

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 35, Issue 5

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



September-October 2012

In Memoriam - Otis Wallace

March 21, 1935 - May 19, 2012

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Otis Wallace, owner of Wallace Ranch in Lake View Terrace, on Saturday, May 19, 2012. The dream of Otis and his brother Ed was to own a ranch where they could host community based programs, employ local youth, and offer horse boarding and riding at affordable rates for families. Until Otis' health began to decline, he was able to fulfill their dream for almost 20 years.

The Wonderful Outdoor World, a program for urban youth, was very close to his heart. For 15 years Otis partnered with Dana Valdez from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks. On his ranch, Otis and his staff taught over 300 young children basic horsemanship which allowed them to ride in the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. The love Otis had for children and horses was felt the moment you entered the ranch and everyone felt as if they were visiting their favorite uncle. Mr. Mukri, General Manager of Recreation and Parks quoted "He was a Saint!"

By doing what he loved most in life, he was very humbled when he received the 2005 Spirit of Johnny Carpenter Award. Otis was also recognized over the years by the City and County of Los Angeles for his many contributions to the community. He sat on numerous committees, including the Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board.

At any time of day or night, you could find Otis either behind the wheel of his old pickup truck, tinkering with the water lines, lifting a child up on a horse with a big smile on his face, or just leaning back in a chair with his dogs Mitsy, Max and Rip at his feet. He brought much joy and happiness to all whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and remembered fondly by all who knew him. For those of us involved in the horse community, we are all very grateful.

Lopez Canyon Funds for Trail Improvements

by Elektra Kruger

CD7 has a large equine community and many horse trails desperately in need of improvement, in need of safe horse crossings or better connections between fragmented trails. In late May 2012, Councilmember Alarcon presented a Motion to City Council asking that \$100,000 of the Lopez Canyon Community Amenities Trust Fund monies be transferred to CD7's portion of the City's General Salaries account to be utilized for horse trail improvements in CD7. The item was passed unanimously by the City Council, then received mayoral review, and became effective June 12, 2012.

SHPOA

YOUR Neighborhood Improvement Association

By Dave DePinto

The SHPOA name is somewhat misleading. Formed more than 4 decades ago, SHPOA has always had preserving the rural heart and character of Shadow Hills at its core. But, we are not a traditional "homeowner association." SHPOA does not have mandatory dues, no oversight or enforcement powers, and no say over what you do with your home or your property.

Instead, our mission takes us in a variety of directions such as preserving equestrian rights, providing helpful information, fighting for enforcement of building codes and ordinances, building and maintaining trails, coordinating with law enforcement providers, trying to keep Shadow Hills beautiful and peaceful, and more. We like to say our job is Protecting, Preserving and Promoting Shadow Hills.

More and more, we have to depend on ourselves given the funding issues facing local and state governments. We operate on a shoe-string budget to provide the newsletter, Daily Fodder, Neighborhood Watch, community meetings, advocacy to City Council, and more. So, when you try to remember our name or our funny acronym (SHPOA), just remember we're not a homeowner association; we're a neighborhood improvement association....and it's YOUR neighborhood!

300+ Members and Growing!

By Dave DePinto

Thanks to all the members who have supported us over the years and that joined us recently as new members. We recently reached the 300 member plateau which is quite an accomplishment and attendance at recent community meetings has risen greatly! We have more than 2,200 households in Shadow Hills, so there is still room for growth! If you're not yet a member but would like to join, please see the membership information on page 2.

SEPTEMBER SHPOA MEETING

**TOPIC: ENHANCING THE NATURAL
BEAUTY OF SHADOW HILLS**

GUEST SPEAKER: "ROCK STAR" RICHARD STEWART

(also known as "The Cairns Guy" or The "Rock Statue Guy")

Also:

- Local artists and photographers are invited to show their work from 5-7 p.m. (contact shpoa@shpoa.us if interested)
- Smart gardening tips from Theodore Payne Foundation
- Brainstorming discussion about plans to clean up, beautify, preserve and promote Shadow Hills

WHEN: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Boulevard

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

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Equestrian and Trails:	James & Andrea Gutman 353-5974 - jgutman1@ca.rr.com Deirdra Vierra 795-5945 - theknoheads@gmail.com
Special Projects:	Vacant
Neighborhood Watch:	Sue Mansis 554-8113 suemansis@shpoa.us
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Sun Valley: Michelle Rodriguez 634-0755
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**Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC):
www.ftdnc.org**

*West Shadow Hills/
Stonehurst:* Terry Kaiser
hdconcerns@ca.rr.com
Robert (Bob) Bell

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

Installation of Trail Crossings - Part 1

by Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles has a large equine community, thousands of horses and over 90 miles of known equestrian trails. Many of these trails are accessible only by main roads, most lacking any form of official crossing thus creating unsafe conditions for horses, riders and drivers. There have been numerous horse/vehicle collisions in the last few years.

Councilmember Alarcon is supporting local equestrian efforts to improve the safety of horses and their riders by, at the very least, helping install at-grade road crossings at locations with a history of a high number of collisions between horses and vehicles. In early May 2012, Councilman Alarcon presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Department of Planning along with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee to present a plan as to where installation of at-grade road crossings would be most needed to enhance overall improved safety. The Motion was actually referred to the Parks Committee and the Transportation Committee.

