



# OVERVIEW

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

ISSUE No. 2

FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1991

## COMMUNITY EFFORT TURNS TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE INTO SAFE CROSSING.

by ROSALYN LIEBERMAN

Remember the dangers of negotiating the intersection at Franklin Avenue and St. George Street?

Remember the cars you couldn't see, zooming up the hill and careening round the curve, rarely bothering to flash a warning signal?

Remember the injury accidents, the near misses, the countless delays as you waited and waited for the chance to make your turn?

Hopefully, the recently installed all-way stop signals at Franklin and St. George have relegated these horrors to the past. As you come to a stop and proceed safely on your way, remember to say thanks to a band of neighbors who persisted in their efforts,

See **STOP SIGNS**, p. 3, col. 1

## NEW LIBRARY SITE

by VI WEBER

At an auditorium packed meeting held Thursday, December 13, at the Los Feliz Elementary School, three final sites were presented for neighborhood consideration by City Librarian Elizabeth Martinez Smith and a roster of experts from management and architectural sources.

Barnsdall Park was greeted with the least enthusiasm from the audience, based primarily on the need for safer crossing of Hollywood Boulevard and ambient crime problems in the area.

A second site, just south of the present library was the least expensive

See **LIBRARY**, p. 2, col. 1

**JOIN FHRA**



Disaster Prep chairman Vi Weber is lifted in makeshift stretcher during major disaster scenario

## DISASTER PREPARED

by CARY BICKLEY

For seven weeks during October and November, approximately 37 Franklin Hills residents participated in an exciting and extremely educational Disaster Preparedness Training Program. The training was given by the Los Angeles Fire Department at the Los Feliz Hills School, thanks to the hard work and persistence of Violet Weber, Board Member and Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee for our neighborhood association.

Weber had been working for over a year to bring this project to our neighborhood. She promised us at past meetings that if we could pull it off, it would be great—and she was right. The class surpassed everyone's expectations. It was a thorough, informative, hands-on training program that taught not only crucial skills specific to an earthquake, but also things like first aid and fire suppression. We also had fun! The firemen were terrific at keeping things lively and humorous, and for many of us, it was a great opportunity

to get to know each other.

The course itself began with a general introduction that outlined the major problems after a disaster. It seems that the worst problem after the "Big One" hits will be that it might take three to fourteen days before any professional emergency services will be able to reach us. In order to survive, our neighborhood must be as self-reliant as possible.

The seven-week course taught us fire suppression, search and rescue, triage, first aid for minor and major injuries, how to organize ourselves into efficient disaster response teams, and how to manage our resources over a long period of time. More specifically,

SEE **DISASTER PREP.**, p. 3, col. 3

**WINNERS OF  
NEWSLETTER  
NAME CONTEST!**

SEE PAGE 6

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Somehow a year has gone by since our last newsletter...So goes it with volunteer efforts. All our energies have been directed first to surviving in an ever more difficult world. As we come home from "out there" it is becoming obvious that we need to be increasingly aware of the need to protect the quality of life of our community. Our successes have been notable: the new stop signs, implementation of the Hollywood Community Plan, a neighborhood Disaster Preparation course completed, cooperation from ABC-TV and Michael Woo's office. Our goals: lower crime, graffiti control, a new library nearby, a protected green space, local recycling, landscaping of the bridge approach and, maybe, a Franklin Hill block party. Join, get involved — We need you!

DON WALDROP

## LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL UPDATE

by TONY MICHAELIS

For the last several years, many of you may have been aware of the financial troubles of Los Feliz Hills School. The school is located at 4155 Russell Avenue, near the Franklin Avenue bridge, and provides personalized education at the pre-school, kindergarten through 8th grade level to approximately 100 children.

At this time, the school has filed for bankruptcy and is considering selling to another school or putting together a partnership to create a city park. The most active school group which is considering the property is the Korean Institute. Members of this Association have met with the Korean Institute and believe that this high quality academic institution would make an excellent neighbor. At this point, the two parties are still in negotiations.

The other viable option for the school and our neighborhood is the

unique opportunity to preserve a piece of urban open space from potential residential development.

Thanks to the efforts of a variety of local elected officials, this plan is closer to becoming a reality. Michael Roos and his staff have taken a leadership position in this effort. Assemblyman Roos and Senator David Roberti have acquired approximately \$400,000 from State funds for park acquisition of this property. It is unclear how much money would be required to work out a park acquisition but the school has debt in the neighborhood of \$1.5 to \$2 million. Additional funding sources are the City of Los Angeles (Councilman Michael Woo has requested \$250,000 from the City Recreation and Park funds) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which may be able to contribute a \$250,000 matching grant.

