



# OVERVIEW

**FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

ISSUE # 25

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

## Annual Meeting on May 27 at 7 p.m. King Middle School Auditorium



Photo by Bruce Carroll  
Councilman Tom La Bonge



Photo by Bruce Carroll



Photo by Bruce Carroll  
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehoncki will be at the meeting

Meeting in ( 2002) in King MS Auditorium. Bring your neighbors!

### Reunion Anual Mayo 27 a las 7 p.m. en auditorio de la Escuela King

Le pedimos a cada uno que vive o que trabaja en Franklin Hills que asista a nuestra reunión anual el Martes, 27 de Mayo. Comenzara a las 6:30 y refrigerios serán servidos – esos son siempre importantes. Si usted todavía no ha pagado su membresía para este año, nosotros podemos aceptar su pago. Todos los miembros que atiendan votarán sobre asuntos del FHRA (véase página 5). Si durante la reunión usted desea nominar a un candidato para el Concejal de la vecindad, usted puede hacerlo. Estamos especialmente interesados en tener personas de la vecindad alrededor de la escuela King, alrededor de los Estudios Prospect, y del lado de la calle Hyperion.

Es importante venir y conocer a sus vecinos, y votar sobre asuntos del FHRA. Pero la mejor parte de la reunión es conocer, escuchar, y hacer preguntas al Consejero de la ciudad Tom LaBonge, a los oficiales de nuestra policía quien protege nuestra vecindad, y a otras personas quienes influyen nuestras vidas. ¡Venga preparado para hablar! Estamos trabajando en varios asuntos al momento: Mejor iluminación alrededor de la escuela, pavimentar las calles, y eliminar el graffiti. Deseamos saber que asuntos son importantes para ustedes.

Everyone in Franklin Hills is urged to come to the annual meeting on Tuesday, May 27. At 6:30 there will be refreshments served—that's always important—and we will be happy to take your money if you haven't already paid your dues this year. All members vote on FHRA business (see story page 5). And any member may nominate a candidate for the Board during the meeting. We are especially interested in having people from the south and east parts of Franklin Hills.

It's important to get to meet your neighbors, and to vote on FHRA's business. Everyone's favorite part of the evening is meeting and hearing our City Councilman, Tom La Bonge, the police officers who protect our neighborhood, other people who influence our lives; and being able to ask them questions. Come prepared to speak up! Some of the issues we are working on are: Better lighting around the school, street paving, getting rid of graffiti. We want to hear from you about what issues are important to you.

### INSIDE

Letter from the President	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Useful Phone Numbers	3
Graffiti	4
Police column	4
FHRA Votes on Changes	5
Welcome Baskets	5
Coyote Update	6
Community Policing	8
Mural	10
Trash Can Etiquette	12
Famous in Franklin Hills	14
Why the FHRA?	16
Bridge News	17
GGPNC	18
Los Feliz Library	21
Survival : Overview	22
Survivor: Franklin Hills	24

## Letter from the President

by Charley Mims

### President's Report

Charley M. Mims



Well, it's hard to believe, but we are coming up on the end of another year for the FHRA! Just last year I was elected to another two year term on the Board following which the other Board members elected me President.

So much has happened this year that looking back it doesn't quite seem possible. We continued with ongoing projects to beautify our neighborhood and developed new ones. The median island on Franklin Avenue near the Shakespeare Bridge has never looked better. Shirley Mims has continued to work with neighbors near the bridge and with staff from Councilman LaBonge's office to clean up under the bridge, to build a retaining wall, to install an irrigation system and to landscape the area, so both top side and below, the Shakespeare Bridge will look great and be a beautiful landmark in our neighborhood.

Norm Harriton turned over the Chair of the Franklin Hills Community Garden to Tori Kjer, who has continued to improve this project. Besides a new fence, a potting and tool storage shed was designed and built next to the garden. Norm served the Board delicious strawberries from his plot at our last Board meeting!

Carol Skinner has continued to maintain liaison with the local police and has kept us informed as to crime trends. Sadly we learned of the death of one of our favorite Senior Lead Officers, Stacy Miyamura. She was such a good officer, diligent, helpful and never complaining, even when her battle with cancer was at its most difficult.

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds (whew!) continued expanding our neighborhood watch block captain program. She also helped develop community support for the mural artist who beautified the little commercial building at the south west corner of Prospect and Talmadge. The dedication was just last month and Mary Frances is already lining up funding for his next mural on the public stairway at Hoover and Prospect.

The Bureau of Street Services has finally completed an analysis of the paving failures on Cumberland and other nearby streets. They plan on implementing a correction in the near future. Public Works Commissioner Janice Wood is doing an audit of bulky item pick-up to improve this City supplied service. We look forward to hearing from her at our annual membership meeting on the progress of this report.

