



# OVERVIEW

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

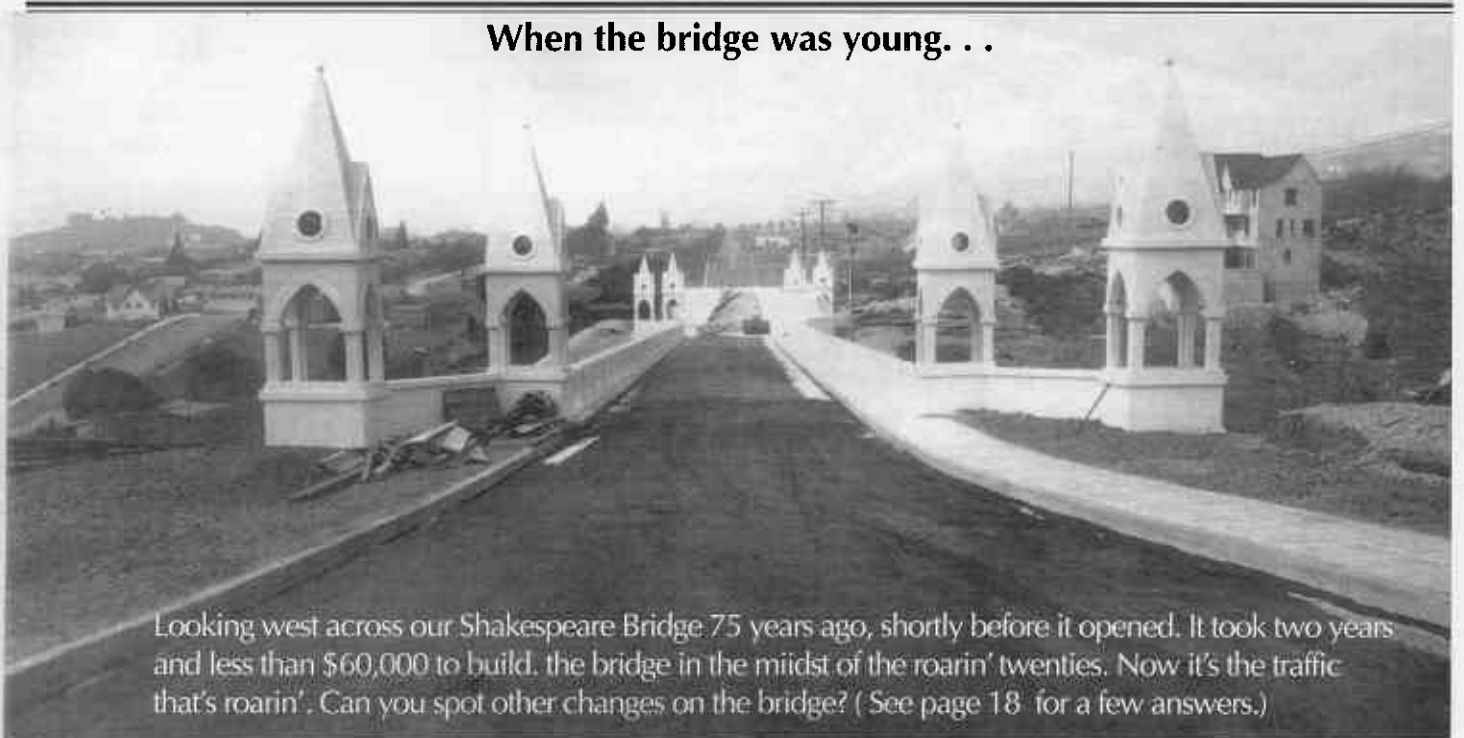
ISSUE No. 21

SPRING/SUMMER 2001

### ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 13 7 P.M. AT ABC

ENTER ON PROSPECT AVE JUST EAST OF TALMADGE; THE GUARD WILL GIVE YOU PARKING DIRECTIONS

When the bridge was young. . .



Looking west across our Shakespeare Bridge 75 years ago, shortly before it opened. It took two years and less than \$60,000 to build the bridge in the midst of the roarin' twenties. Now it's the traffic that's roarin'. Can you spot other changes on the bridge? (See page 18 for a few answers.)

