

Los Feliz Observer

Organized in 1916 for the betterment and protection of the Los Feliz District

SPRING 2006

Griffith Observatory Scheduled to Re-open in Late October or Early November

The Griffith Observatory, closed for the past four years for extensive restoration, is now scheduled for re-opening in late October or early November.

Before the Observatory opening, the City's Department of Recreation and Parks has committed to providing a comprehensive traffic plan for residents planning to visit the Los Angeles landmark.

The Observatory's beautiful dome has not only been restored, but there are many new features added to the complex.

See inside back page for OBSERVATORY FACTOIDS.



Newly renovated Observatory from east side photo by Kathryn Louyse

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Watching Out for One Another

By Rulon Openshaw

When the early pioneers began moving west two centuries ago they faced many hazards. In addition to the natural threats posed by weather and the rugged landscape, there were also the serious dangers posed by robbers and bandits, waiting to prey on the relatively defenseless settlers. The local police and sheriffs that had provided security back in the "civilized" East were virtually non-existent on the Western frontier. Faced with these formidable challenges, the settlers wisely sought out and cultivated the only source of protection they had – each other.

Neighbors in those days looked out for one another. Whether the threat was fire, flood, or outlaw gangs, people of that time knew they could count on their neighbors to maintain vigilance against potential threats and provide warning and assistance when the safety of any individual was threatened.

Flash forward two hundred years. Through science and technology we have diminished the natural threats by learning to predict weather and alter the landscape. But there are most certainly still robbers and thieves preying on the population. It is true we now have police and sheriffs, but their resources are stretched thin and it is increasingly rare for them to arrive at the scene while a crime is still in progress.

So what are we to do? The answer is obvious – take a cue from the wisdom of our early ancestors and band together to watch out for and help one another.

The method I advocate to implement this program of mutual assistance is Neighborhood Watch. No special

continued on page 9

LFIA's Annual Membership Drive

For those of you who are not members of the LFIA or who have not renewed yet, please take a moment to read through this spring issue of the *Observer*.



Denise Wingate
Membership Chair

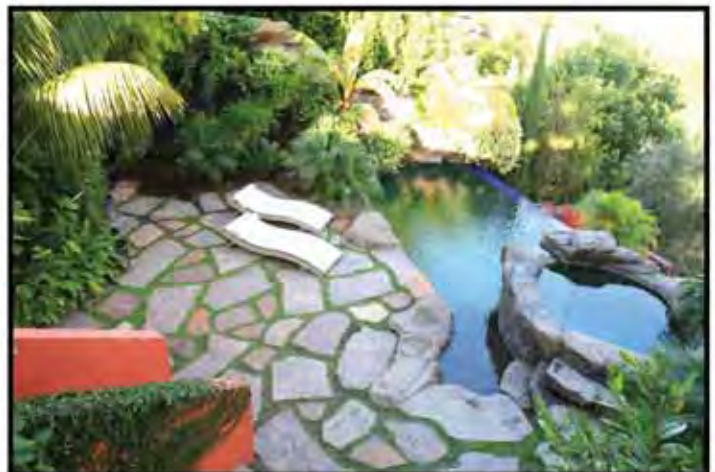
Although we continue to attract new members every year, we need your support. Your membership dues help finance all of the various committees and activities you read about in this publication. Los Feliz continues to be one of the most desirable places to live in our city, as is evident by the growing number of new residents. It is our hope that everyone who lives in our area will become a member of the LFIA and support the neighborhood we have all worked so hard to maintain and protect for 90 years.

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BARRY SLOANE

SELLING THE TROPHY PROPERTIES OF LOS FELIZ



MAGNIFICENT 1926 SPANISH CELEBRITY COMPOUND 13,000 SQ. FT. HOUSE WITH AMAZING CITY & OCEAN VIEWS & POOL

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The highly significant 1920's architect W.C. Tanner designed several important properties in the Los Feliz Oaks, but none more impressive than this enormous and lavishly detailed estate on a premier view lot of almost half an acre. Lovingly restored and enhanced after its earlier celebrity owners, it is now of major contemporary Hollywood star caliber. Up the gated private drive is a most imposing façade with 1920's churrigueresque detailing. The entry is tall and grand, leading to the diplomatic-sized living room with superb crown molding, fireplace and city views throughout. On this public room level there is a baronial dining room, huge gourmet kitchen, wood paneled library with fireplace, office and maids. Up the vast dramatic staircase highlighted with stained glass there are 3 exceptional bedroom suites, including the enormous master with oversized his and hers bathrooms and closets, and a sitting room. The master has extraordinary city and ocean views and a terrace. On the lower level there is a most impressive home theater and adjoining bar, game room, billiard room, cigar lounge, gym, catering area, bathroom facilities and laundry. This vast square footage is serviced by 2 user-friendly elevators. The grounds are lush and private, as are the exotic swimming pool and waterfall environment, and there are extravagant entertaining areas throughout this unique property.

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Spring 2006

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LFIA Purpose

The Los Feliz Improvement Association was formed in 1916 to further the interests of the Los Feliz district of Los Angeles, its residents and property owners, and to undertake any activity that in the opinion of the Board of Directors will be beneficial to the district, its residents or propertyowners.

