



# OVERVIEW

## NOW ITS MY TURN

### SAYING GOOD BYE, THE HARD WAY

By Elena De Vos

I'm that rarity, an L.A. native, direct from this neighborhood. Every street brims with memories of three generations of my family.

My grandparents and parents regularly took me to the pony rides at Griffith Park and to ride the trains at Travel Town and to visit the Old Zoo, full of its cages and dank walkways, smelling the way a kid thinks a zoo should smell. Friendship Day Camp met at the big fountain by the tennis courts on Riverside Drive; it was there I caught my first frog in the L.A. river. I rode the merry-go-round hundreds of times as a child and attended (what only can be called) love-ins at the same spot in my late teens.

I strolled with my mother through shady Fern Dell when you could do so safely. My brothers held their Cub Scout picnics at the barbecue grounds by the Greek Theater where our family would come for the hot-dogs and sunsets. My Saturday art lessons in elementary school were at the Barnsdall Art Center, topped off by pastry and singing at Sarno's.

Sometimes my father and I would go to Thrifty's together to buy nickel ice cream cones and look at the magazines at its newsstand. At 16 I learned to drive on the streets winding up to the observatory, my teenage haunt. Yes, this is home.

When I returned to L.A. after finishing graduate school and ending my marriage, I gravitated here, leasing a house on Hollyvista where I convinced the owners to sell to me at the peak of the housing boom. By not using a broker, I saved a bundle, but I still paid a small fortune, "After all," I told myself, "If I don't buy now, when will I be able to?"

The former owners cleared over a quarter of a million dollars after living in the house fourteen years. Unfortunately, I did not do so well, by any accounting method, creative or otherwise.

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Tree planters applaud John Yingling of ABC-TV. The studio provided everything from parking to T-shirts, from restrooms to lunch

### FHRA'S "GREEN FOR A DAY" DRIVES URBAN UGLIES AWAY

By Bruce Carroll

What do Socrates, KABC weatherman Dallas Raines, and Lila the cat have in common? If you weren't wielding a shovel along Prospect and Talmadge Avenues on Saturday morning, March 27th, you probably haven't a clue...so read on.

That was the day when over 200 volunteers recruited by the FHRA, the Los Feliz Improvement Association and ABC-TV planted 58 trees to beautify the neighborhood. The group assembled at 8 a.m. in the ABC-TV parking lot where a last-minute refueling on donuts and coffee, plus a commemorative t-shirt were provided by ABC. Under the slogan "Green for a Day," the mostly green (in experience) volunteers were tutored by the very green (in clothing) troops from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. All the trees, tools and a mighty amount of assistance were provided by the LACC.

Project manager Peter Lassen, who headed the LACC staff of 20 youthful workers, rated the planting "among the better ones." Lassen, who spends several days a week turning novices into tree planters, praised our "good turnout and good workers." Noting we planted "very fast"—58 trees in about three hours—Lassen indicated

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### One Down, One to Go

What was the proper action? We had a major uprising in the city in May of 1992, resulting from a jury verdict that many (possibly most) citizens of all races didn't believe was just. A segment of our society had revolted against the system by burning and looting, mostly in their own neighborhoods but in others as well.

We had seen nearby stores looted and knew about the attempted fire-bombing of a residence in the Los Feliz hills. Now we were looking at two upcoming related trials with a possibility (even a probability) of more unpopular verdicts.

The board of directors of the Association had worked to come up with a practical preparedness plan for a possible crisis. The Association joined a loose coalition of neighboring associations to develop an area-wide strategy.

We talked with a consultant, previously active in earthquake preparedness, who was now consulting on riot preparedness and who recommended street blockading. There had been some blockading in other Hollywood Hills areas during last year's events and this was considered successful by these groups.

Should we do the same? Should we close off our entrance streets, with residents manning the blockades? Or should we do it with hired security personnel so as not to endanger our own residents? What would be the liability position of the FHRA if some accident happened?

