at FHRA's 1997 annual meeting, spanned 10 months of construction and was cemented with song, dance and civic awards at the biggest bridge party LA has ever seen.

For those who didn't see it live...or wanted to relive it...a video of party highlights was presented larger than life. Where Shakespeare (aka actor Gregory Bell) joined the dance lesson and smiled as he learned the rock step...presumably to symbolize how rock-solid his bridge has become after seismic strengthening.

As Vince Rossini, area deputy for Councilman John Ferraro, spoke, he seemed to join the FHRA fan club praising our spirit of community involvement and pledging to continue the cooperation.

That desire for cooperation and citizen input was demonstrated again when MTA transit experts Max Gephart, (MTA Project Manager) and Russ Chisholm, (Transportation Management and Design) came to hear what the FHRA's "transit experts" had to say about bus routes to link us to the Red Line subway. Our station at Sunset and Vermont should open next year. The proposals, discussed in detail in Marcelle Zonta's article, envision a small DASH bus traversing the Shakespeare Bridge.

Passengers on such a bus would be able to feast their eyes on the luxuriant greenery of the FHRA landscaped median. But according to treasurer Bruce Carroll the

median needs more green. The kind that's rumored to grow on the elusive money tree. While red is a lovely color for flowers, it's an ugly color on the balance sheet, and over the last year median expenses have outrun donations nearly three-to-one. In fact, Carroll noted, "there has not been a single median donation in 1998." Bridge Party expenses, combined with the median deficit, have lowered the FHRA's treasury by nearly \$1,600 in our fiscal year from May to May.

And there was other less than rosy news at the meeting. Despite FHRA support for community efforts to shut down sexual encounter clubs along Hyperion Avenue, President Weisman reported, "to date both clubs remain open." But he vowed, "this issue has not ended."

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, the battle of good against evil seems to be going more in our favor...assuming you're on the side of good. LAPD senior lead officers Sam Salazar and Al Polehonki reported a downward trend in crime and success in uprooting drug dealing elements from our midst. Several at the meeting expressed concerns about the continued effectiveness of community policing. It was noted that Chief Parks consistently has turned a deaf ear to public requests that he not diminish the role of senior lead officers in providing the key link between you and the police.

And what would an annual meeting be without an election? Ours, accomplished with no negative ads nor multi-million dollar budgets, resulted in an unanimous vote for three returning members of the FHRA board of directors: Charley Mims, Adam Weisman, and Marcelle Zonta. An equally unanimous welcoming vote went to our two new board members Sue Appleton and Ricardo Gomez.

And when all the voting and talking was done...it was time for more cookies.

Would you like to own your own copy of the bridge party video? Want to hear the band, see Shakespeare swing, relive the whole day? Call the Hotline (664-7247) and order a copy for \$15.