



OVERVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE No. 5

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1991

THE VIEW FROM SHAKESPEARE BRIDGE

by ROSALIND LIEBERMAN

The other morning I talked with a lovely neighbor you may know, Mrs. Catherine Metcalf McGowan, about the Franklin Avenue Bridge which, I recently learned, was designated a Historical-Cultural Monument in 1974 and has been nominated to the National Register. Mrs. McGowan's father, Robert Metcalf, was the contractor who built the bridge, which was designed by J. C. Wright, a civil engineer with the Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering.

Begun in 1924, the bridge was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$59,960. Mr. Metcalf was also the contractor who graded and paved the streets and laid the sewers in the Franklin Hills. As Mrs. McGowan remember it, the whole job took less than five years.

"What else can you tell me about Shakespeare Bridge?" I ask.

"Well, my father never did understand where that name came from," she said, "because that bridge was modeled on a bridge in France."

We tossed around a few possibilities. Did someone spot Juliet's ghost, leaning over the balustrade, mooning over some Romeo down

See BRIDGE, p. 6, Col 1

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that can change the world."

- Anthropologist Margaret Mead



Happy

Holiday

Season From

The Franklin Hills

Residents Association

'Twas the season of Xmas, and all thru L.A.
varied cultures preparing a bright holiday.

The children are clutching their wish lists so tight,
with prayers Santa's reindeer can find them at night.

The stores all do beckon - with trees, lights and sales.
Some say our greed, this holiday's message derails.

Excesses abound - in this land called La La,
though the creatures do pray - to God, Buddha or Allah.

So from our little corner, around Franklin Hill,
let's sing out a message of peace and goodwill.

From the
Members of the Board
FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WANTED: Membership Chairman and You!

I am serving as temporary chairman of a new Membership Committee, and one of our committee's first goals is to find an individual who would have the interest and time to serve as a permanent Chairman. The principal functions of this person will be to establish a new member outreach program and member retention program strategy and then direct its implementation through the committee members efforts. We already have a group of people who are willing to work on the committee, including myself, but we need someone who is able to call and assemble meetings of the committee on a regular basis and direct its activities. We are all willing to assist the chairman and provide effort to accomplish the committee's goals.

If anyone has some interest in this role, please call me at 666-0307 to discuss this in greater detail. Even if you are not sure you can do it, please give me a call, because the role is very do-able if you have the interest and four or five hours a month that you can spend on this. We can help with the rest: strategy, implementation, etc.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all our readers who have not joined or who have let their membership lapse (fortunately there are not too many in this latter category) to fill out and send in the membership form in this issue. We want you and we need you to join us"

We have begun to create an organization which is helping our residential community to speak to and act upon the issues which shape and impact the quality of our lives in Los Angeles, the leading urban center in our country! Whether we deal with these issues with reason or neglectful folly is up to each and every one of us! So join us; It is step one in supporting the quality of your residential life!

And finally, I would like to say that the most important thing we are doing through our activities is creating a sense of community for those that participate in our organization's activities. The biggest drawback to living in an urban environment is the difficulty in finding and/or maintaining a sense of community because of the absence of a shared history and the sheer volume of people. So come help us evolve our sense of community in the Franklin Hills area! JOIN US!

- BRYANT CROUSE

Vice President, Franklin Hills Resident Association

LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL HISTORICAL-CULTURAL MONUMENT STATUS

by TONY MICHAELIS

On November 12, the Los Angeles City Council, acting on an application submitted by the Franklin Hills Residents Association, designated the four buildings (currently known as Los Feliz Hills School) designed by renowned architect John Lautner and their site as a Historical-Cultural Monument. This means that any effort to demolish the site for potential residential development will mandate a six to twelve month delay to allow efforts to retain the site in its existing state. The Association would like to thank Councilman Michael Woo and his staff for their assistance in this achievement.

The resident Los Feliz Hills School was foreclosed on in August and has vacated the property. The new owners are Community Bank and Mega Mortgage. They are looking for a buyer for the property but, due to the weak economy and the limitations of the site, they have been unsuccessful in selling the site to date.

The Association's Los Feliz Hills School Committee has been working
See SCHOOL, p. 8

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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VIOLET WEBER

To better serve the community, committees have been formed to deal with issues that concern our neighborhood on a daily basis:

ABC-TV/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

PLANNING & ZONING

Charley Mims, 665-8239

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

Violet Weber, 663-6427

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL:

Marcelle Zonta, 664-4124

LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL:

Tony Michaelis, 666-8166

CRIME & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

Violet Weber, 663-6427

BYLAWS:

Jim Churchill, 663-0580

MEMBERSHIP

Bruce Carroll, 665-9875

GRAFITTI

Isabel Dietz, 661-4531

NE-TACC (Gangs)

Patti Harrison, 662-8709

The OVERVIEW invites your comments and, space permitting, will publish letters mailed to Editor, Overview, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

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DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

Over the past year, forty of your neighbors cared enough to train with the Los Angeles Fire Department for seven weeks to learn how to help themselves and their neighbors in the event of an earthquake or other major disaster.

