

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 35, Issue 1

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



January-February 2012

Membership Drive - Our Resident Members are the Lifeblood of SHPOA

By Dave DePinto

Shadow Hills Property Owners' Association (SHPOA) is a non-profit organization authorized by the U.S. Government (IRS). While many people know SHPOA due to this newsletter and our daily email information service, our overall mission is to preserve, protect and promote our country environment and lifestyle.

SHPOA formed in the early 1960s when potential routes for the 210 Freeway threatened to cut through the heart of our residential neighborhoods and destroy all sense of community. SHPOA led the way in preserving our unique, country lifestyle within the sprawling City of LA. SHPOA has lived on for about 50 years (that's a long time--even in Shadow Hills) to preserve the character of our community through the hard work of passionate volunteers.

In 2012, SHPOA will make a strong effort to increase its membership. SHPOA represents ALL of Shadow Hills - every resident, every household and every neighborhood. Shadow Hills has about 2,200 households, so you may find it surprising that in 2011 there were only 175 dues-paying members in SHPOA. That's less than 10% of eligible households, despite a very low membership cost!

In these tough economic times and in a city the size of LA, we realize more than ever that our resident members are our lifeblood. Increased numbers of members means more passion, more brainpower, more ideas, more volunteers, more voting power, and more resources—to serve Shadow Hills.

As we start this membership drive, we will try hard via our newsletter, email outreach and website to inform you about the benefits and value that SHPOA provides to ALL of Shadow Hills in terms of quality of life, public safety and environmental protection, and economic return on your home investment.

To our current members we say thank you and please renew your membership now. To the rest of Shadow Hills, we ask you to take a minute to review the benefits provided by SHPOA, fill out the application form on page 3 of this newsletter or on our website (www.shpoa.us) and send it along with your \$25 dues payment today!

Note: SHPOA's Board voted to raise membership dues from \$20 to \$25 at its December 2011 meeting to help offset the cost of increased membership services.

Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

Preserve Country Lifestyle

- ✓ Fight for code enforcement to protect residential zoning
- ✓ Provide legal counsel and referrals
- ✓ Expand trail system, open space and wildlife corridors
- ✓ Support equestrians and equestrian organizations
- ✓ Advocacy with government and law enforcement agencies

Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

- ✓ Initiate Neighborhood Watch groups
- ✓ Liaison to local police and fire departments
- ✓ Assist animal health and care
- ✓ Reduce speeding, unsafe driving and trash truck traffic
- ✓ Community beautification and clean-ups
- ✓ Partner with real estate community

Promote Shadow Hills

- ✓ Market unique lifestyle and real estate properties
- ✓ Conduct SHPOA membership drives
- ✓ Hold general member meetings with guest speakers, helpful information and entertainment
- ✓ Bi-monthly newsletter
- ✓ Daily email outreach and information
- ✓ Website information
- ✓ Special events and signage

Shadow Hills Real Estate Forum – January SHPOA Member Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 7 pm, Tierra del Sol (9919 Sunland Boulevard)

For the first time ever, at its January general member meeting, SHPOA will host a real estate forum focused on properties in Shadow Hills. Local realtors and real estate experts will discuss and answer questions about local property values, how to buy and sell your home, and how to enhance the value of your home and real estate investment. Whether you plan to sell soon or to stay forever, you need to know what's happening with real estate in your neighborhood and how to protect your investment! Please join us.

2012 SHPOA Board Members

Executive Officers

President: Dave De Pinto 352-7618
7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com

Vice President: Sue Mansis 554-8113
suemansis@shpoa.us

Executive Secretary: Linda Fullerton, 246-8877
linda@wrightcolor.com

Recording Secretary: Katherine Dayen
Dayenight1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kellie Kozonis
kozonis@ca.rr.com

Membership: Eric Stein 949-280-1339
eric@shpoa.us

Appointed Officers

Land Use: Bill Eick (W) 248-0050
(H) 353-6191
weeick@pacbell.net

Trails: James & Andrea Gutman
353-5974 - jgutman1@ca.rr.com

Special Projects: Vacant

Neighborhood Watch: Sue Mansis 554-8113
suemansis@shpoa.us

Outreach and Lost/Found Pets: Terry Ortiz
shpoa@shpoa.us

Webmaster: Carlos George
webmaster@shpoa.us

Newsletter: Colleen Caamano 209-4972
advertise.shpoa@yahoo.com:

Editor and Article Collection: Dave De Pinto 352-7618
7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com

Ad Collection: Colleen Caamano 209-4972
advertise.shpoa@yahoo.com

Layout: Mike McCoy 273-4195
mccoyart@yahoo.com

Historian: Vacant

Hospitality: Martha Hankins 951-1669
mhankins@ca.rr.com

SHPOA's Mailing Address: P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041

SHPOA's E-mail Address: shpoa@shpoa.us

Website: www.shpoa.us

Printer: Wright Color Graphics
Linda Fullerton, 246-8877
linda@wrightcolor.com

Senior Lead Police Officers:

