Issue #49

Spring\Summer

2015

Historic Grounds

When you are attending this year's FHRA Annual Meeting at the LILA School stop for a moment to look down at the ground and think of what might have been there had you been in the same place before they built the Hollywood Freeway around 1948. What's the connection? When you look at the old photo you'll see the south side of the Shakespeare Bridge. Below it is a ravine, not the plateau on which the school was



built in the 1960s. The plateau was created by the need to dump all the dirt excavated for the portion of the freeway that goes below the surface streets through most of Hollywood. Back in 1932 when this photo was taken by the U.S. Army Air Corps there appears to be a stable in the center of the picture, the likely home of horses used in westerns that were filmed at The Prospect Studio which was then owned by Warner Bros. What is now parking lots was then open fields for western heroes and villains to battle their way into the theatres of America.

The photo above is just a small section of one of many that FHRA has collected over the years. We will have them on display and for sale at the June 20th meeting and you can find the collection online by going to the www.FranklinHills.org website and clicking the Historic Area Photos link.

FHRA Annual Meeting \ Sat. June 20 Noon-2pm \ At LILA (Lycee International de Los Angeles) See inside on Page 5 for more details...

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OVERVIEW



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 www.FranklinHills.org

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<u>Hello</u>

By Chris Boutelle, FHRA President

Have you ever wondered about the round buildings visible from the south side of the Shakespeare Bridge? Most locals know that it is a school, the "Lycee International de Los Angeles" or familiarly, LILA, but many have not been there. Coming up, on Saturday, June 20, is your chance to see them at the annual meeting of the Franklin Hills Residents Association.

You can see the school, (Los Angeles Cultural Monument # 553) built by world renowned modernist architect John Lautner (who designed the Chemosphere above Studio City, Silvertop overlooking Silver Lake, Bob Hope's "Mushroom" estate in Palm Springs and many other mid-century modern buildings) in 1960 for wealthy industrialist Kenneth Reiner looking to establish a private school for his three children and those of his progressive neighbors.

Along historic lines, the program this year will feature a talk and power-point presentation of historic photos recently found and digitized from the Los Angeles Public Library downtown. Richard Stanley, local Realtor with Coldwell Banker, Los Feliz and architectural historian will give the presentation. From Marshall High School to Walt Disney's original Studio on Hyperion to the now restored Mack Sennett Studios on Bates at Fountain, Franklin Hills has a rich history and these

photographs should attest to that. Historic Franklin Hills photographs will be available for sale at the meeting. Is your house in one of them?

Naturally it wouldn't be an annual meeting without an update from the Los Angeles Fire Department's Captain Scott Souter on the drought and how clearing away brush affects our properties. The Los Angeles Police Department's Captain Jeffrey Bert from the Northeast Division and a longtime friend of our neighborhood projects will speak on crime in Franklin Hills/Los Feliz area and how to protect ourselves from it. Neighborhood Watch, anyone?

And lastly, we have invited Councilmember Tom LaBonge to speak with us for one final time and hope that Councilmember-elect David Ryu, elected in this last month's Council District 4 election will be able to join us so that we can meet and congratulate him. We look forward to having him work for us for the next four years.

The FHRA meeting will be from noon to 2 PM at the school which is at 4155 Russell Avenue, east of Talmadge Street. Refreshments will be homemade cookies by Franklin Hills' own "CookieLady", Vivian Shea and FHRA Board of Directors member, Tim Cowell and sandwiches.

I look forward to seeing you there.■



The FHRA

FHRA's Treasurer's Report—Membership Up 10% In 2014

By Bruce Carroll, Treasurer

Thanks to more of you, FHRA's paid membership increased to 297 for 2014, bringing in \$4,455, a 10.4% gain from 2013, and member contributions beyond the basic dues also jumped, up by nearly 15% to \$1550. However overall income was down a little over 5% to \$14,777.93. The decrease was due largely to the timing of payments for the ads in the Overview. We ended 2014 with \$30,573.61...a net increase of \$432.19, up 1.4% from 2013.

