

OVERWEN

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 10

WINTER 1993



Shear madness as Bill Violante, LFIA Pres. Marilyn Bush, Chief Willie Williams, Councilman John Ferraro and Marisa Antonini cut the ribbon inaugurating the new Los Feliz Police Center.

HILLHURST BLUES

by Bruce Carroll

They cut a wide blue ribbon to mark the opening of the thin blue line's newest outpost, The Los Feliz Community Police Center. On November 10th, the early morning crowd, gathered on Hillhurst between Los Feliz and Avocado, heard Marilyn Bush, president of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, talk about their nearly two year struggle "to bring our local police officers closer in proximity to our residents, our business, our schools and our churches." City Council President,

See Blues, page 7



INSIDE:
New Police Center
Franklin Median Project
My View-Bruce Carroll
Los Feliz Library
Stairway Cleanup

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Nobody, and Anybody.

When there was an important job to be done, **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did.

When Nobody did it, Everybody got angry because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Somebody would do it, but Nobody realized that Nobody would do it.

So it ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done in the first place.

Your Association needs your help. Volunteer, call the Hotline: (213) 664-7247

LETTERS

September 29, 1993

Dear Don

I would like to thank you and the Franklin Hills Residents' Association for the splendid job you did in organizing a successful opposition to the intention to build a house at 2127 Lyric Avenue that was in contradiction to the "Hillside Plan" in as much as the builder was requesting

1) a maximum height of 45 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 36-foot

heights,

2) a 5-foot side yard setback in lieu of the required 8 foot setback, and

3) a lot coverage of 48 percent in lieu of the maximum 45 percent.

These requests did not comply with the recent changes the municipal code designed to eliminate the trend for out-of-scale, over-sized houses on narrow or small lots, known as the "Hillside Plan". These changes are constructive and deserve the support of organizations such as the Franklin Hills Residents Association who, in representing the community, generate real progress in creating a more qualitative residential environment for the future.

Thank you and your Association again for your invaluable help.

Sincerely yours, Dan Hornbeck 2145 Lyric Avenue Franklin Hills

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

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The Franklin Hills OVERVIEW is published as often as possible. We invite your comments on matters relating to articles and the community and, space permitting, we will publish letters mailed to Editor, OVERVIEW, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Remember the Median Project?

by Riccardo Accorsi

Remember the community-wide "of course!" that echoed across Franklin Hills when the idea of landscaping the Franklin

Avenue median was proposed two years ago? Remember the tall palms, purple fountain grass and wild buckwheat we all envisioned when the design was presented last summer? And remember the checks some of you generously wrote right away to help make it happen? Fortunately, the Franklin Avenue Median Landscape Project is still very much alive. It's just been lost in red tape.

After wandering a labyrinth of delays and complications in City Hall, the Median Project has finally found a bureaucratic knight in shining armor. The plans are now in the hands of Paul Racs, Operation Clean Sweep coordinator for the Department of

Public Works. Mr. Racs, through the Adopt-A-Median Program, is the liaison between community groups and govern-

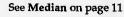
ing agencies to oversee public projects.

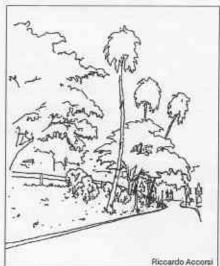
Like Lancelot on a quest for the Holy Grail-in this case,

our permit—Mr. Racs will carry our noble FHRA proposal through the final gauntlet of approvals from the Landscape and Street Lighting Divisions of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation. He will also aid FHRA in securing the help of the Street Maintenance Division for asphalt demolition, guardrail repair and street sign relocation. Street Maintenance will also provide tools for landscaping.

So far, our hero has done well—the plans submitted to Mr. Racs the second week of July have already received favorable comments from the Landscape Division. Our objective is to receive the approv-

als for permit by the beginning of September. At that point, we will issue the plans for bidding of the irrigation system and





Baller Hardware

The Business of Making Friends

by Violet Weber

Living in the most transitory city in the Union, it's balm for the soul to do our weekly business with people who have become a staple in our lives—not just for years, but sometimes for decades.

A lot of those people work at Baller Hardware, anchored at Hyperion Avenue and Tracy Street since 1959. The business started off more by accident than design. When Edward Baller retired from California Steel Treating, he began to take daily walks around the neighborhood from his home on Tracy. He often passed the empty corner at

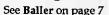
the store's present location, and on one of those days he had an idea. Although he had no retail experience, he did have the ability to make decisions. One day he came home and announced to Mrs. Baller that they were going into the hardware business—a decision they never regretted.