Sunland: Larry Martinez 634-0705
31179@lapd.lacity.org

Sun Valley: Michelle Rodriguez 634-0755
31020@lapd.lacity.org

**Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC):
www.ftdnc.org**

*West Shadow Hills/
Stonehurst:* Terry Kaiser
hdconcerns@ca.rr.com
Mary Ann Geyer
maryanngeyer@aol.com

East Shadow Hills/East LVT: Dale Gibson 968-8670
Mike Carpenter 470-5235
lamikec@yahoo.com

**2012 Board of Directors
Elections Results**

Elections for the SHPOA board were held at the November 2011 general meeting. We want to thank all the people who attended the meeting and voted including several new members and several people who have volunteered to assist SHPOA via committee work. The new board will be installed in January.

All members of the community are again invited to consider being a candidate for one of the Appointed Board positions, which will be filled by the new board early in the new year. The appointed positions include **Land Use, Trails, Neighborhood Watch, Outreach, Newsletter, Special Projects, Historian and Webmaster (and possible new position of Equestrian Liaison)**. If you are interested in helping SHPOA in any of these areas, please contact Dave De Pinto (818-352-7618; 7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com).

Here is a summary of the elections:

- **President - Dave De Pinto** (formerly Vice President and will continue as newsletter editor)
- **Vice President - Sue Mansis** (will continue as Neighborhood Watch coordinator)
- **Executive Secretary - Linda Fullerton** (prior SHPOA president)
- **Recording Secretary - Katherine Dayen** (current recording secretary)
- **Treasurer - Kellie Kozonis** (formerly membership director)
- **Thanks to "retiring" Treasurer Gerry Kruger** for his many years of service
- **Membership Director - Eric Stein** (new member and local Neighborhood Watch volunteer)

Elektra Kruger, who has served multiple terms as SHPOA President and who devotes countless hours serving our community, will remain with the Board as Immediate Past President. **We all owe Elektra a BIG thank you!**



**Assessed Liens
Payment Plans**

by Elektra Kruger

The Department of Building and Safety routinely requests the City Council to confirm liens against properties for various code violations, non-compliance and inspection fees. Often property owners cannot afford these fees as they can, at times, amount to several thousand dollars. For this reason, in mid-October 2011, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl presented a Motion to City Council asking the Department of Building and Safety, the City's Chief Administrative Officer and the City Attorney to explore options for payment plans in order to assist residents in making payments to the City. The Motion was referred to both the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee and the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. SHPOA will keep you up-dated on the progress of this Motion.

Neighborhood Watch Update - Empowering Shadow Hills

By Sue Mansis, Neighborwood Watch Coordinator

As Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, "old timers" often tell me how their Shadow Hills was virtually "crime free." These days, unidentified service trucks and random cars cruising our streets leave us wondering who might be "casing" the area. We heartily welcome visitors to our community, but it's changing.... houses selling to owners we don't meet or rented to tenants who are not "invested" in Shadow Hills; equestrians endangered by vehicles disregarding speed limits; scavengers rummaging our recycling bins and transients meandering through with backpacks and shopping carts.

The world IS changing, but Shadow Hills can push back. However, it takes a neighborhood to protect a community - a unified, caring and committed "YOU" banning together to protect your streets! The solution is NOT more walls and fences, but developing trusted communication and care for our neighbors' safety as well as our own. This spirit of care and friendship is what makes our community so unique.

As Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, I try to follow up on all incidents and regularly interface with authorities to inform them of what's happening here, even the crimes our residents don't want to report. But one person cannot do it alone; we need block captains! Neighbor to neighbor communication is the ONLY way this program works. Many may have access to SHPOA's complementary email, however when something happens in real time, picking up the phone to alert your street is the best way to scare off or deter a crime. This is the vital job of a block captain - regularly staying in touch with neighbors continually proves to heighten awareness of suspicious changes or activities on their street(s).

What additionally can we do to show our solidarity against crime? Picking up trash around properties on our street, proactively calling 311 immediately when bulky items are dumped, adding extra outdoor lighting, locking cars and valuables out of sight, closing garages and keeping our lawns neat and clean...all indicate a community which cares! Your street needs a block captain... won't you consider stepping up this year? Contact me and I will be glad to help (818) 554-8113; suemansis@shpoa.us.

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Update

Shadow Hills Preschool is excited to announce the re-opening of our class for 2 year-olds! When we recently experienced a drop in enrollment, we put a hold on our 2 year-old class. We now have families ready to enroll their young children and we are set to begin a new class of 2's!

We will welcome our new families with an introduction and orientation day on Friday, December 9. We officially begin the class on January 4, 2012. Our 2's are our youngest students. We do have a few openings so if you are interested (or maybe you know someone who would be interested) we would love to hear from you and we invite you to come by and see the class in progress. Hours are 9:00 a.m. until noon Monday-Wednesday-Friday.

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's time to join SHPOA for the 2012 calendar year!

Your support and participation are vital to the preservation of our rural community.