As usual our biggest income source was ads in the Overview bringing in \$7,035. Sales of FHRA T-shirts and Historic Photos (check them out on our website at www.franklinhills.org/fh-historicfotos.pdf) brought in just \$63 down from previous years, contributions to the median at \$200 were up by 60%, while the Norman Harriton Community Garden collected \$1,445 in dues and contributions up 45% from 2013. And bringing up the rear, and declining once again, we earned just \$29.91 in bank interest and dividends down 7% from 2013.

As in past years while the Overview brings in the most revenue it also ranks as our biggest expenditure. The 2014 costs for printing, preparation and distribution declined by \$574 to \$8,873. The next highest expense was maintaining the Franklin Ave. Median at a cost of \$1,770 up \$23 due to the higher cost of water. Spending on other community projects, various clean-

ups, National Night Out, the FHRA annual meeting, End of Summer Picnic at Marshall High, etc. and other outreach was up over 15% to \$1,413. The next biggest expenditure was insurance for the FHRA and its volunteers at \$1,176. The Norman Harriton Community Garden spent \$527 on supplies and improvements. Community donations followed at \$260, and \$196 was spent on maintaining communication links including our website at www.FranklinHills.org, e-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org, voicemail/fax - 323-908-6078, and snail mail - PO Box 29122, Los Angeles CA 90029.

We hope all Franklin Hills residents will help to continue your support for our community efforts. If you have been receiving our e-mailed FHRAlerts, but haven't officially become an FHRA member, or your membership has lapsed, now would be a great time to make your contribution. Let's try to top 300 members for 2015. Current members can use the return addressed envelope in the FHRA membership renewal letter you should receive in June. If you're not already a member, use the convenient membership form printed in this Overview or come to the annual meeting and join us there. Individual dues start at just \$15 per year, \$30 for a household and of course extra contributions are always welcome and tax deductible since FHRA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charity. (continued on Page 9)



FHRA Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2015 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Raffles, Refreshments & Roses!!

(See Page 5 for Details!)

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FHRA Welcome Kits

Do you have a new neighbor whom you'd like to introduce to the neighborhood? Come to the FHRA annual meeting on June 20th and get an FHRA Welcome Kit to share. Bring your neighbor with you – what better way to get acquainted?! The FHRA Welcome Kit has information about the community, area restaurants and amenities, and City services. Let us know if you'd like a kit to take with you to meet your new neighbor. One of the FHRA board members would be happy to accompany you or you can take it yourself.

For more information, contact: fhra@franklinhills.org



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FHRA Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2015 12 noon to 2 p.m.

On the Historic Landmark LILA School Campus

Get the latest updates on area crime from LAPD and the drought fire danger from LAFD;

Hopefully welcome our newly elected City Councilmember, David Ryu;

Enjoy vintage photos of the area from before any of us were here;

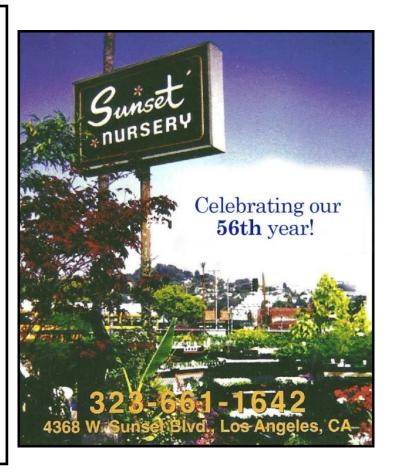
Get updates on FHRA activities for the past year;

Vote for FHRA directors & renew memberships;

plus Raffles, Refreshments & Roses*

*(due to redesign of the Shakespeare Bridge Garden we'll likely have surplus rose bushes available for FHRA members)

LILA School - 4155 Russell Ave. Up the hill at the east end of Russell





Community

Broken Windows, Dog Walkers and Your Living Room

By Elizabeth Richardson

What is the Broken Windows Theory? Some examples from Wikipedia: "Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. Or consider a pavement. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of refuse from take-out restaurants there or even break into cars." That's why the FHRA and other groups have organized the Third Saturday volunteer cleanups.