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The *Los Feliz Observer* is published quarterly and is one of the benefits of membership in the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), a non-profit corporation that is tax-emempt under 501(C)(4) of the Internal Revenue code.

Membership dues are \$30.00 annually.



Yours, Mine and Ours

Last fall, when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its 5-4 ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*, an eminent domain case involving the government's condemnation of personal residences to facilitate a commercial development sponsored by purely private interests, a visceral howl went up across a broad political spectrum. The intense negative reaction was a reflection of the degree to which individuals in our society hold sacred what is regarded as the fundamental right of property ownership, particularly residential property ownership, and the protections accorded that right against government's right to take that property other than for a justifiable "public use."

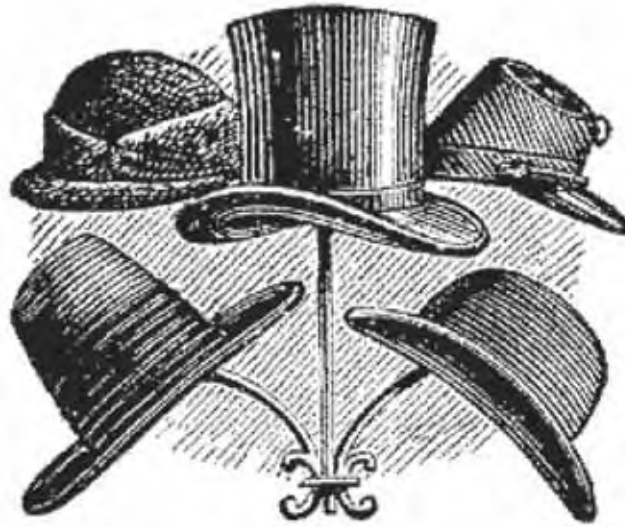
Just as restrictions on the use of eminent domain are intended to protect the rights of property owners against governmental takings, zoning restrictions provide an important tool in protecting intangible property rights associated with the ownership of a personal residence. Such rights rest on what is known as "the right to quiet enjoyment" of one's property and include at a most fundamental level the right to be free of the impact of commercial activities not associated with a traditionally residential area. LFIA, through its Zoning Committee, and other leaders of our community have spent great effort over the years protecting the residential character of our neighborhood, including turning back a heavy handed and well funded effort to build a major commercial development in what is now the Estates, challenging excessive use of residential properties for filming and supporting our neighbors in their battles to eradicate business operations illegally conducted out of personal residences (most recently, operating a multi-broker real estate sales business out of a private residence with attendant traffic, noise and other problems).

If faced with the possibility of a taking of our property for a deemed public use, most of us will object strongly and loudly regardless of the magnitude or nature of the public good allegedly to be served. The question is to what degree are we as individuals prepared to object when another's property is being taken for such a purpose. What do you think rises to the level of a public purpose that would support a taking?

As a community, we have united to fight the development of the Derby site unless that development accords some level of recognition of what many consider to be a culturally significant site. In doing so, we have utilized existing zoning restrictions to force the developer to incorporate that recognition into the development plans. However, we have not in any way participated in some "taking" of the developer's rights. The developer knew of the zoning restrictions when it purchased the property and cannot justifiably complain that the unwillingness of the public to allow those restrictions to be modified for the developer's benefit is unfair.

I am personally aware of a situation in which a City-sponsored preservationist group attempted to force individual homeowners to permit their residence to be declared a cultural landmark, including allowing monthly public viewings of the home, as a condition to obtaining a building permit for some renovation work the homeowners had planned. Unknown to the homeowners, the

The intense negative reaction was a reflection of the degree to which individuals in our society hold sacred what is regarded as the fundamental right of property ownership.



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Photo Kathryn Louyse, April 2006

The Spring '05 Observer ran a story on the *Ten Most Endangered Places in Los Feliz*, with the rapidly-deteriorating Ennis property at the top of the list. The deterioration was due in part to heavier than usual spring storms several years ago that undermined the foundation and destroyed many exterior tiles. Presently the property is overrun with weeds, and squirrels wander into exposed areas under the house.

previous owners of the residence (who had purchased it for investment with the intent to rehab the property and flip it) filed an application for such status in order to obtain low interest financing for

“Any use of the home... will by definition negatively affect the rights of neighboring homeowners.”

the project. They had never followed through on the application but it was in

the files, albeit unknown to the homeowners when they purchased the property. It took more than six months, threatened lawsuits and numerous hearings to put a stop to the effort. In point of fact, the stop came only when John Ferraro, then President of the City Council, in whose district the home was located, acting through his then senior deputy, Councilman Tom LaBonge, declared that he personally would veto any attempt to so designate the home. Councilman LaBonge attended the hearing in which the matter was to be decided and told the cultural affairs representatives present that, in the view of Council District 4, the rights of individual homeowners trumped any

rights of those who would impose restrictions on that ownership under a claim of cultural significance.