I watched the Baller Hardware building go up from our new home on Griffith Park Boulevard, knowing that I would soon be sent by my renovator husband for the nails and other bits and pieces he needed for his various projects. I always made two trips: one to buy the widget, and the second to get the right one. I was amazed at the depth and breadth of knowl-

edge of whatever clerk waited on me, but most particularly by the friendly, snowy-haired Mrs. Baller. She not only knew where everything was, but also how to use it. She saved me a lot of trips.

Chuck Cowrie, Edward Baller's stepson and one of the current owners, believes Baller Hardware is successful because it offers what the neighborhood

needs, not necessarily the latest widgets popping onto the hardware scene. Opening at the forefront of the home improvement trend, the Ballers were quick to realize that tools for the do-it-yourselfer were going to be their stock in trade. That decision was so successful that it wasn't long before they had to erect another building across the street to project or want to discuss the affairs of the world. You might dis-



WHAT WE'RE UP TO

by Bruce Carroll

Since the last issue of the Overview the FHRA has held its annual business meeting (May 20) in a very business-like manner so the gathering of several dozen neighbors could get home in time to watch the final episode of Cheers. Membership chair Carol Skinner was elected to the FHRA Board of Directors, replacing Gene Cornell. Five other board members: President Don Waldrop, Vice-President Bryant Crouse, Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Carroll, Chris Boutelle and Arnie Netka were reelected to two year terms.

President Waldrop spoke of FHRA's aims to be a powerful voice for our neighborhood's concerns, and to develop a network of block leaders so we are prepared for any eventuality. Bruce Carroll reported the treasury in good shape, although a lot more will be needed for the Median project. Carol Skinner passed the hat, actually a paper cup, and collected almost \$50 to aid our local library. (see separate story) And Disaster-Prep chair, Vi Weber talked of "training, training, training" as the key elements.

The best part of the meeting, as usual, was the home-baked goodies that followed... accompanied by much more neighborly good cheer than the TV variety.

At the June board meeting, Don Waldrop reported that the FHRA booth at the Los Feliz Village Street Fair in May sold lots of Franklin Hills T-shirts and had a very high level of interest from the crowds, many attracted by the historic photographs on display (see p. 12.)

In July the board discussed ways of helping local merchants and residents by

A REMINDER

Any residents who get a notice of a requested zoning variance near them should call the FHRA hotline 664-7247 to let us know before it's too late to keep a monster from our midst.

coming up with promotions that would keep more of our dollars nearer home. Sadly, Riccardo Accorsi reported that a few of the trees planted in March along Talmadge have not survived on the mean summer streets. Plans were made to insure that no more bite the dust.

Charley Mims had the answers for what's going on at the empty

Rowena Reservoir. The DWP wants to build an underground tank and have a park on top, but with no public access. The Hillside Federation, of which FHRA is a member, has opposed the project because there has been no environmental impact report done, hence no public hearings, a decidedly bad precedent.

A decidedly good precedent was followed in August when the FHRA board again bypassed the month's meeting to honor the lazy days of summer.

In our September and October meetings we discussed street lighting and graffiti...working towards more of the former and less of the latter. We donated \$250 to the LA Conservation Corps in gratitude for their assistance with the Talmadge-Prospect tree planting project and worked on plans for the next round of tree planting along south Talmadge.

The FHRA also chalked up a victory in the zoning variance war. With good research and good testimony we sent the owner of 2127 Lyric back to the drawing board to deflate a proposed remodeling project that would have ballooned a 900 square foot house to a 2800 square foot monster... higher and wider on all sides than allowed by the Hillside Ordinance. (See letter, p. 2)

community phones

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

ABC-TELEVISION:

John Yingling, Plant Manager, (310)557-5000

Security: (310) 557-5354.

CITY ANIMAL REGULATION: (213) 222-7138 COUNCILMAN JOHN FERRARO, 4th District:

> Room M-30, City Hall, 200 Spring St., (213) 485-3337 District Office, 625 S. New Hampshire (213) 485-4377

ENVIRONMENTAL:

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GRAFFITI:

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FHRA Graffiti Action Coordinator: (213) 661-4351

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

Hours: Mon-Tues 12:30-8:00; Wed-Thurs 12:30-

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TRASH RECEPTACLE INFO: (800) 248-9726

WATER & POWER: (800) 722-1122

FHRA HOTUNE

The Franklin Hills Residents Association reminds you that we now have our own telephone number. By calling (213) 664-7247, you can ask questions, leave messages for board and committee members or make suggestions.

It's not exactly a "hotline," and getting an "800" number didn't seem to make much sense, so we hope you find our plain old neighborhood number useful.

FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-7247

HAMS

If you are a ham radio operator or if you have handheld Ham or CB radios, or a CB base station and would be willing to help the Disaster Preparedness team, please contact Bruce Carroll at 665-9875

GRAFFITI ALERT

Plans are being made for another FHRA community paint-out. If you would like to be involved or if you know of a trouble area, call Isabel Dietz: 661-4351 or FHRA HOTLINE 664-7247

Patronize "Our" Businesses

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 news-letter are charged the absolute minimum possible advertising fees. Their ads pay for the paper and any surplus supports FHRA on-going projects.

Please support our advertisers by utilizing their services regularly and, by all means, tell them you saw their ads in the "Overview."

NEED A PLUMBER? A Painter? A Gardener? Or Other Professional Help?

by Bryant B. Crouse, Vice President, FHRA

Back in the "old days" when many of us grew up in towns where we knew most of our neighbors, life seemed a lot simpler. But today we all live in the middle of a sprawling urban metropolis, though those of us who have chosen Los Feliz and the Franklin Hills, I suspect, have done so to capture at least some semblance of a suburban lifestyle.

To help in furthering that lifestyle, the FHRA would like to help make our lives easier in one very important way. Quitesimply, we want to create an FHRA source of information (database, if you computer people insist!) to help our members save time and effort in finding qualified help for any home or personal services that we may need in to have filled. Hence our title, "Need a Plumber?"

Developing a database of services for our community will require everyone's help because it is the collective experience of the community that will help us sort out the good from the bad, the reliable from the unreliable, and the values from the expensive!

Fortunately, we have the first and most important ingredient in place to create our database, and that is our own community "giver" and FHRA Secretary-Treasurer, Bruce Carroll, who has again(!) volunteered his time and his computer to track the information you send us! Over time, hopefully we can develop enough information to make one aspect of our lives in Los Angeles easier, finding good professional help!

Naturally, we must all understand that the FHRA cannot guarantee the reliability of the information in the database, but if we get your help in building our information, it should give us all a head start on finding good people.

We can create as many categories (plumbers, pirates, painters, poets, paupers,whoops, haven' t I heard this somewhere before) as you can come up with!

Now to the specifics: call the FHRA HOTLINE (213) 664-7247 with any information and recommendations you have, or write to us (FHRA, Box 29122, Los Angeles, 90027) and our kind Bruce Caroll will start up his engines! Also if you are turned on to this idea, we can use you as a volunteer to help us build the database by actually call-

Please see Plumber, page 9

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for suggestions, questions, complaints, ideas or help.



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Blues, from page 1

John Ferraro, termed the community police partnership, "the kind of thing we need throughout the City of Los Angeles, throughout the country, if we are going to recapture our civility."

The center will be staffed by neighborhood volunteers and provide a location where officers can drop in at anytime to do their paperwork and use the phone. Chief Willie Williams estimated that this might save up to 25% of some officers' days, time now wasted going back and forth to the station.

In his dedication speech the Chief said, "the commitment the government has is to try to keep our officers here as much as possible. The commitment for the community is to be a true partner by providing the resources to build it, keep it open and keep it running, and that's the best example of community based policing that there is."

Inside small the office, which costs the city nothing, there are desks, a donated computer, telephones and, on opening day, still wet, blue paint. As for blue suits and badges, Chief Williams told the Overview more of them should be present soon. "Some time in the first of the year, as our staffing goes up, we will begin to staff officers who will follow up with foot beats right from here. That will supplement the people who come in and out."

The city has about a dozen similar centers that have languished recently, but the Chief is in the process of gearing them back up and hopes to make the Los Feliz center a showcase. "We're going to bring people up and let them see what can happen when the community and the police department work together." People who are interested in working together can volunteer for few hours by calling LFIA's Marisa Antonini, at 663-6882.

Baller, from page 3

cover some new friends, and you just might find that little widget you've been looking for so long!



BARNSDALL SQUARE

TEMPEST IN A PARKING LOT

by Bruce Carroll

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L SQUARE

"Devastating" was how Talmadge Avenue resident Lorraine Foulks described the realization that her car was taken while she shopped in the Thrifty Drug store

at Barnsdall Square last month. "I looked and I looked and I thought it

was stolen."

But Paul Okene, manager of the Barnsdall Square mall, knew where the blue Subaru was. He had ordered it towed away. Okene told the Overview that "3 or 4 cars a day" were being towed because of complaints

about the parking situation from Thrifty headquarters.