On the Third Saturday of last November (the 15th), six wonderful volunteers cleared out and pruned the median from a little before the junction of Holly Knoll Drive and Franklin Avenue to half-way towards the western end of the Shakespeare Bridge. Alas, we couldn't finish the task. Some of our regular, dedicated volunteers couldn't come due to their attending the memorial service for former FHRA board member and Overview editor, Carol Skinner which was scheduled for the same day. Fifteen (15!) bags were filled and removed by Councilman Tom LaBonge's Beautification Team.

On the Third Saturday of last March (the 21st), a record number of volunteers from FHRA, other participating community groups, including



Marshall High School students, and a bunch of enthusiastic LA City employees gathered to clean the sidewalks along Hyperion. Starting at Baller Hardware with brooms, bags, clippers, graffiti remover and a variety of other tools they cleaned up from the stop light at Tracy down to King Middle School. Regular and dedicated volunteers from the LA Police and Fire Departments couldn't attend due to a required conflicting event. Now you can walk down the street without being hit on the head by an overhanging branch or tripping over some trash. A full truck load of bags were filled and removed.

On the third Saturday this coming July (the 18th), YOU are all invited to join your neighbors to clean and spruce up the second half of the Franklin Avenue median. Bring your gloves and join us from 8:30 – 10:30.





What Does FHRA Do For the Neighborhood?

By Carole Nese

How does the Franklin Hills Residents Association work hand in hand with residents to help resolve neighborhood issues? Here is one recent example:

In the past several months, after dusk, a number of cars of had been gathering on Tracy St. between Ames and the Marshall High School Auditorium, parking for several hours on the high school side of the street. The passengers and drivers (mostly young men) clustered outside of their cars talking loudly, smoking, various beverages in hand, hanging out until past midnight. It became an almost nightly ritual.

The two home owners living directly across the street would routinely call the non emergency 1-877 ASK LAPD phone number and complain about the late night disturbance. These homeowners would often wait several minutes just to speak to a police dispatcher. Despite the neighbor's efforts, the disruption continued. Other local residents felt uneasy about walking down Tracy St, at night. The concern grew and members of FHRA were notified.

The FHRA Board went into action and brought the neighbors together with Senior Lead Officer Gina Chovan, covering for Lenny Davis while he was out ill. Officer Chovan immediately contacted the residents of the homes across the street from the evening gatherings. From that point, direct

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correspondence between the residents and the police was consistent and ongoing. Within a short period of time, the cars were gone and the police and neighbors stayed vigilant to make sure the group did not come back.

When asked about the incident, the Naples family (one of the residents across the street on Tracy) said, "We are so pleased that FHRA worked quickly and were able to help us resolve this problem in a short period of time. They were extremely helpful. They did what we could not do on our own." And the residents next door told an FHRA Board member "It's been wonderful. We are so happy to have our peaceful neighborhood back".

This is what a caring community, working together is all about! ■

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Gardens

Shakespeare Bridge Garden Makeover

By Shirley Mims

The Shakespeare Bridge Garden lays in wait. Designs and approvals are almost finalized. The roses were preserved by digging them up and putting them into pots. We are grateful for a generous neighbor who is taking care of them until they can be re-planted. The rest of the garden will be planted with drought tolerant California natives and other low-water-use plants.

We want to thank the Bureau of Engineering for their work on the garden plan and designs. Ryan Toles and Justin Zhang have met with us several times to consult on what the community wants in the finished garden. They have provided the drawings for the plans and have advised and assisted us throughout the entire process.

The retaining wall for the garden needed to be revised in order for it to be affordable. The original plan for a wall with curved features and river rock facing would cost three times what the City budgeted for it. The new wall will have split face block for texture. We have asked for a



Revised engineer concept design for Shakespeare Bridge Garden.

graffiti coating to protect the surface.

