



OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE # 25

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

Annual Meeting on May 27 at 7 p.m. King Middle School Auditorium



Photo by Bruce Carroll

Councilman Tom La Bonge



Photo by Bruce Carroll



Photo by Bruce Carroll

Senior Lead Officer Al Polehoncki will be at the meeting

Reunion Anual

Mayo 27 a las 7 p.m.
en auditorio de
la Escuela King

Meeting in (2002) in King MS Auditorium. Bring your neighbors!

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Le pedimos a cada uno que vive o que trabaja en Franklin Hills que asista a nuestra reunión anual el Martes, 27 de Mayo. Comenzara a las 6:30 y refrigerios serán servidos – esos son siempre importantes. Si usted todavía no ha pagado su membresía para este año, nosotros podemos aceptar su pago. Todos los miembros que atiendan votarán sobre asuntos del FHRA (véase página 5). Si durante la reunión usted desea nominar a un candidato para el Concejal de la vecindad, usted puede hacerlo. Estamos especialmente interesados en tener personas de la vecindad alrededor de la escuela King, alrededor de los Estudios Prospect, y del lado de la calle Hyperion.

Es importante venir y conocer a sus vecinos, y votar sobre asuntos del FHRA. Pero la mejor parte de la reunión es conocer, escuchar, y hacer preguntas al Consejero de la ciudad Tom LaBonge, a los oficiales de nuestra policía quien protege nuestra vecindad, y a otras personas quienes influyen nuestras vidas. ¡Venga preparado para hablar! Estamos trabajando en varios asuntos al momento: Mejor iluminación alrededor de la escuela, pavimentar las calles, y eliminar el graffiti. Deseamos saber que asuntos son importantes para ustedes.

Everyone in Franklin Hills is urged to come to the annual meeting on Tuesday, May 27. At 6:30 there will be refreshments served—that's always important—and we will be happy to take your money if you haven't already paid your dues this year. All members vote on FHRA business (see story page 5). And any member may nominate a candidate for the Board during the meeting. We are especially interested in having people from the south and east parts of Franklin Hills.

It's important to get to meet your neighbors, and to vote on FHRA's business. Everyone's favorite part of the evening is meeting and hearing our City Councilman, Tom La Bonge, the police officers who protect our neighborhood, other people who influence our lives; and being able to ask them questions. Come prepared to speak up! Some of the issues we are working on are: Better lighting around the school, street paving, getting rid of graffiti. We want to hear from you about what issues are important to you.

Letter from the President

by Charley Mims

President's Report

Charley M. Mims



Well, it's hard to believe, but we are coming up on the end of another year for the FHRA! Just last year I was elected to another two year term on the Board following which the other Board members elected me President.

So much has happened this year that looking back it doesn't quite seem possible. We continued with ongoing projects to beautify our neighborhood and developed new ones. The median island on Franklin Avenue near the Shakespeare Bridge has never looked better. Shirley Mims has continued to work with neighbors near the bridge and with staff from Councilman LaBonge's office to clean up under the bridge, to build a retaining wall, to install an irrigation system and to landscape the area, so both top side and below, the Shakespeare Bridge will look great and be a beautiful landmark in our neighborhood.

Norm Harriton turned over the Chair of the Franklin Hills Community Garden to Tori Kjer, who has continued to improve this project. Besides a new fence, a potting and tool storage shed was designed and built next to the garden. Norm served the Board delicious strawberries from his plot at our last Board meeting!

Carol Skinner has continued to maintain liaison with the local police and has kept us informed as to crime trends. Sadly we learned of the death of one of our favorite Senior Lead Officers, Stacy Miyamura. She was such a good officer, diligent, helpful and never complaining, even when her battle with cancer was at its most difficult.

Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds (whew!) continued expanding our neighborhood watch block captain program. She also helped develop community support for the mural artist who beautified the little commercial building at the south west corner of Prospect and Talmadge. The dedication was just last month and Mary Frances is already lining up funding for his next mural on the public stairway at Hoover and Prospect.

The Bureau of Street Services has finally completed an analysis of the paving failures on Cumberland and other nearby streets. They plan on implementing a correction in the near future. Public Works Commissioner Janice Wood is doing an audit of bulky item pick-up to improve this City supplied service. We look forward to hearing from her at our annual membership meeting on the progress of this report.

We were successful in curbing the illegal uses of auto body shops in the area thanks to the persistent work of Past-President Ricardo Gomez. He continues to be a watchdog for our neighborhood on these and related issues.

Our communities' Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, (GGPNC), was certified and elected/selected its Board. Our FHRA Board members Char-

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Los Feliz Outpost: (323) 913-4682

Sr. Lead Officer Al Polehonki:

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RAPE HOTLINE 310) 392-8381

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Officer Gonzales 323-660-1440 x 240

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WATER & POWER: (800) 342-5397

WE TIP (Anonymous crime tips) (800) 873-7283

Not To Sound Like a Broken Record...

But FHRA Broke More Records Last Year

By FHRA Treasurer, Bruce Carroll

2002 was a record year for the FHRA. Our membership increased to slightly over 400, up almost 16% from 2001, which was also a record year. Our total income from all dues, donations, dividends, advertising and maybe four pennies found on the bridge, totaled \$16,118.04. That's well above previous years except 1995 when we had a big fund drive to cover the cost of median landscaping.

The good news is that we didn't need red ink as our expenditures were \$234.72 below income. As usual the biggest item in both expense and income was the Overview. What's new is it turned a profit, albeit quite modest...just 90 cents. Ad revenue brought in \$5,350 and covered expenses of \$5,349.10.

The next two biggest sources of income were the Franklin Hills Community Garden where grants for fencing and a tool shed yielded \$2,500 from the city and \$1,000 from the county. Membership fees and a donation from the FHRA general fund brought the garden's total to \$4,308.15. Just behind were FHRA membership dues at \$4,010. Many members added contributions above and beyond their dues totaling nearly \$2000. And sales of historic photos and FHRA t-shirts brought in just under \$500 although we spent over \$2000 to renew our stock for the first time in several years. Order a T-shirt now while we have a full range of sizes once again.

Other big expense items were the Franklin Avenue Median, where maintenance and water soaked up almost \$1500. Insurance in our ever litigious world cost just over \$1000. We donated over \$800 to various groups from the Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, to the Hillside Federation, to gifts of appreciation for ailing LAPD Senior Lead Officers. We spent over \$500 on various forms of communication from postage, to our FHRA message line (323-664-7247) and our new, last spring, website (www.FranklinHills.org).

Special programs like our revived Neighborhood Watch, Graffiti abatement, and Welcome Baskets for new neighbors got about \$650 from the budget. Mundane miscellaneous expenses of about \$300 rounded out our expenditures.