The long ignored one hour parking limit was now being enforced. Plus, Okene put up large new signs reading in part "WE ARE TOWING/ your car will be towed

away / once you go across the street / we are watching you/THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER WARNING"

The concern was that too many people were parking in the shopping center to save the parking fee at the Kaiser Medical Center. But, even before the crackdown, there appeared to be a plethora of parking at

Barnsdall, and in a count earlier this month 112 of the 180 parking spaces nearest Thrifty were quite empty except for pigeons. Okene says they aren't a problem, but don't tell that to my windshield.

Although Foulks has time-stamped cash register receipts to prove she shopped at Thrifty and a letter from nursing home staff who saw her miles away visiting her 90 year old mother during 35 of the 80 minutes she was allegedly parked at Barnsdall, Okene is adamant that he saw her cross the street. She, as adamantly, denies it and Okene has refused to refund the \$83.80 towing fees.

He says he's managed the shopping center for nine years with compassion. He never tows cars of elderly infirm, or those with children and has even given money back to those in need. He also volunteered that he doesn't get kickbacks from the towing company. But as to

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Lorraine Foulks, "That lady? Oh, I think she got problems." Perhaps misreading her insistent determination, Okene alleged Foulks (a Mormon,) "looked drunk or on drugs."

Foulks, who lived in the area when FDR was in the White House and there was no shopping center, took her outrage to City Hall, got papers for small claims court after Okene told her "sue me" and finally called the FHRA hotline.

We contacted Dick Donavin, Thrifty's Director of Asset Management, the man Mr. Okene says demanded the tough parking policy. When asked by the Overview if there was a parking problem Mr. Donavin gave a terse "no comment" and claimed "we are just a tenant." But Thrifty appears to be the tenant that wags the dog.

Later Thrifty Executive Vice President Chris Bement called with good news: new TWO HOUR parking signs would be up soon, and no cars would be towed until after drivers received a written warning ticket. As for Mrs. Foulks' money, Thrifty said they would encourage the property owners to make restitution.

I guess the moral of this story is: if you fight for your parking rights, you, too, may become a foulks hero in LA.

Plumber, from page 6

ing your neighbors to solicit their input and build our list of categories. If any one of you can do this, please give me a call a (213) 666-0307 and we will bring you into the loop. Remember, you can help make this a success; so pick up the phone right now and call the hotline!



FROM THE BUSINESSES OF THE LOS FELIZ VILLAGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS & WARMEST WISHES FOR 1994



MY VIEW by

by Bruce Carroll

"THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL MUSEUM"

As Treasurer of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. I feel it's important to keep up with economic trends. To pursue that practice I peruse plenty of papers purporting to proffer professional or professorial pointers pinpointing presumed problems plaguing people's phinancial profitability. But all that study has left me as confused as all the contradictory experts, so I set out to uncover the one true cause of all economic woes.

It seems that nothing has been quite right since the usually stodgy Bank of America invented designer checks in 1967. Those bright green checks with a bright blue flower produced the seeds for our current crop of "artistic" checks. A significant percentage (that's scientific terminol-ogy for "I'm too lazy to actually count") of membership checks received by the FHRA have pictures on them.

So far I haven't received any of the new Elvis checks, or any with Hound Dogs. There are, however, lots of other animals, like soaring eagles, or perhaps they are vultures ready to grab your money, from the B of A. I find ducks flying, floating and marching across checks, but I haven't found any swans. I guess when it comes to money people are still afraid to stick their necks out too far. The highest animal per check ratio goes to Wells Fargo Bank's six stage coach pulling horses. Wells Fargo pulls off another fast one as the only bank that favors printing their name, rather than yours,

at the top of each check.

In addition to flowers, horses, birds, and of course apples from the LA Teachers Credit Union, FHRA has also received cats (all the way up to lion) serene landscapes and seashells as well as surfers and a dancing Bugs Bunny. Some members, not so much into entertaining, try sending a message with their money supporting Greenpeace or "Pro Choice."

Choice in how to dispense the green stuff, even if it doesn't bring peace, does give check writers a chance to "individualize themselves" according to Joan Wolters, marketing director for Checks in the Mail. Their Sunday newspaper ads offer dozens of check designs, some so artistic perhaps they should change their name to "Checks in the Museum."

They picture everything from clouds with Helen Keller quotes to Betty Boop. Ms. Wolters confirmed, "people are getting away from the (plain) blue safety checks more and more...people are thinking of checks these days the same way you think of

the sheets that you put on your bed. Why just use white sheets when there is such a variety and you can express yourself." In that observation Ms. Wolters seems to have highlighted a powerful parallel between the decline in morality brought on by colorful bed sheets and the economic decline I trace to the abandonment of no-nonsense checks.