Another source might be a

See **LFHS**, p. 6

### **LIBRARY**, from p. 1

to buy but would yield less parking space, according to the report.

The third site, at the south-east corner of Hillhurst and Franklin Avenues, seemed to receive the most favorable reaction from the audience. It is favored by the Franklin Hills Residents Association for its convenience, aesthetic potential, size of lot (which would put all parking off-street) and, in particular, to eliminate any possibility of another traffic-stopping mini-mall being built on that corner.

The FHRA board suggests you make your preference known soon by writing to Elizabeth Martinez Smith, City Librarian, Central Library, 433 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, to Thea March, Senior Librarian at the Los Feliz Branch Library, 1913 1/2 Hillhurst Avenue, L.A. 90027, or to Councilman Michael Woo, who declined to give any preference at the meeting.

Let's use our powers of persuasion and put the library where it will do the most good for our neighborhood: at the corner of Franklin and Hillhurst.

## FRANKLIN HILLS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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VIOLET WEBER

To better serve the community, the FHRA's newly elected board has formed teams to effectively deal with the issues that concern our neighborhood on a day-to-day basis:

#### **ABC-TV/COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

#### **PLANNING and ZONING:**

Lothar Von Schoenborn, 661-9991

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:**

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### **RECYCLING /ENVIRONMENTAL:**

Marcelle Zonta, 664-4124

#### **LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL:**

Tony Michaelis, 666-8166

#### **CRIME/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:**

Leader and Liason:

Violet Weber, 663-6427

#### **NEWSLETTER:**

Don Waldrop, 664-4124

#### **BYLAWS:**

Jim Churchill, 663-0580

Anyone wishing to be a part of any team effort should contact the team leaders listed above.

The OVERVIEW staff invites your comments and, space permitting, will publish letters mailed to Editor.

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TYPOGRAPHY

Don Waldrop

**STOP SIGNS**, from page 1

even though previous requests had continually been denied.

Support from Councilman Woo's office (deputies Dianna Brueggeman and Carol Joseph) in response to repeated demands by Franklin Hill residents, including Ilona Shillman and Paul Garson (shown at right), Jim Churchill, Lothar Von Shoenborn, Frank and Ruth Drucker and Alex Urbach led to an on-site meeting with Robert Camou, the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Traffic Management representative for our area and to a new traffic engineering study. That study resulted in a decision to provide the long-overdue traffic controls — a wonderful example of a victory by



PHOTO: JUSTINE COOK

citizens working together and refusing to take no for an answer.

**DISASTER PREP**, from P. 1

we learned to actually work those fire extinguishers we have in our homes, but have never fired. We learned to open a person's airway, stop bleeding and prevent shock.

We learned how to know if a building can be entered, how to move injured people, how to stay warm, sanitary, healthy and safe through the days following the disaster. The last night of the training, we staged a full-blown simulation of the aftermath of an earthquake. All our new skills were incorporated in this intense, realistic dramatization.

Many who took the course left with a new sense of confidence and peace of mind. While not prone to random paranoia, this author spent several sleepless nights after last year's San Francisco quake. Education and preparation truly make one less fearful, to say nothing of possibly saving one's own life or others. I am also particularly grateful that several of my immediate neighbors on DeLoz Street are trained. It is comforting to know that if I'm trapped or injured, they will know what to do. Not every block is so well covered, however. There are a number of residents like one woman on Russell Avenue who was the only one trained on her street.

With only 37 graduates, the disaster preparedness committee wants to emphasize that we still have a long way to go. Violet Weber was hoping to offer this course again within the year, but it looks unlikely. There will be a meeting for all residents who took the training after the first of the year to organize our response teams and leadership. At our next annual meeting, the committee will present a comprehensive summary of what we learned to other residents.

While the seven-week commitment looked daunting at the outset, all left excited and ready to continue preparations. For those who missed classes, make-up sessions begin January 8. For information call the Fire Department at (213) 237-1927.

Those who attended every class are not only praiseworthy, they're fashionable! They were rewarded with green hardhats and vests, and a certificate from the mayor acknowledging them as part of Los Angeles' emergency response team.