And now we are potentially facing another threat to the rights of certain homeowners. For years, residents whose homes are in the vicinity of the Ennis House have dealt not only with a deteriorating property that has become a visual blight upon the neighborhood but serious health and safety issues resulting from that deterioration. Recently, the Foundation which owns the property has held meetings with various groups in the community to describe plans to restore the property. Left unanswered, even in the face of direct questions, is the issue of the use to which the property, once restored, will be put. Rumors, in certain instances fueled by “off the record” remarks made by Foundation Board members, run the gamut – “an architecturally significant personal residence,” “a home museum,” “a pay-for-use privately owned showcase property,” “a City-owned cultural and architectural landmark.” Any use of the home other than as a private, personal residence will by definition negatively affect the rights of neighboring homeowners, including the right to live without the presence of increased traffic on their streets and noise from frequent public events, and their right to protection against safety and security issues occasioned by the influx of non-residents into the area. The Ennis House was commissioned and built as a personal residence in a residential neighborhood. The expectation of owners and purchasers of residential properties in the area has understandably been that it will remain a personal residence and not the subject of a commercial operation. Hopefully, that legitimate expectation will receive appropriate weight when decisions are made on the fate of the Ennis House, including by persons who are themselves homeowners who should assess how they would react in similar circumstances.

The Annual LFIA Committees Report

For nine decades, we have been fighting to preserve the beauty of our neighborhood, to fight ill-conceived real estate and business development, and to make sure we get the city services for which we pay our taxes.

This past year has been one of our most challenging years ever. Here are some of the issues and developments LFIA's committees have been working on...

PARKS COMMITTEE

Chuck Soter, Chair This committee is dedicated to preserving Griffith Park and protecting it from those who view it as a vast vacant land that somehow needs to be "improved". Griffith Park is a de facto preserve within the city limits of Los Angeles, one of the few places where people can readily experience nature. It is the habitat to a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds rarely, if ever, seen in other parts of the city. It is also home to world-class museums and cultural institutions, as well as abundant recreational facilities. Balancing all of these within the Park is a delicate process. With the Griffith Observatory scheduled to re-open this year we are keeping a close eye on traffic, parking, transportation, and other matters to assure a smooth transition for our neighborhood.

The LFIA is presently involved with the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group, which it was instrumental in creating. The current Draft Master Plan is very controversial, calling for what, in our view, is unnecessary additional development throughout the Park. Our representative, and the other Working Group members, are diligently attempting to revise the Plan so that it reflects the views and needs of all Park users, while at the same time assures that the Park will remain a haven for future generations.

POLICE, FIRE & SAFETY COMMITTEE



Rulon Openshaw, Chair

The committee has taken a proactive role in reducing crime in Los Feliz through public education and involvement. At the recent "Law and Order, Los Feliz" night, residents learned of crime problems in our area from a distinguished panel of police officers, detectives and prosecutors. With the invaluable assistance of our Senior Lead Officer Gina Chovan, a Neighborhood Watch program has been launched with the aim of increasing communication between neighbors and local law enforcement.

ZONING COMMITTEE

Its battles are non-stop. You may know about some of our bigger battles with the deterioration of the Ennis house and the threatened demolition of the Derby, but there are hundreds of other efforts being made.

From over-height walls to a lack of parking spaces for restaurants, we fight to see that the city's building codes are upheld.



Juliet Kipperman, Chair

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE



Mary Beth Sorenson, Chair

Only a full-out effort led by LFIA's Schools Committee kept Los Feliz from being dropped from a list of neighborhoods to get new schools. In the meantime we are still committed to supporting all of our local schools. Our members assist with campus beautification efforts, support specialized academic opportunities (FAME night at Franklin Elementary and the academic

decathlon at Marshall High) and liaison with administrators and elected officials regarding traffic and safety issues around neighborhood campuses.

OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

LFIA's most important means of communication with our membership, and one which has been long cherished by our members, is the *Observer*. Over the years we have published topical articles covering some of the most vigorously debated issues affecting Los Feliz, including in depth analyses of the flawed Griffith Park Master Plan and the ill conceived plan for a "destination restaurant" at The Observatory, as well as fascinating historical studies and profiles on local people and places. Our next issue will focus on city and neighborhood services, with key phone numbers and websites. In the works for future issues are articles on the needs of local schools, concerns regarding excessive filming in the neighborhood and the tension between preservation efforts and the rights of individual homeowners.



Lynne T. Jewell, Chair

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to maintain the beauty of Los Feliz by organizing monthly cleanups and graffiti paint-outs. Throughout the year we use dues money to purchase, plant and maintain historic Deodar Cedar trees which line Los Feliz Boulevard.



Margret Lohfeld, Chair

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The mission of the History Committee is to preserve Los Feliz history by surveying homes, recording oral histories, and collecting old



Marian Dodge,
Chair

photographs. The “Los Feliz Historical Survey” with details on 3,000 properties can be viewed at the reference desk of the Los Feliz Library. You can also be a part of history by donating old family snapshots taken in the Los Feliz area (we can copy and return) to: LFIA History Committee, 2648 N. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles, 90027.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

LFIA holds general membership meetings at the Wells Fargo Theatre of the Autry National Center, formerly the Autry Museum of Western Heritage throughout the year. Programs are presented on subjects of significance to the Los Feliz community. Guest speakers bring their expertise on a wide variety of subjects. Meetings

often afford the community the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the leaders of Los Angeles, elected governmental representatives as well as candidates for office and ballot propositions, especially affecting Los Feliz.