It is obvious that such un-checked expression in checks is the reason our economy is so screwed up. Even if a dollar isn't worth what it used to be, it is important that it still look important. Remember, the depression of the 1930's began after the government reduced the physical size of dollar bills. Now it is artistic checks that have ruined the economy. How can people take seriously checks with a dozen grinning, gyrating Elvises? As a professional curmudgeon, I still use old fashioned blue safety checks and fear the day when I get a check returned stamped "NSF." It will no longer mean "non sufficient funds, but "non sufficient fun.

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AVOID BEING TARGETED FOR CAR JACKING.

by James R. Nunes Pleasant Hill Chief of Police

On October 25, 1992, President Bush signed the Anti-Car Theft Act, which makes it a federal crime to steal a vehicle by force or fear with a weapon. The offense is punishable by 15 years in a federal prison or 25 years if the victim is injured and life in prison if death occurs.

It appears that most car jacking incidents occur when people are not paying attention to their surroundings. The following are some suggestions to minimize your potential for being targeted.

- 1. Get into the habit of locking your car doors and rolling up the windows when you drive or park your car.
- 2. Avoid driving in unfamiliar areas or in areas that feel unsafe, especially at night.
- 3. When you arrive at your location, look around for any suspicious person before you park.
- 4. Fill your gas tank during the day.
- 5. When returning to your car, again check your surroundings. As you approach your car, look under your car to see if anyone is lying on the ground near the driver's side. Always have your keys ready.



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- 6. If confronted, the decision to drive away must be yours. Does the suspect display a gun? Remember that your car will not protect you. Bullets will easily penetrate the thin sheet metal on most cars, and glass offers no protection.
- 7. If you are confronted by an armed robber who wants your car, give it to him/her. Your car is not worth injury to you.
- 8. Avoid the curb lane on a multilane street, so, if you have to stop at an intersection, you are not next to the curb.
- 9. Consider placing your purse in your car's trunk before leaving your home.
- 10. Many, but not all, car jackings occur at night. Be even more aware of your surroundings after dark.
- 11. Do not assume that the make, model, condition, or year of your car determines whether or not it will be targeted. A variety of vehicles have been taken in car jackings.
- 12. Park in well-lighted areas and near the entrance to
- 13. If you need to walk out to your car at night (even to move. your car), keep your eyes open for suspicious people. If you se someone suspicious, call 9-1-1.
- 14. If you need to use a pay phone, day or night, find one that is inside an establishment.
- 15. Consider a cellular telephone that can be used if you feel unsafe, or if your car becomes disabled.
- 16. Be particularly careful when you are driving home. Be aware of anyone sitting in or on a car or standing near your home. If you see a car behind you, or see a suspicious car or person on your street, don't pull into your driveway. Drive around the block to make sure that you are not being followed. If you don't feel safe, do not stop. Drive to the police department, fire department, or to an open gas station and honk your horn several times.
- 17. Avoid using ATM machines after dark. If you must get cash at night, use an indoor ATM machine.

Reprinted from PREVENTION CONNECTION

Median, from page 3

make the final fund-raising effort.

If all goes well, a beautiful median will grace the entrance to Franklin Hills by mid-November. Such an achievement needs more than knights in shining armor, however. Plan to lend a hand yourself the day of the planting. Buy a ticket to the fund-raiser. Spread the word among your neighbors about the project's need for contributions and volunteers. If you know of a reliable landscaper who may be interested in bidding the irrigation system, let us know by calling the FHRA Hotline at 213-664-7247



1927. View looking northeast toward Glendale. Vermont Avenue at Hollywood Boulevard in lower left corner.

THE OVERVIEW - WINTER 1993



Shakespeare Bridge, completed in 1926, is at right center. Courtesy of Bruce Carroll. Copies available - call Hotline.

THE OVERVIEW - WINTER 1993

LIBRARY GIVE AND TAKE

By Bruce Carroll

THE TAKE

On July 29, 1993, the Los Angeles City Board of Library Commissioners voted to begin condemnation of the southeast corner of Hillhurst and to reality. Of course on that same day, as for eons, Los Angeles moved a little bit closer to San Francisco, but you still can't see the Golden Gate Bridge. The message is patience.

In Rube Goldberg fashion, the Library Commission's vote went to the Real Estate Division of the Bureau of Engineering in the Department of Public Works. There negotiator Joe Gary assessed the city's purchase efforts, "we are down to the point where we have to decide whether we are going to agree or whether we are going to disagree." When all signs pointed to the latter, Gary turned the matter over to the Land Drafting and Maps section to draft the condemnation ordinance. Then the pa-

perwork went to the Planning Department which, after review, sent more paperwork to the City Attorney, who, after review, sent even more paperwork to City Clerk who, this month, sent it all to key City Council members and soon to the Public Works committee. If they approve, the measure goes on to the whole council, who, if they approve, send it back to the City Attorney, who finally takes the case to court.