Out of this forty, a small group of Team Leaders has been working consistently to better prepare the neighborhood in many ways.

The Team Leaders have put together a list of basic equipment to be stored near

a central staging area to care for anyone in our community needing shelter, medical care, fire suppression, search and rescue, and food and water.

This equipment includes generators to provide light and power to the staging area, tarps and poles to shelter the injured, first aid supplies, fire extinguishers and so on.

Obviously, preparing for a disaster is a neighborhood investment. The lives and well-being of you and your family

are at stake, and we need your help.

Most immediately, we need funds to purchase supplies and equipment to care for your family and others. Please send a check or money order today to:
FHRA DISASTER RESPONSE FUND
 P.O. Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Thank you for sending \$10, \$25, or as much as you can afford. We will keep you informed of our efforts through the Overview community newsletter.

Franklin Hills Residents Association Disaster Response Training

Your Second Chance!

Last October forty neighbors joined in a seven-week Disaster Preparedness Training Program.

Now divided into Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression, Medical and Logistical teams, these trained people are prepared to help their neighbors survive devastating disasters.

FORTY IS NOT ENOUGH!

And now YOU have a SECOND CHANCE.

This is a **FREE** seven-week course, designed to train you to be **genuinely** able to help in the event of a natural disaster to save your own life and possibly those of your family and neighbors.

Please don't depend on others to protect you. In the event of the "Big One", we could be isolated from police, communications, medical help or the Fire Department for up to 72 hours. **CAN YOU COPE WITH THAT?**

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR! TAKE THE TRAINING!

The course is one night a week for seven weeks, starting on

Tuesday, January 14, 1992, 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Thomas Starr King School, 4201 Fountain Avenue

THE COURSE IS FREE, BUT YOU MUST SIGN UP

To sign up or for further information, call:

VIOLET WEBER, (213) 663-6427

Leader, Disaster Preparedness Team

OUR LIBRARY LOOKS LIKE A XMAS TREE

by BRUCE CARROLL

The seasonal forest has sprouted in the empty lot on Hillhurst just south of Franklin Avenue. Next door at the Progress School, students are still hopefully making progress in their "Clases de Ingles." And if you \$850 a month you can lease the little one-bedroom house around the corner for a year.

It sure doesn't look like much has happened in the two months since the Library Commission finally selected the south-east corner of Franklin and Hillhurst Avenues as the site for our new Los Feliz Public Library. But this month the initial environmental report, the Negative Declaration, will be presented to the Commission. The amount of negatives in the declaration will determine how long the environmental process will take. Save Our Library Coalition coordinator Donna Matson is getting positive feedback, "From what we can tell all is going well . . . the Coalition continues to work with the Library Commission to give them information to assist them in the negative

declaration report and in the purchase of the property."

"Our real estate division doesn't want to do anything until we know the result of the environmental report" say Library spokeswoman Karen Smith. That's confirmed by the property owner J. D. Kelleher's observation, "No one's contacted me except you." With his development plans now in a "holding pattern," Mr. Kelleher said, "I would be willing to cooperate in the sale. It really comes down to the money, you know . . . I know they can condemn it, but then we have a fight. I'd just as soon not have a fight, I'd rather have a respectable offer and make a clean transaction."

Last May, the SOL Coalition got an estimate from area realtors of only \$1.5 million for the parcel. Mr. Kelleher points out that is less than the \$55 per square foot the smaller gas station, now mini mall, across the street sold for nearly ten years ago. "If that's the figure they are kicking around I hope they select a different parcel." Earlier city estimates of land

value have gone as high as \$2.4 million.

Once the land is in hand, the Library Department will unleash the creative talents of architect Barton Phelps. First he will do a conceptual plan, then seek community input. The final plan should be approved about 16 months after the land acquisition. Then, according to Ms. Smith, the timetable looks like this, "The bid process to find the contractor is six months; then the construction process is 12 to 14 months and that's if everything goes well . . . if nothing unusual transpires."

Well, we all know that the unusual usually seems to transpire and where construction and government are involved it's a virtual certainty. But, with fingers crossed for the best, if you had checked out a book from the current library the day the new site was approved, and planned to return it to the new library when it opens, figure that your fine (at ten cents a day) will be about \$146.10.