We are also seeking a waiver to re-plant the iceberg roses along the wall of the garden. The City's new policy is to not allow thorny plants to be planted in public right-of-ways. Roses, it seems, are a public hazard and liability due to their thorns. The iceberg roses have been a mainstay of the garden for over eleven years. Their location will be against the wall far from reach of anyone who visits the garden. The FHRA will fight to keep them.

Once the designs are accepted, construction can begin. When the garden is done, we will have a reopening celebration. Keep watch on the FHRA website at www.FranklinHills.org for updates. If you want to be included in the regular maintenance parties, email me at Shirley@franklinhills.org. I look forward to having you join us at this unique garden in our neighborhood!



FHRA's Treasurer's Report

Continued from Page 3...

And for those who just can't tear themselves away from their computers, our FranklinHills.org website has a "JOIN FHRA" link where you can make donations using a credit card or PayPal. In 2014 donations via PayPal jumped 165% totaling \$1,230, but PayPal deducts a fee, reducing the net to about \$1,200. So why not add what you would have paid in postage plus gas to your PayPal donation. Thank you for your past and continued support for FHRA and the businesses whose ads make the Overview possible.

FHRA Memberships make Franklin Hills Projects possible!!

Join or renew your membership now!

Membership form is on page 19.

Contact FHRA at fhra@franklinhills.org.



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<u>Info</u>

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

LAUSD School Police	(213) 625-6631
Marshall High School - Main#	(323) 671-1400
King Middle School - Main#	(323) 644-6700
Prospect Studios - Janet Campus	(323) 671 - 4022
City Services	311
e-mail	311@lacity.org
Hours: Sunda	y- Saturday, 8:30am – 4:45 pm
Animal Services.	(888) 452-7381
Dead Animal Pickup	(888) 452-7381x2
Lost Animals	(888) 452-7381x2
Barking Dogs	(888) 452-7381x3
Building & Safety Violations	(888) 524-2845
Councilmember Tom LaBonge (until June	30, 2015)
4th District	(213) 485-3337
e-mail: coun	cilmember.labonge@lacity.org
Field Deputy: Kristy Noochalad	or:
	(213) 473-2344
e-mail:	kristy.noochalaor@lacity.org
FHRA Voicemail	(323) 908-6078
FHRA e-mail:	FHRA@franklinhills.org
Fire Department: Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	(213) 485-6185
Homeless Services	211
LA Info Line	211
Los Feliz Public Library	(323) 913-4710
Police Department:	
Sr. Lead Officer Lenny Davis	(213) 793-0763
e-mail	26028@lapd.lacity.org
Sr. Lead Officer Nina Preciado	(213) 793-7062
e-mail	32128@lapd.lacity.org
Non-Emergency	877 ASK-LAPD (877 274-5273)
Northeast Division	(323) 344-5701
Gang Problems	(323) 344-5754
Graffiti	(213) 473-3231
Parking Enforcement	(213) 972-8470
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Rape Hotline	(310) 392-8381
Restraining Orders	(213) 974-5587
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Trash Services	(800) 996-2489 x2
Bin Replacement	(800) 773-2489 x1

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Community Safety

An update from Senior Lead Officer Lenning Davis

I would first like to thank all of you for being involved in our community. If you are reading this, then that means that you do care about where you live and what is happening. I encourage everyone to go one step further and join or start a Neighborhood Watch group. There is some misconception of what is involved in starting a Neighborhood Watch group. It can be as formal or casual as people want it to be. All you need to do is speak to some of your neighbors and decide on a date, time and a location. Let me know as far in advance as possible and together we will make it happen.



A question I get all the time at the meetings is, if we don't have a crime problem, why would we want to have a meeting. Neighborhood Watch groups don't have to be crimedriven. Once neighbors get to meet each other, you become a support group for each other. If there is a natural disaster like a major earthquake, it could be days before emergency services would respond to your neighborhood. Your group would be better off by knowing who has what to share such as water, food and propane, also by knowing who would need assistance to evacuate. Other city entities can be invited to the meetings such as Council members and staff, Street Services, DWP and DOT. Neighborhood Watch groups have proven to reduce crime and can be a lot of fun!