Although far from swift, this labyrinthian process has been the "2 by 4" that has gotten the attention of realtor J.D. Kelleher, who owns the proposed library site. "The doors of communication are open." Kelleher told the Overview in an exclusive interview. The city appraised his property at \$1,648,200 a year ago. That works out to about \$51 per square foot. But Kelleher has submitted his own data. The result is "a gi-

ant disparity between the two appraisals." To back up his case, the owner of Los Feliz Properties sent the city his list of seven comparable sales. "We are in the 80s and 90s (dollars per square foot) on our comps, four of which are on Hillhurst and two of which are 1993 comps. The City's comps were all in 1990 and '91." Kelleher said.

Likewise the City rejected Kelleher's comps as not really comparable. According to library spokeswoman Karen Smith, the department felt his comps are "not acceptable, so the city isn't going to negotiate a higher price." She said, "It wasn't very good data and a lot of it was from properties that had a lot of improvement on it. It just wasn't comparable to the condition of his property." But Kelleher countered with his own complaint that the City is "using comps on Virgil, comparing it to a prime piece of property on Hillhurst in Los Feliz. Two of their figures are from Virgil as far down as LACC."

When asked if he thought the dispute would eventually wind up in court, which the city estimates would take at least 15 months to decide, Kelleher responded, "Well I hope not. If they think they need a library down here you know they can have it. I want to go by what the condemnation law dictates, and it says that the owner of the property should receive fair market value. And the question is, what they propose to be fair market value, is not"

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THE GIVE

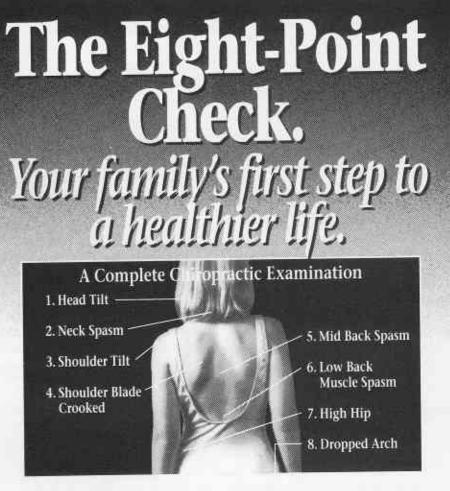
Even without escalating building costs, the municipal treasury's perennial flow of red ink has long brought the wolf, licking its chops, to the Library's door. In a small way the FHRA has ridden to the rescue giving our Los Feliz Branch Library a menagerie of cheetahs and Leopards, crocodiles, sharks, and killer whales, not to mention pandas, polar bears and grizzlies to fight back.

Fourteen National Geographic, Audubon, and Nova video cassettes of those animals were purchased by the library with a \$204 donation from the FHRA. The fund was started with collection of \$48.41 at the general membership meeting in May and augmented with money from FHRA's general fund. Tom Johnson, acting senior librarian, in accepting the gift, wrote "The library is so grateful for the Association's continued generosity. We will naturally be putting a label on each video to indicate it is a gift from you."

So if you hear some unusual sounds, fearsome roars in the neighbor hood, before you panic or call the department of Animal Regulation you might just check with your neighbor to see what amazing creatures they've borrowed from the li-

brary.

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Udell Court Stairway Cleanup Draws Big Turnout

, by Carol Mason

Standing at the top of the Udell Court stairway in Franklin Hills early on a recent Sunday morning, it was hard to believe the historic stairs actually existed. Years of neglect had hidden most of them beneath thick weeds and canopies of trees and bamboo. At 9:00 a.m., a sudden flurry of activity erupted down the length of the stairway. A small band of some 30 local residents had come together to attack the overgrowth with rakes, saws, brooms and a spirit of caring respect for their neighborhood treasure.

The Udell Court stairway is one of an elaborate system of stairways constructed in 1926 along with local roads and landmark Shakespeare Bridge. The stairs served as vital links for Franklin Hills residents to neighbors, schools and businesses for decades. The City of Los Angeles maintained the stairway system until Proposition 13 drastically reduced funds in the 1980s. Since then, a few stairways have been cared for by adjacent neighbors, but many were abandoned to weeds, transients, prostitutes and drug dealers.