The FHRA's stock holdings suffered through the same tumultuous year as most stocks. What started out a few years ago as a generous gift of 25 MediaOne shares worth nearly \$1,400, later merged to become 22 shares of AT&T (plus about \$1000 in cash) then last year shrunk to just 4 shares of AT&T after spinoffs of 7 shares each of AT&T Wireless and Comcast. All together our portfolio ended 2002 worth about \$320. For the year down about 20%.

What's expected to go up this year are FHRA expenses. We have already made or pledged donations and gifts nearly twice last year's level, including support for the Prospect & Talmdage mural artists, our insurance rates have gone up, as has the cost of regular median maintenance...and there is so much more to be done. That's why we'll be asking the annual meeting to approve a dues increase...a modest \$5 per year. It's the first dues increase we've asked for in a since way back in 1991.

You can also make designated contributions to pet programs like the Median, Neighborhood Watch, Murals, Welcome Baskets etc...Please join us, be generous. Together we can make this great neighborhood even better.

Attacking Graffiti

by Eric Frase



GRAFFITI ABATEMENT EFFORTS GEARED TOWARD "MAINTENANCE"

As chairperson of the FHRA Graffiti Abatement Committee the past several years, I'm happy to report that I, and my fellow neighborhood volunteers, have had remarkably little tagging and other vandalism to clean up in the past six months. Of all the former "hot spots" of graffiti activity in the area, the small building at the corner of Prospect and Talmadge has seen the most dramatic transformation with the addition of Ricardo Mendoza's glorious mural, "Our Rite To Culture."

I firmly believe our days of group "paint outs" are a thing of the past and that the occasional, small "tags" that may pop up here and there in the neighborhood will be quickly removed by the affected property owner or tenant. In a way, Franklin Hills is like the person who has entered a weight loss regime and achieved the desired results and wants to maintain it. I invite current graffiti abatement volunteers as well as interested new individuals to join the FHRA with these suggestions to maintain and enhance the appearance of all areas of our neighborhood. Updates and announcements will be sent to those on the current graffiti email list (snail mail also available.) If you would like to become involved send your e-mail address to FHRA2000@hotmail.com or leave your mailing address at 323-664-7247.

+ Report graffiti on public property (sidewalks, curbs, etc.) to Operation Clean Sweep (800-611-2489) for removal.

+ Put pressure on businesses that neglect graffiti on their property. We'll alert you of locations, especially along the Fountain corridor, to call or visit to ask for their assistance to do their part in keeping our neighborhood free of graffiti.

+ Have a backup supply of paint if your property uses eclectic color. Taggers know that walls, garage doors, etc. that are ordinary colors (gray, white, beige, etc.) are more easily and quickly repainted than odd-colored surfaces. (This was part of the reason for the on-going tagging at the building at Prospect & Talmadge when it was painted light blue.)

+ Cover the "canvas". Our hillside geography is full of retaining walls that tempt the taggers who pass by every day going to and from school. Colorful vegetation draping over walls is an excellent deterrent to graffiti. (Check out the verdant wall coverings on Clayton between Talmadge and Hoover!)

+ Lighting deters. Driveways, garage doors, etc. near sidewalks are easily protected with lighting triggered by motion sensors

+ Visual blight is visual blight. Need to post notices in your area for yard sales, lost pets, neighborhood watch meetings, etc? Remove them A.S.A.P.!

+ Sneakers hanging on power lines. Identifiers of gang activity? Drug dealing? Or, urban legend? Whatever the true meaning, everyone, including Mayor Hahn acknowledges the "unspoken" message this visual conveys. To report the removal of shoes from overhead lines, call the new City Services hotline at 3-1-1.

Northeast Division LAPD

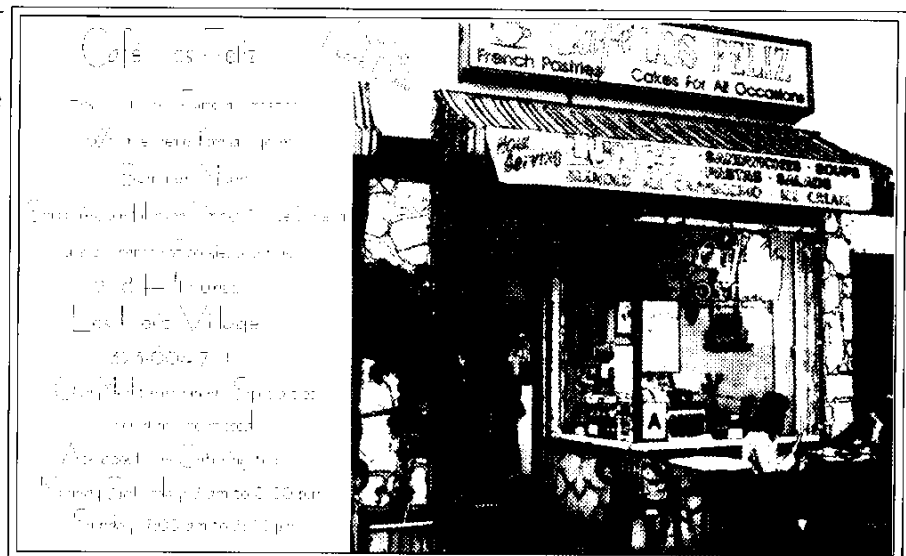


I hope that this article finds everyone in the Franklin Hills community in good health and looking forward to a great summer. Most of us spend a

considerable amount of time on the road driving to and from work, to shop for groceries or perhaps to that special place for an enjoyable evening out. Just driving in and out of the hills can be a daunting task, especially during rush hour with the commuter traffic that short cuts through the area.

Patience is certainly a virtue but when combined with defensive driving habits and following the rules of the road our daily drives can be safe ones.

A traffic collision is defined as an unintentional occurrence in which the movement of a conveyance causes death, injury or property damage. Interesting definition in that the word unintentional means, "not caused on purpose". Its true that most drivers don't want to intentionally cause an accident but at the same time will intentionally speed, fail to yield the right of way or stop for posted stop signs or



signals. Not to mention the drivers that are distracted by cell phone usage, eating, shaving or reading the paper.

The latest statistics from Operations Central Bureau for our Top Collision Intersections from February 9th 2003 to May 3rd 2003 are as follows:

- * Riverside Drive and Fletcher Drive 11 Traffic Collisions.
- * Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard 6 Traffic Collisions.

Traffic enforcement is a priority and efforts are being made to make our streets safer by the issuance of traffic citations and educational programs. But success can only come if we work in partnership. Make the commitment to be a defensive driver and watch out for those who may not be.

Make plans to attend the Semi-Annual Basic Car meeting on June 12th 2003 at 6PM. The meeting will be held in the community room at the former Cal Fed bank at 1965 North Hillhurst Avenue. Command personal from Northeast Division, Senior Lead Officers from the adjoining Basic Car areas and other speakers will attend.

Don't forget to check out the Los Angeles Police Departments official web site at WWW.LAPDONLINE.Org.