## MEETINGS WITH ABC "NOBODY HIT ANYBODY"\*

by ISABEL DIETZ

ABC-TV recently consolidated all of its west coast activities on its 29 acre lot in the Los Feliz/Franklin Hills area of Los Angeles. Concerns for quality of life continue to multiply for the residents of this area. Meetings have been held periodically for over a year and bi-monthly meetings are now scheduled, led by deputies Dianna Brueggeman and Carol Joseph of Councilman Michael Woo's office, and attended by representatives from ABC and the three major neighborhood associations.

Unfortunately, the overflow of activity from the TV station continues to bring unwanted noise, dirt and traffic congestion into the neighborhood. Tour busses now discharge ever larger groups of people and crowds line Talmadge and Prospect Streets, blocking foot traffic and leaving trash on the sidewalks.

ABC does attempt to clean up, but there seem to be always more empty soda cans, chewing gum wrappers and cigarette butts to take the place of the ones picked up. In addition there is a noticeable amount of audience parking on the streets west of Talmadge as well as bus traffic on streets not designated by the City for this use.

One disconcerting new development: ABC has announced preliminary plans to expand their parking facilities by another 130 spaces

up the hill on an area of undeveloped land which they own. This land had been understood by the neighbors to be a designated "buffer" zone between ABC and the residential area. ABC did present our committee with a rendering showing the new parking area complete with landscaping to soften the effect. However, the buffer zone is the only other natural green space besides the Los Feliz Hills School in the neighborhood and it seems a shame to lose even a part of it.

There is growing concern and unease as to the health effects of ever more concrete, heavier traffic and tight parking. There is uncertainty as to ABC's future growth plans although they claim they will not enlarge further. The ABC "Neighborhood Hotline" is 537-5000 (or 537-5354 after 5:00 p.m) to inform them of your specific concerns about the ways the studio affects the quality of life in your neighborhood.

\*The quote is by Margie Bird, Los Feliz Improvement Association after the meeting on 5/15/90 at Woo's office..

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Phil Lyons loves to walk. Each morning, unless he's on vacation, Phil walks from Franklin and Talmadge, crosses the Shakespeare Bridge and continues down St. George to Rowena. This is his territory or "turf" and often he walks with a paint brush and paint can in hand. Phil has a mission: battling graffitiers by covering up the scribbles which have defaced our neighborhood.

Modestly, Phil calls this a "hobby," but to his neighbors he makes a great contribution to everyone's visual field.



PHOTO: JUSTINE COOK

It all started about 5 1/2 gallons ago, after the Shakespeare Bridge was repaired and repainted. Phil got the leftover Bridge paint and started painting over the graffiti whenever it appeared. Gradually, he expanded his domain. "You've got to get after them fast," Phil asserted, "so they get discouraged." Phil starts his rounds at 7 a.m. By 8 a.m. the neighborhood is clean. He feels it helps to finish before the John Marshall High School students arrive in the morning since teenagers are most likely responsible for graffiti (and the most responsive audience.)

Phil, who lives on Ronda Vista Drive, was born on St. George and has been a Franklin Hills resident his entire life.

by' DAVID FERTIK

## TAKE A TIP FROM RUMPELSTILTSKIN: TURN TRASH INTO CASH

by ROSALYN LIEBERMAN

Pilot recycling programs are expected to begin in our area between December, 1990 and July, 1991, and it will take another year or two until the entire city of Los Angeles is mobilized for recycling, but there's no need for you to wait another week before joining in the effort.

You can begin right now to turn your paper, plastic, aluminum and glass into cash at recycling centers in our area. Franklin Hills resident, Marcelle Zonta, has used the following convenient recycling centers:

- The recycling center under the Sunset Bridge on Myra Avenue - a thriving business, open daily.

- The automatic machine at Lucky Market on Hillhurst Avenue accepts aluminum cans, 2 liter plastic bottles and cash redemptive glass bottles and provides cash.

- The Mayfair market at Griffith Park Boulevard and Hyperion is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and accepts plastic, aluminum and glass bottles and jars.

- Burbank Recycling Center is located at 720 N. Lake St., Burbank. It is open Mon-Sat from 8-4:30 and accepts the widest range of materials, including:

- newspaper, which may be bagged or bundled for ease of handling
- white or colored sandpaper and computer paper (no books,, carbon paper or non-paper items.)
- corrugated brown, cardboard boxes (no shoe boxes,cereal, detergent or gift boxes.)
- clean tin or aluminum cans
- plastic 2 liter soda bottles
- clean styrofoam
- rinsed glass bottles and jars. Color separation is appreciated. (No ceramics, pyrex, mirrors, window glass, auto glass or light bulbs.)
- waste motor oil from cars and trucks.