Marilyn Bush,
Chair

STREETS / TRAFFIC / PARKING COMMITTEE



Dennis Chew,
Chair

Potholes have been filled, left-hand street lights have been installed on streets north of Los Feliz Boulevard and numerous roads have been re-paved over the past year. But there are still many traffic and parking

issues facing Los Feliz residents. The big news from this committee is the establishment of the Franklin Corridor Mobility Action Committee (MAC) that will address traffic and parking woes. See accompanying *MAC* story on page 8.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



Don Snyder,
Chair

This committee orchestrates the post-receptions at LFIA’s public meetings and events. A special ad hoc committee has been established to organize plans for LFIA’s upcoming 90th anniversary community celebration to be announced soon to members.

Ongoing LFIA Committee Projects Include...



LFIA Board Members, Rulon Openshaw and Denise Wingate attend a recent photo day.

LFIA’s ongoing Photo Day continues to add to the collection. Melissa Linn scans old photos.



The LFIA plants and maintains Deodar trees along Los Feliz Boulevard,



DASH Around Los Feliz

By Marian Dodge

Have you ever been frustrated because you couldn't find a parking spot near your favorite restaurant or the Vista Theater? Have you ever tried to take the Red Line downtown to save time, money and gas but couldn't find parking anywhere near the station?

There's a perfect solution in a little-known bus route called DASH Los Feliz. The DASH Los Feliz route makes a loop from the Red Line station at Sunset Blvd., up Vermont Ave. and down Hillhurst. It runs every 15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., seven days a week.

It's a bargain too: 25 cents, or 10 cents for seniors. It's free if you have a LADOT, Metro, or Metrolink monthly pass. DASH Los Feliz also connects with DASH Hollywood, which takes you as far west as Highland, on Vermont between Sunset and Franklin.

So save yourself some hassles in and around Los Feliz, or if you're headed for the Red Line station to go somewhere. Hop on the DASH bus to your destination. It's a trip!



For more information contact www.ladottransit.com or 323-808-2273.



MAC's Back: Looks at Traffic Woes

The Mobility Action Committee (MAC) is back with a new name: Franklin Corridor Mobility Action Committee.

Its purpose is to address traffic issues and concerns relating to Los Feliz and Hollywood from Riverside Drive to LaBrea Avenue and from Mulholland Drive to Hollywood Boulevard.

One of the big issues to be discussed at an upcoming meeting is the re-opening of the Griffith Observatory.

The newly reinstated MAC was initiated by Councilmember Tom LaBonge and James Balesh of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC).

Citizen groups, besides LFIA and GGPNC, include Hollywood United Neighborhood Council, Franklin Hills Residents Association, Oaks Homeowners Association, Los Feliz Estates Owners Association, Laughlin Park Homeowners Association, Los Feliz Village Business Improvement District and city departments of Council District 4 and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

All meetings are open to the public, but only members of the associated organization can speak.

For meeting schedules, contact (323) 927-5318 or email at www.info@HollywoodUnitedNC.org or [@ggpnc.org](http://www.ggpnc.org).

Derby Up for Historic Cultural Monument Status

The Cultural Heritage Commission has voted 4-1 to recommend that the Brown Derby on Los Feliz Boulevard be designated a Historic Cultural Monument.

The next step is for the recommendation to go before the Planning and Use Committee and then on to the City Council. The proposed monument status has strong support from Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

The developer continues to revise its plans for the Hillhurst Square project. Proposed plans include retail spaces on the street level along Hillhurst Avenue. The number of condos has been reduced from 80 to 50 units.

LFIA Board representatives have met with representatives of the developer to discuss their revised plans for the site and are encouraged that they are not only



Photo courtesy LA Conservancy

prepared to acknowledge the cultural significance of the Derby by maintaining it virtually intact, but they are also striving to address concerns which LFIA has voiced regarding the impact of traffic and the importance of maintaining the "village ambiance" which is important to the organization's membership.

For more information, go to www.ggpnc.org or www.savethederby.org.

continued from front page

equipment or training is necessary to participate in Neighborhood Watch. All that is required is common sense and awareness of one's immediate surroundings.

By immediate surroundings I mean more than just one's own property. The houses on either side of your own – the properties of your neighbors should also come under your scrutiny. If you know that your neighbors are an elderly couple and you see a group of kids loitering around the property, you could reasonably conclude that something is wrong with this picture and phone the police. If you know that your neighbors are away on vacation and you see someone carrying their stereo out to a truck, you don't have to be a Mensa member to realize a crime is probably in progress.



The above examples presuppose one important fact, namely you know your neighbors well enough to recognize aberrant activity. The core of Neighborhood Watch is reaching out to your neighbors, learning their names and having their contact phone numbers, so that in the event you observe a suspicious incident or become aware of an emergency you can make a call that will protect life and property.

We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood in which a substantial number of residents either work at home or are retired. The presence in a neighborhood of people whose schedules are not "9 to 5" means that is more difficult for crimes such as daytime burglaries to occur without someone noticing the activity. If that person is also imbued with the spirit of the neighborly watchfulness, he or she will call 9-1-1 and alert the police to respond.

