

OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ISSUE 60 FALL / WINTER 2020

THE 3 PILLARS
ON ST. GEORGE

CLASSIC
ARCHITECTURE
IN THE FRANKLIN HILLS

THE
GRIFFITH
PARK TRAM

*Things to consider and
what to know*



FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



President's Message

New beginnings amidst a tumultuous year

Alison Wallace

As we enter the final month of the most surreal year in recent history, I find myself appreciating the natural beauty and

friendship within our neighborhood more than ever. Three and a half years ago I moved here with my husband, teenage sons and affectionate cat. We found neighbors welcoming us with beverages, cookies and good cheer. It is my sincere wish that everyone moving into Franklin Hills could be as warmly welcomed. When you see a new neighbor, greet them, the positive impact will be felt through the years.

This summer, the Franklin Hills Residents Association board held a socially- distanced backyard board retreat. Our team has several new members, each willing to take responsibility for a different aspect of FHRA activities, including membership, email alerts, community interaction, youth engagement, digital and social media and editing the Overview. I am grateful for their energy and also the wisdom and guidance from our continuing board members. At the retreat we read, "The Big Orange Splot", a story about encouraging inspiration from within and activating dreams to reality. It also addresses the concept of retaining individuality and community acceptance. In the months ahead, I hope that our community will strive to appreciate both our common goals and our differences. A symphony does not create beautiful sounds with just one note.

This fall, we asked our community members to come together (at a social distance) to work on outdoor beautification projects. They included the Shakespeare Garden clean up, student/youth walk, creating Halloween displays around the bridge and stairs and donating to the upkeep and landscaping of our Franklin median. If you have other projects or initiatives you would like the organization to consider, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at FHRA@franklinhills.org

Earlier this year, two pillars within our community retired from the FHRA board. Shirley and Charley Mims tirelessly served our community for decades. In their absence, we strive to honor their legacy and continue forth with the projects they initiated. We sincerely appreciate their ongoing counsel, participation and contributions to the community.

In these first months as board president, I am still getting my arms around the many details and people that Shirley and team managed over the past years. I thank everyone who has patiently helped me with this transition and appreciate the many of you who help to make our community stronger.

Sending best wishes for the season,

Alison



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Board Members

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 David McDonald (Treasurer)
 Suzanne Carney
 Cameron Fedderman
 Eric Frase
 Rick LaRocca
 Cesar Quinones
 Elizabeth Richardson
 Melinda Taylor
 Alexandra Mardrossian-Quinones
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David Ahrendts	Pauline O'Connor
Chris Boutelle	Elizabeth Richardson
Suzanne Carney	Alexandra Rowe
Roland Giedraitis	Richard Stanley
George Grace	Melinda Taylor
Shirley Mims	Alison Wallace



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College Was Fun

Helping Someone Get There Is Even Better

Suzanne Carney

If you're looking to volunteer but not sure whether you're needed, the answer is you are. Whether you're an electrician, vegan baker, or mystery writer you can make a difference, and according to Susan Phillips of College Path LA, she can find the perfect match for whatever it is you have to offer. Everyone has a skill, strength, or passion to forward and Phillips knows a lot of students that could use this kind of offer.



VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH STUDENTS IN THE LIBRARY ON THEIR COLLEGE ESSAYS.

She has a background in Public Education and knows the challenges a neighborhood school has to face. Ten years ago she decided to do some volunteer work and over the course of a decade she's built College Path LA that works in conjunction with John Marshall High helping kids prepare and face the challenges of college applications. From essays, to grueling FAFSA forms, to general guidance and support she has assembled a group of volunteers ranging from the community. No matter what you do for a living or have to offer she believes there's a place for you to do that.

"This is an unusual community that we live in," she explained. "There are volunteers in every community but this happens to be a community where the feeling is progressive.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS.



STUDENT WORKING ON A COLLEGE ESSAY.

We are lucky." In working with volunteers she describes a neighborhood that supports diversity in theory but also in fact; there are so many willing to donate their time, which says so much.

(continued on page 15)

About The Overview

The Overview is a semi-annual publication created and distributed by volunteer residents, neighbors, friends, and supporters of the Franklin Hills Residents Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

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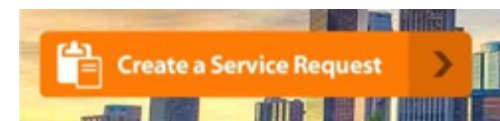
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<https://myla311.lacity.org>



Destructive Aerial Tram

Proposed for Griffith Park

George Grace

In January, 2018, Dixon Resources Unlimited published a report commissioned by Councilman David Ryu, whose District contains Griffith Park, titled "Improving Access, Safety and Mobility around Griffith Park and the Hollywood Sign". One of the principal reasons for the study was to respond to Griffith Park adjacent neighbors' complaints that too many tourists were flooding their neighborhoods to take selfies of the Hollywood Sign. Of the 29 solutions reported, the option to build a massive Griffith Park Aerial Tram attracted substantial attention. This option was immediately seized on by the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks and even Warner Bros. Studios as a sure-fire money maker. To move the tram concept along, in July, 2019 Rec. and Parks issued contracts totaling \$750,000 to the Stantec Company to do a tram feasibility study.

In 2019, continuing into 2020, Stantec and its sub-contractor the Consensus PR firm have interviewed a number of "stakeholders" to solicit their opinions about building a Tram. At these meetings they presented three different routes determined to be the most feasible for constructing the monster amusement park ride that you see in the above rendering. Stantec also conducted a Zoom Meeting on September 3rd for the general public that I attended.