Sincerely,
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki

FHRA Seeks To Change Space, Money and Time

By Bruce Carroll



In addition to electing new faces to the FHRA Board of Directors, members attending the May 27th meeting will also be asked to vote on three important questions. The first two are follow-ups to last year's approval of by-laws changes giving those attending the annual meeting the power to adjust FHRA boundaries and dues. The third measure is a change in the FHRA by-laws allowing greater flexibility in scheduling the Annual Meeting.

The FHRA Board recommends approval of a measure to include residents on both sides of our boundary streets...Talmadge, Franklin, St. George and Tracy. The old by-laws set our boundaries at the middle of those streets meaning that technically only half of our Shakespeare Bridge was in FHRA territory.

The Board is also asking FHRA Members attending the Annual Meeting to approve the first dues increase in a dozen years. We've debated the idea for a couple of years, but it finally came to the point where increasing costs and our desire to do more for the community made the \$5 per member increase, effective in 2004, seem like the prudent thing to do. Both the change in dues and boundaries will require at majority vote of those attending the meeting.


The current FHRA by-laws specify that the Annual Meeting be held in April or May. The change, which will require a 2/3 vote of members attending the meeting, would allow the Annual Meeting to be held anytime during the second quarter of the year...from April through June. Before the little noticed by-laws provision was rediscovered, FHRA's most widely attended meetings had been held early June so we decided to make sure our by-laws permitted this timing.

Whether you vote yea or nay on any or all of these changes, please join your neighbors in helping to make the FHRA an effective neighborhood voice by attending the Annual Meeting on Tuesday May 27th at the King Middle School Auditorium.

Welcome Baskets Need YOUR Help

by Shirley Mims

Many deserving neighbors have not received a welcome basket since before the publication of the last Overview. As previously announced, the program is on hiatus until someone volunteers to take it over. There are lots of volunteers willing to help out and lots of merchants and City services willing to donate their wares and information, but we still have not heard from anyone who will oversee the project. Please contact FHRA if you have an interest in helping to continue this worthwhile program 323/664-7247 or fhra@franklinhills.org



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Franklin Hills Overview: #25 Spring/Summer 2003

FRANKLIN HILLS



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An Update on Neighborhood Coyotes and Other Matters.

by George Grace

My lab Lucky and I are still taking our morning walks. We haven't spied a coyote since last February. It happened in a flash. A ball of fur streaked across the street and down the hill. And that was that. No more coyotes. I figure that the recent rains and subsequent explosion of vegetation in Griffith Park prompted the Coyotes to return to their old Park stomping grounds where they are finding water and rodents in abundance. At least, I hope so. Which leads me ask whether the "Wildlife Drinkers" I wrote about in the last newsletter are really needed.

In January, Adam Weisman our FHRA Board Chairman, an interested neighbor Dave Shindle, and I had a meeting with Steve Lane, the Griffith Park Maintenance Supervisor to discuss the installation of "Wildlife Drinkers" in Griffith Park. Steve brought along a large map that showed the location of a number of horse watering troughs along the 52 miles of horse trails in the park that could be used by all the native wildlife. He told us about one where Park deer queued up every morning to get a drink of water. This was a welcome surprise, in spite of the fact that large areas of wildlife habitat are not adjacent to the horse trails. We were invited to take a ride with Steve through the park, and I was able to do this in late January.

Steve took me for a two hour tour in a 4 wheel drive vehicle on paved and unpaved roads throughout the Park. It is magnificent but seemed sadly neglected. We passed by a film shoot - location shooting costs only \$300 per day in Griffith Park. There must have been 25 vehicles along the side of a road only accessible to hikers, horses, and film crews. A little further along, we came to an idyllic spot with a horse watering trough, a "people" water fountain, and even some roadside sprinklers that were still operable. Yes, there is a vast sprinkler system already in the park, but it is mostly in ruins. Steve told me that there are plans to shut down more sprinklers in additional park areas. We rode by the Condor area, a breeding place for the nearly extinct California Condor; and by old and new water towers. We stopped at Amir's Garden, a beautiful spot faithfully tended by volunteers, drove along paved roads closed to the public in the 1980s, and stopped at the 1,680 foot top of Mt. Hollywood. During our trip, we talked about the plight of the native wildlife in drought conditions, and speculated if this was re-

ally why coyotes were appearing in local neighborhoods. In the end, it seems to boil down to this: The key to a healthy park and healthy park wildlife is an adequate water supply.

At this point, the neighborhood coyote problem became part of a bigger question. Did the City have a long range plan for Griffith Park that addressed this need? Research provided the following:

At least two "Master Plans" exist for Griffith Park dating from 1968, and 1978.

The 1968 Master Plan is available at the Public Library, and was created under the administration of Mayor Sam Yorty. This plan is by far the more ambitious, and would have attempted to transform Griffith Park into an Eden for wildlife and park visitors. Plan features include 100 foot high waterfalls, forty boating, fishing, and swimming lakes, and a coastal rain forest. Per this plan, "The Park's irrigation system would be completely automated to include moisture sensitive devices located throughout the park." "All portions of the park will receive optimal irrigation for their particular vegetation." Long range objectives included "improving facilities encouraging wildlife habitation throughout the park."

The 1978 Master Plan, created when Tom Bradley was Mayor, dramatically scales back the 1968 version. Nevertheless, park irrigation is its' Centerpiece, and it recommends that "Through the development of water the wildlife populations could be encouraged to stay in these more remote areas (park wildlife habitat) giving them greater protection..."

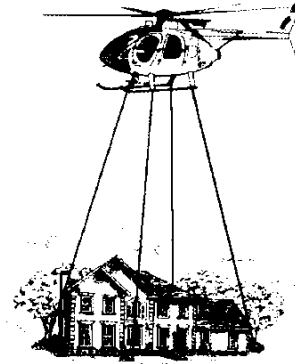
Now here's really important news:

Work is beginning on a New update of the Griffith Park Master Plan.

Last Fall, our City Councilman, Tom LaBonge successfully acquired City financing to update the Griffith Park Master Plan. The work has been contracted to the planning firm Melendrez Design Partners, and is just beginning. They expect to complete the update by the end of 2003, and are presently developing a community outreach program for those interested in providing input to the Master Plan. They can be reached at 213-673-4400.

An adequate irrigation and watering system, for preserving Griffith Park's ecology, needs to be an integral part of the new Master Plan - as it has been in the past. The 1978 Master Plan is an interesting read. You can download a PDF copy of the plan, and sign up to receive additional information about the Master Plan update, on the internet at <http://www.gmrnet.com/MasterPlan.html>

Thank you Mr. Coyote. If I hadn't seen you strolling down the street, I'd never have known how much your presence in my neighborhood had to do with big doings at City Hall.



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COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO HYPERION BRIDGE ATTACKER:

AN EXAMPLE OF
COMMUNITY POLICING

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds



The ongoing campaign to help find the Hyperion Bridge attacker is a powerful example of citizens becoming involved in crime-fighting and safety issues in our area.