Membership = \$25
Newsletter only = \$10

Donations are always gratefully received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

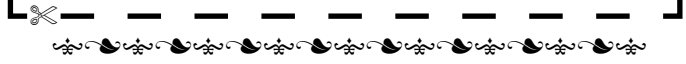
City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check one: New Renewal Newsletter Only

Please detach this form and mail it with your check to:
SHPOA - P.O. Box 345, Sunland CA 91041-0345



Our three and four year olds continue the year with a theme on favorite books! Teachers love this theme because they can choose the children's books they love most and build lessons around them. January also focuses on winter fun and the changes winter can bring.

February's theme is all about being creative. While we stress creativity all year through, in February we really get creative. All our lessons focus on bringing out the artist and creative ideas in our young students. >>>

If you want to know more about the fun we have at Shadow Hills Preschool, please call us at 818-363-4317 or stop by the school. We are located at the corner of Sunland Blvd. and Johanna Ave.

Golf Pros on Horseback? Neighhh!

By Jackie Houchin



On October 14, the new community-built Horse Corral at the Angeles National Golf Club was officially opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring representatives from Councilman Krekorian's office and the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce, among others. Councilman Krekorian's office presented certificates to the golf club and to the fifteen people who donated materials, expertise, and hours of physical labor to complete the project (a sign inside the corral lists their names). The corral came about due to requirements in the Conditional Use Permit for ANGC to provide "a hitching rail" for the equestrian public to use.



CD2 and, in particular, Representative Mary Benson, came up with the corral idea and asked stable owner Dale Gibson to draw up the design. After that the community stepped in and did the work which has been described as being above and beyond what was expected and a real labor of love.

The corral is a three-rail welded-pipe enclosure, approximately 24 x 42 feet, with a raised bed of decomposed granite. It has two self-closing gates for horses, a convenient step-through gate for owners, a central lamp post, mounting block, and water tubs. A trash barrel with rakes and shovels remind owners to pick up after their horses.

The corral, which will accommodate fifteen to eighteen



not loose), is open from Foothill Mounted Patrol, allowing owners to see their horses from inside.

Already riders are looking forward to using the new facility. They mention how easy it will be to "ride over for lunch."

Clearly both ANGC and the equine community will benefit from this new addition.

Department of Animal Services Hearings

By Elektra Kruger

In early June 2011, the Office of the City Attorney submitted a Draft Ordinance which would streamline the hearing process, reduce administrative costs and authorize the Department of Animal Services to conduct Hearings even if the dog of interest is not licensed. Among the new provisions of the Ordinance, if approved, would be that a Restricted Dog Permit with additional terms and conditions may be imposed in lieu of license revocation if a Hearing Officer determines that a dog biting, attacking or injuring another person or animal has done so as a result of improper or negligent training or handling and that the owner has been determined to be able and willing to properly train, handle and maintain the dog of interest.

In addition to an owner being fined for any civil or criminal penalties, a Hearing Officer has numerous other options to ensure public safety. Presently the Department does not hold Hearings for unlicensed dogs since the current code provides only for actions against licensed dogs.

The Restricted Dog Permit would cost \$120 to defray costs of inspections by Animal Control Officers and may be revoked if the owner fails to comply with various terms related to the dogs' keeping, care, control and health. Such a Permit will not be an option if the dog of interest has fatally injured a human being or to a dog owner if he/she has a history of ever having owned a dog that has fatally injured a human being.

The requirement for a Restricted Dog Permit may be rescinded by the Animal Services General Manager if the owner can demonstrate that he/she has successfully taken measures removing potential danger to the public. The Department would have the right to amend or even revoke a Restricted Dog Permit and dog license if the owner fails to comply with terms and conditions of a Restricted Dog Permit and the dog will either have to be surrendered to the custody of the Animal Services department or even ordered removed from the City of Los Angeles entirely.

Flushable?

by Elektra Kruger

In mid-February 2010, California Assembly member Huffman introduced a Bill stating that on or after January 1, 2012, any product or package labeled as flushable, sewer safe, septic safe or any similar term must have been tested and certified by a third party substantiating the validity of the claim. If it fails to meet certain specified criteria fines up to \$2,500 would be applicable. These products include such things as cleaning wipes, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products, diapers, diaper liners, dog poop bags, wash cloths, condoms, etc.

There is currently no real definition of what constitutes a “flushable” consumer product so companies create their own definition of “flushability” and neither consumers nor wastewater agencies have any real means of assessing their true “flushability.” Without these definitions we end up dealing with increased risk of non-flushable products being flushed down the toilet leading to the need for costly plumbing repairs and maintenance problems for sanitary sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants.

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) member agencies have increasingly had to deal with inappropriate items entering the waste stream. The lack of any real standards to define “flushable” along with the increased popularity of using so-called “flushable” products has led to major disruption in many waste treatment facilities. For example, so-called “flushable wipes” do not disperse like tissue or toilet paper but have a tendency to rope or “rag” together thereby clogging waste treatment debris screens, tangling around grinders and obstructing pumps even in the most modern of treatment facilities.