I came away from that Meeting alarmed, angry, and sad. Stantec engineers revealed that indeed an aerial tram is feasible, and that this huge, intrusive, noisy, destructive, Griffith Park amusement ride is specifically intended for tourists to take photo-ops of the Hollywood Sign. Angelenos don't fit in the equation at all. So far, "stakeholders" who have been interviewed that reject building an Aerial Tram in Griffith Park include LFIA, The Oaks, Hollywoodland, Lake Hollywood Homeowners Associations, Friends of Griffith Park,



A RENDERING OF THE TRAM POST CONSTRUCTION THAT ASSUMES ALL RE-VEGETATION EFFORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL

FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK & CARTIFACT

the Sierra Club, the Griffith Charitable Trust, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council, the L.A. Equine Committee, and the Griffith Park Advisory Board. FHRA voted to oppose the tram in October. I don't know any groups who support the tram.

Friends of Griffith Park released the following summary of reasons to oppose the Tram:

1. Permanent destruction of open space, habitat, and wildlife is inevitable.
2. The stated purpose of the aerial tram (transit improvement) is simply a pretense for further development into this urban wilderness, while alternatives that would aid in the reduction of tourist traffic and associated problems described in the Dixon Report lie on the shelf collecting dust.

(Continued on page 15)

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Stephanie Vendig

Neighbor Spotlight

Elizabeth Richardson

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead understood this and so does Stephanie Vendig.

When most people look at a bunch of underutilized parcels of property belonging to the LA Department of Recreation and Parks (Rec and Parks), most see them as they are - underutilized. What Stephanie Vendig sees is possibility.

It started in 1999, Lia Lomedico, a Silver Lake Resident, questioned why there were no adult activities at the Silver Lake Recreation Center. Enter Stephanie Vendig and friends who gathered enough signatures to make this a reality in Silver Lake.

As activities multiplied, it became obvious that adults needed their own place to hang out. Since adults could only use the facility when the children were not there, Stephanie as President of Silver Lake Senior Club approached Tom LaBonge, Council Member of CD4, with the problem.



OPENING DAY AT GPACC, JANUARY 31, 2008. STEPHANIE IN FRONT BETWEEN THE TWO LADIES HOLDING THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. BEHIND HER IS TOM LABONGE, COUNCIL MEMBER OF CD4 AT THE TIME.
LA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Mr. LaBonge immediately spoke of the Griffith Park area south of Los Feliz and the parking lot of Friendship Auditorium. Not only that, he suggested that the trailers used for the Griffith Observatory remodeling could become a senior center.

In her salad days, Stephanie was a special education teacher in the LA school system. One thing she learned about a big bureaucracy, "was to either ignore it or bend it toward a vision that better serves the students."

"Government departments don't want to go out on a limb," Stephanie explained. "They don't create something new... Therefore you need to be patient." Stephanie's teaching experience had helped her figure out how, "to frame the campaign."

And that is why after a lot of persistence and demand-framing, the trailers were moved down to that parking lot and started a new life on January 31, 2008 as the home for GPACC.

As Stephanie predicted, a groundswell for expanding GPAAC began in 2013 to increase all the activities that are desired by a growing aging community.

Meanwhile, as the homeless population grew in the city and along the LA River, it was clear the homeless members of our community needed help. Another underutilized parcel of property across Riverside Drive from GPACC (also owned by Rec and Parks) was repurposed and a temporary structure, called Bridge Housing, was built this year.

Then catastrophe - COVID-19 arrived. GPACC closed. Concern for the health vulnerabilities of the older homeless resulted in the placement of 40 FEMA trailers in the GPACC parking lot. Amid all these crises, Stephanie is patient. And planning.

(continued on page 8)



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Neighborhood Contacts

City of LA Contacts	
City Services	
311	311@lacity.org
Hours M-F	7am-7pm
Hours Sat - Sun	8:30 am-4:45 pm
Animal Services	(888) 452-7381
Dead Animal Pickup (Sanitation)	extension 2
Lost Animals	extension 2
Barking Dogs	extension 3
Building & Safety Violations	(213) 473-3231
Parking Enforcement (DOT)	(213) 485-4184
Council District 4	
Councilmember Nithya Raman (CD4)	(213) 473-7004
	TBD (Will be sworn-in on Dec. 14)
	(213) 473-2311
Field Deputy	TBD
	TBD
Graffiti Removal	311
Homeless Services	211
LA County Info Line	211
Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles	
Central Area Representative	(213) 978-0430
Angie Aramayo	angie.aramayo@lacity.org
Neighborhood Prosecutor	(213) 978-2230 or (323) 561-3403
Gabrielle Taylor	gabrielle.taylor@lacity.org

Utilities	
Dig Alert (call before digging)	811
LADWP	1-800-DIAL-DWP (1-800-342-5397)
SoCalGas (inc. leak reporting)	1-800-427-2200
Sanitation	
Trash Bin Replacement	(800) 773-2489x1
Bulky Item Removal	(800) 773-2489x1

Community Contacts	
FHRA	(323) 908-6078 FHRA@franklinhills.org
LAUSD	
LAUSD School Police	(213) 625-6631
Marshall High School - Main#	(323) 671-1400
King Middle School - Main#	(323) 644-6700
Los Feliz Public Library	(323) 913-4710
Lycée International de Los Angeles (LILA)	(323) 665-4526 lofeliz@lilaschool.com
Prospect Studios	
Janet Campus, Production Services	(323) 671-4022
Prospect Studio Security Shift Leader	(323) 203-5201
David Ortiz	(323) 671-5973
Security Operations Program Manager	

Emergency Services	
LAPD	
Fire Department: Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	(213) 485-6185
Fire Station 35: 1601 Hillhurst	(213) 485-6235
Fire Station 56: 2759 Rowena	(213) 485-6256
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
LAPD	
Police Department, Emergency	911
Police Department, Northeast Division	(323) 561-3211
	(213) 793-0763
Sr. Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro	36072@lapd.online
	(213) 793-0762
Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis	26028@lapd.online
Non-Emergency	(877) ASK-LAPD or (877) 275-5273
Gang Problems	(323) 561-3335
Noise Enforcement	(213) 996-1251
Rape Hotline	(310) 392-8381
Restraining Orders	www.lapdonline.org

Security.