It is important to stress that Neighborhood Watch is not vigilantism. No civilian should attempt to do the work of trained police or fire personnel. What Neighborhood Watch is meant to accomplish is to provide many additional sets of eyes and ears to the agencies charged with the duty of protecting us. Our goal is to be part of the solution, not add to the problem.

Finally, if you would like to keep aware of crime trends in our area in order to be better equipped to preempt unlawful activity, log on the web site www.lapdcrimemaps.org. Type in your address and you will be shown a map listing the locations of crimes that have occurred in the last week within a one mile radius of your location.

As the early pioneers knew, forewarned is forearmed.

If you are interested in Neighborhood Watch for your area, contact your LAPD Senior Lead Officer. In Los Feliz, the SLO is Officer Gina Chovan. Her phone number is 213-793-0713.

Thank You, Bob Fouyer

It's not easy following in the big footsteps of an editor who served nine faithful and loyal years. Bob Fouyer was the editor of the Observer newsletter until last year when he announced to his LFIA board colleagues that he was leaving his beloved Los Feliz (where he had lived for 22 years) and moving to Palm Springs.



We thank Bob profusely for a job well done for nearly a decade. We not only miss his astute editing touch, but his unrelenting patience. We wish Bob well in his new desert digs.

And, we promise that the Observer will continue to maintain the high standards Bob established in addressing the issues and concerns of Los Feliz residents.

This membership issue looks at city and neighborhood services with key phone numbers and websites and public safety. Future issues will look at education, business, filming and architecture.

Any feedback or suggestions you might have for the *Observer*, please contact us at: www.lfia.org.

(Note from the new Observer editor Lynne T. Jewell)



Photo courtesy Gary Leonard

photo top: Friends of Yuca's gather for the 30th Anniversary shot. photo right: Tony Fanara and Dora Herrera celebrate their friendship, success, and the Los Feliz community.



Photo Kathryn Louyse

Two Los Feliz Landmarks Celebrate 30 Years

Palermo Italian Restaurant and Yuca's both commemorate 30 years as popular Los Feliz eateries. Palermo, located at 1858 Vermont Ave., is owned by Tony Fanara. Yuca's, located at 2056 Hillhurst Ave., is owned and operated by Dora and Socorro Herrera. Both restaurants were recently honored by the Los Feliz Business Improvement District and Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

SHARING HISTORY

From the LFIA's Photo Day Collection



photo, clockwise from top left
Denis LaBonge, 10,
delivered the Los Angeles
Herald Examiner near
Griffith Park Blvd. and
Marshall High School
in 1959.



Tom Overn's class at
Clifford Street Elementary
School in Edendale studied
King Arthur and the
Knights of the Round Table
in 1935. Tom is seated in
the front row, second from
the right. To his right is
Frank Garbutt (with his
hand on his knee) whose
family was prominent in
the LA Athletic Club.

From the scrapbook
of Billie Irby (circa 1940)
Elizabeth Orwig, Ladrie
Rope and Billie Irby

The first day of school at
brand new John Marshall
High School, January 26,
1931.



From a news clipping, Los
Feliz Women's Club Juniors
Ethel Lund (LeVal's sister)
President Marian Beach
and Lucille Terry mow
neighborhood lawns to
raise money to buy a \$100
War Bond.



Irene Stiny, Mrs. Ben Miller,
and Mrs. Sherman Hayes
represented the American
Cancer Society at the
Church Talent Hour, KCOP,
Ch. 13, 1955.





photo, clockwise from top left

The Greek Theatre stage, 1933, just before the John Marshall High School graduation class marches into the theatre.

An unusual sight in Los Feliz as snow covers the boulevard at Hillhurst & Inverness in 1948.



Dorothy Phares, Manna Kraus, Mrs. Los Feliz of 1956, Irene Stiny, Bernice Janssen, and Mrs. Edward Tuttle at the Mrs. Los Feliz pageant.



Physics teacher Rex Walker and Home Economics teacher Miko Tanaka walked the picket line in front of John Marshall High School in 1970. They were both back on the picket line in 1989.





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Spring Time Greetings

From

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Photo by Marian Dodge

Deodar on the Boulevard Honors John Yeomans

Friends, neighbors, and fellow LFIA board members gathered on a sunny January afternoon to celebrate the life of John Yeomans, longtime Board member and chair of the Membership Committee. (See obit in Spring '05 Observer.) Margret Lohfeld of the Beautification Committee arranged for the planting of the deodar in his memory. Friends shared favorite stories at a reception afterwards at the home of Melinda Peters.

John's deodar is located north of Los Feliz Blvd. between Hobart and Winona near his beloved Oaks neighborhood.

Los Feliz Street Fair Set for June 11th with New Hours

The 15th Annual Los Feliz Street Fair is scheduled for Sunday, June 11th along Hillhurst Avenue with longer evening

hours. The new hours are from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The LFIA, celebrating its 90th anniversary, will be among the many booths exhibiting. Be sure to stop by and visit with LFIA board members.

Featuring restaurants, community organizations, artists and musical entertainment, the fair will be set up between Franklin and Ambrose.