Over the last six months, residents from the neighborhoods of Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, Atwater Village, and Silver Lake have focused tremendous effort on raising awareness about the suspect who has been sexually assaulting girls in our area since 1995. This sexual predator, known as the "Hyperion Bridge rapist," has victimized 19 girls, most between 11 and 17 years old, all attacked when walking alone. Many of these girls have been students from John Marshall High School in Los Feliz.

The involvement of the community - a collaborative effort with LAPD police officers and detectives, city officials and area schools - has been three-pronged. The first goal is to educate people who live in the area to be more proactive: That is, to never walk alone, to report anything unusual or suspicious, and to avoid areas that leave a lone walker vulnerable. Second, local activists are working with city representatives to improve the well-worn routes to and from Marshall High School by clearing brush, adding lighting, and increasing police patrols. The third, equally important objective is to raise the awareness of what this suspect looks like, and

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where he has struck, so that people can be on the lookout for him.

LAPD describes the suspect as a Hispanic male 30-35 years old, 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-8, weighing 200 to 280 pounds, with brown/gray hair. He has large fleshy hands, a "potato-shaped" nose, a pot belly and a strong odor. He has been unshaven, and has often worn a black knit cap. If you have information, please call Detective Greg Stone at 213/763-5061. For after-hours calls, contact Detective Headquarters Division at 877/529-3855.

The efforts of the many people involved with this issue have paid off with two recent developments. First, Council Districts 4 and 13 (the offices of Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti) have joined forces to offer a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the prosecution of this suspect.

The other recent success was a well-attended evening march and candlelight vigil on April 4, when the \$20,000 reward was announced. The event, presented by Students Together Organizing Peace, (STOP) a student group at Marshall High, attracted about 200 people. Its purpose was to raise public awareness about this attacker, and get more people involved in the efforts to catch him and protect our community. The evening started with a rally at Marshall High, followed by a march to the Hyperion Bridge where a candlelight vigil fanned out on the bridge's sidewalks.

Speakers at the event, each of whom made heartfelt and articulate statements about this issue, included Mary Rodriguez, a neighborhood activist and mother of two Marshall High School students; Councilmember Tom LaBonge; State Senator Jack Scott; and Marshall High School student and STOP member Marisol Pineda.

The STOP Club, a project of the L.A. Commission on Assaults Against Women, is very active at Marshall High School. In response to the Hyperion Bridge attacker problem, STOP is offering self-defense classes for students, as well as other consciousness-raising activities. It was clear at the April 4 event how focused and empowered these students feel to take back their streets and their neighborhoods.

Actions being taken to respond to this serious problem in our area are potent examples of active neighborhood organization and involvement in community policing in the Northeast area.

The Los Angeles Police Department, under the leadership of Chief William J. Bratton, is making a concerted effort to get communities more involved in improving safety and quality of life in our city. At each of the public forums where Chief Bratton has addressed our corner of Los Angeles in re-

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cent months, he has emphasized the need for more community policing, and the huge results that can follow from a partnership between police officers and citizens. Community policing is tried and true, and takes many different forms.

Starting or joining a Neighborhood Watch group is one tested, effective way to become involved in improving your quality of life, and in building community. At meetings in December 2002 and March 2003, community activists gathered at the LAPD Northeast Division station to brainstorm ways to increase the number of, and involvement in, Neighborhood Watch groups. If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch group on your block, or if you would like to know if there is already one on your street, call Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds (323/668-9069) or call the LAPD Northeast Station, Community Relations, (213/485-2548.)

NEW MURAL BRIGHTENS FRANKLIN HILLS CORNER

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

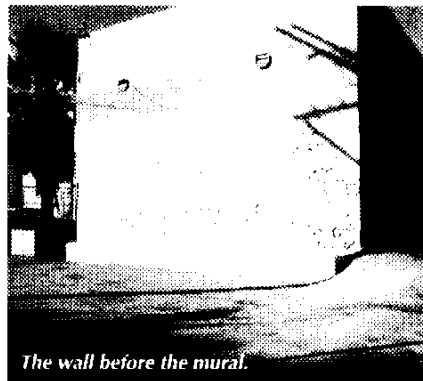
For the past four months residents of the Franklin Hills have watched a wall come to life. We have been the audience in the creation of a new mural titled "Rite of Culture." The east-facing wall of the small building at Talmadge Street and Prospect Avenue has been the canvas for muralist Ricardo Mendoza. Here he has rendered a painting, using a palette of rich, deep colors and symbols that celebrate themes of our neighborhood - its historic cultural tradition, community pride, and diversity - among them.

A city skyline at the top of the mural is flanked by wings, perhaps those of an angel, our city's namesake. A watchful eye below the skyline seems to observe and protect the world passing by below. Colossal human figures cradle a vessel of water, where cultural artifacts swirl and flow - musical notes, a paintbrush, a book, and a film reel. Smaller figures are pouring more into the mix, keeping the arts nurtured and alive.

Working at night by the light of his car headlights, Ricardo was able to finish the mural in time for the community mural dedication celebration on April 12. His last painted addition to the mural was a cascade of water flowing off of the wall and onto the ground in front of the painting, giving the work a powerful, three-dimensional and kinetic quality.

Ricardo, whose murals can be found on ten walls

around Los Angeles and Long Beach, has also worked on numerous other public and private art and design projects. He said his experience at the Franklin Hills mural site was positive, and his reception by the neighbors was warm and supportive. Since Ricardo started prepping the wall in January and he has been visited



by many curious onlookers in this "outdoor studio." Of all the locations where Ricardo has painted over the years, he said, Franklin Hills has been one of the most "pro-art and proactive places" he has ever worked. "In terms of the process of working with the community, and with people stopping by to thank me, it made me feel this positivity a little bit more."

The project began last summer, when a group of Franklin Hills residents met with Ricardo and representatives from the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) of Venice, to discuss painting a mural in the neighborhood. SPARC had been working under contract with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department on a project called the "Great Walls Unlimited, Neighborhood Pride Program." It was decided that this wall, at Talmadge and Prospect, would be the site of the last mural, the 105th one, in this 14-year-old program. The owner of the building gave his approval, and work began. The Franklin Hills Residents Association came on board as a community sponsor.

Fast forward eight months: The rain-filled clouds parted mere minutes before the start of the April 12 mural dedication ceremony, and the afternoon sparkled. As the sun broke through, the mural was "plugged in," its colors glowing for admirers and photo ops. In an address to the crowd of about 75, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, whose office supported this public art project and helped with its dedication, emphasized the important, enriching role that art plays in our daily lives. Councilmember LaBonge thanked Ricardo for his artistic contribution to our neighborhood.

