



Argyle Civic Association

A Volunteer's Volunteer

By Laura Dodson

When I first met Jeffery Traill, I was cleaning the off ramp near the Franklin Avenue and Vine Street southbound exit. It was early on a Saturday morning about 1 1/2 year ago. He came over and introduced himself as another CalTrans Adopt-a-Highway volunteer with a permit further east, closer to Beachwood Drive. I liked him immediately, and all the other volunteers soon realized that this gentle man could, would and does make a great addition to the cause of neighborhood clean up.

Tireless in his efforts at graffiti removal, he can be seen repainting and restoring the CalTrans original color scheme on the walls, doing his best to beautify the freeway on ramps and off-ramps.

With the greatest respect, I call him "Top Dog." His ability to focus on neighborhood clean up, whether it is graffiti, unsightly sign removal, weeds, or litter, is inspirational. "If I didn't have to work for a living, I'd be out here all the time," says Jeffery. He is always ready to champion a worthwhile endeavor, especially when it concerns cleaner streets in his neighborhood. Any organization would be blessed to have someone as conscientious as Jeffery. He is truly a "volunteer's volunteer".

George Abrahams, CalTrans permit holder for Franklin-Hollywood Hills Community Council, sees Jeffery as a complement to our group for all

the tasks at hand. He is invaluable "when it comes to seeing the details that wind up being very useful". Our cleaning advanced from the "Stone Age", from just using rudimentary tools like hand clippers and brooms, to adding weed whackers and street sweepers. This happened thanks to Jeffery's insistence on finding the best tool for the job.

Jeffery's route to work is down the Vine Street corridor, stopping to pick up his morning coffee at Pavillion's. After he saw the amateur video of the over-zealous bird feeder dropping three 25 pound bags of seed on the triangle at Argyle Avenue and Yucca Street, he was inspired. He found several feeding locations south of Sunset Boulevard all the way to Melrose Avenue.

When he realized the scope of the feeding, he made numerous phone calls to local merchants in the affected area to advise them of the hazards of having pigeon feeding close to their respective businesses. Giant Dollar store, one of the feeding spots on Vine Street, stopped selling bird feed to the offender.

Following his heart, he made an initial contact with PETA. Through his efforts, we were informed that their position is that feeding any wild animal is cruel. The large flock of pigeons has become artificially inflated because these birds are being fed. These birds are no longer able to fend for themselves.

PETA and PICAS will be



Jeffery Traill

joining the neighborhood's efforts to control this pigeon flock. Most people know of PETA – People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, but you

may not know PICAS – Pigeon Control Advisory Service. This organization has worked wonders in the UK, reducing large flocks of pigeons by half in four years. Their approach is very comprehensive in nature, inducing businesses and city officials as well as the general public to cooperate and make a difference.

"I am a bird lover" says Jeffery. "It's the excessive amount of feeding that is upsetting nature's delicate balance and creating problems".

On numerous occasions, our volunteers have enjoyed his cooking. He embellishes on tried and true recipes from his mother's repertoire of Michigan farm specialties. Always, he has a pleasant demeanor, a kind word and a smile. You may see him as he regularly runs up Beachwood Avenue towards the Hollywood sign.

Jeffery Traill is an artist,

evident in his neighborhood work that can be seen in a number of locations in Hollywood. One of his first public volunteer projects was the Wattles Gardens sign in March, 2005 where he was a hobby gardener. He redesigned the sign for the Hollywoodland Homeowners Association that hangs just outside The Beachwood Market, adding a tiled roof to mirror the properties nearby. The argylecivic.org sign which can be seen atop the bulletin board at Argyle and Franklin Avenues is another example of his handiwork. Soon he hopes to restore the wooden Beachwood Village sign.

Last year, Jeffery became a member of Argyle Civic Association. In recognition of his efforts, Argyle Civic Association has named Jeffery Traill Volunteer of the Year 2006. An awards celebration is being planned.

EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

Lot of Questions -- No Honest Answers

By Richard MacNaughten

Asking these questions is like bouncing an echo off the moon—the chances of a reply are quite slim. Since I am an optimist, I shall ask these questions even though the City of Los Angeles is receding from its people at light speed. Just maybe in the far distant future, we will receive an echo of an answer.

Why is it too expensive to purchase Florentine Gardens for a fire station that will serve about 30,000 people, but the City has plenty of money to buy similar property about 500 feet west for 50 homeless families?

Why does the City claim that the cost of land at Florentine Gardens is \$200 per square foot when the CRA's 2005 study put the land value at \$137 on this same block?

On July 25, 2005, Councilman Garcetti wrote to CRA that he supported the CRA Gower homeless project. On July 27, 2005 he passed it through his Housing Committee, and a few days later on August 2, 2005, Councilman Garcetti secured full City Council approval for the CRA Gower

Housing project. Yet, in over three (3) years Councilman Garcetti was unable to have the Florentine Gardens approved as the site for Fire Station 82. Why did the purchase of the Gower property take one week while Garcetti could not deliver a fire station in over three years? Does Garcetti have some other motivations which he has failed to disclose to the people?

Why does the CRA want to purchase the Florentine Gardens for a high-rise when the City just decided (Tuesday, April 25, 2006) that it is too expensive to buy Florentine Gardens for Fire Station 82?

Does the City really expect the cost of land to decrease in the next few years?

If the Florentine Gardens is too expensive for the fire station why is it not too expensive for a CRA project?

If the Florentine Gardens is too expensive for the fire station why is it not too expensive for a private developer?

What does "too expensive" mean when you are buying land that should serve as a fire station for the next 100 to 150 years?

Why are Councilmen

Garcetti and LaBonge promoting more and more high-rise developments while allowing Fire Station 82 to die?

Is Hollywood safer without a fire station?

Why do Councilmen Garcetti and LaBonge now favor a fire station one-half the size of the proposed Fire Station 82? Is Hollywood shrinking? Is population density decreasing? Is it a myth that between 3,000 and 5,000 apartments and condos are being built in and around the Pantages Theater? If not, why is the size of Fire Station 82 being cut in half?

What financial gain do Councilman Garcetti's friends have in the CRA taking the Florentine Gardens?

Does Councilman LaBonge have any financial gain in Fire Station 82's not being built at Florentine Gardens?

What personal agendas were Councilmen Garcetti and LaBonge advancing when meeting secretly behind closed doors to axe Fire Station 82?

Lacking a grand jury investigation, we will probably never hear a truthful answer to any of these questions.

BEACHWOOD CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Summer Meeting

Thursday, July 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Village Coffee Shop

2695 N. Beachwood Drive (at Belden)

Bring your neighbors and concerns about our canyon. Refreshments will be served

THE BEACHWOOD CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAILING ADDRESS: 2751 WESTSHIRE DR., HOLLYWOOD, CA 90068, 323-462-1514

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW NOW!

Date: _____

NEW RENEWAL

Name: _____ e-mail: _____ Tel: (H) _____

Address: _____ Tel: (W) _____

Issues of interest to me are:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin-Hollywood Hills Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |

Other _____

Dues are \$20.00 per household per year and \$10.00 for an apartment rental. AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$

You cannot see no evil, hear no evil without you yourself doing evil.—Richard MacNaughten, regarding how inactivity does not an innocent make.