To prevent non-dispersable or poorly dispersable products from entering our sewer system and potentially causing overflows, the Legislature intends to define “flushable” as any product that can be safely flushed down a low-consumption toilet system of 1.6 gallons or less which can easily clear, in one flush, through a four inch drain line - that meaning the product must disperse at the same rate as double-ply toilet paper after one flush and is biodegradable.

There is considerable discussion and disagreement between various industry and consumer groups on this legislation and how best to implement such testing and labeling of products. It is likely there will be further evolution of this legislation as experts better understand the causes of and explore various solutions. *To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.*



LA Animal Services Stats

By Elektra Kruger

The general economy has appeared to play a major role in increasing numbers of animals being placed in the hands of the Los Angeles Animal Services Department. Further, there is a notable decrease in the number of animals being adopted. Worse, there is a decline in the number of spay/neuter procedures being performed, which also results in an increase in the number of animals that are ultimately euthanized for lack of space and time available at City shelters.

Reversing these trends will require solutions coming from the community, animal care advocates and the City's Animal Services Department. To begin this process, in early November 2011, Councilmember Dennis Zine presented a Motion to City Council asking that they direct the Animal Services Department to report to the City Council the actual number of animals that have been received by the Department, the number and type of services needed and the current euthanasia rate as compared to that of recent years.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you abreast of any progress on this Motion.



How to Micro-Chip Your Pets

By Chris Arlington

First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Megan Bamford for her donation to SHPOA of a microchip reader. If you find a dog or horse and want to check for a chip please call me at 818-353-5534.

We have successfully reunited many dogs with chips back to their homes. We have run into a slight problem. A lot of the dogs have a chip that has never been registered. You have to send in the paperwork yourself and that is not always made clear.

Please take the time to call in to your chip company (in the Los Angeles area it is probably AVID) and make sure the chip has been registered to you.



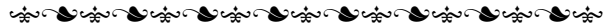
New Ordinance re: Dog Barking in L.A.

In November 2011, the LA City Council voted unanimously to impose fines on dog owners and to set standards related to dog barking after complaints about a backlog of cases, a slow review process and lack of teeth to the city's barking ordinance finally prompted action.

Under the changes, dog owners would face fines starting at \$250 for a first offense, \$500 for a second and \$1,000 for a third if a hearing conducted by the Department of Animal Services determines that a dog barks too much. But exactly how much barking is too much?

The changes approved in the 12-0 vote would make that clearer to animal services officials. A dog's barking would be considered excessive if it continued for 10 minutes or more, or intermittently for 30 minutes or more within a three-hour period. In addition to the new fines, the changes would give animal services officials more power in dealing with owners of unlicensed dogs. Under the old ordinance, last amended about 20 years ago, hearings did not proceed against residents who did not have licensed dogs, essentially stalling city action. There were also no fines.

The debate will continue as there are impacts on working-class neighborhoods where residents have dogs to deter break-ins and other property crimes, and it can often be debated whether a dog is the problem or if neighborhood influences such as gardeners, walkers, joggers, mailmen, cyclists, other neighbors or other animals lead to the dog's barking. Warnings will be issued before fines are imposed. The amended ordinance is expected to be signed by the Mayor and take effect before the end of the year.



L.A. in Compliance with the Clean Water Act? – Part 2 (cont'd from Volume 34, Issue 6)

By Elektra Kruger

In late March 2011, the Bureau of Sanitation submitted a report to the City Council on the status of the City's Clean Water (i.e. Wastewater) Program. The report claims that in the last 25 years over \$6.3 billion has been invested in an effort to upgrade our wastewater infrastructure to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act passed in 1972. The Hyperion Treatment Plant, which is one of the largest treatment plants in the U.S., has been upgraded to full secondary treatment level and has ceased regular disposal of bio-solids into the ocean. Two of the City's water reclamation plants have been equipped with a "nitrification-denitrification" process to reduce nitrogen toxicity of effluent water entering the L.A. River.

The Bureau claims that investments into upgrades and replacements of the City's aging network of 6,700 miles of sewer pipes has reduced as much as 80% of the City's spills and overflows. The Bureau does admit however that many of the investments into infrastructure upgrades have not been voluntary or as a function of a sense of duty to serve the people of Los Angeles, but as a result of judicial orders brought about by legal action of regulatory agencies or environmental steward organizations such as Heal the Bay. These judicial mandates go back as far as the 1800's.

The City's Common Council (the predecessor to today's City Council) appointed the first sewer committee in 1869 with the first comprehensive sewer system being implemented in the 1890's. Prior to the 1950's, "treatment" consisted only of screening sewage before it was discharged into the Santa Monica Bay.