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Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds speaks at the dedication

One of the three youth assistants, teenager Joel Avelar, who helped Ricardo, was introduced and recognized with a Certificate of Commendation from the City, and a gift stipend from the Franklin Hills Residents Association. The two other assistants, Paolo Diaz and Amy Litinger, were unable to attend the ceremony, but were also recognized for their contributions. The



mural has become a daily part of Paolo's world, as he is a nearby resident. Pete Galindo, community public art director for SPARC, who coordinated the mural project, also spoke to the crowd. He explained the collaboration on this and other murals between SPARC and the City of Los Angeles.

As another speaker, I took the chance to acknowledge many of the people who helped make this mural become a reality, from neighbors Mary Rodriguez, Carmen Wolf, and Amy Schulenberg, to officials from SPARC and Council District 4. My other message addressed the mural's daily uplifting effect as I pass through that intersection on foot or in a car. This artwork has a magical quality, helping me feel instantly connected to my neighborhood, and gives me a sense of promise and possibility.

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Muralist, Ricardo Mendoza.

Motivated by the positive effects that "Rite of Culture," has had on the community, I am working with neighbors

Mary Rodriguez and Amy Schulenberg to apply for a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for another mural project. The proposed mural would also be by Ricardo Mendoza, and would be an extension of the themes expressed in "Rite of Culture." This work would be a triptych-

style mural painted on the walls at the end of the 1600 block of Hoover Street, where public steps lead up to Prospect Avenue. The long-term plan for this project also envisions landscaping at the Hoover stairwell site. The Franklin Hills Residents Association is the sponsoring organization on this project, and has donated money toward the matching grant. Several volunteers have already signed up for in-kind donations of labor.

I stood alone recently in front of the new mural at Talmadge and Prospect, absorbing its colors and its life. Two young boys walked by and also stopped to study "Rite of Culture." As we stood, heads tilted back, eyes fixed on swirling blues, greens, purples, and flashes of gold and crimson, I asked them, "What does this make you feel?"

One of the boys, without hesitation, responded, "Happiness."

(At the time of press, the mural, "Rite of Culture" has been slated to be covered with anti-graffiti coating. If you see tagging, or any other vandalism to the mural, please call Eric Frase, head of the FHRA Graffiti Abatement Committee, 323/664-8765.)



Children at play in the mural's cascade of water.

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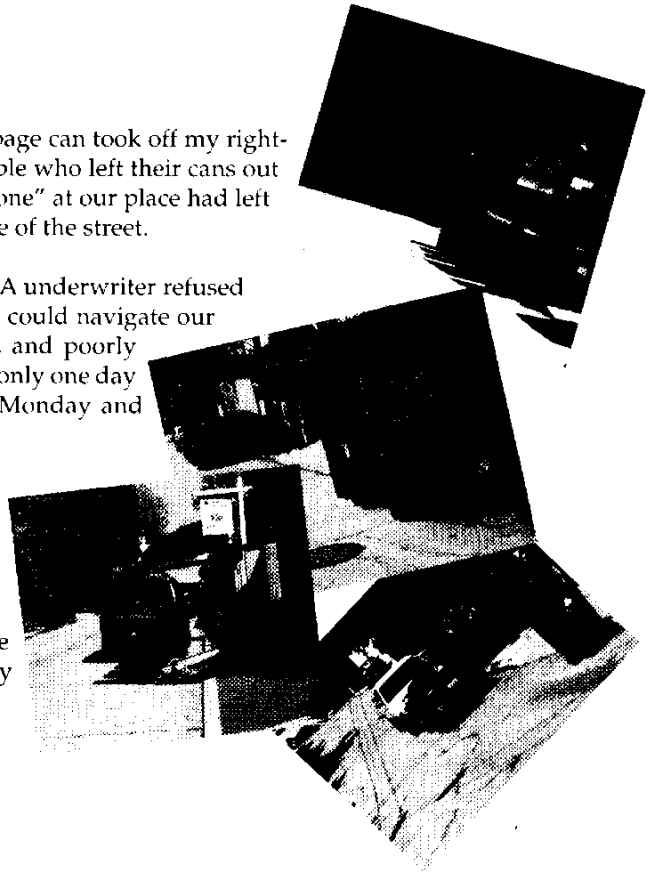
As I was driving up Franklin one dark night a black garbage can took off my right-side mirror. While picking up the mirror I grumbled about people who left their cans out after they were emptied. As I reached home I found that "someone" at our place had left four cans outside. Whoops! At least all were on the parking side of the street.

Shortly after my vowing to be a better neighbour an AAA underwriter refused to insure our property because she couldn't see how a fire truck could navigate our narrow streets with their overgrown shrubbery, garbage cans, and poorly parked vehicles. She wouldn't buy my story that garbage day is only one day a week. (Another underwriter arrived by arrangement on a Monday and approved the AAA insurance.)

Without back alleys Franklin Hills is stuck with its black, blue, and green eyesores. Residents can reduce the aesthetic damage and traffic confusion only by putting the cans out late Wednesday night and hiding them in as soon as possible on Thursday.

Not only will keeping our receptacles off the streets make them easier to maneuver, it may also help to keep our property values high.

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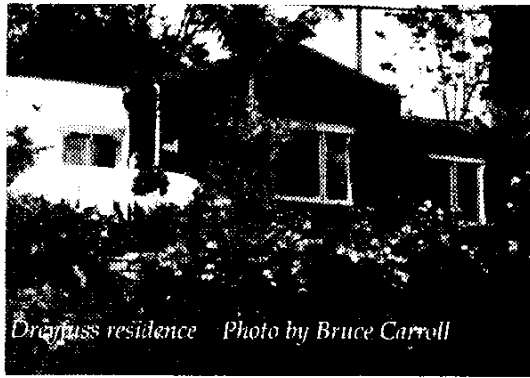
Famous in the Franklin Hills

by Joseph Hahn



Few know the full extent to which our beloved little hills have also been called "home" by the famous, the infamous, stars, starlets, and movie moguls. Here's a brief sampling:

Richard Dreyfuss, world famous star of "Jaws," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "The Goodbye Girl," for which he won



Dreyfuss residence Photo by Bruce Carroll

an Academy Award, once lived at 3925 Cumberland and, reportedly, used to roller skate around the house on the hardwood floor.

Charlie Chaplin, best known as "the Little Tramp," once owned the home at 3955 Cumberland and, allegedly, used it as his "love nest" where he would engage in the sort of womanizing conduct for which he was scandalized in the 20s and 30s.

