



# OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 23

SPRING 2002

## ANNUAL MEETING: WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 7PM, AT ABC—REHEARSAL HALL 1 GOING !

*Text and photos by Bruce Carroll*

### GOING!

Paint booth exhaust chimney on the back of the property right next to houses



The auto repair shop at 1845 Hyperion Ave. was denied a zoning variance after captioned photos presented to the zoning administrator by the FHRA clearly showed numerous problems and violations at the body shop. Its neighbors on DeLongpre and nearby streets had complained for for years.



### GOING (too fast)

*By Bruce Carroll*

"He must have gone pretty fast." That's what Franklin Hills resident Alexandra Weiss thought when she surveyed the remains of her 1985 Volvo before dawn on April 4th. The hit and run accident, which rammed Weiss's parked car into another in front of it, happened on Franklin Ave. just across from the south side of median. It was the second overnight collision on the block within a week. In the earlier accident three parked cars were totaled including a brand new Hyundai and a Nissan. One neighbor reported the driver, who was arrested, "was going an estimated 70 miles an hour," according to police. These accidents are part of a cluster of apparently speed related wrecks in the area in the last six months. In one accident a mother pushing her child in a stroller at Franklin Ave. and St. George St. was knocked down, but luckily escaped serious injury..

One valuable piece of debris left at the April 4th accident scene was the offending car's front license plate. With it police were able to find the

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### GONE!!

In May the "Welcome" sign was still up, but so were the chain link fences and plywood barriers designed to keep the Sunset Pacific Motel's unsavory characters from their longtime lair during what a hand lettered window sign calls "remodeling."

### Sunset Pacific Motel

Called by the LAPD one of the most dangerous properties in the city, it was nicknamed the "Bates Motel" both for its location at Sunset and Bates and because in sheer numbers its horrors far outdid the motel in Hitchcock's Psycho.

In the past few years police have repeatedly found drug dealing, shootings, prostitution, gang activity and numerous other crimes in and around the motel where the coroner has had to remove three dead bodies.

350 area residents packed the King Middle School auditorium on January 29th for a community meeting. The crowd heard police explain that crime statistics showed "Bates" was a hub from which crime radiated to our community. The school is just 400 feet from the motel.

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### GOING (Soon, we hope)

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## Letter from the President

by Ricardo Gomez

Another year has gone by and we find ourselves at our annual meeting. The past year has seen a lot of changes for Franklin Hills as well as the rest of Los Angeles. We have a new mayor, a new city attorney and many new council people.

In Franklin Hills we have seen improvements such as street resurfacing, sidewalk repairs and attention to some of the nuisances that plague us. King Middle School continues its steady march towards improvement. More homes have been renovated, especially in the "flats" of Franklin Hills. We started this year again with another round of trees being planted. Overall, things are looking much better. We have you, the residents of Franklin Hills to thank for your continued community involvement and support of your association, the Franklin Hills Residents Association.

People who are familiar with Los Angeles politics often wonder why we need a mayor. In most circumstances, the mayor doesn't even hire and fire the police chief. Mayor Hahn did do something that benefits Angelenos in general and Franklin Hills residents in particular. He answered our requests to create an insurance program for volunteers who do improvement projects on city owned property. Previously the status of these volunteers was unclear if an accident happened. The city council would have to address each instance on a case by case basis to decide whether the city would defend and indemnify the volunteer against any lawsuits or liability. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Charley Mims, Vince Brook of the Silver Lake Improvement Association, Maryann Kuk of the Silver Lake Residents Association and myself, we now have a city insurance policy under which we can register tree planting projects, clean ups and adopted medians among other things. This insurance coverage will protect our median. A special thanks to Eric Garcetti of Council District 13 who introduced the motion to create the program.