In 1943, the California State Board of Health quarantined ten miles of beaches between the Venice and Hermosa Beaches - an eight-year quarantine in effect until the Hyperion Treatment Plant came on-line in 1950. By 1951 Hyperion had the capacity to provide full secondary (biological) treatment to incoming sewage, but by 1958 fell back to primary treatment due to increased sewage production in the City and sewage overflows became a frequent occurrence throughout the City. The major drivers for improvements to the wastewater treatment system have always been the continual legal actions and enforcement actions brought on by regulatory agencies.

Our White Elephant Museum

By Elektra Kruger

On October 26, 2010, the City Council voted on a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Discovery Science Center for the design, fabrication and installation of exhibits and the operation and maintenance of the Children's Museum. Per the Memorandum, Conceptual Plans for the exhibits would be financed solely by the Discovery Science Center at no cost to the City and would be subject to approval of the State's Prop 84 grant fund program for which the City applied and approval of the City's Department of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

A Draft Exhibit Plan was to be submitted no later than June 30, 2011. If Recreation and Parks approved the draft, then the Discovery Science Center was to prepare a final Exhibit Plan for approval by the Board of Recreation

and Parks Commissioners no later than January 1, 2012. In addition to the Exhibit Plan, the Discovery Science Center was to develop a "Management Plan" for approval by the City that was to include such things as goals and objectives, schedules, projected installation of exhibits and operating costs, a maintenance program and a projected timeline for development phases for the implementation of the Exhibit Plan - this also no later than June 30, 2011.

If the cost of implementing the Exhibit Plan developed by the Discovery Science Center were to exceed the Prop 84 grant award, the Discovery Science Center would be solely responsible for raising the funds needed to complete the Project. Per the Memorandum of Understanding, the Discovery Science Center would have the right to terminate the agreement if, despite good faith efforts to procure any needed additional funding, they were unable to do so. Per the Memorandum, the Discovery Science Center would not have the right to dispose of the Museum by any means whereas the City would have the right to transfer the Museum to another Public Agency or non-profit organization if the successor entity assumes all obligations imposed by any grant agreements.

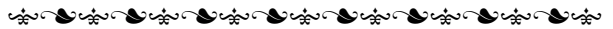
Figures! But then I place a far greater trust in the Discovery Science Center to do right by the Museum than I do the City anyway. To be continued in future issues of SHIPOA.



9TH Annual "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards

By Michael Carpenter

The 9th Annual "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards were presented Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 by the New "Heaven on Earth" Ranch (NHOER) to Nancy Woodruff, Susan Bartlett and Robert Stephens. The Reel Cowboys hosted the event at their weekly meeting at Big Jim's Family Restaurant in the Banquet Room. OK Trophy of Sunland donated the plaques.



The "Spirit" award was created in 2003 by All Nations Church (which hosted the event and their Thanksgiving Korean BBQ from 2003-2010) to recognize those individuals and groups whose works best reflect the spirit of Johny Carpenter. Johny was a stuntman, cowboy and actor whose original Heaven on Earth Ranch stood on Foothill Place in Lake View Terrace for almost 25 years. Johny taught physically and mentally challenged children/young adults how to ride horses.

Council Member Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, City of Los Angeles, presented certificates of recognition to each honoree. Also presenting certificates were representatives from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Council Member Tony

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“Spirit” cont’d from page 9

Cardenas, 6th District. Certificates were also received from U.S. Representative Brad Sherman, 27th District, State Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes, 39th District and L.A. County Board of Supervisor Michael Antonovich, 5th District.

Past honorees present at the ceremony included Richard Troy 2010, Royan Herman 2009, Phyllis Hines 2007, The Reel Cowboys 2005, Lee Diebold 2004, and Phoenix House 2003.

The New “Heaven on Earth” Ranch is a California-based 501 c(3) public charity based in Lake View Terrace and dedicated to the building and operation of the “Johny Carpenter” Arena and Riding Program. The board of directors meetings are the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Coco’s Restaurant, 10521 Sunland Blvd, Sunland. To learn more about NHOER, visit www.NHOER.org, call 310 538-3694, or send an email to: lamikec@yahoo.com.



Spray Paint Display Signage

By Elektra Kruger

Graffiti vandalism and its associated visual blight costs individuals and governmental agencies millions of dollars in destroyed property, lost business, decreased property value and lost community dignity and pride. In an effort to reduce access to spray paint by graffiti vandals, the City passed an Ordinance in 1990 requiring all retail establishments selling spray paint to display them in locked cabinets or to keep them inaccessible to the public in some other way presale to limit access by theft.



Over the years, the City has enacted a number of Ordinances related to graffiti eradication including such things as adding local civil fines of up to \$1,000 and initiation of a \$1,000 reward program paid to people providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals.

An additional item to add to the fight was presented to City Council by Councilmember Dennis Zine in early September 2011 suggesting that merchants be required to post informational signs on or near spray paint displays making reference to the fact that graffiti is a crime punishable by fines and imprisonment and of the City’s reward program for those providing information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a graffiti vandal.