We were successful in curbing the illegal uses of auto body shops in the area thanks to the persistent work of Past-President Ricardo Gomez. He continues to be a watchdog for our neighborhood on these and related issues.

Our communities' Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, (GGPNC), was certified and elected/selected its Board. Our FHRA Board members Char-

*continued to page 20*

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President*

CHARLEY MIMS

*Vice President*

CHRISTOPHER BOUTELLE

*Treasurer*

BRUCE CARROLL

*Secretary*

SHIRLEY MIMS

DAVID CAMPBELL

ERIC FRASE

JOSEPH HAHN

NORM HARRITON

MARY FRANCES SMITH-REYNOLDS

CAROL SKINNER

*Chairman*

RICARDO GOMEZ

*Chairman Emeritus*

ADAM WEISMAN

### ACTION TEAM LEADERS

PROSPECT STUDIOS, LILA & COMMUNITY:

Adam Weisman 666-4630

**CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

**GRAFFITI REMOVAL:**

Eric Frase

**FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Shirley Mims 666-2520

**WEBMASTER / E-MAIL**

Bruce Carroll 467-8703

**PLANNING & ZONING:**

Charley Mims 666-2520

### Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

*Editor*

Carol Skinner

*Contributing Writers:*

Bruce Carroll, Eric Frase,

George Grace, Joseph Hahn,

Charley Mims, Shirley Mims,

Al Polehonki, Carol Skinner

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds,

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 to [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org)

## COMMUNITY PHONES

### PROSPECT STUDIOS

323/671-5785.

### LOS ANGELES CITY SERVICES

#### ALL SERVICES 311

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

Dead Animal Pickup (323) 227-7179

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

**BUILDING & SAFETY VIOLATIONS:**

888-LA4BUILD

**COUNCILMAN TOM LABONGE, 4th District:**

(323) 485-3337

200 N. Main St. #514 LA, CA 90012

**FIELD DEPUTY Jeanne Chang** (818)755-7630

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

[FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org)

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;**

Non-emergency: 485-6185.

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

**INFO LINE** (L.A. County Referral Service)

323-686-0950 or 800-339-6993

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

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

**ALL CITY SERVICES: 311**

**POLICE: EMERGENCY ONLY: 911**

**ALL OTHER CALLS::1-877-CALL LAPD**

(877-275-5273)

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

**Northeast Division,**

3353 San Fernando Road, LA 90065:

Front Desk: (213) 485 2563

Community Relations: (213) 485-2548

Gang Problems: (213) 485-7538

Graffiti: Officer Colenzo (213) 847-0511

LAPD on the net: <http://www.Lapdonline.com>

Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki:

(213) 509-2964

Traffic Enforcement (Speeding)

(323) 485-2799

**POISON CONTROL**(800) 876-4766

**RAPE HOTLINE** 310) 392-8381

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

**SCHOOLS:** Marshall High

Officer Gonzales 323-660-1440 x 240

Thomas Starr King Middle School:

Officer Harris 323-664-1176 x140

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

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

Bulky Item Removal (800)773-2484

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

## Not To Sound Like a Broken Record...

### But FHRA Broke More Records Last Year

*By FHRA Treasurer, Bruce Carroll*

2002 was a record year for the FHRA. Our membership increased to slightly over 400, up almost 16% from 2001, which was also a record year. Our total income from all dues, donations, dividends, advertising and maybe four pennies found on the bridge, totaled. \$16,118.04. That's well above previous years except 1995 when we had a big fund drive to cover the cost of median landscaping.

The good news is that we didn't need red ink as our expenditures were \$234.72 below income. As usual the biggest item in both expense and income was the Overview. What's new is it turned a profit, albeit quite modest...just 90 cents. Ad revenue brought in \$5,350 and covered expenses of \$5,349.10.

The next two biggest sources of income were the Franklin Hills Community Garden where grants for fencing and a tool shed yielded \$2,500 from the city and \$1,000 from the county. Membership fees and a donation from the FHRA general fund brought the garden's total to \$4,308.15. Just behind were FHRA membership dues at \$4,010. Many members added contributions above and beyond their dues totaling nearly \$2000. And sales of historic photos and FHRA t-shirts brought in just under \$500 although we spent over \$2000 to renew our stock for the first time in several years. Order a T-shirt now while we have a full range of sizes once again.

Other big expense items were the Franklin Avenue Median, where maintenance and water soaked up almost \$1500. Insurance in our ever litigious world cost just over \$1000. We donated over \$800 to various groups from the Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, to the Hillside Federation, to gifts of appreciation for ailing LAPD Senior Lead Officers. We spent over \$500 on various forms of communication from postage, to our FHRA message line (323-664-7247) and our new, last spring, website ([www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org)).

Special programs like our revived Neighborhood Watch, Graffiti abatement, and Welcome Baskets for new neighbors got about \$650 from the budget. Mundane miscellaneous expenses of about \$300 rounded out our expenditures.