Denise Saker, owner of the Rosetta Stone Gallery, is serving as chair of this year's fair.

For booth information, call 323-468-1169 or visit the website losfelizvillageonline.com

Establish a High School Scholarship at JMHS

Local residents can establish scholarships at John Marshall High School for graduating seniors headed for college.

"Scholarships can be in any amount and provides the student with college expenses," says LFIA board member Margret Lohfeld, who has donated three scholarships at JMHS. "You can also decide who gets the scholarship. It could be a student with excellent grades in English or Math or a student who wants to study science or any other subject that will bring her or him closer to their goals."

Anyone interested in establishing a schol-

arship at JMHS should call Trisha Bryan, college counselor at the school. Her number is (323) 660-1440, ext. 239.

Hillside Residents Need to be Aware of Red Flag No-Parking Days



When fire is a threat on high wind days, hillside residents need to be aware of the red flag parking restrictions issued by the Los Angeles Fire Department, indicating no parking along narrow streets in hills above Los Feliz.

The new city ordinance was passed last year to ban parking on narrow, curving streets in the hills to make it easier for fire trucks to respond to a fire.

The ban only applies to the hillside roads where the signs have currently been posted. The red flag alerts are issued when there is low humidity and high winds, often during Santa Anas.

To find out when the no-parking rule is in effect: Listen for announcements on local radio/TV stations. Go to www.lafd.org/red-flag. On the website, residents can also sign up for email alerts. Call (213) 485-6275 for information. Watch for a red flag flying in front of the fire station.



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QUICK REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

Dial 911 for emergency: POLICE, FIRE, PARAMEDIC
For non-emergency police services, dial: (877) ASK-LAPD
For non-emergency city services, call 311*

The following are important telephone numbers from A-Z

Abandoned Vehicles	(800) ABANDON or (800) 222-6366 or 311
Alcoholics Anonymous	(818) 988-3001
Animal Services	(888) 452-7381 or 311
Anti-Drug Hotline (LAPD)	(800) 662-2878 or 311
Autry National Center	(323) 667-2000
Battered Women Hotline	(818) 887-6589
Bee Infestation Information	(800) 233-9279
Billboard Complaints	(888) 524-2845 or 311
Bulky Item Pick-Up	(800) 773-2489 or 311
Child Abuse Hotline	(800) 540-4000
Crisis Intervention-Suicide Prevention	(877) 727-4747
Dead Animal Pick-Up	(800) 773-2489 or 311
Domestic Violence County Hotline	(800) 978-3600
Drug Tip (Anonymous)	(800) 662-BUST or (800) 662-2678 or 311
DWP Hotline (water/power problems)	(800) DIAL-DWP or (800) 3425-397
Gas Leaks	(800) 427-2200
Graffiti Removal	(213) 847-0511 or 311
Homework Hotline	(800) 527-8839
Los Feliz Library	(323) 913-4710
Noise Nuisance	877-ASK-LAPD
Potholes	(800) 996-2489
Red Flag No-Parking Alerts	(213) 485-6275 or 311
Illegal Signs	(213) 485-3711
Missed Trash Pick-Up	(800) 773-2489 or 311
Vehicles Illegally "For Sale"	(213) 847-3136
Los Angeles Zoo	(323) 644-4200

POLICE DEPARTMENT LAPD Northeast Division

Capt. Morris Smith, Commander	(213) 485-2549
Sr. Lead Officer Gina Chovan	(213) 793-0713

Council District 4

Councilmember Tom LaBonge	(213) 485-3337
Email: Tom.LaBonge@lacity.org	
Field Deputy Patty Malone	(818) 755-7630
Email: Patricia.malone@lacity.org	

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa	(213) 978-0781
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Transportation

MTA Bus & Rail Timelines: www.metro.net or call 800-COMMUTE
DASH Schedules/Routes: www.ladottransit.com or call (323) 808-2213

Websites

Crime in Your Area: www.lapdcrimemaps.org
Friends of the Los Angeles River: www.folar.org
Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council: www.ggpnc.org
Griffith Observatory: www.griffithobservatory.org
Hollywood United Neighborhood Council: www.HollywoodUnitedNC.org
Los Angeles City Hall: www.lacity.org
Los Angeles Public Library: www.lapl.org
Los Feliz Improvement Association: www.lfia.org
LA River Revitalization Master Plan: www.lariver.org
Lost Pets: www.laanimalservices.com
Red Flag No Parking Restrictions: www.lafd.org

Do You Know Who Your Elected Officials Are?

There are numerous ways to find out the names of your elected officials on all levels of government.

A useful website to determine your federal and state representatives is www.vote-smart.org. You must use your seven digit zip code.

Here's a lineup of the various elected officials who represent the Los Feliz community:

U.S. Senate

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer

U.S. House of Representatives

(depending on your zip code)

Rep. Adam Schiff
[District 29]
Rep. Xavier Becerra
[District 31]
Rep. Diane E. Watson
[District 33]

California Senate:

Sen. Jack A. Scott
[District 21]
Sen. Kevin Murray
[District 26]

California Assembly:

Assemblyman Paul Koretz
[District 42]
Assemblyman Dario J. Frommer
[District 43]

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor
[District 3]

Los Angeles City Hall

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Councilmember Tom LaBonge
[District 4]

*311 is a citywide toll-free number that provides access to information to more than 1500 city non-emergency services. Calls are answered 24-7. The service is available in English and Spanish, and in more than 150 other languages through the use of language translation services.