In tempestuous times, nothing dispels anxiety like hard assets. Unlike equities, real estate never plunges to zero value in response to market gyrations. If your real estate needs have changed during this year of great transition, now may be your moment to move. Inventory is surprisingly high and interest rates remain historically low. Buyers are at the ready. Why wait? May we talk?

My last 90 days' activity:

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L.A. Times' "Home of the Week" Deal-plan; triple-lot, canyon views; 11 bedrooms. 5BR; 3.5 BA; den. www.5724greenoak.com

5432 Red Oak Drive
\$3,450,000
Authentic Spanish Colonial; Los Feliz Oaks; double lot. 3 BR; 3.5 BA; den. www.5432redoak.com

5210 Los Feliz Boulevard
\$2,600,000
Architect-designed garden house in Laughlin Park; 4 BR, 3 BA; dens; one-level. www.5210losofeliz.com

3500 Griffith Park Boulevard
\$2,250,000
Classic Mediterranean; 2-story, GH or ADU? 4 BR; 3.5 BA; den. www.3500griffithpark.com

2511 Mount Beacon Terrace
\$1,600,000
Los Feliz Oaks 1940s California Colonial fixer; 4 BR; 3.5 BA; family room; pool.

6225 Temple Hill Drive
\$1,295,000
Vine Hills Mid-Century Ranch with sweeping views of downtown and the Observatory; 2 BR; 2 BA. www.6225templehill.com

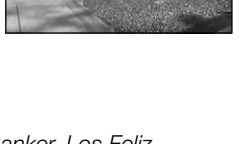
1995 Jefferson Drive
\$895,000
Pasadena P.O. pool house with detached guest house; 3 BR; 2 BA. Freshly-updated throughout. Won't last long.



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(Vendig, continued from page 6)



FEMA TRAILERS FOR HOMELESS IN FOREGROUND; GPACC TRAILERS IN THE BACKGROUND
©: ELIZABETH RICHARDSON



BRIDGE HOUSING ©: ELIZABETH RICHARDSON

With the advent of a good vaccine, the trailers used for the homeless will eventually go away. The temporary Bridge housing will be removed. Seniors will return to the current GPACC.

When this happens, Stephanie Vendig will be ready to advocate for expanding GPACC and other community amenities for the area. But first, the Rec and Parks bureaucracy has to be persuaded. Sources of funding have to be locked up, and it will take patience and a lot of framing.

“Never underestimate the power of a small group”, indeed, or the patience and persistence of Stephanie Vendig and the legions of people working alongside her.



About the FHRA

Mission Statement: The FHRA promotes a sense of community by bringing neighbors together to help create a safe and vibrant neighborhood for all!

Purpose: This Association is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This Association is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Law for public purposes. (from Bylaws)

Objective: The specific purpose of this Association is to improve the community and the quality of life and promote the common good and general welfare of the people in the Franklin Hills neighborhood. (from Bylaws)

A Sliver of Lithuania on St. George

The Three Memorial Pillars

Roland Giedraitis

A Short History of Your Neighbors in Little Lithuania

You’ve probably driven by hundreds of times but scarcely noticed the three pillars in front of the St. Casimir church rectory on St. George Street. These pillars stand not only to the memory of Bronė Venckus, but also as testimony to the appreciation of this great country and the City of Los Angeles which 8,000 Lithuanian-Americans call home.



FOUR GENERATIONS BY THE PILLARS.
FRONT (SEATED): (DR.) DANUTE VENCKUS GIEDRAITIS, HOLDING A PORTRAIT OF HER MOTHER, BRONE VENCKUS.
BACK ROW: KARINA KONSTANTINAVICIUS, VIDA RUKŠENAS, ANDREA GIEDRAITIS IACHETTA,
VESTA KONSTANTINAVICIUS, TERESA RUKŠENAS, AISTE RUKŠENAS.
(YES, THOSE ARE OUR DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS)

©: PATRICK IACHETTA

Bronė was a devout Catholic who asked her daughter to plant a flower garden in front of her beloved St. Casimir upon her passing. After consulting with her brothers they decided to go one step further and erect a modest monument to honor not only their mother, but also her generation. The pillars, which in Lithuania would be known as wayside shrines, reflect not only her life but the lives of thousands of Lithuanian countrymen who managed to escape the terror of Russian communism towards the end of WW II in 1944.

The plaque reads:

In loving memory of Bronė Vasiliauskaitė Venckus (1911-2007) and thousands of other Lithuanian immigrants who shared a similar fate.

LIETUVA (Lithuania) - Represents the land of their birth, the land that nurtured them and instilled in them the values of faith, family and education.

TREMTIS (Exile) - The years spent in the refugee camps of Europe where they fled to escape the Communist threat of concentration camps and deportation to Siberia in the 1940’s. The Rūpintojėlis or the Pensive Christ on this pillar represents the Catholic faith which sustained them during those uncertain years.

AMERIKA (America) - Their adopted nation which provided the opportunity to raise their children in moral and economic prosperity and freedom.

(Continued on page 10)

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(Lithuanian Pillars, continued from page 9)

The pillars were made by the artist Arūnas Žvinakevičius and donated by the Venckus and Giedraitis families, together with many other friends of Bronė Venckus. Installed on January 11, 2009 by church members Vitas Venckus and Ariel Dumse. They were ceremoniously blessed by Reverend Tomas Karanauskas.

With great faith the Lithuanian immigrants arrived penniless in this country, but had their priorities worked out through the classic formula of hard work and focusing on the education of their children in order to thrive. Boston was home to the Venckus family for many years, but in the 1960's the family moved to Los Angeles. Once here the parents took on work as janitors and from there moved on and up so their four children could all finish college.



THE THREE PILLARS ARE IN FRONT OF THE RECTORY OF ST. CASIMIR'S CHURCH.
2718 ST. GEORGE ST., LOS ANGELES.

📷: ROLAND GIEDRAITIS

The extended family has remained in the Franklin Hills for many years. The three sons, Romas, John and Joseph became engineers while the daughter, Danutė, graduated from dental school. Together with her husband, Roland Giedraitis, also a dentist, they worked in the Atwater area for over 30 years serving the surrounding communities.