Tom LaBonge is our new council person. He has been wonderfully responsive to our needs. We thank him for the recent trees planted on Franklin, Hyperion and Fountain avenues among other locations. His staff has been extremely helpful in getting our questions answered and has helped us on particular projects. Renee Weitzer, planning and zoning deputy, has appeared with Franklin Hills residents at critical zoning hearings and is continuing to help us abate unwanted nuisances. Jeanne Chang, field deputy for our area, keeps us informed of events and is always ready to direct us to the right resources. We thank all of the council district 4 staff. Tom can be reached at (213) 485-3337 if you need his services.

Although Franklin Hills does not lie within council district 13, Eric Garcetti and his staff have been extremely responsive to helping us solve problems that straddle both council districts. The south side of Fountain is within council district 13. In addition to strongly supporting the closure of the Sunset Pacific Hotel (he and Tom double teamed this effort), Eric has been very responsive to our efforts to clean up the Myra underpass at Sunset Boulevard. Like Tom, he is very tree friendly and has supported our efforts to plant trees in the Sunset, Fountain and Myra Avenue area.

King Middle School is on a "watch list" for academic improvement. Byron Maltez, the new principal, is moving forward with academic reforms. We are particularly pleased that he and assistant principal Dan Eckstrom, have shown a strong interest in improving the school's facilities. Unfortunately the LAUSD budget doesn't allow a lot of luxury in this area. Fortunately we have people such as Mary Rodriguez of the Los Feliz Improvement Association who are working tirelessly to improve the appearance of King. Call the FHRA hotline (323-664-7247) or email us [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org) if you are interested in helping at the school in any way.

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## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ACTION TEAM LEADERS

**ABC-TV, LILA & COMMUNITY:**

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**CRIME WATCH:**

Carol Skinner 662-1775

**GRAFFITI REMOVAL:**

Eric Frase

**FRANKLIN MEDIAN:**

Shirley Mims 666-2520

**METRO RAIL:**

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## COMMUNITY PHONES

### ABC-TELEVISION:

Security: (323) 671-4554; 4555

### 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

### 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

## FHRA TREASURER'S REPORT -2001

*By Bruce Carroll*

The FHRA continued its membership winning streak with 349 memberships paid in 2001. That's up slightly over 1% from the record set in 2000. And the Community Garden received \$2,250 in County and City grants plus \$1,115 from its gardeners. But elsewhere the revenue picture was not so rosy. Contributions from members beyond their dues dropped over 43% to \$605.

Also withering were contributions to the Franklin Avenue Median landscaping, our most visible asset; they dropped 71% to just \$65. While hard work by volunteers managed to reduce Median expenses by one-third, we still spent \$950 on plants, water and heavy labor last year. By the end of 2001 the FHRA had spent \$8,596.79 more on the Median than we received in Median donations since it was landscaped in 1995.

There were winners and losers too on the business side. Overview ad revenue was up almost two-thirds from the previous year. But our record \$5,190 in income was, as usual, eclipsed by expenses that totaled \$5,750. Sales of Franklin Hills T-shirts and historic photos dipped about 10% year-over-year to \$725. Although, because of sales from inventory, the expenditure for sale items was down even more, by 15%, leaving a net gain of \$525.

FHRA's thin investment portfolio showed a gain for the year. We started with 22 shares of ATT worth \$375 and ended with 22 shares of ATT plus 7 spunoff shares of ATT Wireless together worth just under \$500, a 33% gain. On the down side, dividend and interest income dropped 68% from \$14.87 to just \$4.64 due to ATT's decreased dividend.

In case you don't have a calculator handy our total revenue for 2001 was \$13,826.14, up 20% from the previous year. But expenses rose over 37%. In addition to major spending for the Median and Overview mentioned above, startup costs for the Community Garden dug \$5,390 out of the budget.

Other expense categories were much smaller. Spending for membership meetings and printing totaled \$359, graffiti abatement cost \$343, contributions we made were \$250, we spent \$245 to maintain the FHRA message line, \$207 went to the post office, \$188 kicked off the new Welcome Basket program, \$187 lit the Shakespeare Bridge for the holidays, \$96 went toward revitalizing the Neighborhood Watch program, and a mere \$20 fee kept us in the good graces of the California Secretary of State.