### FRANKLIN HILLS IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF PARTICIPATING IN A GREATER AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

By Ricardo Gomez, FHRA President

On June 2, 1999, Los Angeles voters approved a new City Charter. The new Charter, in addition to giving the mayor greater powers, mandated the creation of a citywide system of neighborhood councils. The Charter created the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and charged it with the task of creating the citywide system of neighborhood councils. The purpose of the councils is to increase citizen participation in government.

Franklin Hills does not meet the minimum population requirement to create its own neighborhood council and therefore our only realistic alternative is to partner with our neighboring communities. As noted in previous editions of the Overview, we are working with representatives from Atwater Village, Los Feliz and Silver Lake to form a greater area neighborhood council. Its provisional name is the Greater Griffith Park Council,

*continued on page 2*

#### INSIDE

Neighborhood Council	1
King Middle School	4
Community Phones	5
Tribute to John Ferraro	5
Living in the Hills	6
Griffith Observatory	7
Community Gardens	8
FHRA Business	10
Board Candidates	12
Tops in Trees	14
Northeast Division LAPD	16
xxxxxx	18
FHRA Committees	20
Library	22
Cleaning up Myra	23

continued from page 1

## WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL?

A neighborhood council is an advisory body that is supposed to promote participation in City government and make it more responsive to local needs. The members of the neighborhood council are called stakeholders. A stakeholder is any person who resides, works or otherwise defines himself as having an interest within the boundaries of the council (e.g., parents with children in a school or attendees of a church within the boundaries). The council must have bylaws that govern its operations and provide for a method of selecting its board. Board members may be "elected or selected" to their positions. The resulting board must reflect the various classes of stakeholders within the community such as residents, businesses and other enumerated classes. The board is the operational unit of the neighborhood council. Its organizational function is identical to that of a non-profit corporation such as a residents or business association. The board's operations must be "transparent", that is, all meetings must be open to the public.

The City Council and certain City departments are required to notify the neighborhood council of proposed legislation and regulations. The City is attempting to develop an early notification system (called "ENS"). The ENS will notify neighborhood councils of proposed decisions probably via email. The neighborhood council board will be responsible for notifying stakeholders of the proposed decisions. The board will get input from the community so that it can take a position on a particular matter if called for. The neighborhood council will be responsible for monitoring the delivery of City services to its area and shall meet with City officials on a regular basis. The neighborhood council will be

able to recommend budget priorities to the Mayor.

Neighborhood Councils are supposed to be independent from the City and may be eligible for City grants. They can be incorporated as non-profit organizations. The minimum population size of a neighborhood council area is 20,000 residents. The persons forming the council determine the boundaries (there is no maximum size) with the proviso that, to the extent feasible, they must avoid splitting an existing community.

A neighborhood council is similar to other non-profit neighborhood associations except that its membership and operating criteria are set by City regulations. Existing associations such as the Franklin Hills Residence Association already handle many "neighborhood council" functions and do so without taxpayer funding. The question is, how will these councils add value to the services already provided by our existing network of community associations?

## THE PROBLEM PRESENTED

The development of a network of neighborhood councils presents significant problems for communities like Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake where we have a history of active community groups. We don't want the neighborhood council to create another layer of bureaucracy between the community and government. One significant problem is the scarcity of volunteers available to do community work. Within the Franklin Hills Residents Association (and in most other community associations that we are aware of) we find it difficult to recruit enough volunteers to accomplish what we really want to. This is understandable. People have to work and they have a home life. To staff a neighborhood council with volunteers will not be an easy task and may create competition between the neighborhood council and community groups for volunteers. We may end up losing if this occurs. If the neighborhood council is going to sub-

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Chairman*

ADAM WEISMAN

*President*

RICARDO GOMEZ

*Vice President*

CHRISTOPHER BOUTELLE

*Treasurer*

BRUCE CARROLL

*Secretary*

CHARLEY MIMS

PETER BEDARD

SHIRLEY MIMS

CAROL SKINNER

MARCELLE ZONTA

### ACTION TEAM LEADERS

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

Adam Weisman 666-4630

#### **CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta

#### **FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Shirley Mims 666-2520

#### **METRO RAIL:**

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

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

Charley Mims 666-2520

### Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

*Editor & Desktop Publisher:*

Carol Skinner

*Contributing Writers:*

Peter Bedard, Bruce Carroll,  
Ricardo Gomez Norm Harriton,  
Charley Mims Shirley Mims,  
Robert Page, Mary Rodriguez,  
Carol Skinner, Adam Weisman,  
Pearl Yonezawa,

*Ad Sales & Distribution:*

Chris Boutelle, 666-5548

The **Franklin Hills OVERVIEW** is published as often as possible. We invite readers' comments, submissions and opinions, and will publish as space allows. Please mail to:

*Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122,*

*Los Angeles, CA 90029*

*or e-mail: OverviewEditor@aol.com*

continued to page 2

## THE GREATER GRIFFITH PARK COUNCIL

stantially duplicate the work already being done by neighborhood and business associations, then what is the point of having a neighborhood council? Do we really want to invest taxpayer funds in such a venture?