Now retired, the doctors raised three children of their own who have finished their post-graduate studies and started families. In the spirit of LIETUVA the grandchildren are bicultural and bilingual and speak Lithuanian at home but consider themselves part of a multi-generational family of Lithuanian Americans.



Volunteer Today!

We're always looking for new volunteers and interested board members.

Let us know at FHRA@franklinhills.org

Student Representative

FHRA Creates New Position

Alexandra Rowe and Alison Wallace

The **Franklin Hills Residents Association** is excited to announce the new position of **Student Representative to the board**. This is our first year adding this non-voting seat, and we could not be more excited. The idea began when Alexandra Mardirossian-Quinones won the annual student art contest this year. While meeting Alison Wallace to receive her award, Alexandra expressed interest in becoming more involved with the neighborhood and especially fellow students within Franklin Hills.

Alison, recently elected President of the FHRA, ran with this idea, as she loves the concept of having new voices and ideas. We hope that as the organization continues and grows, our youth feel a special connection to Franklin Hills. Not only do we want to continue to connect our neighborhood, but also to create fun and safe opportunities for children and teens to bond and get involved.

When we met with Alexandra, she emphasized the importance of getting to know neighbors in the community. As COVID continues, and students are participating in virtual or homeschooled activities, life can feel isolating. By connecting our youth in safe ways, we can help create new friendships in our backyard. The FHRA has many activities throughout the year where we would love teen and youth involvement as well as upcoming events geared towards our younger neighbors.

Alexandra has lived in Franklin Hills for almost eighteen years. She is in the eleventh grade at Grover Cleveland High School. Outside of school, Alexandra is passionate about swimming and running. She brought up several great ideas for ways to connect with youth in Franklin Hills. Alexandra has also honed in on the importance of tailoring ideas for this new group once they come together and get to know each other.

The first event for the group was a student walk, where participants learned some neighborhood history. The walk began at the Radio Stairs and ended at Tomato Pie. Adult volunteers were stationed to share history about key locations throughout the walk, ranging from the Shakespeare Bridge to the secret stairs. The group ended the walk with a complimentary soda at Tomato Pie. Alexandra expressed interest in learning more about the area and its rich history. We hope the walk connected students and served as a safe way to get exercise and learn more about Franklin Hills.



ALEXANDRA MARDIROSSIAN-QUINONES, RECEIVING HER FHRA STUDENT ART CONTEST CERTIFICATE
📷: ALISON WALLACE

Upcoming events include a student-focused stairway clean-up and Shakespeare Bridge decorating. This will be a great opportunity to meet other students, help the community and gain some community service hours. As the group grows, Alexandra looks forward to planning more activities and events.

We look forward to working with Alexandra and building this group within our community. If you or a student in the area you know would be interested in participating in student events and activities please contact. FHRA@FranklinHills.org.



Welcome Kits

Do you have a new neighbor?

Contact FHRA for a welcome kit that includes lots of current information about the Franklin Hills and our neighborhood businesses and services. Email Cameron Fedderman at membership@franklinhills.org for a packet.

Franklin Hills Architecture

Why So Many Spanish Style Houses?

Richard Stanley

Spanish and Mexican era structures used indigenous materials and their simple application to solve the basic need for shelter. Adobe bricks, rough-hewn timbers, reeds and tar were used by the Spanish to build an everyman's house that was relatively warm in winter and cool in summer. Scaled-up, these materials, along with clay tiles, were used for the famous chain of California missions.

By the late 19th Century, professional architects and local boosters were searching for a unique and appropriate style for California. Its debut was the **Mission Revival** California Building at the Chicago *World's Columbian Exposition* in 1893. Look for clean, white stucco walls; scalloped parapets that evoke the *campanario*, or bell towers, of the missions; arches and arcades, especially at entrances; low-pitched tile roofs or at least tile-capped low parapets and cast ornaments. This style lent itself to everything from humble "Mission" bungalow courts to train and gas stations and was popular from the 1890s to the 1920s.

Mission Revival



Spanish Revival



Another exposition, the San Diego Panama-California exposition in 1915, featured extravagant **Spanish Revival** forms designed by Bertram Goodhue (of downtown library fame) and Carlton Winslow (who lived in Los Feliz)—many of these buildings still stand in Balboa Park. The style proved so popular that not only were houses in new developments required to subscribe to gabled, tiled roofs (as in Moreno Highlands in Silver Lake) but whole cities were given over to this style, as when Santa Barbara, leveled by a major quake in 1925, rebuilt overnight into a Spanish colonial town.



Look for these traits: broad, white or creamy stucco surfaces (sometimes conspicuously textured) with few openings, usually deeply cut in; low, pitched, tile roofs; extensive use of arches, ironwork and glazed and unglazed tile flooring and ornamentation; much indoor/outdoor access via French doors; shallow upper-story balconies and, occasionally, Moorish influences. The whole effect is asymmetrical and flamboyant.

Santa Fe



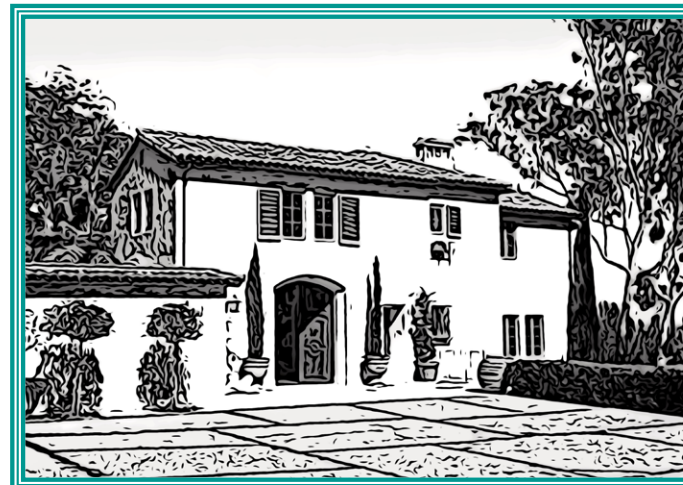
A first-cousin to the Spanish house, was the Pueblo Revival, or what we might call today, **Santa Fe**. This style, with its heavy stucco and projecting *vigas*, parapeted roofs, tree-trunk columns and beehive fireplaces, was rare locally.