Charlie

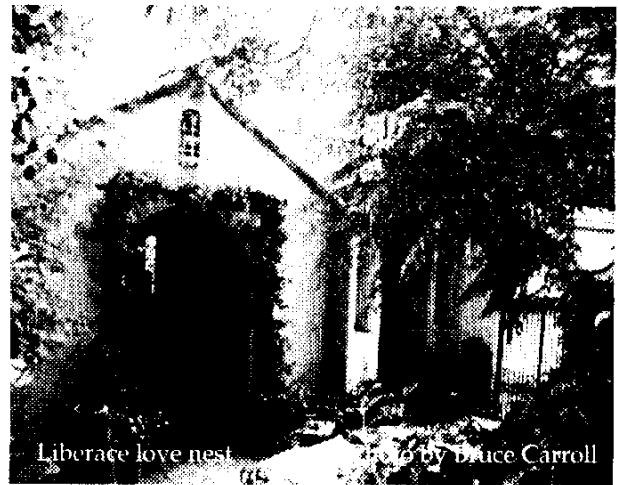


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Liberace love nest Photo by Bruce Carroll

Liberace, world famous piano impressario and flamboyant showman, owned the house at 2024 Mayview and also used it as a sort of "love nest," for the benefit of his boyfriend and the boyfriend's mother. A prior owner, who purchased the house in 1974, recalls that Liberace had laid down white and gold-veined linoleum over the hardwood floors and had gilded the bannisters, requiring weeks of effort to remove the gold. Also, the master bedroom door had a deadbolt lock on it, presumably to keep "Mama" from making any unannounced visits to the occupant(s).

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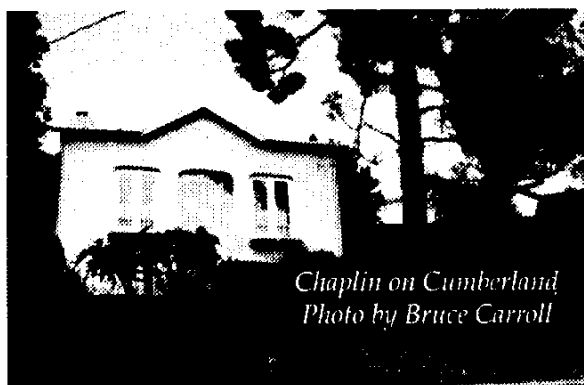
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*Chaplin on Cumberland
Photo by Bruce Carroll*

Oliver Hardy, the larger part of the Laurel & Hardy comedy team, once owned 1719 Talmadge, across from the Vitagraph, now Prospect, Studios.

In the late 20s, Walt Disney and his brother Roy built matching houses on the southwest corner of Lyric and St. George so as to be able to walk to the first Disney animation studio located on the corner of Hyperion and Griffith Park Blvd., today the site of Gelson's Market.

Holly Woodlawn, star of Andy Warhol's film "Trash," author of her autobiography "A Low Life in High Heels," and immortalized in Lou Reed's classic song "Take A Walk On The Wild Side," until very recently lived in a small house on the south side of DeLongpre near Hyperion.



Disney duo Photo by Bruce Carroll

Julie Newmar, the world-famous "Catwoman" from the 60s "Batman" TV series and star of dozens of films and TV shows, allegedly made her lair near the top of Clayton.

Joan Blondell, blonde starlet best known from films of the 30s and 40s and who often played brassy but warm-hearted characters, lived on Udell Court, near the Udell Court stairs.

Know of other famous former residents? Able to help us confirm, deny or refine some of our information? Please let us know! E-mail FHRA@FranklinHills.org

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WHY THE FHRA?

By Mary Frances Smith-Reynolds

Since its inception in 1989, the Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) has sponsored, spear-headed, or collaborated with others on myriad projects to enhance and beautify our historic community. With the ongoing support of its dues-paying membership, and an ever-increasing number of new members, the FHRA plans to continue adding to its list of accomplishments. Each one of these projects reflects financial support, as well as FHRA donations of ideas, time, and labor. Evidence of the FHRA's work and commitment to the community is all around us.

Public art projects are on the list of the FHRA's involvements. Most recently, the association's support went to the new mural, *Rite of Culture*, by Ricardo Mendoza, at Prospect Avenue and Talmadge Street. This artwork, rich in color and symbolic imagery, has invigorated the corner and the surrounding community. Another artwork supported by the FHRA was the restoration of "The Vanishing Race," a powerful 1936 WPA statue at Thomas Starr King Middle School. A bright, hopeful student mural on Sunset Drive at the back of Thomas Starr King Middle School was another art project backed by the FHRA.

The association's greening and planting projects include the upkeep of the beautiful native plant landscaping on the Franklin Avenue median next to the historic Shakespeare Bridge. The Franklin Hills Community Garden is a verdant, successful collaboration between the FHRA and LILA (the French American School). The FHRA has also participated in community tree plantings.

Maintenance of the hillside public stairway system, ongoing graffiti abatement throughout the neighborhood, cleanup/beautification under the Shakespeare Bridge, and Myra Avenue cleanup days are other examples of the FHRA membership at work to improve our collective quality of life.

Nuisance abatement issues are another area of concern and success for the Franklin Hills Residents Association. In 2002, FHRA members worked with other community members, the police, City Council districts 4 and 13, and other city departments to

shut down the Sunset Pacific Motel on Sunset Boulevard.

This property, referred to by many in the neighborhood as "The Bates Motel," was a magnet for crime, and had long been known to the police as a dangerous location. In the same year, the FHRA Nuisance Abatement Committee also took on the auto repair shops along Hyperion Avenue. Through hours of research, preparation, and city hearings, the FHRA has met some success in fighting against the pollution created by this type of business, abundant in our neighborhood.

Another committee of the FHRA focuses on community policing and public safety issues, and helps Franklin Hills residents start and maintain Neighborhood Watch groups. Come to the FHRA's annual meeting on May 27 to learn more. Join a committee. Get involved. Help recruit new members. The legacies of your labor will endure in our unusual and beautiful corner of the world

Beauty Under the Shakespeare Bridge

by Shirley Mims

After a long search, Tom LaBonge's office has found funding to complete the landscaping project underneath the Shakespeare Bridge. Funding will also provide for a decorative retaining wall that will be built at the bottom of the slope. Lighting will also be installed to deter nighttime loitering. With all the other progress already made under the bridge by the support of the Council office, LAPD, and community enthusiasm, the project should be ready to be presented to the neighborhood sometime this year. An FHRA announcement will be made to invite the entire community for a grand opening ceremony once the work is completed.





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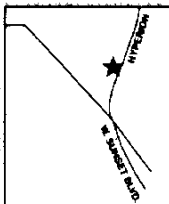
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**ASK NOT BOTH WHAT THE GGPNC CAN DO FOR YOU
AND WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

By Bruce Carroll

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council...shortened to the unpronounceable acronym GGPNC...is now up and running and the FHRA is well represented. In fact, you may have seen FHRA President Charley Mims wearing a second presidential hat since December when he was also elected GGPNC President. The FHRA's Joseph Hahn and Bruce Carroll (FHRA Treasurer and GGPNC Secretary) also serve on the GGPNC Board.

