



# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 19

SPRING-SUMMER 2000



"Lunar Perigee over Franklin Hills—December 22, 1999" Ulf Wallin

## GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING JUNE 7 AT ABC-TV

By Carol Skinner

FHRA's Annual Meeting will be held this year at ABC-TV studios Rehearsal Hall One. Enter the ABC lot at the Main Gate on Prospect, just east of Talmadge (*not* the Talmadge gate) and the guard will direct you from there. Refreshments—courtesy of ABC and FHRA — will be served starting at 7 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30.

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For the major part of the evening we hope to have general discussions and questions on topics of interest, such as City Services (street sweeping) Infrastructure (read potholes,) Neighborhood Councils, Cityhood for Hollywood—does it affect us?, and LAPD—crime and responsiveness. Articles in this issue of the *Overview* relate to some of these topics. Representatives from city government, police and other community groups will be invited to attend and supply information. Planned agenda also includes such annual business as election of Board members and yearly reports.

Past projects of the association include the median landscaping, this newsletter, stairway cleanups, tree planting, disaster preparation plans and neighborhood school environment restoration. Many of these came about because someone attended an annual meeting in the past and said, "What can we do about. . ." . Maybe *you* will be

the person with the needed and doable project this year.

Reminder letters have been sent to past and present dues-paying members; fliers have been posted and sent out to notify the rest of the neighborhood. We are not a "Home owners Only Association" although we cherish the support of those who do own a home here, along with renters and fans. If you did get a letter, please bring the tearoff with you as it will speed the check in of members. If you are not yet a member, you are encouraged to join at the meeting—it's \$10 per person or \$20 for a couple. Donations are tax-deductible and go to support the association projects. More than your dollars, we want your ideas and participation. Weed the median, plant a tree, help with folding and stuffing of letters, attend a meeting somewhere, write for this newsletter. . . we have (or can have) a project for every inclination. Even if you are not sure about joining, please join us at the meeting.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Ricardo Gomez

Contrary to what our Mayor says, things are not entirely better in the City of Angels. As a long time resident of Los Angeles, I can attest that there is more trash in the streets and that more dilapidated housing and buildings exist now than at anytime during my 44 year life here. The present conditions exist because Los Angeles does not adequately provide basic municipal services to many of its residents. Some Franklin Hills residents have labored for years to improve our neighborhood. Often, however, it seems as if we are fighting an uphill battle with city officials turning their backs on us. Many city officials don't feel any sense of accountability towards us and they feel free to disregard our best interests. The solution? We need more citizen involvement in City government.

### Neighborhood Councils, Farce or Furtherance?

Recent City Charter reforms established the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (known as "DONE"). The purpose of DONE is to establish "neighborhood councils" in Los Angeles and thereby improve our City government. These neighborhood councils will act in an advisory capacity to City government.

Recently I went to one of the meetings sponsored by DONE to solicit input on how to set up a neighborhood council. The meeting was raucous and the DONE employees did a good job in a difficult situation. At the meeting I read the text of the proposed ordinance and, to my chagrin, I discovered that these proposed councils are something less than advisory. They will have no real power to make City government listen to their advice. Although the draft ordinance superficially requires that city officials give notice of intended actions, such as voting on legislation, to the neighborhood council before they occur, the ordinance contains a general exception to the notice requirement.

The general exception allows city officials to disregard the existence of a neighborhood council when they see fit. City officials can legally take action on a matter of great importance to the community without first notifying the neighborhood council for input. If you don't think that this will happen just remember the secret dealings with the Greek Theater contract and the Children's Museum. Simply put, powerful special interests will still be able to secretly lobby city departments, the City Council and the Mayor to put projects or conclude deals in your neighborhood without your input.