Monterey Colonial



A popular 1930s successor to the Spanish house was the **Monterey Colonial** style. Look for New England Colonial influences especially around entrances; shutters; interior trim and built-ins. The most salient characteristics of the Monterey Colonial are the overall rectilinear form with the upper story projecting balcony that is often the full width of the house.

Mediterranean



The Mediterranean house co-existed with the Spanish house, however, its inspiration came from Tuscany and Provence, not Iberia. Look for smooth stucco on clean, almost austere, facades. The symmetric, rectilinear form has a low-pitched tile roof. Casement windows often have shutters. The conspicuous entrance might bear the sole ornamentation. As the Spanish style is flamboyant, the Mediterranean is formal. Still, many so-called Mediterranean houses flirted with Spanish elements.

Today, vintage Spanish and Mediterranean homes are the gold standard in Franklin Hills.



BACKGROUND: © HANOHIKI / ADOBE STOCK

Lights, Camera, Action on the Shakespeare Bridge

Chris Boutelle

Well, it's that time of year. Time for our holiday decorations on the Shakespeare Bridge which, I am glad to say, can be done with masks on and at a "social distance." Our crew will meet again this year at the northeast turret of the bridge at 8 AM on Sunday, December 6th. It's an awful time to be working on a Sunday morning, but it is the safest time of the week, traffic-wise.

First we will have a safety meeting so that we are all on the same page regarding ladders, electricity and traffic control.

The actual wreaths were created several years ago by former FHRA Board of Directors member, Eric Frase and his partner, Lincoln Castillo who have freshened them up every year since. I check out the light strings and replace them as needed before the big day. Then, we get out there with ladders, safety cones, our slow/stop sign and coffee and donut holes.

The process starts with one of us (me) turning on the regular bridge lights which are programmed with a photo cell to be on at night but not to turn on in the day. We need to have the electricity on

at the outlets on the turrets for us to know that the lights and wreaths have survived their trip to the bridge and the process of hanging them. (Former FHRA President, Charley Mims had worked with the city when the bridge was rebuilt in 1998, having them put in an outlet at each turret at the bridge ends for this reason.)

Then, Shawn Sites usually climbs a ladder on the street side of each turret to rig the extension cord that will power the lights and either Cesar Quinones or Dave McDonald mounts the taller ladder to affix the light string above the top ledge of each turret. Pat Hadnagy, climbs inside the turret and, with one hand holding on to the turret pillars and the other one working a forked rod, places the lights around each turret. This is difficult work as the turrets are about twenty feet above the ground on the outsides of the bridge. That's why we trust Pat to do it. An avid hiker and with several years of helping with the lights, he knows to hang on while he works. Cesar, Dave or Shawn hang and chain the wreaths in place and connect the light strings to the extension cord.



THE TEAM: (L-R) ELIZABETH RICHARDSON, CHRIS BOUTELLE, DAVE MCDONALD, CESAR QUINONES, PAT HADNAGY AND ANISSA HADNAGY NOT SHOWN: SHAWN SITES.
© SHAWN SITES

Anissa Hadnagy controls the Sunday-morning-sparse traffic with safety cones and our slow/stop signs. As we advance from turret to turret the jobs become passed around but luckily we have Pat to do the more intricate work. We are always looking for more members to join our team in case someone calls in sick or is otherwise busy.

Once we have all of the lights in place and plugged in, we can stand back and admire our work as well as snap a picture or two.

And me, a retired studio grip? I direct. I've always wanted to direct.

If you'd like to join the team next time, call Chris at: 323-309-3434.



College, continued from page 4)

Using her background she understands that when a school needs support you have to support not only the kids but the administration. You can't walk in and change what works, you have to listen to teachers and ask them what it is they need.

"We are very connected with the administration," Phillips told me. "We're very connected with the teachers." As a former teacher she knew whatever kind of help might be given it had to align with teacher needs. It was simple, you have to ask and listen to the answer. You can't fix things as an outsider sees it, but as the infrastructure within requires. How do you do this in practice?



STUDENTS SHARE IDEAS WITH VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ABOUT HOW TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS ABOUT COLLEGE.

"You literally ask," she said. "What do you need? How can we make this happen? What do you think about this?" The volunteer program was organized around the administrative needs as a way to benefit the students.

"I think of myself as an assistant to the school and the teachers."

If you think you don't really have the time to volunteer consider this. Mentoring is not always a long term commitment, it comes in all sizes: six-months, two-days, even a few hours. But a single hour of your time can be a monumental shift in someone's path. One good conversation can lead to an idea that drills down onto the next three steps and so on, and something that wasn't clear becomes clear as a bell. Being a volunteer can put a student just a few steps head, and it matters. It happens like that.

"Every student has a story," Phillips told me. Mentors can help kids see that their story matters, and they can shape what comes next.



© COLLEGE PATH LA (ALL)

(Tram Proposal, continued from page 5)

3. This massive infrastructure undertaking will lead to large-scale closures to hikers, equestrians and other park users during a long, expensive construction period.

4. Col. Griffith's gift to Los Angeles would be dishonored and could affect the good intentions of other philanthropists in the future.

5. The Vision for Griffith Park and the Historical-Cultural Monument #942 designations would both be rendered obsolete.

Here is the latest information on the Tram, as of November 14, 2020:

Nithya Raman defeated David Ryu in the November 3rd runoff, and is our new CD-4 representative. She has stated that she will not support an Aerial Tram in Griffith Park. However, the Stantec Company has not delivered their final report, and a Tram is still a possibility pending a vote by the Mayor and all Councilmembers.