Personally, I believe that since these crimes are not a physical endangerment to others, we need not clutter our jails with such violators. Additionally, the current level of fines hardly put a sting onto these vandals’ wallets and pocketbooks. My preference is penalty by “hard work” community service such as trash and weed abatement along our streets. I’d suggest community service hours are typically too lenient and that we do better to correlate the number of hours with the actual cost to clean up the graffiti mess by a professional restoration company.



Councilman Zine’s Motion was initially referred to the City Council’s Public Safety Committee for review and recommendations, but the committee waived consideration of the Motion and the item went straight to City Council for a vote at their October 26, 2011 session. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion presented by Councilmember Zine.

LA Street and Sidewalk Disrepair

By Elektra Kruger

It is the homeowner’s responsibility to maintain sidewalks in front of their homes per State mandate, not the responsibility of the City. However, a Motion related to street and sidewalk repair from Councilmember Englander was presented to City Council in late October 2011. A more-than-correct statement made by the Councilmember, which actually could be tacked on to just about any form of infrastructure in the City of Los Angeles, is that “for far too long the City’s investment in infrastructure has not kept up with need thereby creating a backlog of service requests stretching decades into the future”.

A 2008 survey of City streets determined that of the plus-or-minus 6,500 miles of streets in the City at that time, an estimated 59% were determined to be at a grade “C” or lower condition, with 23% of that being rated at grade level “F”. Grade “C” implies major or unsafe cracking while grade “F” implies full base failure. Street and road conditions have only worsened since then as we all know.

In late October 2011, Councilmember Englander presented a Motion to City Council asking that they direct the Bureau of Street Services to update the status of LA’s streets and to submit a report estimating the cost of making all necessary repairs to City streets and sidewalks over a ten-year period and thereafter to maintain them at a grade “B” level or higher in perpetuity. He further asked that they direct the City’s Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, City Clerk and City Attorney to work together with the Bureau of Street Services to introduce and review proposals to fund a work program for an “LA 30-10” Plan with a Citizen’s Oversight Committee comprised of City stakeholders and Neighborhood Council members, and to have this Plan placed on the November 2012 General Election ballot.



The LA 30-10 Plan would be a 30-year bond providing money up-front to repair streets and sidewalks over a ten year period and the Bond would be repaid with interest over the next thirty years.

In the best of all idealistic worlds, this might be an answer - but obviously Councilmember Englander hasn’t read his history books when it comes to LA. Upfront bond monies to be used for repair of all streets and sidewalks? What percentage of bond dollars do you see going toward the purpose for which they were intended? In the best of all worlds, let’s assume the streets and sidewalks do get repaired. What kind of history does LA have when it comes to maintaining its infrastructure? 100 year old water lines bursting daily under the variable pressure of our recent water-rationing program. And that only explains the geysers - the many sinkholes we do not hear about caused by leaking mains. And how about the commitment LA has proffered toward street and sidewalk maintenance in the past that got us into this mess in the first place?

The Motion bypassed committee review and went straight to Council for a vote. *SHPOA will advise you of the vote when and if the item gets agendized to a Council session.*

Bribes & Criminal Misconduct in B/S - Part 2 *(cont'd from Volume 34, Issue 6)*

By Elektra Kruger

Following incidences of Department of Building and Safety field inspectors either being placed on administrative leave, being terminated from their jobs or even being arrested BY THE FBI for soliciting bribes in exchange for building approvals when there had been no actual physical inspection of the site or there was known improper/inadequate construction, a system to audit recent Building and Safety performance is being set up. Computer programs to search records associated with inspection work over the past 12 to 24 months for "anomalies and irregularities" are being created. Any "anomalies and/or irregularities" are to be further investigated by a newly created Internal Investigations Unit to be set up under the direction of the City's Personnel Department. Reviews were anticipated to be complete by September 2011.

In an effort to reduce incidences of bribery and outright misconduct, a program of increased mandatory assignment rotations within the Department will now occur. That has its pros and its cons. The "Pro" - hopefully no long-lasting "buddy-system" will develop between an inspector and a developer/contractor such that shabby construction is approved. The Con's - first, inspectors might be rotated mid-project which could be disruptive and, second, we lose our "experience pool". The numerous volumes of Code books are MASSIVE. An inspector new to a position may make an error not as a function of intentional misconduct, but as an innocent error being new to a position. To frequently rotate employees throughout the employee pool would leave us with an entire bank of innocently inept inspectors.

In late January 2011, a grassroots organization - Citizens to Save Laurel Canyon - was formed calling for an investigation of the Department of Building and Safety. Many of their arguments mirror the same issues we have here in Shadow Hills. Laurel Canyon has a history of tragic loss due to fires in a box canyon environment. While Shadow Hills has been relatively lucky in terms of actual loss, we have had our share of fires and our narrow streets and increasing density of housing also results in ever-increasing fire danger. But our main concern, as is that of the Citizens to Save Laurel Canyon, is the failure of the Department of Building and Safety to follow its own building codes.