When community representatives from Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake began meeting last August, our principal concern was how will neighborhood councils add to our efforts to improve our communities? We realized that to be effective, a neighborhood council must not duplicate the functions of existing community groups. We realized our shortcomings, that our respective communities, standing alone, do not have a substantial presence in relation to the rest of the City when it comes to getting our fair share of City services. Therefore, we felt that our neighborhood council should bring our respective communities together to address the common issues that seem to continually escape us (police deployment, blight, adequate street services, beautification projects, etc.). We felt that our resulting size would give us a regional presence in relation to the rest of the City, such as the Valley and Westside where their sheer size seems to give them more clout when garnering City resources.

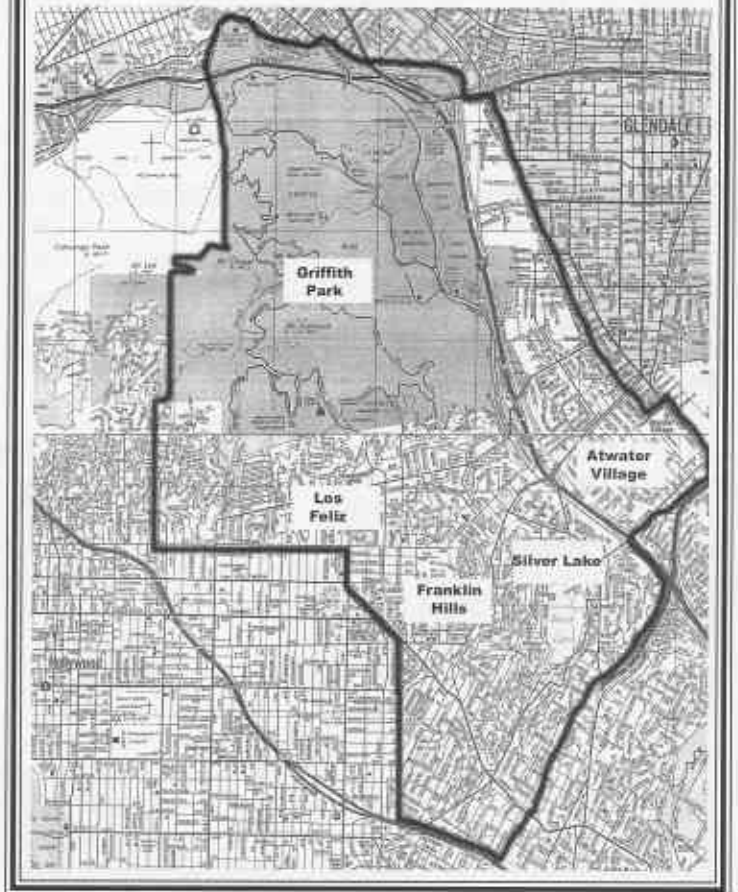
We expect the Greater Griffith Park Council (GGPC) to evolve and fill existing voids in our respective communities. We hope that it will strengthen our political clout in relation to those who continually threaten our efforts to maintain and improve our communities. Presently the GGPC looks like a federation of our four communities. We are in our infancy so what we end up with may be very different from what we start with. Our premise is that we want to work together and that is what continues to hold us together.

### STRUCTURE

The membership of the GGPC will consist of all stakeholders who live, work, own property or a business within the defined area (see map above,) or, who otherwise identify themselves as stakeholders. The GGPC Board will constitute the basic operating unit of the Council. The Board will consist of community representatives who staff the primary operations of the Council and who advocate positions for the Council. The Board members' duties are similar to those executed by board members of community associations except that there are extensive duties imposed by City ordinance.