The Los Feliz Improvement Association

S I N C E 1 9 1 6

One of the Oldest Neighborhood Associations of its Kind in the Country

We Need Your Support

Dear Los Feliz Members, Neighbors and Friends

The Los Feliz Improvement Association has been committed to maintaining and improving our beautiful neighborhood for the past 89 years. Now is the time that we ask you to help us by joining or renewing your membership.

Just a few reasons why **YOU should join if you are not already a member:**

- The Zoning Committee spends many hours in the arduous process to uphold the City's Building and Safety codes that permit the defining characteristics of Los Feliz to stay alive. We remain vigilant to prevent any late night activities that harm the peace and quiet of neighborhood residents. We closely monitor film shooting permits that impede traffic or disturb the peace of the community.
- The Beautification Committee works hard to maintain the beauty of Los Feliz by organizing monthly cleanup/graffiti paint-outs along major streets and around our schools. Throughout the year we use your dues to purchase, plant and maintain the historic Deodar Cedar trees that line Los Feliz Blvd. Aside from their beauty and helping absorb traffic noise, the trees are an important factor that helps prevent the City from widening Los Feliz Blvd. to accommodate more traffic through our neighborhood.
- The Traffic, Streets, Parking and Lighting Committee had been working with the City's Mobility Action Committee (MAC), which was previously convened by the Department of Transportation to deal with traffic problems in Los Feliz and Griffith Park. This past year the committee was inactivated by the City. Our committee is continuing our efforts to have the MAC Committee restored. The intersection of Los Feliz Blvd. and Riverside for re-signalization by the City is being closely monitored.
- The LFIA Schools Committee continues to be committed to our neighborhood schools. Our members assist with campus beautification, support specialized academic opportunities and liaison with administrators and elected officials regarding traffic and safety issues around neighborhood campuses.
- The Parks Committee is dedicated to preserving Griffith Park and protecting it from those who view it as a vast vacant land beaconing for development. Griffith Park is a habitat to a variety of mammals, reptiles and birds rarely, if ever, seen in other parts of the City. It is also home to world-class museums and cultural institutions, as well as abundant recreational facilities. Balancing all of these within the Park is a delicate task.
- You will receive quarterly Los Feliz Observer newsletters to keep you abreast of what is happening in your community.
- As a member of LFIA you will be invited to attend our General Meetings, which are held quarterly at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. In the past, topics have ranged from: The History of Griffith Park and Griffith G. Griffith, William Mulholland and his legacy to Los Feliz and Los Angeles, programs on the Zoo and Observatory, ballot issues, our schools, safety and water resources for the Park. Our noted speakers have included: the Mayor, City Attorney, Chief of Police and City councilpersons.
- Building a true sense of "Neighborhood."

**If You Are Not a Member of Your Neighborhood Association,
Please Join Today. Membership Envelope/Application is Enclosed.**

TIRED OF THE PAIN? WANT TO FEEL BETTER?

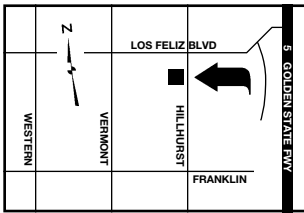


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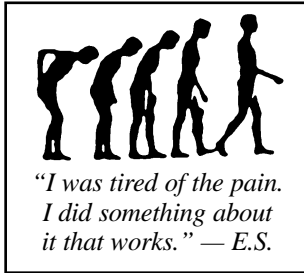


Photo by Leslie Dee Weinberg

Senior Lead Officers Gina Chovan (Los Feliz) and Al Polhonki (Franklin Hills) at a recent Los Feliz event.

Officer Gina Chovan of the Los Angeles Police Department has served as the Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for Los Feliz, Greater Griffith Park and Atwater Village for the past two years. She and several of her LAPD colleagues recently appeared at a panel discussion on crime, sponsored by LFIA, at the Autry National Center.

“Talk to your neighbors. If you see something unusual, report it.”

A 13-year veteran with the LAPD, Officer Chovan spoke afterward with the Observer providing sound, common-sense advice.

When talking about crime in the area, particularly home and car burglaries, she suggests to residents, “Talk to your neighbors. If you see something unusual, report it. That’s why the Neighborhood Watch program is important. Write

license plates down. Also remember to lock your doors and windows. With the recent burglaries, 67 percent resulted from open door or windows.”

And, she suggests that people with alarm systems, use their alarm in their residences and their automobiles.

She did say that “elder distraction burglaries” continue to be a problem. In these incidences, elderly residents are often followed home and then approached by an alleged service provider, who then rob the home. Another crime occurring over the past month, she said, is purse snatching.

But, as she said, the most important thing to remember is to “talk to your neighbors” and be aware of anything unusual happening in your neighborhood.