Bribes & Criminal Misconduct in B/S - Part 3

By Elektra Kruger

In the past year or so, incidences of Building and Safety (B/S) field inspectors soliciting bribes in exchange for approvals without actual physical field inspections or with known inappropriate/inadequate construction, led to termination and even imprisonment of a few of these inspectors.

In late January 2011, a grassroots organization—Citizens to Save Laurel Canyon—put out a community "call-to-action" to compel the City to "investigate the Office of the City Attorney and B/S for corruption, collusion and blatant disregard for the laws, codes, ordinances and



covenants of the City of LA that are meant to protect the public.” In their case, their major concern was authorizing overbuilding in a “box-canyon” environment compromising emergency response and ultimately safety of their homes and families. They, as do we in Shadow Hills, suffer from continual hillside development and, worse, selective building code enforcement.

Actually, the Planning Department needs to be subject to this investigation as well. A copy of a complaint letter written to the Office of Zoning Administration in early February 2009 was submitted at the late June 2011 joint Hearing of the City Council’s Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee and Planning and Land-Use Committee which took testimony relative to establishing a new program to avoid corruption and collusion in the Department of Building and Safety. This letter emphasized to me that any such program needs to be expanded to affect the Planning Department as well.

The letter referenced Hillside structures not built to code. During a Zoning Administration Hearing called for to address these Code Violations, the Zoning Administrator repeatedly stated that no front yard set-backs were required for hillside structures on substandard streets. The City of Los Angeles Hillside Ordinance Section 12.21(A)17.a of the Planning and Zoning Code states that under NO CIRCUMSTANCES may a front yard set-back be less than five feet. Is this an innocent error of a Zoning Administrator unfamiliar with the restrictions of the Hillside Ordinance or a case of “selective building code enforcement”?

The Zoning Administrator made an open statement that the issue had been settled in private, with no public input and that this was business as usual for the City - no big deal. An unequivocal statement that LA regularly circumvents the law as a “regular way of doing business” is infuriating - and frustrating - to us the public, who are trying desperately to protect our communities. THAT is collusion - something we frequently have to deal with in Shadow Hills.

In late June 2011, City Controller Wendy Greuel wrote a letter to the City Council’s Audit and Governmental Efficiency Committee and Planning and Land Use Management Committee stating that given the challenges directed at B/S, and the fact that misconduct had been determined to exist within the department, and the fact that this could carry mistrust over all City Departments on the part of the public, she recommended that the Committees establish a dedicated investigative team to become a part of her Waste, Fraud and Abuse Unit which would focus solely on concerns involving B/S. She further recommended that Inspectors be required to fill out Conflict of Interest Forms to insure they would be more likely to be honest and complete in the execution of their duties.

In early August 2011, Robert “Bud” Ovrum, the General Manager for B/S addressed the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee with a power-point presentation regarding implementation of reform within B/S. The Reform would reestablish an Internal Investigations Unit that would be headed by an outside Special Investigator, who for the sake of objectivity, would report to the City’s Personnel Department. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.

Farmer's Markets in Residential Zones - Update

By Elektra Kruger

In mid-November 2010, Councilmember Herb Wesson presented a Motion to City Council requesting a feasibility study of allowing non-profits to obtain a permit for by-right Farmer's Markets in Residential Zones without the need for a Zoning Administrator Hearing or other form of discretionary action. In mid-May 2011, the City Council approved the concept of allowing Farmer's Markets in Residential Zones under a Conditional Use Permit requiring notification of neighbors within a 500 ft. radius of the proposed site and a Public Hearing.

While the number of Farmer's Markets in Residential Zones will certainly increase with this approval, so too will the level of review of their permit application as compared to current review requirements. In late September 2011, the City Planning Commission approved the draft ordinance submitted by the City Attorney recommending its adoption by the City Council. Per the new ordinance, each application must first be reviewed by the Councilmember of the district in which the proposed Farmer's Market is to be located. The Farmer's Market may be conducted by a certified producer, non-profit organization or local government agency. Any participant in a Farmer's Market must be authorized to sell products such as fruits, nuts or vegetables directly to the consumer by the County Agricultural Commissioner and the seller must have obtained all necessary licenses, certificates and health permits required in California to sell eggs, honey, agricultural products, etc., directly to the consumer.

The final requirements of the draft ordinance differed somewhat from the recommendations initially passed by the City Council. A Hearing would not be required if, along with the application, written approval is presented of owners of ALL properties abutting, across the street from or sharing an intersection with the property where the Farmer's Market is proposed to take place along with a 60% written approval of owners of ALL properties within a 300 ft. radius of the property where the Farmer's Market is proposed to take place. The ordinance was forwarded to the City Council's Planning & Land-Use Management Committee in early October 2011 for their review and recommendations. *SHPOA will report the outcome of this ordinance pending final Council vote.*



Plastic Bag Ban

By Elektra Kruger

The State Legislature failed to pass AB 1998, an Assembly Bill that would have prohibited Supermarkets, Convenience Stores and Retail Stores from providing single-use bags to customers at point-of-sale. Given that, former Councilmember Greg Smith felt that the City of Los Angeles should pass its own local citywide ban on single-use plastic bags and presented a Motion to that effect to the City Council in early September 2010.