The GGPC Board will consist of 21 members. There will be four members selected from each of the four communities (Atwater Village, Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silver Lake). There will be five at large members who may be appointed by the members of the Board to ensure diversity in representation. Each of the four communities will decide how to select its Board members provided that their selection process and results reflect the diversity of stakeholders in their community to the extent feasible. Organizations that repre-

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR THE NEW GREATER GRIFFITH PARK COUNCIL



sent identifiable stakeholder groups, such as residence associations and business associations, may select a Board member from within their group. However, we have not reached a consensus on how each community will select its Board members. Currently, each of our communities is developing a selection/election process. If you have any suggestions, please come forward.

The GGCP Board will establish committees staffed by stakeholders. Committee membership is open to all stakeholders and broad participation will be encouraged. The following committees are envisioned as standing committees and other committees will be formed as needed: The Early Notification System (ENS) Committee will be the most demanding because it will coordinate the receipt and dissemination of information received from the City through the ENS. The Budget and City Services Committee will work on City budget matters including the submission of proposed budget items (or a proposed budget) to the Mayor. This committee will also monitor the delivery of City services to our area. The Issues Committee will shift through issues and determine who should handle them. The Stakeholder Communication and Outreach Committee will make sure that stakeholders are aware of the GGCP and will encourage participation in the Council as well as participation in the local community associations.

*continued to page 19*

# THE VANISHING RACE SCULPTURE WINS LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY 2001 PRESERVATION AWARD

by Mary Rodriguez

On May 17th at the Regal Biltmore Hotel in downtown LA, Thomas Starr King Middle Schools' *The Vanishing Race* received the Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award for 2001. This beautiful and powerful 1936 WPA sculpture by Djey el Djey graces the school courtyard. Its was a gift to the boys and girls of America from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt under his Works Progress Administration program. The artist Djey el Djey was born in New York City. Half East Indian on his father's side, he sculpted many works around Los Angeles including Nicholas Copernicus on the *Astronomers Monument* on the front lawn of Griffith Park Observatory.

There were seven winners selected by the Conservancy Preservation Awards Jury for 2001. Other winners were the historic Allen House, First Methodist Episcopal Church, Bryson Apts. on Wilshire Blvd. featured in Raymond Chandler's *Lady in the Lake* mystery, the Chemosphere House built in 1960 at the top of a single concrete column in the Hollywood Hills, the residence of John Entenza who served for 37 years as editor and publisher of *Arts & Architecture* magazine, the Pantages Theater in Hollywood, and the USC Edward L. Doheny Memorial Library.

The ceremony was attended by Principal Thelma Yoshii & Assistant Principal Daniel Eckstrom. Board of Education Member Caprice Young's Deputies Monica Rodriguez and Carl Cade, and District E Asst. Superintendent Larry Tash. Representatives from several of the organizations that funded the restoration also attended including Ricardo Gomez, Pres. of Franklin Hills Residents Association, Michael Espinosa City of LA Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant, and from the Los Feliz Improvement Association, Terry Hughes, Charlotte De Armond, Mary Beth Sorenson, and of course me. I was also fortunate enough to have my family with me on this special day: my husband Van, my son Max, and my daughter Ruby currently in 7th grade at Thomas Starr King. My friend Sandra Gold of the Silver Lake Gardening Club so crucial to all of our beautification efforts attended, as well as, Mia Lehrer whose landscape architectural firm Mia Lehrer + Associates worked pro bono as our consultants for the entire courtyard redesign. Andrea Morse of the Sculpture Conservation Studio, the professional conservators hired to restore the statue, also attended as they had participated in several of the winning projects.

Every once in a while all the hours of time, energy, and thought devoted to a project that you really believe in pays off. For the last 5 years I have focused my attention on Thomas Starr King Middle School. It's been a passion that at times had me frustrated, but I believed that what I was doing was important and convinced a lot of people around me along the way. If

*continued to page 19*

*Ms Rodriguez with the statue she worked so hard to save*



**Café**  
**LOS FELIZ**  
French Pastries

*Baking in the Best European Tradition!*

**Serving Lunch**

*Sandwiches, Soups, Salads*

*Also Smoothies, Blended Drinks and Ice Cream*

*For Those Hot Summer Days*

***Our Mediterranean  
Specialties Should Not  
be Missed!***

2118 Hillhurst • Los Feliz Village

323-664-7111

Mon-Sat 7 am-6 pm • Sun 7 am-3 pm