We needed information: how serious could this become? What is the likelihood that there would be any riotous events in our neighborhood? We had sources for information, both police and civilian, and all were, while tending to push us toward mobilization, extremely hard to substantiate.

The entire purpose of our March meeting was to give our members information on what we were planning to do to help protect lives and property from possible disaster and to prevent any incursion into our neighborhood.

Unfortunately, we made a serious mistake - we quoted an unverified rumor. Also unfortunately, the news media was feeding on items like this to stay alive since the indicators steadily tended toward a non-riot. The Los Angeles Times published a particularly negative and inaccurate piece which was picked up by other media outlets, including KFI, Channel 13, KCRW and Inside Edition, and brought negative publicity for our Association.

This we regret, hoping that no lasting damage has been done. But more importantly, we want to know what you, our residents, want. Do you want the FHRA to concern itself with the possible repercussions of the Reginald Denny / L.A. Four trial in July or not? Should we enter again in what some believe is a political minefield without a way out or should we be concerned at all? Please write us, or call the FHRA Hotline at (213) 664-7247 and give us your opinion.

— DON WALDROP

**FRANKLIN HILLS  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
HOTLINE (213) 664-7247**

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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GENE CORNELL

CAROL MASON

CHARLEY MIMS

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VIOLET WEBER

FRANK YOGUS

### ACTION TEAM LEADERS

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

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

#### **CRIME & N'BORHOOD WATCH:**

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:**

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta, 664-4124

#### **GRAFFITI:**

Isabel Dietz, 661-4531

#### **MEDIAN:**

Riccardo Accorsi, 666-2431

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Carol Skinner, 662-1775

#### **METRO RAIL:**

Bruce Carroll 665-9875

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

Riccardo Accorsi, 666-2431

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# FHRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Members come and vote  
for your Board of Directors

Thursday, MAY 20, 1993

Check in starts at 6:45 p.m. Meeting at 7:15 p.m. sharp  
L.I.L.A. (THE FRENCH AMERICAN SCHOOL)  
4155 RUSSELL AVENUE

(Entrance to campus one block east of Talmadge on Russell Avenue)

HOMEMADE GOODIES

## Nominations for the Board of Directors

Submitted by Jim Churchill, Chair  
Nominating Committee

The job of the Nominating Committee is to find the best people we know to serve on the Board of Directors. The slate that we have submitted below represents our best effort. It's important to note, however, that there are a lot of people in Franklin Hills that we don't know. **If there is someone that you think would be a good board member (including yourself) we urge you strongly to nominate that person.** You can do this in a couple of ways: anybody may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting, which this year will be on May 19; or you could call any Nominating Committee member and arrange for one of us to nominate your candidate or have him or her nominated at the Annual Meeting.

If you know of such a person, we won't be offended – we'll be glad, because we're always looking for additional contributions of time and energy. Our numbers are listed below. The primary qualifications for serving on the Board are (a) you have to be able to come to the monthly Board meetings; (b) you need listening skills – you must be able to hear someone speak whom you may not agree with, and still get along with him or her. That's all it takes (plus you have to be a member of FHRA.)

Six Board positions are open this year: terms expire for Chris Boutelle, Bruce Carroll, Gene Cornell, Bryant Crouse, Arnie Netka, and Don Waldrop.

Under the by-laws, the nominating committee reports its nominations to all members two weeks before the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, any other member in good standing may be nominated from the floor.

This year's nominating committee consisted of Vi Weber (663-6427), Bryant Crouse (666-0307) and Jim Churchill (663-0580).

Of the six Board Members whose terms are due to expire, five have been able to be continually active, showing up at Board meetings and strongly pro-active. Those five are nominated to serve another term. That left us with one vacancy to fill, and we're pleased to have found a nominee who we think will do an excellent job on the board. She has already been working with the organization for about a year.