The fight is not over yet! I urge you all to contact Mayor Garcetti, Nithya Raman, other Councilmembers, and Michael Shull, General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks and tell them you do not approve of building a Disneyland Amusement Ride in Griffith Park. We cannot allow this travesty to happen!



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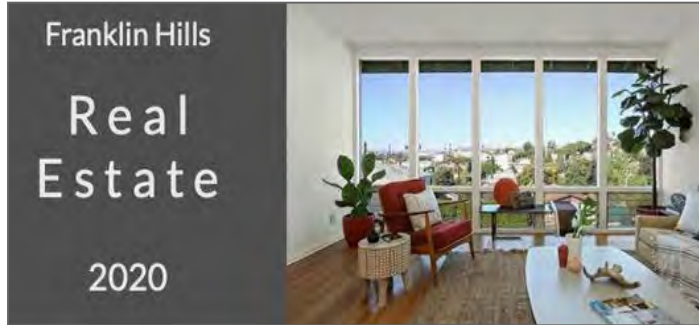


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2020: Real Estate & COVID



Suzanne Carney

The COVID outbreak took everyone by surprise. Most of us followed the science and committed to a new way of life but kept our focus on long term goals. The difference for market behavior was seen in age group and income level. While many Boomers have the means to make a change, they seemed inclined to hold in place. Those who did move, often chose to leave larger cities. At the lower end of the age and resource spectrum, millennials with young families wanted more space, a home office or an outdoor area. With the obstacles of rising cost and low inventory, buyers have become fluent in the concept of an ADU (Additional Dwelling Unit). An ADU shares the building lot of one's primary home and can become a home school, work studio, or a way to generate income and mitigate the cost of ownership. In the face of uncertainty across the board, persistence and clarity came into play.

In a year of uncertainty, the Los Angeles real estate market weathered the pandemic like a North Face jacket, and the long term value of owning a home in **Franklin Hills** remained strong. Los Angeles overall stands in the top 10% for real estate appreciation in the nation. By June, real estate had nearly corrected to pre-COVID stats, taking only four-months for L.A. to get back to the more normal pace of growth before the COVID-19 decline.

"In the second quarter alone, the housing demand went from being down 41% to up 40% year-over-year...a bounce back never seen before in the housing market." (California Assoc. Realtors)

One problematic issue related to COVID-19 was the disparity of home ownership, and how it narrowed the options. People who could afford to buy were doing so.

(Continued on page 17)

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(2020 Real Estate, continued from page 16)

People on a lower economic scale suffered more job and income loss, and the gap widened. In California the number of homes that sold for \$1M or more went up 6% and homes \$500K or below decreased by 8%. It will take time, federal administration, and a focused approach to correct this fact, but we can get there.

In what might seem like financially precarious times, it's important to understand that a recession means the economy has slowed down. It does not mean the housing market has crashed. Due to the crash of 2008, we tend to view the words "recession" and "housing crisis" as binary. If or when a recession occurs, it will not be related to lending or the housing market. Therefore, it's important to look further back and take note that in the previous five recessions home value continued to appreciate.

In spite of unusual circumstances real estate remained stable in 2020. **Franklin Hills** home values have increased on average 7% per year consistently, year over year, and 2020 will follow suit. Homes here have sold at list price or above in a shorter amount of time, but the value in Franklin Hills goes beyond data. The pandemic gave us all a new perspective on the importance of family, future, and living space and the real asset is our **Franklin Hills** community.

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Slow Streets

A way to enjoy the outdoors

This summer, Los Feliz became one of over a dozen neighborhoods around the city to test out the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's "Slow Streets" pilot program. Launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the initiative aims to provide more space for people to safely enjoy the outdoors while still observing social distancing by closing off approved residential streets to cut-through traffic. Communities can apply to bring the program to their streets through a sponsoring organization, such as a city councilmember's office or local neighborhood council.

On July 11, signs and temporary barricades were placed on four streets proposed by the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council: **Ambrose Ave.** between Vermont and Commonwealth Avenues; **Finley Ave.** between Vermont and Commonwealth Avenues; **Melbourne Ave.** between Vermont and Commonwealth Avenues; **Rodney Drive** between Ambrose Ave. and Prospect Avenue.

Four streets—**Berendo St., Rosalia Rd., Hoover St., and Sunset Dr.**—have been earmarked for inclusion in a potential future expansion of the program.

Though initially billed as a temporary measure, Slow Streets boosters are hoping it will stick. In late June, Councilmember David Ryu filed a motion asking LADOT and other city officials to begin a feasibility study on expanding the program and making it a permanent fixture for neighborhoods that want it. In a statement, Ryu said, "Since the start of the Slow Streets program, we have seen Angelenos spend more time outside, and connect to neighbors on a deeper level. People are getting outside, and Slow Streets make things safer for kids and families."



INTERSECTION OF RODNEY AND MELBOURNE
 ELIZABETH RICHARDSON

Ryu's motion garnered the support of multiple neighborhood councils, including East Hollywood, North Hollywood, Mid-City West, and the Hollywood Studio District. Three months into the local experiment, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council is supportive of the program in theory, but has significant criticisms of how it's currently being carried out. In its community impact statement to the L.A. City Council, the LFNC described the Slow Streets signage and messaging as "confusing," "polarizing," and "ineffective," and conditioned its continued support of the program on the city allocating additional funding "for essential staff who can implement and lead community engagement efforts, oversee graphic design, and execute the transportation planning for dispatching improved signage and the necessary physical installation of semi-permanent and

Pauline O'Connor

permanent Complete Streets measures including curb extensions, sidewalk widening, and protected bicycle lanes."

To date, LADOT has carved out more than 50 miles of Slow Streets throughout Los Angeles.

But given the city's increasingly dire fiscal outlook, the project may end up being roadblocked itself for quite some time.

To apply for the Slow Streets program, go to:

<https://ladot.lacity.org/coronavirus/apply-slow-street-your-neighborhood>

Applications must be submitted by an eligible sponsor organization. Sponsor organizations are responsible for monitoring the street and notifying neighbors about the closure. This program requires volunteers to keep an eye on the closure infrastructure and communicate issues with the sponsor organization.