I don't have much to update everyone on 1915 Myra. The property was readied for sale and recently auctioned. Some of the neighbors have asked that an old cactus be saved on the property. That request was sent on and hopefully granted. So far the property remains secure with no issues being reported. Our division will continue to monitor the property until new residents can move in. If anyone does see anything, please notify me as soon as possible. Once again, property crime continues to be the biggest problem in our community. Specifically car break-ins! Sadly, over 40% of the reported cars that are broken into were left unlocked. Please, don't make it easy for them. Like our campaign says, "Lock it, Hide it, Keep it"! Most of these crimes would be prevented if everyone would not leave personal items visible in their vehicle. This includes coins, bags, clothing and electronics. On a side note, LAPD hopes to have online reporting for minor crimes up and running in the near future.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe summer. If anyone has any questions or issues, please feel free to contact me anytime! ■

Join Neighborhood Watch! Fight crime in your neighborhood!!

Contact FHRA or SLO Lenny Davis to get started:

FHRA: fhra@franklinhills.org

SLO Lenny Davis: 26028@lapd.lacity.org (email) or 213-793-0763 (cell)

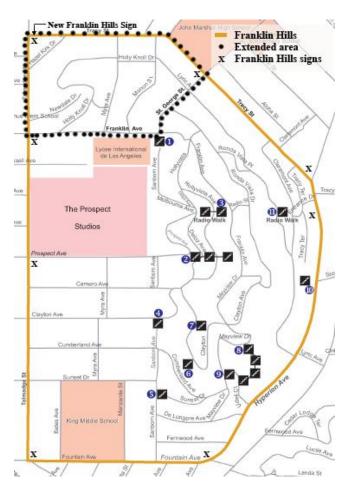
New Franklin Hills Sign—Update By Shirley Mims

Much has happened since our last update on the FHRA request for a Franklin Hills community identity sign at the corner of Tracy and Talmadge. The FHRA boundaries were extended at our annual meeting in June, 2012 after the Marshall Area Neighborhood Watch disbanded and asked the FHRA to assume its membership. To commemorate the work we have done with this part of the community over the last two decades, last year we requested the City to memorialize the change by putting up the sign. The application is going through a lengthy and extensive process for approval.

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) held a hearing on March 17th where they voted to not take a position and recommended additional outreach. A few vocal residents in the area objected to the formal inclusion by the City of their neighborhood in Franklin Hills. In the face of this opposition, Los Feliz Improvement Association and Councilmember Tom LaBonge who originally supported the sign withdrew their support taking a neutral position and also suggested that FHRA do further outreach to gather a larger voice of the people before any determination is made. Then, the LFNC at their April meeting reversed their position and voted to oppose the sign.

The FHRA took the recommendations to do additional outreach seriously. We had originally obtained substantially more petition signatures (30%) than were required by the City (20%) from area residents representing strong local support for the sign. Responding quickly to requests to do more outreach, we mailed a letter to every address and every property owner in the area explaining the background of the sign and inviting feedback from the impacted residents. We continue to do outreach in this area and speak with individuals who have concerns.

The FHRA continues to serve this area with projects such as the Shakespeare Bridge Garden, activities like the annual summer picnic, and strong relationships with LAPD, Marshall High, our council district office and other



Map of FHRA boundaries and Franklin Hills signs.

City agencies to help neighbors solve their problems in the neighborhood.

Ultimately, this issue needs to be decided with input from the neighbors who live in the area before it goes to City Hall. Our outreach efforts strive to reach all of the people. The application will next be heard by the City Council's Education and Neighborhoods committee and then by the full City Council for a final decision. Keep up to date by visiting the FHRA home page at www.FranklinHills.

Environment

Clear out that hazardous stuff!

It's Simple! It's Safe!

It Helps The Environment!