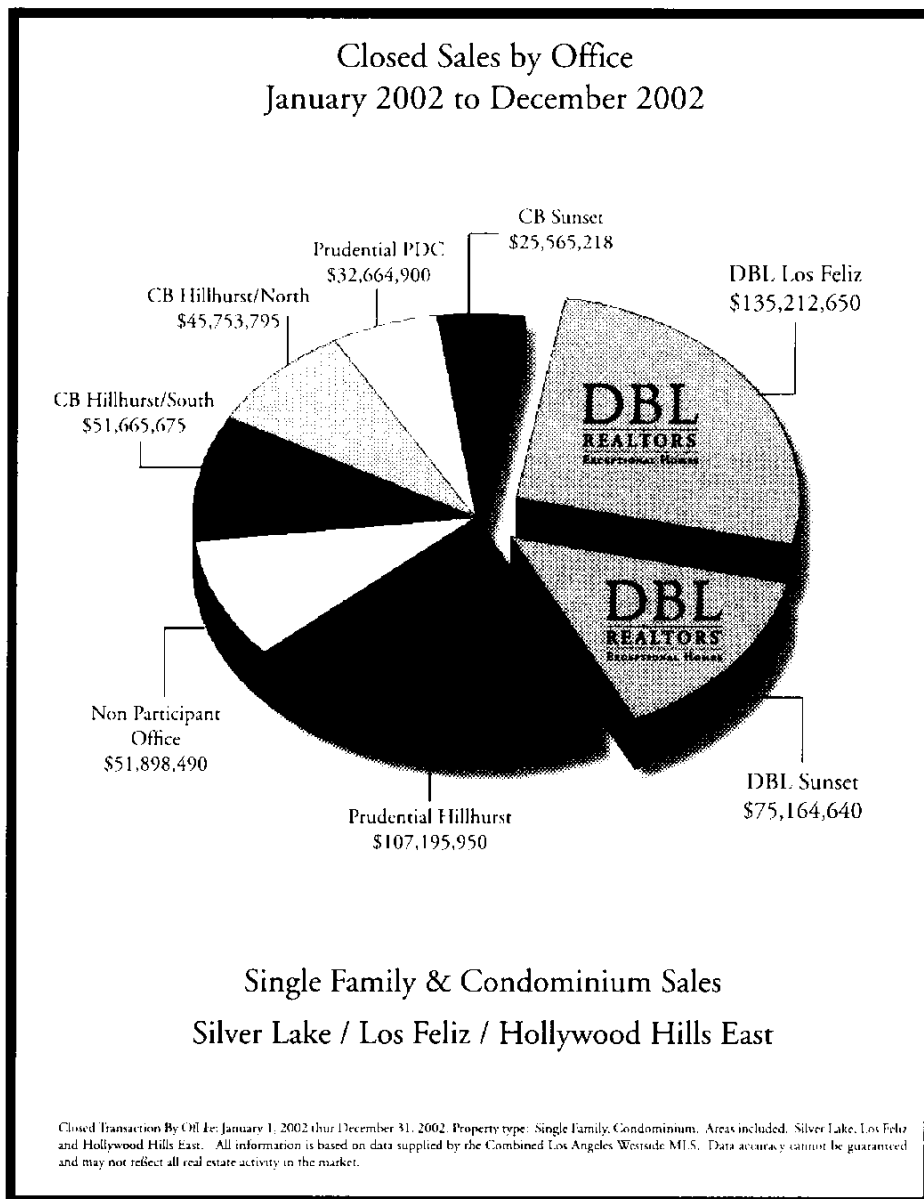
Neighborhood Councils were setup under the City's new charter as advisory bodies designed to bridge the distance between City Hall and the rest of us. To take your ideas from the neighborhood and the avalanche of documents churned out by the myriad departments, agencies and committee's of City government and come up with plans to improve our neighborhood and the city as a whole.

What we have found is that it takes a lot of work just to get organized so we can really get down to work. The 19 member board has set up a dozen committees and is actively looking for volunteers (why not you) with a variety of interests and perhaps some expertise in diverse areas from education to zoning, parks to transportation, public safety to neighborhood beautification, Barnsdall Art park to the zoo and many more. For a full list of GGPNC committees check out their website www.GGPNC.org, and click on "Committee List." Everyone is welcome to attend meetings and join committees.

Click on "Meeting Calendar" to find out when they are. And by going to each committee's page you can find a record of their meetings, and events in their area of specialty...Take a look...Find an interest...Get Involved.

Among the issues the GGPNC has tackled, even in its infancy, is going to bat for neighbors around the former Mayfair Market on Hyperion who complained about the height of the Gelson's planned tower. After Gelson's representatives heard neighborhood sentiment at a GGPNC meeting they withdrew their application to exceed the legal height for their property. Other developers have come to the GGPNC to discuss their projects even before the architects have been hired, giving the community ground floor input into what would be harmonious with the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Beautification Committee is always looking for ideas from tree planting projects to plans for renovation of the area around the stairs below Prospect on Hoover where a mural and landscaping is on the drawing board. We also get early warnings from various city agencies of projects and policy changes that may impact our neighborhoods so we can hopefully give our neighborhood its say with the powers that be before it's too late

The power of the neighborhood council is letting the folks at City Hall know that it really does speak for the community. The best way to have our voice heard is to make your voice heard at GGPNC meetings...Get Involved



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ley Mims and Joseph Hahn were elected and Bruce Carroll selected to this important new City/Neighborhood group. Charley was elected as the first President and Bruce as the first Secretary of the GGPNC. This new neighborhood group has already proven itself successful in dealing with local issues with the responsible City departments.

And lest we forget, secession (or the dismemberment of our City and our neighborhood) was soundly defeated by the voters of Los Angeles by a two to one margin! Local leaders played an important role in educating our fellow neighbors to defeat this ill conceived proposition. Our thanks go out to Shirley Mims, who lighted a fire under us, to Mia Trachinger, who attended the LAFCO meetings and designed a flyer, to Chris Boutelle, who delivered flyers door to door, to our Los Feliz friends Cheryl Johnson and Terry Hughes, to Charley Mims for his leadership, and last but not least to Mayor James Hahn, Councilmen Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti and to too many others to mention here.

And by the way.....the Franklin Hills Residents Association set new records for membership and for involvement this year! Congratulations to all of us for caring about our neighborhood and for making that little extra effort to make it better. Here's to an even better coming year for our neighborhood in 2003-2004!

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Los Feliz Branch Library

Voting, Shakespeare and Computers in the Library

You may notice the library looks a bit cleaner and brighter. We had so much heavy use in our first four years that the Department of General Services recently gave us a touch up paint and stain job, replaced lights and additional improvements are in the planning stages.

The new Beginning Computer Class for Older Adults has been a big hit. Many first time computer users gained enough skills to strike out on their own and set up e-mails, put books on reserve and search the Internet for information they needed. These one-time classes will continue until the summer.