The best times are on Tuesday or Friday, between 12 & 4:30.

For further information on recycling, call CHARLENE KLINK, at the Public Relations Department of the Recycling Division of the Department of Public Works, (213) 237-0202, or contact MARCELLE ZONTA, Chairman of the FHRA Environmental Team, at (213) 664-4124.

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PHOTO: DON WALDROP

## WITH MALLETS TOWARD NONE

As a result of a direct challenge by Dianne Kanner and Sherri Lewis of the Los Feliz Improvement Association, some members of the Franklin Hills Residents Association found themselves in Barnsdall Park, on the lawn of Hollyhock House, in appropriate costumes and wielding croquet mallets. New board member Charley Mims and his wife, Ardelle Burke, (shown in photo above) and board member Bryant Crouse went home with trophies. The annual Friends of Hollyhock House Croquet Tournament, is a charity event to benefit the house built for Aline Barnsdall in 1921 by Frank Lloyd Wright.

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## ABOUT THAT NAME

This newsletter now has a name as a result of the contest which was announced in the first edition. The board decided that (out of over 50 entries) two of the names could be used. The winners were Mary Ann Mearns, who submitted **FRANKLIN HILLS OVERVIEW**, and Marcel Demiranda, whose entry will be the subhead — **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**. Our thanks to all who entered and especially to Tony Fanara of *Palermo Ristorante Italia* and Giancarlo Macchiarella and John Borghetti of *Trattoria Farfalla* for the prizes: dinners for two.

## VANISHING ACT

By ISABEL DIETZ

Do you get a cold, hard knot in your stomach every time you see some new spray painting on a wall, sidewalk or telephone pole you pass every day? **TAKE ACTION AND RELIEVE TENSION!** A Graffiti Paint-Out Committee is forming. We are negotiating with ABC Television Center for a place to store paint, brushes and rollers. Baller's Hardware has been contacted for donation of paint colorants to modify the stark white of the paint the City will give us for free. Believe us, it works. The faster the graffiti vanishes, the less spray painting appears on that wall. Call (213) 664-4124 for details. **Phil Lyons can't do it alone!**

**LOS FELIZ HILLS SCHOOL**, from P. 2

special assessment district, which would obviously impact all of us to some extent, but does provide an opportunity to raise funds through a neighborhood special property tax. No action has been taken regarding this potential

funding option, but the Association Board would be most interested in obtaining the neighborhood's opinions on this idea. Please call Committee chairman Tony Michaelis at (213) 666-8166 for information or offers of assistance.

## NOTATIONS IN PASSING

by ISABEL DIETZ

Your newsletter very probably was not mailed. It has reached you by special courier — every one hand delivered to a home by a volunteer. It's not that we don't trust the mail, we just don't have the price of postage for 2000 households worked into the budget, quite. We could cover this neighborhood with greater speed and accuracy if we had more hands (and feet) to do it. And if you are interested in being in charge of your block or your street (Block Captain) it could speed things up even more.

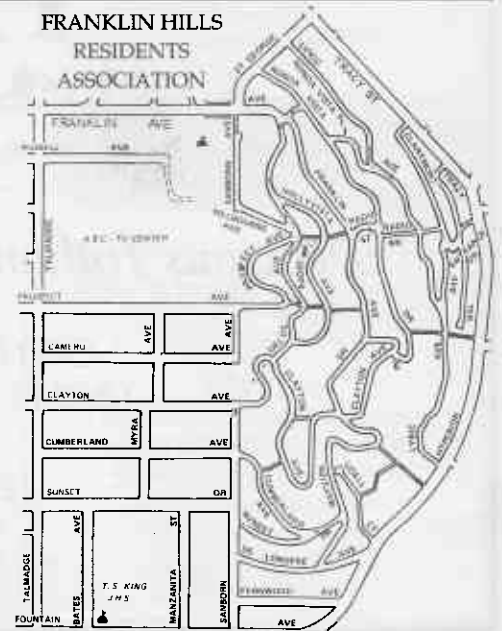
There are lots of other constructive ways to annihilate your anomie (or exorcise your ennui) and get to know your neighbors. Find a committee you like and call the chairman — get active! We are all volunteers in our efforts to improve our community and we need your help!

Our thanks to Al and Suzie at CREATIVE IMAGE for their technical support. Please support our advertisers.

**For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, contact any of the listed members or write FHRA, Box 29122, Los Angeles, CA 90027**

### FRANKLIN HILLS OVERVIEW

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