Are neighborhood councils a farce? It depends on what we do with them. If neighborhood councils are structured so that the geographical boundary of each neighborhood council is merely coextensive with that of an existing residence or improvement association, then they will be a farce. Why have a neighborhood council that merely parrots an existing association? It is a waste of public monies to fund something that is already provided by citizen volunteers at no cost to taxpayers. Such small boundaries will further balkanize our City and will diminish citizen power vis a vis the special interests who tend to dominate City government.

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## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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### ACTION TEAM LEADERS

#### **ABC-TV & COMMUNITY:**

Adam Weisman 666-4630

#### **CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta 664-4124

#### **FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Shirley Newland 666-2520

#### **METRO RAIL:**

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

#### **PLANNING & ZONING:**

Charley Mims 666-2520

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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*

## MISSION semi-IMPOSSIBLE

By Bruce Carroll

This mission impossible has no international spies or self destructing instructions, but it does involve time travel. The last issue of the Overview featured a story about Harold "Bud" Young who had made a sentimental journey back to the Franklin Hills for the first time since the great depression. That was when the family was evicted from the house that his father and uncle built with their own hands in the early 1920's.



While the house was still under construction, Bud, in his mother's arms, along with his sister Ella and "two Stockdale children" were photographed sitting on a small pond in the backyard (see above). After the last Overview story Bud found this and other old pictures that show the surrounding neighborhood 75+ years ago looking like a rural village. It was this that set me on my mission to match the 1923 photo with the same perspective from the same location today.



I easily found the cute little cottage at 3914 Sunset Drive. It has defied the California pattern of frequent turnovers according to its current, owner Brenda Kilbourne. In tracing the lineage of the house where she has lived for the last 17 years Kilbourne found that Blu Hicks and her husband ob-

tained the house from the foreclosing bank by "investing \$ 100 worth of improvements. . . apparently a paint job." Kilbourne's research also found that "before they moved the Hicks lived in a tent on the hill at 3939 Sunset Drive." About half a century later contractor Joe Hoefler got the Hick's house at a probate sale and re-sold it to Kilbourne.

Trying to duplicate the 1923 photo from the backyard today I saw nothing but flowers and trees. I tried neighboring houses on Sunset and Delongpre and determined that it was a mission, at least semi, impossible.



Decades of building and planting had made the intersection of Hyperion and Lyric invisible from Sunset Drive as shown in the old photo. When I went down to the intersection, alas I could not match any of the buildings in the photo with what is there now, but through the trees I could see old glory proudly from Bob Shea's Mayview Drive balcony.

I figured if I could see the flag, the Shea's might be the closest location today that could approximate the 1920's perspective. In photo #2 you can see what 77 years has done to the barren hill in the old photo's background.

The background hill was also my target in a 1925 snapshot of Bud's brother Francis in his stroller. The



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## SEMI-IMPOSSIBLE

neatly written note on the back of photo #3 says, "Taken from the back yard, Sunset Dr. looking over Hyperion & up the hill where movie star Anthony Moreno's home is on top of the hill." The home, which Shea believes later became a monastery, is

still there, now enshrouded by trees only three of which stand out in the old picture. Most visible of the old buildings, in photo #4 taken recently from the Sunset Drive backyard, are three square buildings that seem to form steps near the top of the hill in the center of both the old and new photos.



Bud Young

My mission to find our neighborhood's yesterdays hidden in today was both fun and frustrating.

Of course I knew that beneath the layers of homes were the once barren hills, but what I hadn't realized was, that more than the buildings it was the trees that would keep me from truly duplicating past perspectives. Despite all the ugliness 75 years of development might have imposed on the hills, each of us in our own backyards have patched together an urban forest.

And in that Franklin Forest dwell what many would have us believe is a disappearing breed: People who are genuinely neighborly, friendly and interested in their neighborhood. Most of the time I spent on my mission semi-impossible was spent chatting with residents who saw me on the street trying to figure out if I could match one of my pictures from their location. They invited me in, offered me snacks along with juicy tidbits of neighborhood history. Getting the information was so much fun that I have material for future issues of the Overview and invite anyone with old photos or stories important to preserving our area's history to get in touch.