Other programs for adults continue: the monthly discussion group, DeJaVu: All Over Again, the Book Group, Scrabble Club, the Los Angeles Opera talks and our author programs. In addition, our newest program, Book Gossip, invites the audience to hear about the new, hot, in-demand titles, read the reviews and share their own personal "picks" This is a great place to hear about the popular books and find out what everyone else is reading or suggest your newest favorite.

In June the annual Reading Clubs will begin with the Children's program, American Originals and the Teen's Fast Forward to the Past program. Regular Preschool Stories, Family Programs, Teen Chess, Barnsdall Jr. Arts Center classes and special programs will continue throughout the spring and summer months. You can check out the monthly flyers in the library or look at the display case for the up-coming events.

If you would like to receive notification about up-coming library adult programs join our email list by sending us a message at HYPERLINK mail to:lfeliz@lapl.org and ask to be added. We send out the e-mail during the last week of the previous month and when we have an extra special event such as the LA Women's Shakespeare "Morning of Shakespeare" on Saturday May 31st at 11:00am.

The library will be also be a Touch Screen voting place in the two weeks before the May elections. Come and check out this new, convenient way to cast your vote.

The library will once again be participating in the annual Los Feliz Village Street Fair on Sunday June 8th. Look for us next to our community partner, and table sponsor, Skylight Books.

The library will be closed on Monday May 26th for Memorial Day and again on Friday July 4th for Independence Day. We hope to see you in the library the rest of days, Mondays through Saturdays.

Pearl Yonezawa
Library Manager

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Franklin Hills Overview: #25 Spring/Summer 2003

The Survival of the Overview—

Ask what *you* can do for your newsletter!!

We hope you enjoy reading the Overview. This is issue # 25, which is the 13th year of publication. You, our neighbors and readers, are the only reason to keep it going, and the only resource to keep it going..

Obviously and always, please give your business to our advertisers and let them know where you saw their ads. By some miracle of providence the ad income and the cost of publishing the Overview are each issue within speaking distance of each other. If it were not for these advertisers we wouldn't have the Overview.—we'd be standing in line at Kinko's to run off eight hundred copies of a 4 page circular. So, as a good neighbor, please patronize the advertisers and if you are in business here get in touch with Chris Boutelle and reserve your ad for the winter edition.

The second, or maybe first great contribution is: WRITE. Stories/articles written by neighbors are what makes the content interesting. Start your own contribution now for the winter issue. Do you have a pet annoyance, (like trash cans in the street—p. 12?) Do you have a

pet project? In the past we've started staircase cleaning (Adam) and graffiti removal (Eric.—page 4) Or a good cause? (see coyotes, page 6) Or a good pet. . ? Do you see something that could improve the neighborhood and could work given enough helping hands? Or, do you cherish the mockingbirds, the skunks and possums—could you write a chanson to the critters that creep about the hill, and certainly the coyotes. Can you share some historical or current event about our community? Do you have some photos —old or new—that everyone would like to see? Are you an owner—employee—patron of a local business, and can you give an insight into how things go? How about a restaurant review (to be published anonymously.) About a 750 word limit works well for us.

I bet you all enjoy the articles that come from someone's experience here, and so do I. The experiences to be provided by the Gas Company this month should be good for a paragraph from someone.

I have read a few fine neighborhood newsletters from other parts of this city, and some few which are entirely the work of the editor—every last word . It is my worst nightmare that this could happen to Overview—but it won't as long as people here will rum-



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mage around in their files and their memory and say— 'yeah, that was kinda interesting. Bet I could make a story of it.' Communication makes a community.

There won't be a deadline before next Halloween, give or take, but wouldn't it be great to sit down this weekend and start in on a piece of writing which could be the focal point of a new issue? (There have been Halloween parties which would make a story.) And when Overview 26 comes out in the winter you'll have a share in it.

Sincerely. . .
Carol Skinner,
editor, layout person
and general dogsbody for Overview
e-mail me at FHRA@FranklinHills.org

Promised for the Next Issue:

"Franklin Hills' own "child-star," Brady Rubin - neighborhood resident/actress/graffiti remover - also appeared in educational classroom (also known as "mental hygiene") films in the 1950s. Meet your neighbor and find out about this fascinating film genre in the NEXT issue of the Overview."

Eric Frase, our graffiti czar and contributor to Overview has promised to write this story for the next issue of Overview. What other stories and histories can be found on the hill?

The Last 17 houses featured here sold!



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Karen Weiss

3918 Franklin Ave.
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We need your membership, but if you can't bear the thought of tearing the coupon below out of this issue of Overview you can go to our new website: WWW.FranklinHills.org and click on "Join FHRA" and you'll get an FHRA membership form that you can print and mail

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

Franklin Hills Overview: #25 Spring/Summer 2003

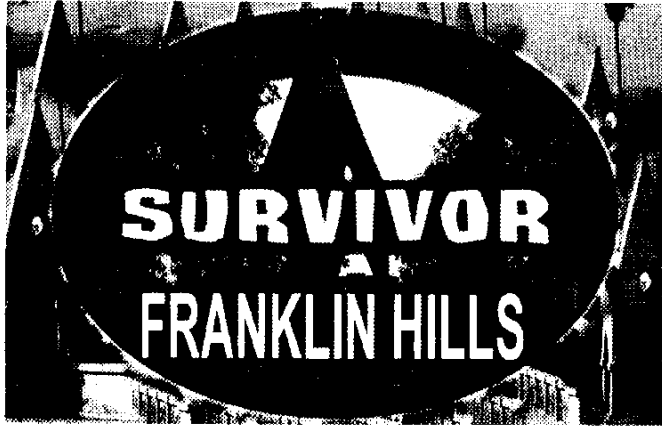
FHRA Takes Steps to Halt Runaway Production

by Bruce Carroll

The Franklin Hills area not only contains some of the oldest film and TV studios, but is also home to many entertainment industry pros who are threatened by the increasing trend toward runaway production. In hopes of keeping at least a few jobs in our area the FHRA is seeking your help on a new project we're sure will be a hit.

Survivor, Franklin Hills would, of course, be a reality show...the most popular TV trend of recent years. But, instead of sending jobs to some remote jungle, it could all be filmed here, close to home. There are lots of scary and challenging tasks that can be done right in our neighborhood...such as:

Roller skating down the Radio Walk stairs with your hands tied behind your back while Franklin Hills coyotes are chasing you.



Walking a tight rope strung between the towers of the Shakespeare Bridge while blindfolded during rush hour.

Trying to cross Hyperion between Trader Joe's and Gelson's without being hit by oncoming traffic.

Finding an auto body shop in the area that complies with all building codes and environmental laws.

Looking for two adjacent houses where they park all their cars inside their garage.

Trying to get from Franklin Ave. to Griffith Park Blvd. along St. George Street in under 45 minutes when Marshall High is letting out.

Obviously when the show is the big hit we anticipate we will need many more challenging tasks required for survival in the Franklin Hills. Please e-mail your suggestions to FHRA@FranklinHills.org



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