

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings

As this edition of the Overview hits the streets, many members of your FHRA are hard at work improving the community. The eleven board members and numerous residents have been involved in projects that have had a direct effect upon the residents. In the last few months we witnessed the opening of the Los Feliz Branch Public Library. With fanfare, balloons, and political dignitaries, the library opening was wonderful. Our librarian, Pearl, maintains a close relationship with FHRA and will provide us a beautiful meeting space for future events. Board members Don Waldrop and Charley Mims were each instrumental in the success of the Library Opening Gala that raised tens of thousands of dollars to The Friends of the Library. We look forward to planning and participating in future fund raising events that will support our area library.

With the Spring and Summer months comes a great deal of construction and cleaning in the city and the hill. The city has been busy re-piping along Cumberland, Sanborn, and Myra Avenues. This is part of a long term renewal project and will eventually end up with a paving project along these streets. FHRA is constantly reminding the city leaders that the Franklin Hills area is sorely in need of streets resurfacing due to years of neglect. Slowly, they are answering our pleas and we hope to see results within the next year. Along with the city activities are the residential remodeling projects. It is important to look out for your neighbors when you are planning projects. Because of our narrow streets, temporary dumpsters often lead to serious traffic and parking problems. Please let your neighbors know of your plans so they can plan accordingly.

In recent months, FHRA was surprised by the donation of stock shares by Phil Lyons. Long a resident of the hill, Phil donated twenty-five shares of Media One stock to our organization, taking advantage of our 501(c)(3) status. This donation has added a great deal to our financial reserves and will assist us in our future project plans (see article). We hope more residents will take advantage of this tax deduction as a way to enhance the organization.

In the last edition of the Overview a letter to the editor focused upon noise issues at Lycee International de Los Angeles (a.k.a. LILA). Residents surrounding the school were increasingly concerned about the noise during recess as well as long-term construction impacting upon the area. The response from many neighbors was sharp and strong. Many defended the school as another "jewel" on the hill. FHRA immediately set to meet with the complainants to clarify neighbor concerns. As a member of the board of directors for LILA, I fell into a unique position as a leader in both camps.

In discussing the matter with LILA, there was a need to discern the legal issues and options to circumvent violation of the conditional use permit (CUP). I contacted Rene Weitzer, zoning coordinator from Councilman John Ferraro's office, to instruct everyone about city regulations. Over the course of approximately two months representative of everyone involved met and worked out an agreement that will address the issues. The agreement includes (1) consistent retuse and tandscape management along the school perimeter, (2) removal of the temporary trailer along Sanborn Avenue, (3) development of new classrooms away from residential property, and (4) repositioning of playground areas to reduce recess noise. Much of this will be implemented during the Summer months. LILA is situated on city leased land and they hope to purchase the property in the future. LILA is committed to working with the neighborhood. LILA invited me to sit on their board with intent to improve commu-



Adam M. Weisman, President

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Continued on page 8