The FHRA's stock holdings suffered through the same tumultuous year as most stocks. What started out a few years ago as a generous gift of 25 MediaOne shares worth nearly \$1,400, later merged to become 22 shares of AT&T (plus about \$1000 in cash) then last year shrunk to just 4 shares of AT&T after spinoffs of 7 shares each of AT&T Wireless and Comcast. All together our portfolio ended 2002 worth about \$320. For the year down about 20%.

What's expected to go up this year are FHRA expenses. We have already made or pledged donations and gifts nearly twice last year's level, including support for the Prospect & Talmadge mural artists, our insurance rates have gone up, as has the cost of regular median maintenance...and there is so much more to be done. That's why we'll be asking the annual meeting to approve a dues increase...a modest \$5 per year. It's the first dues increase we've asked for in a since way back in 1991.

You can also make designated contributions to pet programs like the Median, Neighborhood Watch, Murals, Welcome Baskets etc...Please join us, be generous. Together we can make this great neighborhood even better.

## Attacking Graffiti

by Eric Frase

### GRAFFITI ABATEMENT EFFORTS GEARED TOWARD "MAINTENANCE"



As chairperson of the FHRA Graffiti Abatement Committee the past several years, I'm happy to report that I, and my fellow neighborhood volunteers, have had remarkably little tagging and other vandalism to clean up in the past six months. Of all the former "hot spots" of graffiti activity in the area, the small building at the corner of Prospect and Talmadge has seen the most dramatic transformation with the addition of Ricardo Mendoza's glorious mural, "Our Rite To Culture."

I firmly believe our days of group "paint outs" are a thing of the past and that the occasional, small "tags" that may pop up here and there in the neighborhood will be quickly removed by the affected property owner or tenant. In a way, Franklin Hills is like the person who has entered a weight loss regime and achieved the desired results and wants to maintain it. I invite current graffiti abatement volunteers as well as interested new individuals to join the FHRA with these suggestions to maintain and enhance the appearance of all areas of our neighborhood. Updates and announcements will be sent to those on the current graffiti email list (snail mail also available.) If you would like to become involved send your e-mail address to FHRA2000@hotmail.com or leave your mailing address at 323-664-7247.

+ Report graffiti on public property (sidewalks, curbs, etc.) to Operation Clean Sweep (800-611-2489) for removal.

+ Put pressure on businesses that neglect graffiti on their property. We'll alert you of locations, especially along the Fountain corridor, to call or visit to ask for their assistance to do their part in keeping our neighborhood free of graffiti.

+ Have a backup supply of paint if your property uses eclectic color. Taggers know that walls, garage doors, etc. that are ordinary colors (gray, white, beige, etc.) are more easily and quickly repainted than odd-colored surfaces. (This was part of the reason for the on-going tagging at the building at Prospect & Talmadge when it was painted light blue.)

+ Cover the "canvas". Our hillside geography is full of retaining walls that tempt the taggers who pass by every day going to and from school. Colorful vegetation draping over walls is an excellent deterrent to graffiti. (Check out the verdant wall coverings on Clayton between Talmadge and Hoover!)

+ Lighting deters. Driveways, garage doors, etc. near sidewalks are easily protected with lighting triggered by motion sensors

+ Visual blight is visual blight. Need to post notices in your area for yard sales, lost pets, neighborhood watch meetings, etc? Remove them A.S.A.P.!

+ Sneakers hanging on power lines. Identifiers of gang activity? Drug dealing? Or, urban legend? Whatever the true meaning, everyone, including Mayor Hahn acknowledges the "unspoken" message this visual conveys. To report the removal of shoes from overhead lines, call the new City Services hotline at 3-1-1.

## Northeast Division LAPD



I hope that this article finds everyone in the Franklin Hills community in good health and looking forward to a great summer. Most of us spend a

considerable amount of time on the road driving to and from work, to shop for groceries or perhaps to that special place for an enjoyable evening out. Just driving in and out of the hills can be a daunting task, especially during rush hour with the commuter traffic that short cuts through the area.

Patience is certainly a virtue but when combined with defensive driving habits and following the rules of the road our daily drives can be safe ones.

A traffic collision is defined as an unintentional occurrence in which the movement of a conveyance causes death, injury or property damage. Interesting definition in that the word unintentional means, "not caused on purpose". Its true that most drivers don't want to intentionally cause an accident but at the same time will intentionally speed, fail to yield the right of way or stop for posted stop signs or

**Café Los Feliz**

Baking in the best European Tradition!

We are here for all your  
Summer Needs

Smoothies, Ice Blended Drinks & Ice Cream  
and all manner of cookies and tarts!

2118 Hillhurst  
Los Feliz Village  
323-664-7111

Our Mediterranean Specialties  
should not be missed!

Ask about our Catering too...

Monday-Saturday: 7:00 am to 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 7:00 am to 3:00 pm