Steve Dreher, a video producer, decided one day last

spring to clean up the stairway near his home on Sanborn Avenue. He even got the City to sandblast graffitti off the stairs. "I wanted to enjoy using the stairs myself, and I was tired of worrying about the graffitti gangs and drug dealers," stated Dreher. Adam Weisman, a neighbor and psychologist, was so impressed with Dreher's results, he wanted to expand the idea to the rest of Franklin Hills' deteriorated stairways.

Weisman and another neighbor, Libby Simon, an animation producer, spearheaded an organized effort with the support of the Franklin Hills Residents Association. On July 25, the First Annual FHRA Stairway Cleanup Party was launched. "It's a chance to do some historic preservation right in my own neighborhood," explained Simon as she leaned on her shovel and mopped her forehead. "When I walk the stairs, I like to think about the movie stars who probably walked them, too." Neighborhood legend has it that four bungalows at the bottom of Udell Court were built for Joan Blondell, Gloria Swanson, Greta Garbo and Greer Garson as dressing rooms when they worked at nearby studios in the 1930s.

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Udell Court Stairway: Before

It's not easy to find any group of people in Los Angeles willing to give so much time and hard work to a community effort, particularly on a beautiful summer Sunday. Chris Aelley, a singer/songwriter, paused from chopping branches to explain his motivation. "We had serious problems with a homeless man living in the brush off the stairway. I love this neighborhood, and I thought it would help if we showed we're around and care."

Aelley's neighbor and university professor, Barbara Thomason, was unnerved by a bonfire litnear the stairs by the same transient one windy night. "The firemen put out the fire, but nobody wanted to deal with the homeless guy. It's time



and after

we all take action like this to make the city clean and safe," she stated. Neil Anderson, a construction executive, echoed Thomason's belief: "We need more good guys on the streets and fewer bad guys."

A philosophical motivation came from Bruce Carroll, a retired television producer and FHRA board member: "I enjoy fighting one of the few battles man can win against nature," he grinned as he yanked up a huge weed. Carroll wryly observed what he called the "archeology of the steps" emerge from the morning's digging—ancient toys, newspapers, paint cans, shoes and a fresh syringe.

Continued next page

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Must present this coupon. Limit one coupon per customer. All purchases except dog food, cat food and birdseed. Ofter ends January 1, 1994. Kendra Haaland, a corporate marketing director, walks her dog every day and plans on enjoying the fruits of her labor by traveling Udell Court often now that the over 200 steps are clean and open again. "It's good for people to care enough to do something, then actually see the change."

Dusty and hot from the morning's labor, the cleanup crew gathered to celebrate a job well done around a delicious lunch at Joan Blondell's old bungalow, now the charming home of Howard Baker and Eduardo Santiago.

The organizers are pleased to invite Franklin Hills residents back to Udell Court. The top of the stairway can be found next to 2040 Mayview on the eastern slope of Franklin Hills. They also hope residents will be inspired to join in the community's energy for change. More stairway cleanup parties and other projects to restore and improve quality of life in Franklin Hills are planned.

The organizers also wish to publicly thank all the cleanup team members for their extraordinary and spirited efforts:

AronAbrams Howard Baker Chris Boutelle Shawm Brydon **Ed Coffey** Ruth Drucker Frank Drucker Jay Glassman Fran Glassman Vicky Jensen Chris Kelley Tom Klein Daryn Sipes Maggie, guard dog Carol Mason Mary Newland Masa Nori Glen Patterson Marty Polanski Noel Ragsdale **Brady Rubin** Ira Rubin Eduardo Santiago Jamie Schwentker Don Waldrop

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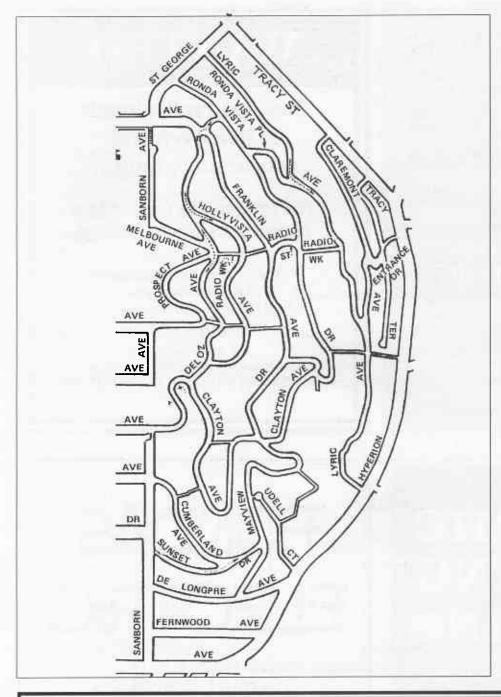
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Adopt A Stair

Building on the stunning success of the First Annual FHRA Stairway Cleanup, the FHRA Stair Committee announces a smaller, more personal program for the stairway closest to your homeand heart. Let us know which stairway you would like to clean; FHRA will organize the effort with you and your neighbors and supply tools and assistance.