By Elizabeth Richardson

Is the smallish stuff you can't put in the trash or recycle bins taking over your house or garage? The solution is just minutes away at the Los Angeles-Glendale S.A.F.E. Collection Center, 4600 Colorado Blvd., Glendale. On any Saturday or Sunday between 9 AM and 3 PM, load up six (only) items! Drive over. Show the friendly, courteous folks your California driver's license and let them take the items right out of your car for you. When you're done, there's more room under the kitchen sink and in the garage, and those out-of-date prescriptions no longer pose a danger in your medicine cabinet. And you've been a friend to the environment that sustains us all.

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http://www.lacitysan.org/solid_resources/special/hhw/safe_centers/index.htm



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Wildlife

Critters in the Hills

By George Grace

One of the things I like best about Franklin Hills are all the different critters we have. Here are a few stories of recent critter activity in our neighborhood. If you have a critter story, please email it to me. I'll include it in a future article.

SKUNKS. My neighbors – in spite of having two big tom cats-have a skunk living under their deck. Skunks are nomadic, and it will probably move on shortly-unless it is a pregnant female. In that case, mother skunk may stay put until her kits are big enough to follow her (in single file) to another location-probably in July or August. They're hoping that they (and their cats) can avoid the bane of skunk confrontations – being sprayed. I hope it all works out. Bathing a skunk sprayed cat will be really hard!

OPOSSUMS Pogo is living under my garage. Several months ago, I heard a noise in the laundry room where I feed my dog. When I opened the door, a small 'possum scurried under some boxes. I hadn't seen a 'possum in a few years, and was happy to see

him. For some reason, I have a soft spot for America's only marsupial with a mouth full of (50) teeth, a tail like a rat, and the ability to fall over in a death—like coma when threatened. Pogo (named after the comic book character) is also nomadic, but has stuck around for several months now. He's also bigger. He even shows up on the deck and stares at me once in a while late at night. I'm a big Pogo fan. I keep wondering if he is a she and will show up on the deck one night with a bunch of babies on her back. I'd like to see that!

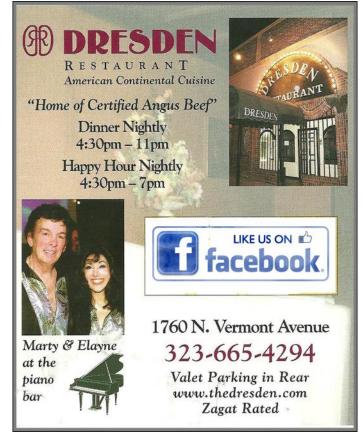
RACCOONS. Fortunately, I haven't run into any raccoons lately. Maybe you have. My last close encounter was with a Mama raccoon, and her new babies in the attic. It was a great relief, when Mama shortly decided to move on to greener pastures.

BOBCATS I have lived here a long time, but never heard of bobcats in Franklin Hills until last year. Then, in February 2014, bobcats were reported on Monon and Lyric. I didn't hear anything else about bobcats until April 26th when a neighbor told me



about a photo of a bobcat in his backyard with a squirrel in its mouth. I have some friends who live adjacent to Griffith Park that actually have "resident" bobcats in their yards. They're used to this, and like having them around. One of them told me that her ground squirrel infestation had completely disappeared. It looks like our local bobcat will help keep the squirrel – and other rodent populations - down.

COYOTES. As usual, FHRA has received multiple emails of coyotes in the neighborhood, including photos of single coyotes on Mayview and Prospect, and in late March, a pair on Radio Street. This is probably the pair that gave me the opportunity to practice my "hazing" skills on Saturday morning before Easter Sunday. Around 6:30 am I was getting in my car, and heard what sounded like a cat fight in front of the house next door. I ran into the street, and saw Milo, my neighbors' tom cat, being attacked by a coyote. When I raised my arms and ran towards them yelling "NO, NO, NO, GET OUT OF HERE", the coyote was startled, stopped the attack, and ran to its partner about 150 feet down the street. When I kept running (and yelling)



towards them, they both took off down Clayton. In the meantime, Milo jumped the neighbor's fence, and disappeared. Milo turned up the next morning with some superficial wounds, but is now back to normal, except he's not roaming the streets as much as he used to. I haven't seen the coyotes since.