Recommended Guidelines:

- Between 10-25 intersections or street segments
- No longer than 2 miles.
- Closures of less than ten blocks are not recommended (or really possible.)
- Residential streets only

* To identify the streets to be a part of Slow Streets, use this tool:

<https://navigatela.lacity.org/slowstreets/>



Median Garden Update

September 20, 2020

Melinda Taylor

2020 has a very busy year for many of us, and has included doing things we haven't gotten around to previously- things like making sourdough bread, re-sanding and painting our living room baseboards, and gardening. We've been gardening in our yards (with a new appreciation for our outdoor spaces), on our balconies, and inside our homes. We are now sharing our spaces with an assortment of plants. And as we're tending these plants, we're becoming sensitive to them.

With your new-found sensitivity to the natural world, you will possibly see our Median Garden with new eyes this Fall and into 2021. And as you do, there will be plenty for you to appreciate.

By the time you read these words, the Median gardeners will have completed their Fall tasks of pruning, feeding, and mulching the garden, and will have added new plants to the space. These tasks take place in mid-October, or whenever weather begins to cool. We gardeners plant in Fall to give plants time to establish a bit (and hopefully benefit from Winter rains) during the cool months. Then when Spring arrives, these new plants will be ready to flower.

But even as you have been Pandemic housebound this Spring and Summer, things were happening in the garden. Had you gone by during this time, you might just have noticed the great, frothy masses of flower heads covering the **St. Catherine's lace** plants (*Eriogonum giganteum*) that grow in the steeply sloped center section of the garden, extending about 30 feet in length.

You may have noticed how these flower heads appeared in May, stretched out to full length and height in June and July, and then changed color in August, maturing to a deep caramel brown color. They are spectacular! And this is what this plant does every year, if given a little care.

The Median Garden doesn't need a lot of care, but it does need some, and what care it needs is specific and time-sensitive. The Median gardeners provide that care all year, and have been doing so in 2020, despite 2020's difficult circumstances.



ST. CATHERINE'S LACE IN MAY, JULY, & AUGUST

MELINDA TAYLOR

As always, we need your support to carry this work on. The garden doesn't receive grants from the city, or charitable foundations. It is supported by FHRA - by you, me, and our neighbors. Your support is vital to the garden's continued growth. Please take a moment to contribute to its future, by donating on the FHRA website, or by mailing FHRA a check. All gifts, large or small, make a big difference. Please give what you can.

2020 has been a busy year, and next year will be busy also. That's the nature of humans - busy in whatever the days warrant and allow. Let's embrace that activity while allowing the experience of our shared isolation in 2020 to influence our activity in 2021: appreciating quiet moments, appreciating caring for our families, friends, and neighbors, and appreciating and caring for the natural world in which we live. May we all experience peace, and find profound joy in 2021.



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One Morning in the Garden

Checking-in on Monon St.

Shirley Mims



SHIRLEY MIMS AND JUSTIN BROWNE CLEAR THE FALLEN PALM FRONDS OUT FROM UNDER THE BRIDGE

Autumn arrived and it was time to do some much needed clean up at the garden under the Shakespeare Bridge Garden at the end of Monon Street.

Residents came from Monon and other nearby streets. Several FHRA board members helped out. Major leaders in our community also joined us: Rachel Fox from Councilman Ryu's office, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro, and FHRA's new president Alison Wallace. They jumped right in, welcoming volunteers

and inspiring conversation with neighbors about local concerns while helping to pull weeds, fill bags and green bins, and prune overgrowth. I especially appreciated the "mountain goats" who could climb up the steep terrain to get to the weeds and overgrowth on the slopes.



RACHEL FOX, COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID RYU'S FIELD DEPUTY, (L) AND NEIGHBORS TACKLE WEEDS AND OVERGROWTH.

The smell of fresh cut lavender, even through our masks, was heavenly. The comradery of neighbors getting together once again, although distanced, was revitalizing. The fresh air and sunshine under the glorious Shakespeare Bridge was wonderful especially when shared with others. This was FHRA's first planned outing since COVID. It was a delightful event.



SENIOR LEAD OFFICER JESSE AISPURO (UPPER LEFT), DAVID BROOKS, CHARLEY MIMS (BACK TO CAMERA), ANTONIA AND BENJ HEWITT TRIM AND BAG THE CLIPPINGS

We kept our distance, wore our masks, and mostly just enjoyed hanging out and talking about what's been going on in our lives. And, we got a lot done.

I am so grateful for the way everyone pitches in and with everyone doing a little part, a large job gets done in seemingly no time. Neighbors offered their green bins. Our Council Office arranged for pickup of the remaining bags and a pile of palm fronds. The time passed quickly. After two hours, we had spruced up our cherished garden under the bridge.

We invite you to join us any time. Watch your emails for FHRA alerts for the next one (sign up at fhra@franklinhills.org).



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Sunset Boulevard Nursery

A thriving, local gem

Melinda Taylor

Sunset Blvd Nursery is one of the rare independently owned and operated nurseries left in Los Angeles, and we in the Franklin Hills and surrounding neighborhoods are fortunate to be able to claim it as our local go-to place for plants, soil, pots, tools, supplies and, importantly, horticultural advice and expertise.

The nursery was started in late 1958 by Chizuko and Naoiji Kuga, who ran it until 1979, when their son, Dennis, took over full time. Dennis is still involved in the nursery, but now his son, Greg, handles its daily management. It's too soon to speculate on whether Greg's newborn son will grow into Sunset Nursery's next manager, but time will tell. Their story of succession is rare, with more than 80% of Southern California's independent nurseries closing since 2000, and only a handful of local independent nurseries currently remaining.

Business is brisk at the nursery these days, supporting a national trend. The National Gardening Association says that the number of gardeners in the US is growing. 1 in 3 households are currently growing a combination of fruits and veggies at their homes. That number was growing before the Covid-19 pandemic, and is continuing to grow.