Join the Adopt-A-Stair Program for Your Selected Stairway TODAY!

Call the FHRA Hotline 213-664-7247 with:

- 1) The name of your selected stairway as shown on map
- 2) Your name
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We will call you to discuss how we can implement a stair cleaning effort on the stairs you have chosen. It is our hope that after they are cleaned you will commit to helping keep them clean.

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LOS ANGELES FAMILY SCHOOL NOW ENROLLING KINDERGARTEN

The Los Angeles Family School, located at 2646 Griffith Park Boulevard, just next to Happily Ever After Bookstore, has opened up a kindergarten class this year.

Family School is a parent participation school, which means that parents help the school with everything from fund raising to maintaining school grounds.

The pre-school has clases for children from ages 2 - 5. Interested parents are asked to attend an Open House to get acquainted with the school philosophy and personnel. The next Open House will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 4:00 p.m. The school requests that you leave your child at home for this initial meeting. The school phone is (213) 663-8049.

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MARSHALL HIGH NEWS

Public Service Graduation Requirement. With this year's 10th grade class, Marshall has implemented a 20-hour public service graduation requirement. All 9th and 10th graders are being given directions on how, homes, libraries, police stations, the zoo, etc. All ideas for public service are welcome and a list of approved sites for service is being set up.where and why to fulfill this requirement through local community service agencies, hospitals, nursing

Administration and Staff changes. Dr. Deborah Leidner, principal of Marshall since September 1989, has taken a position on the new Quality Educational Design Collaborative, a team of teachers and administrators assisting schools with reform. Mr. Steve Quon, who served as Marshall's Assistant Principal for eight years, was promoted to principal but reassigned to Granada Hills High School. In his place the School Based Management Council hired Mrs. Joan Evans, whose primary responsibilities are curriculum and budget. Marshall has fifteen new teachers this year, all interviewed and selected by committees of teachers and administrators through SBM. This is the largest class of new teachers in over ten years. They bring new enthusiasm, energy, and a fresh outlook.

Library Extended Hours. Through the "Next Century Schools Nabisco Grant" funds, Marshall is now able to keep the library open from 3 - 6 pm Monday through Thursday and 3 - 5 pm on Fridays. College-age tutors and a faculty math teacher are available each afternoon to provide tutoring for students. An average of 90 students use the extended hours each day but there is room for lots more.

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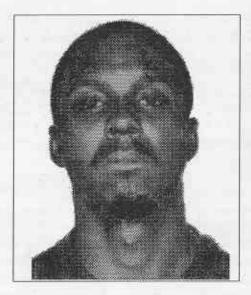
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Larger contributions are extremely welcome. Thank you for joining FHRA!		

WARNING!

A serial rapist has been stalking our community

There have been three incidents of violence against women in our neighborhood recently. Two of these incidents have been rapes, the third was a burglary and attempted rape. They happened in early September, mid-October and early November. Two incidents happened on St. George between Rowena and Tracy and the third happened on Talmadge near Franklin. He has chosen blondes as victims, so far.

He stalks his victim, waits until she has gone to bed, then breaks into her residence in the early hours of the morning. In the third incident, which happened last week, the woman was confronted as she entered an apartment about 11 p.m.



In another incident, the rapist stacked two garbage cans to climb in an open second floor open window.

The rapist is known by the Northeast Division detectives: He is a 26 year-old black male, Julius Roy Bragg. He is 6' 2", weighs 172 pounds and is known as "L'il Ju Ju" and as a member of the "Fruit Town" gang in the Compton area. He drives a blue 1990 Chevrolet Cavalier station wagon, license number unknown. Police have been unsuccessful in finding him so far. He is considered ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGER-OUS. If you have information about this man, or if you see him, contact Detective Deborah Ramirez at (213) 485-2566.



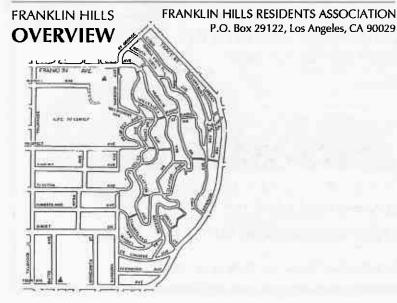
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