For the year we spent \$14,183.78. Those who are still keeping track will note that's \$357.64 more than our income. When combined with the gain in the value of our stocks we ended 2001 with a Net Loss of \$232.64 compared to a gain of nearly \$700 in 2000. . . and that's our red ink bottom line—maybe you can help with a bit of green.

## Basket Cases

by Shirley Mims

New to Franklin Hills and didn't get a Welcome Basket? Maybe it's because we didn't hear about you. We learn about most of our new neighbors through local realtors and neighbor referrals. Unfortunately, several of the houses that are sold do not show up on the public listings and not everybody with a new neighbor calls us. We need you, our neighbors, to let us know if you have a new neighbor move in next door. What better way to greet them than to join us when we deliver a basket to them!

After the last Overview was published several people contacted us to let us know how upset they were that they did not get a basket. Be assured we included them in our next round. We don't mean to leave anyone out. Please don't take it personally if you didn't get a basket. Let us know if you have moved in recently and haven't heard from us. Until around February we had delivered a basket to every person we were told about (almost 50!) so long as they fit the criterion of being new to the neighborhood and not just moving across the hill. Also, please keep in mind that this program was only started in June 2001 and is relatively new. So no one who moved in before that date got a basket, including me! We appreciate your understanding.

The production of the baskets has slowed down since two of our three main committee members have taken on other personal responsibilities. Chris Boutelle started back to work after double hip surgery and I started back to school full time. That leaves Vi Weber to manage the program, and she can't possibly do it all herself. So we need YOU to come and help put these baskets together and get them out the door! It might be a while otherwise before the next set of baskets are delivered. We appreciate the help of a couple neighbors who have volunteered with us before. We now need someone committed to overseeing the program to be sure that the delivery of the baskets is continued on a regular basis.

PLEASE help us keep this great program alive. We're all turning into basket cases trying to keep up! Maybe

some of the new neighbors who have gotten baskets would consider being on the committee to share the wonderful feeling they had when they got their basket with other new neighbors when baskets are delivered to them.

As many of you know, the baskets are great. Many local merchants continue to donate lots of great stuff (Alberto Salon, Aloha Flowers, Baller Hardware, Discount Medical Pharmacy, Eastside Records, Opyan's Salon, Palermo Ristorante Italiano, Robeks Juice, Say Cheese, Sunset Nursery, Trader Joe's, and Video Journeys). There has been a *huge* demand for these baskets and the generosity of these businesses has been tremendous. Please thank them when you visit them. Several new businesses have joined the program: Skylight Books is providing gift certificates, Café Los Feliz is putting together a delicious box of pastries, and Penny Layne is giving a certificate good for a half hour massage. We'd like to give special thanks to Joseph and Joanna Lightfoot of DBL Realtors for making a donation for us to buy more baskets. All the free literature from the City of Los Angeles is wonderful, too: Library events, concert schedules, museum guides, City Services—the Bureau of Sanitation recently gave us a crate full of miniature blue recycle bins along with magnets and pencils. It's also fun. Please join us so the program can continue. Call one of us to volunteer: Violet Weber 323/663-6427, Chris Boutelle 323/666-5548, Shirley Mims 323/666-2520.

## A New Franklin Hills Home(page)

By Bruce Carroll (webmaster)

There's a new address in our neighborhood. It's [www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org), the brand new website of the Franklin Hills Residents Association.

The site is still in it's infancy and runs on the theory that, if it takes a village to raise a child, it will take a neighborhood to raise our website to the level of informative usefulness that we hope to achieve. Please take a look and e-mail us (at our new address: [FHRA@FranklinHills.org](mailto:FHRA@FranklinHills.org)) with your suggestions, contributions, etc. for what you'd like to see in the future.



This is something like what you should see when you point your browser to [www.FranklinHills.org](http://www.FranklinHills.org). Except, of course, there you'll find things in living color.

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