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Environment

Spotlight on Water Use in the Garden: Aquaponics

Roe Sie

With so many of us getting rid of our thirsty lawns in favor of drought tolerant landscaping, it's worth turning our attention to another water consumer in the garden: our vegetable beds. For those of you considering adding raised beds, or thinking about how much water is being used in your existing vegetable gardens, you may want to look at aquaponics. While there are many ways to cut water use in your garden, including grey water systems and drip irrigation, one type of gardening system that is gaining traction for water conservation is aquaponics. Aquaponics is the marriage of aquaculture (raising fish for food) and hydroponics (growing vegetables without soil).

Any time you have a pond or aquarium, you need to dispose of the solid fish waste with a mechanical filtration system and the built up chemicals (ammonias, nitrates and nitrites) need to be removed via frequent water changes. Meanwhile, growing plants in stand-alone hydroponic systems requires a steady supply of chemical nutrients, typically in the form of expensive, manufactured formulas. Aquaponic gardening links the fish tanks to the grow beds allowing the fish and vegetables to do those jobs for one another in a closed-loop recirculating system. In one fell swoop, the need for artificial fertilization, changing dirty filters, and wasteful water changes are completely eliminated. Fish food goes in, and naturally raised fish and vegetables come out. Because there is no runoff, and no possibility of overwatering (or

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Contractor License # 504624 Phone (323) 661-3825 www.fondaselectric.com underwatering, for that matter), the only water requirement for the system once it is set up is the replacement of the water taken up by the plants plus the small amount lost through evaporation. This translates to around 90% less water usage compared to raised bed gardening.

Since aquaponically raised vegetables are given a constant supply of nutrient rich water, the roots grow slower while the plants above the surface grow faster. Faster growth combined with closer planting means higher yields per square foot of growing space. So not only do aquaponic systems use a fraction of the water, they do so in less space. Systems often yield up to 4 times more per square foot than traditional inground gardening, and as a nice bonus, your garden produces some edible fish as well.

In the midst of this severe drought, it's a relief to know that there are some fun and interesting new gardening methods out there like aquaponics that provide the opportunity to grow veggies much more efficiently, with less waste and most importantly, with significantly less water.

Franklin Hills is now home to a new store, The King's Roost, a DIY and urban homesteading retail shop that is the first in Los Angeles to begin carrying aquaponic systems with a fully operational system on display. Roe Sie, the owner, and local Franklin Hills resident is happy to show anyone that stops in how the system works. From the tilapia and thriving strawberry plants to the supplies needed to maintain or build your own system.



Example of a hydroponic garden.

Yesteryear

Look for what's the same after 85 years...



Sometime in 1930

The infamous intersection where Hollywood Blvd., Sunset Blvd., Sunset Dr., Hillhurst and Virgil all converge was likely frustrating with crosscutting traffic even back in 1930. The Vista Theatre had already been there for 7 years, and the Dentist on the corner may have gotten patients from those who used too much of the Coca Cola and cigars sold in the store below.



May, 2015

The Vista Theatre is still there but it looks like the building has had botox to smooth out all the crevices in its original stone face. A giant billboard dwarfs the rooftop Vista sign and all of the stores have changed many times. What may not have changed is traffic frustration from one of the longest red lights in L.A.

Text by Bruce Carroll

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Really?!

An observation by Bruce Carroll

All of us who have been part of the Franklin Hills community for many years know it as a great place to live. Some have even described it as their dream neighborhood and they may be right. According to government documents recently obtained by the FHRA we may all have been dreaming when we think we are driving, walking or living on streets such as Franklin Ave., Talmadge St., St. George St. and several others. The evidence, seen below, came directly from one of the largest departments of the federal government, the U.S. Post Office which has returned mail to the FHRA because there is "no such street."





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