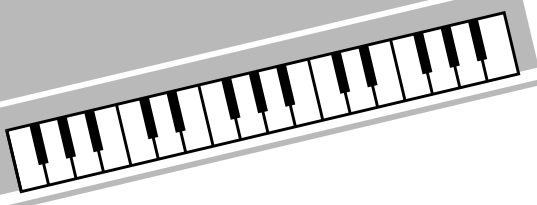
Senior Lead Officer Gina Chovan’s telephone number is 213-793-0713.

IN LOS FELIZ...

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The Astronomers Monument has been restored to its proper place on the front lawn. This monument was funded by Public Works of Art Projects in cooperation with the Los Angeles Park Commission to create jobs for unemployed artisans and skilled laborers, due to the depression. The sundial has also been refurbished and is now repositioned.

LFIA and FOTO board member, Chris Laib poses by the James Dean bust at the Griffith Observatory. The refurbished monument has been moved so photos can now be taken with the Hollywood sign visible in the background when the observatory reopens in the fall.

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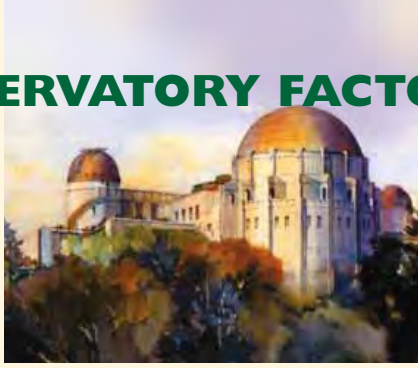
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OBSERVATORY FACTOIDS



A LITTLE HISTORY

- Observatory was donated by Col. Griffith J. Griffith.
- Opened in May 14, 1935, the Griffith Observatory celebrated its 70th birthday in 2005.
- The Beaux Arts building with its Art Deco elements was designed by John C. Austin and F.M. Ashley.
- Called Griffith Observatory, not Griffith Park Observatory.
- Only public institution in California with a science museum, public planetarium, public telescope and solar telescope.
- Free admission to the observatory. Tickets are required for the star show in the planetarium.
- Observatory is situated 1135 feet above sea level.
- Dr. Edward Krupp, the Observatory's director since 1976, is the city's official astronomer

RENOVATION & EXPANSION

- \$93 million, 35,000 square-foot expansion, the bulk taking place beneath the Observatory front lawn. The Observatory has been closed since January 6, 2002.
- Renovation includes a state-of-the-art newly named Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater; 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater and an education center.
- Architect Brenda Levin, a Los Feliz resident, was the restoration architect.
- The Hugo Ballin celestial murals in the rotunda were painstakingly restored with Q-tips and water saline, a la Michelangelo on scaffolding.
- The old snack bar is gone, replaced by Cafe at the End of the Universe, catered by Wolfgang Puck.
- New outdoor restrooms for hikers.
- Observatory rooftop terrace accessible to the disabled for the first time.

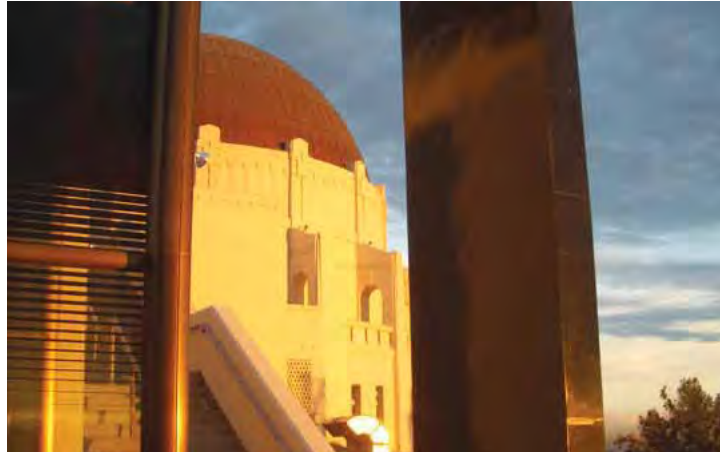
SUPPORT GROUP

- FOTO: Friends of the Observatory raised a third of the money for the current (and only) renovation. (The remaining money came from voter-approved bonds and the city.)
- The nonprofit organization was created to support and promote the Observatory in 1978 by Deborah Griffith, the daughter-in-law of the founder.

PHOTO OPP

- The monument of James Dean has been moved slightly so photos can be taken with the Hollywood sign over the shoulder of the famous actor from *Rebel Without a Cause*.

For more information, go to the observatory website:
www.griffithobservatory.org



Photos and vintage postcard from www.griffithobservatory.org website.



Photo by Robert W. Chase from www.griffithobs.org website



Bust of James Dean at the Observatory. See photo story on page 18.

With the reopening of the Griffith Observatory in a few short months comes the unveiling of the refurbished Hugo Ballin murals.

These murals celebrate classical mythology themes and venerate the advancement of science throughout the ages.

For Halloween in 1955, Nonnie Openshaw and her brother Rulon dressed in cowboy outfits. More from the LFIA photo collection can be seen in this issue of the *Observer*.



LOS FELIZ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Los Felix **Observer**

P.O. Box 29395, Los Angeles, CA 90029