STAMP OUT JUNK . . . MAIL

by BRUCE CARROLL

So you thought you were making your sacrifice for the environment by spending an extra moment filling that bright yellow box the city gave you. Now Mayor Bradley has asked for an even bigger sacrifice . . . especially if you are a junk mail junkie.

The City Department of Mail Weighing (or whatever) estimates that we each get 170 pounds of junk mail a year and are apparently too: weak bored pissed off (select as many as apply) to open nearly 40% of it. The Mayor suggested that this "unwanted mail" not only fills up our mailboxes, but the City's only landfill.

By calling (800) CITY-SAN (or by reading on) you can get the address of the Direct Marketing Association's "Mail Preference Service." Originally the City printed up postcards to be mailed to D.M.A. explaining the city's "garbage crisis" and asking that, "you remove my name from all mailing lists." But after 7000 requests the supply ran out, along with the

funds to print more cards.

As the founder of the Society To Oppose Postal Junk, Unsolicited & Nuisance Correspondence (STOP JUNC), I can say my personal campaign to keep charities from using my contributions to restuff my mailbox has led to only limited success. My letter says, "If I receive more than two solicitations from you in the coming year I will deduct 10% from next year's check for each such solicitation received." I did actually get a \$20 check from an organization that called the policy "offensive."

If you find the avalanche of redundant pre-election political mail offensive, don't think your card or letter to the Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 3861 New York, NY 10163-3861 will help you. As the Mayor explained with a laugh, "political mail is not included . . . we wouldn't dare go that far."

community phones

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (213)557-5000
Security: 557-5354.

CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: 222-7138

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL WOO:

District Office, 4640 Hollywood Blvd., (213) 485-6471;
Room 218, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3353

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Recycling: 1-800-CITYSAN
Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation (\$100).
(213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122.

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater (\$200).
(800-852-9820

Household Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Emergency 911;
Non-emergency: 485-6235;

GRAFFITI:

On private property: 253-2687
On public property: (818) 772-7753

POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

LOS FELIZ PUBLIC LIBRARY: (213) 664-2903.

Hours: Mon & Tues 1-8; Wed & Thurs 1-5:30;
Fri & Sat 10-5:30.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH: (818) 904-1418

RECYCLING INFO: (800) CITY SAN

SANITATION: 485-4906

STREET LIGHTING: 482-5483

STREET MAINTENANCE: 485-5661

TELECOMMUNICATIONS (TV Cable service) 485-2751

WATER AND POWER: Hot Line/Water abuse: (800) 722-1122

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

NEWLY OPEN ON HILLHURST

BELLA BELLA (boutique) (662-7747)

PLATEAU (fine jewelry & fashions)

VILLA AMÉRICA (interesting antiques) (953-1920)

ART 'N BARBEE (BarBQ & Gallery) (660-5145)

NEWLY OPEN ON HYPERION

TRADER JOE'S (in old Hub Market bldg.) (665-6774)

DA NOI (Restaurant) (664-7979)

SOON ON HILLHURST

MISTO Los Feliz (Restaurant) (667-1357)

CAR PHONE OR RADIO?

An effort is being made to coordinate all types of emergency communication equipment in the event of a major earthquake or other disaster.

Owners of car phones, amateur ham radios, CB radios or walkie-talkie radios who would be willing to offer their support and expertise are asked to contact Jay Glassman at 663-3446 or Violet Weber at 663-6427

PHIL LYONS STILL CAN'T DO IT ALL

Do you have a nagging bit of visual pollution you'd like to get rid of? The Graffiti Paint-out Committee can supply you with free paint from Councilman Woo's office. Rollers and brushes are also available. For telephone poles, we can get you some dark brown paint free, donated by Baller's Hardware. These colors are available for a wall you'd like to adopt: white, off-white, mushroom and grey.

Our thanks to everyone who has adopted a wall recently - together we'll make a difference. Call Isabel Dietz (213) 661-4531 for paint, brushes or rollers. We will deliver supplies to your doorstep.

WE HEARD ABOUT YOU IN THE "OVERVIEW!"

The businesses in Franklin Hills, Los Feliz and Silverlake are experiencing the same recession we residents are experiencing. Supporting these businesses is a concept that works to our benefit. Traveling to other areas to shop has become troublesome now that the population and traffic have increased so much.

The businesses that have shown interest in reaching you and your neighbors by advertising in this (locally produced, hand distributed) newsletter are charged the absolute minimum possible fees to have their ads in the paper. Their ads pay for the paper. Therefore, please support our advertisers by utilizing their services regularly and, by all means, tell them you saw their ads in the "Overview."