The nominees are:

Chris Boutelle — Chris Boutelle joined the Board in May 1991. An unfailing source of cheerful labor and a thoughtful,

## Disaster Preparedness: THE "BIG ONE" HITS FRANKLIN HILLS — NOT yet

by  
BRUCE  
CARROLL



Chris Boutelle and Jay Glassman act as stretcher bearers.

The contrived cries and mimicked moans of volunteer victims may have awakened some Franklin Hills residents Saturday, April 24th. The ABC parking lot was the scene of a disaster...not the kind TV is sometimes accused of foisting on the viewing public...but the kind we should all be prepared for.

A dozen members of the FHRA disaster response teams joined with ABC teams to triage the two dozen teenagers sporting fake fracture and more serious simulated symptoms. The rehearsal for the BIG ONE was a joint exercise involving the fire department and local hospitals where the "victims" were transported to test emergency room readiness.

Fire officials, on the "disaster scene" only as observers, sensed a lack of coordination as the root of most problems. One paramedic who observed that we "need a lot of training," also noted that, "it

probably went as well as it would have if it was a real disaster." Vi Weber, who heads the FHRA Disaster Preparedness program said one message was very clear, "what it taught me was that when no one is in charge, take charge."

The fire chief observed big problems, like the lack of leadership, and small details that could turn rescue workers into casualties. Chief Tucker noted, "I saw very few legs bent when lifting." Using your back instead of knees when lifting stretchers could lead to back injuries.

Another LAFD observer termed it a "good effort" that pointed up the need for more practice. Vi Weber intends "to have more and regular refresher courses" for our FHRA disaster teams, hopefully two a year. All agreed with Ms. Weber that they "learned a lot" and that knowledge applied and practiced will likely save lives and suffering when the real big one hits. •

### ARE YOU EQUIPPED FOR FIRE?

The FHRA Disaster Preparedness Group, headed by Violet Weber, urges every household in the Franklin Hills to have at least one household-sized fire extinguisher on hand at all times. This may help a great deal in controlling a fire until the city firefighters can reach your home. In times of a large scale disaster such as a major earthquake, this may mean the difference between saving your home (or your neighbor's) and a potential great loss of property and human life.

You should have one 5lb, dry chemical fire extinguisher rated at least 2-A:10-B:C for each 600 square feet of your home. One should be located in the kitchen since that is the number one place fires start in the home. Others could be near sleeping areas and possibly in the garage and your car.

Type A:B:C extinguishers fight wood, paper, cloth, plus flammable liquid and electrical fires. These are basically all of the fires that a homeowner should need to

## needs & wants

### Second Annual Street Fair

sponsored by the  
Los Feliz Village  
Business Association  
**Sunday, May 23**  
from 11 am to 4 pm  
on Hillhurst Avenue,  
(between Clarissa and Price)  
Fine food, gifts, exhibits, music, magic,  
petting zoo, games and much more.

Information: Ellie Sandler, 662-7747  
Stephanie Chiacos, 663-2430

### LOS FELIZ LIBRARY

Volunteer TUTORs are needed for a tutorial program, estimated time per week: 2-3 hours.

Donations needed: Books and videos to sell, patio furniture, indoor plants and watering can, outdoor planters and plants.

The Los Feliz Library is beginning a rental program with multiple copies of books taken from the best seller lists. The books will rent for 10 cents a day, with no reserves being taken. PROJECT BESTSELLER is being funded by the Los Feliz Friends of the Library.

The Library has urgent need of a working typewriter. If you can donate one, please call.

CONTACT: Thea March, Los Feliz Library, 1939 1/2 Hillhurst Avenue, (213) 664-2903

fight. Read the picture instructions on the box when purchasing. Familiarize yourself and your family with the operation of the extinguisher before you need to use it.

2-A:10-B:C type fire extinguishers are available at our local Baller Hardware on Hyperion at Tracy as well as at major discount hardware stores such as Home Depot or HomeBase from \$20.00.

Isn't it worth a little money for the peace of mind that comes from knowing you are prepared for an emergency? We think so.

For more information call the FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-724 7 •