Between mid-November 2010 and early May 2011, seven Neighborhood Councils and Community Groups filed letters of support for the plastic bag ban noting such things as they essentially do not decompose and thus become a serious pollution problem given that only 3 to 5% are

recycled though they are a totally recyclable product that can be disposed of in our blue bins and simply end up contaminating our waterways and beaches and resulting in severe and unnecessary budgetary demands for clean-up efforts. These plastic bags are also responsible for wildlife fatalities due to strangulation and suffocation.

In mid-October 2011, the Board of Public Works communicated to the City Council its support of a report prepared by the Bureau of Sanitation recommending that the City Council immediately adopt a Citywide "policy" to ban single-use carryout bags requiring retailers to either provide reusable bags to customers for sale or even at no charge and to urgently request the City Attorney's Office to draft an Ordinance which would legally outright ban all single-use carryout bags from retail establishments. The report from the Bureau of Sanitation was released in mid-September 2011 recommending the above noted items in addition to recommending that an environmental review process be initiated.

The issue of plastic bag litter has been on the City radar since 2004 at which time Councilmember Ed Reyes presented a Motion directing the Bureau of Sanitation to create a Los Angeles River Plastics Industry Task Force to combat the amount of discarded single-use plastic bags reaching the City's roadways, neighborhoods, parks and eventually its waterways. *To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.*

IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

- Dial 311 – Info on all City Services
- L.A. Dept. of Water & Power (800) 342-5397
- Street Service (800) 996-2489
- Large Item Pickup..... (800) 773-2489
- Abandoned Car (800) 222-6366

**SHPOA NEWSLETTER
ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
Feb. 3, 2012
for the Mar/Apr Newsletter:**

**For Advertising Info please e-mail to
advertise.shpoa@yahoo.com**

**East Valley Animal Shelter
Needs Blankets, Towels,
Toys And Treats For Cats And Dogs**

**Please Bring Items To
East Valley Feed & Tack**

Mark your calendar **SHPOA General Meeting - January 10, 2012 - 7 pm • Tierra Del Sol**

Airtight Pest Control	9	Joe's Bar & Grill/Champs	7
Akeela Carpet Cleaning	5	John Nelson Plumbing	14
Alan Phillips Recovery Ins.....	10	Kim Villalobos - Dilbeck Realtor	6
Armstrong Insurance.....	10	LA Critter Sitter.....	11
Brush Clearance	13	LA LAW Center.....	11
C & M Printing & Copying	6	Louise Lubetkin - Pet Sitter.....	5
Century 21 – Fran/Ray.....	14	Mary Ann Geyer–Realtor.....	8
Classic Bath Design	13	McCoy Graphic Arts	15
Cleaning Services	6	Michael Rich Real Estate	10
Corky's Bookkeeping	9	MicroArtisans	14
Creature Comforts.....	8	Mission Valley Bank	11
Critter Sitter	6	Pampered Pets	13
Dale's Automotive	12	Paul Mattox Floors	5
David Robertson, DVM	9	Randy's Property Maintenance	4
Daybreak Massage	7	Richard Caruso Construction	14
Devries/Gopher Construction	12	Richard's R.R. Plumbing	4
Digital Doctor, Don Delson....	15	Sharon Yoho, Realtor	6
Don Dunham, Attorney.....	4	SoilDirect.com	8
Eagle Plumbing	15	Trish Ramsey Real Estate.....	5
East Valley Feed	9	WRD.....	3
Eick, William E. - Attorney.....	8	Wright Color Graphics.....	15

Community Calendar

LAPD Communittee Coffee

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month
- 8 a.m.–10 a.m.
- Albertson's/Starbucks, 6240 Foothill Blvd.

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month
- 7 p.m.
- 9747 Wheatland Ave.

Neighborhood Watch

- 3rd Tuesday, Every Month
- 7 p.m.
- East Valley Municipal Bldg.

"Prime Timers 60+"

- 3rd Wednesday, Every Month
- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
- Call church 818-353-2500

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month
- 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

- 3rd Thursday, Every Month
- 7 p.m.
- Location variable, check website for location
- www.ftdnc.org

Key Community Locations & Contact Information

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace

Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)

Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd. intersection); Pastor Janet Winslow (818-353-2500)

Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Sun Valley (818-767-0314)

Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley

Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills

Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley

**City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office CD2
Councilmember Paul Krekorian; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland**

Emergency Animal Hospitals

Animal Specialty Group	www.asgvets.com
4641 Colorado Blvd. (off 5 Fwy), Los Angeles 90039	
(818) 244-7977	Mon–Fri: 2pm–8am
	Weekends: 24 hours
Animal Emergency Centre	www.valleypet911.com
11730 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604	
(818) 760-3882	Mon–Thurs: 6pm–8am
	Weekends: Fri 6pm–Mon 8am