

OVERVIEW

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ISSUE No. 10

WINTER 1993



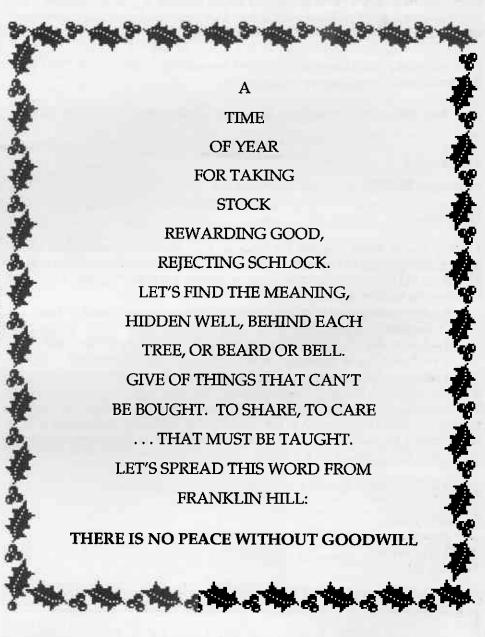
Shear madness as Bill Violante, LFIA Pres. Marilyn Bush, Chief Willie Williams, Councilman John Ferraro and Marisa Antonini cut the ribbon inaugurating the new Los Feliz Police Center.

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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Franklin Hills OVERVIEW

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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-

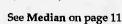
ing agencies to oversee public projects.

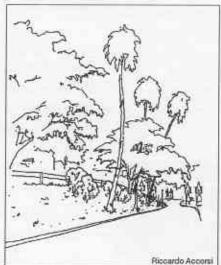
Like Lancelot on a quest for the Holy Grail-in this case,

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

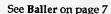
the store's present location, and on one of those days he had an idea. Although he had no retail experience, he did have the ability to make decisions. One day he came home and announced to Mrs. Baller that they were going into the hardware business—a decision they never regretted.

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:

Recycling: (800)-CITYSAN

Rebate for Ultra Low Flush Toilet installation. (213) 481-5800; (800)-722-1122

Rebate for Super Efficient Gas Water Heater.

(800) 852-9820

Hazardous Waste Hotline (213) 237-1634

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency 911;

Non-emergency: 485-6235.

GRAFFITI:

On private property: (213) 253-2687 On public property: (818) 772-7753

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-

5:30; Fri-Sat 10:00-5:30.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT DISPATCH: (818) 904-1418

POLICE: Emergency 911;

Northeast Division: Non-emergency (213) 485-2563

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STREET LIGHTING: (213) 402-3403 STREET MAINTENANCE: (213) 485-5661

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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. Quite simply, 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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MANAGEMENT

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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