DENNIS KUGA AND LONGTIME STAFFER SALLY MELCHER IN THE HEART OF SUNSET NURSERY

Sunset Nursery's business is in line with that trend. Houseplants have also become hugely popular recently, and now, with people living and working at home, that garden trend continues to grow. With their large selection of plants and pots for indoor gardening, Sunset is experiencing strong sales of both. Sunset Nursery will plant your houseplant in your new pot for you, free of charge, so you don't need to do it yourself at home unless you want to.

(Continued on page 23)



Happy Holidays!

Be well. Be happy.

Best wishes in 2021



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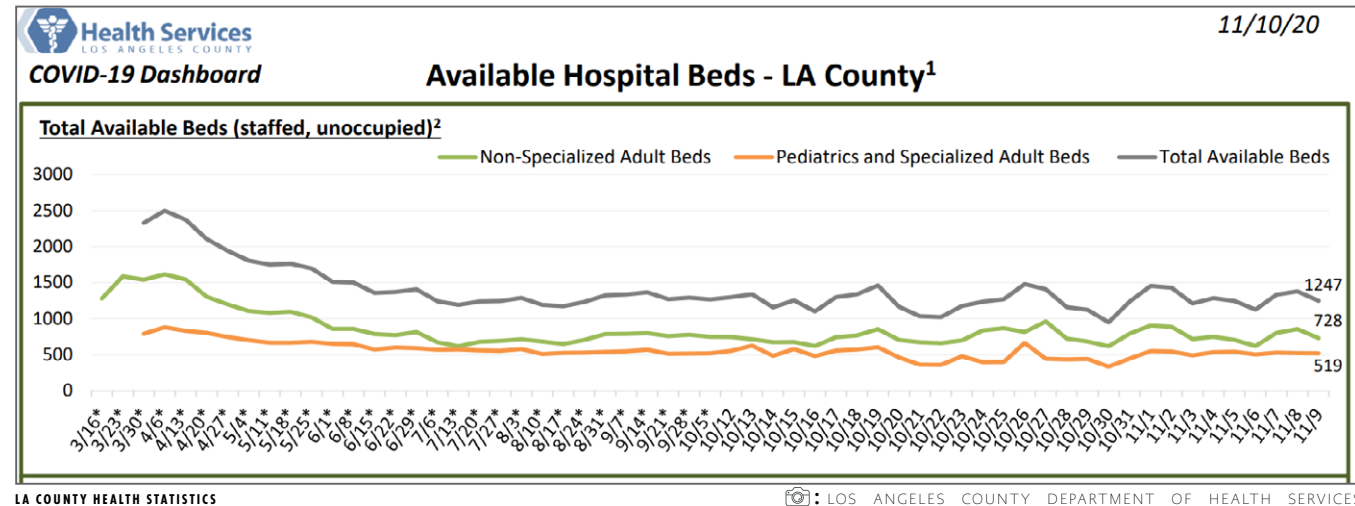
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Tracking COVID-19 in LA County

How to find relevant data

David Ahrendts

KK6DA, member City of LA LAFD Auxiliary Communications Service



The residents of Franklin Hills are so very fortunate to live in Los Angeles County, where our public health authority is fully transparent with all statistics about the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of LA answers to the County of LA on all public health matters, and the County answers to the State.

It's a mammoth job tracking the virus from the number of new infections to deaths, to the number of hospitalizations in the county's 70 911-receiving hospitals and the four county-owned hospitals, in our county of 10-million people.

This is important work in balancing the economic shutdown and the limitation of social interaction with the capacity of our hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients, and to not overwhelm the hospital system as we witnessed in New York City early in the pandemic.

All of this information is publicly available to you us and is updated daily, 7-days-a-week. Here are some of the best ways to retrieve this mega-data:

1) See all LA County Public Health news releases and sign up for them to be sent to you by email at publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/index.htm. Each day LACo Pub Health releases a narrative summarizing new cases, hospitalizations, deaths and, most importantly, the positivity percentages.

2) At this web site you can find data displayed in even more detailed ways: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov> Click "Visit the Newsroom for More." Then, go to the three lines upper right and choose "Newsroom," then "Incident Updates," and then pick the latest date. Here you will see a continually updated FEMA-formatted Situation Status Report on COVID-19 in LA County covering all aspects for every sector.

3) And within the *Situation Status Report* you will see the very important link to hospital capacity, at our 74 county hospitals which is what it's all about: http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dhs/1070348_DHSCOV19Dashboard.pdf

We can check the latest data right now with these tools above and we can compare the graphs as of November 10th with the graphs pulled up when receiving this *Overview*.

Much work is yet to be done for all of us in Franklin Hills and beyond – wearing masks, social distancing, washing your hands, and GETTING OUR FLU SHOTS are our only tools until there is a vaccine. And stay aware of the data.

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- St. Catherine's Lace \$100
- Western redbud \$250
- Jacaranda \$500+

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THANK YOU for your support!!

(Sunset Nursery, continued from page 21)

I first set foot inside the nursery in 1989, and it has been an important part of the neighborhood for me ever since. Dennis has supported my landscape work in the community in many ways over the years, beginning when Sunset Nursery donated an orange tree to my son's local preschool in 1995, and when they donated plants to the *Median Garden* when it was first planted, a few years later. Many of the mature plants growing on the median today came from Sunset back in the early 2000s. While people now come to the nursery from far outside the community, the nursery is still at heart a neighborhood nursery, one deeply appreciative of the community's support.

In my work as a landscape architect and landscape contractor, the experienced staff of Sunset is my "go-to" for quick and reliable information on plant diseases, new plant introductions into the nursery trade, and material supply sources. They look forward to being yours, as well. Most staff members have 20 or more years of experience in the business. At least four staff members have more than 30. If you don't know them yet, see for yourself what you've been missing.



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MELINDA TAYLOR (ALL)

The Overview

Issue n° 60

Happy Holidays Franklin Hills



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