Francis Young



## PLANNING TO BUILD OR REMODEL ?



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## Cafe Los Feliz

2118 Hillhurst, in the Los Feliz area  
(at the former location of La Conversation)  
(323) 664-7111

*Ala, Jackie and the entire former staff of La Conversation will be offering European and International Pastries and Baked Goods along with a new and exciting expanded menu*

*Now serving lunch and Ice blended Cappucinos  
Free Cappucino for first time visitors!*



# community phones

## IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

Revised 5/00

**ABANDONED VEHICLES:** (800) 222-6366

**ABC-TELEVISION:**

Security: (310) 557-5354.

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** (888) 452-7381

Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179

**BARKING DOGS:** (888) 452-7381

**BRIGHT LIGHTS Streetlight repair:** (800) 303-5267

**BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:** (213) 847-9685

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

(323) 485-3337

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

**FHRA HOTLINE** (323) 664-7247

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;**

Non-emergency: 485-6185.

**HOMELESS, Food and Shelter** (323) 974-1234

**INFO LINE** (L.A. County Referral Service) (213) 686-0950

**LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY:** (323) 913-4710

**NEIGHBOR DISPUTE:** (213) 485-8324

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:** (213) 485-2799

**POLICE: EMERGENCY 911;**

**Spanish:** (213) 485-4333; **Asian:** (323) 893-8100

**Northeast Division, 3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:**

Adult/Women Abuse: (800) 978-3600

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

Gang Problems: (213) 485-7538

Graffiti: Officer Colenzo (213) 847-0511

LAPD Online: <http://www.lapd.org>

Main Desk: (213) 485-2563

Reports: (323) 485-4193

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Marcey

Basic Car Coordinator: Sgt. Williams

Traffic Enforcement (Speeding) (323) 485-2799

Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682

9 to 4 M-F

**POISON CONTROL** (800) 777-6476

**RAPE HOTLINE** (213) 392-8381

**RESTRAINING ORDER** (213) 974-5587

**STREET SERVICES:** (800) 996-2489

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

Bulky Item Removal (800)773-2489

Missed Trash Pick-up (800) 773-2489

**TREE TRIMMING (Hazards):** (800) 996-2489

**WATER & POWER:** (800) 342-5397

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

## Letters to the Editor

1. (On hand laid notepaper:)

Hello—

*Peter from Bates Avenue said "Hi" to us the other day and so here we are writing a check! I teach 7th grade at King M.S. and live on Cumberland. King has me teaching in the old Boy's Locker Room . . . I simply love the Franklin Hills and would be happy to be a part of graffiti removal or beautification projects.*

*Solid Newsletter!!*

*Matt Weaver & Hannah Lockhart*

2. (with gorgeous photo of sunset from Clayton Avenue)

To Editor, Overview,

*Thankfully the retrofitting of our bridge has saved it. But, alas, the gray paint job is dull and depressing. Our bridge still has its charm but has lost its glamour. My friends and I ask that serious consideration be given to painting it white. It will then be, as it was, a sparkling gem.*

*And oh, what happened to the Christmas lights promised?*

*Sincerely*

*Larry Colhause.*

Thanks for such attractive note cards! Seriously, folks:

- We promise to let you know of projects; and you are invited to Board meetings to make suggestions.\*
- A friend of mine taught for several semesters in a faculty restroom. In L.A, but not at King.
- Thank you for the kind words
- Do we remember a project manager promising us (at a general meeting) that the bridge would be the original color? We need to follow up on that!
- The Christmas lights for the bridge are safe in storage, awaiting electrical skills and a cherry picker. Anyone interested, please, please call\*
- We hope for further correspondence for future issues.

Please address to:

Editor, The Franklin Hills Overview

P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles CA 90029

\*call the Hot Line: 664-7247