Among the locations being given serious review and consideration are the intersection of Wentworth Street and Wheatland, the intersection of Wentworth Street and Mary Bell Avenue, and several "internal" Shadow Hills streets. Councilman Alarcon requested the Department of Transportation to review the evaluation of street intersections and corridors with the mindset of enhancing safety for equestrians, bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists and requested the Department to have available its preliminary findings and recommendations for the Parks Committee review at its early August 2012 meeting.

Councilmember Alarcon's Field Deputy, Mary Benson, has for years now emphasized the urgency of updating the Los Angeles City Major Hiking and Equestrian Master Plan, an update that could include designations for official "Greenways" within urban sectors of the City serving essentially as "linear parks" which could be used as pathways for horses. ***SHPOA is seeing progress on this issue and will keep you updated.***

Giddy Up: Horse Licensing Unfortunately on the Decline.....

By Dave DePinto

SHPOA held its May meeting at Stonehurst Park and welcomed many equestrians to the meeting on foot and on horseback. We distributed information at the meeting and later via this newsletter and Daily Fodder to try to provide more information to help residents complete the horse licensing process.

The benefits of horse licensing include: to fund and protect trails; to protect equestrian properties from developers; to demonstrate the economic power of the equestrian community; to become eligible for curbside manure pickups; to become part of the City of LA Master Plan; and to obtain federal/state funding for trails and other purposes. In addition, as we are now floating many equestrian-related motions before city council, it is imperative that horse owners follow existing guidelines for horse registration and that we in Shadow Hills act responsibly and proactively, lest we give the city council reason to stall or oppose any of our important initiatives.

Thanks to many of you, we have seen a tremendous increase in horse licenses issued in Shadow Hills the past two months. However, there is reason for concern and need for more information on this topic as horse licensing has generally declined the past few years in Shadow Hills and city-wide.

At our request, and with our appreciation, Councilman Alarcon's office tracked horse licensing data dating back to 2009 for all zip codes in the city. We found a consistent decline in the number of horses licensed in the Shadow Hills' 91040 and 91352 zip codes:

- 91040 – 410 (2009); 374 (2010); 315 (2011); 230 so far in 2012
- 91352 – 224 (2009); 180 (2010); 125 (2011); 103 so far in 2012.

Please register your horse today! We will continue to provide information to increase the number of licensed horses in Shadow Hills.

Update: Equine License Fee Discount

by Elektra Kruger

The City Council's Parks Committee met in late May 2012 to consider a Motion submitted by Councilmember Alarcon asking that the City Attorney prepare and present a Draft Ordinance creating a multi-year, graduated discount per year, Equine Licensing Fee thereby incentivizing horse-owners to license their horses. The Parks Committee recommended approval of the Motion and referred it to the Animal Welfare Committee for their further review and recommendation.

In mid-June 2012, the Animal Welfare Committee considered the item, concurred with the findings of the Parks Committee and, in late June, a memo was forwarded to the City Council from these two Committees indicating both their recommendations for approval. The City Council adopted the Motion at its June 27, 2012 session.

The issue now lies in the hands of the City Attorney to prepare and finalize a Draft Ordinance for consideration by the City Council. At this writing, that Draft Ordinance has not yet been presented. It might behoove all equestrians to contact their Councilmembers to remind them that this issue is still on the radar and that you would appreciate it if they would urge the City Attorney to "speed things up".

SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this issue.

How To Register Your Horse

- East Valley Feed and Tack has licensing forms and will submit checks on your behalf to the City (they do not handle credit cards).
- Register online: www.laanimalservices.com/Laws_Policies/Dog_License.htm
- Visit in person: East Valley Animal Control located at 14409 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys CA 91405
- For more information call: 888-4LAPET1 or 888-452-7381.

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

Mail this form with your check to:

SHPOA - P.O. Box 345, Sunland CA 91041-0345

We take pride in our work and have a passion to please our customers. So please take the time to see our web site, the videos, and learn about the difference of our services, and then call for a free estimate.

Granada Hills Office:

17939 Chatsworth ST. #209 Granada Hills, CA 91344

Shadow Hills Office:

9743 Wheatland Ave. Shadow Hills, CA 91040

(818) 675 – 5256

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CD7 Emergency Sidewalk Improvement

by Elektra Kruger

The Council District AB1290 Fund provides funding for redevelopment and community services in various Council Districts. Councilmember Richard Alarcon wishes to implement an "Emergency Sidewalk Improvement Project" to repair broken and buckled sidewalks in CD7. Per Councilmember Alarcon, there are sufficient monies available in the CD7 portion of the Council District AB 1290 Fund to allocate to this purpose.

Thus, in late June 2012, the Councilmember presented a Motion to City Council that \$500,000 AB1290 funds be transferred to a Street Services Fund for this Sidewalk Improvement Project. The Motion was first heard in City Council June 27, 2012. At this time a consultant firm submitted a public comment letter to the Council indicating that, per State law, "the Alarcon Motion must require the City to collect (payment) from property owners if proposed City funds are to be expended (up-front) for sidewalk repairs."

Since the 1890's, per State law, Cities, if they undertake repair of a sidewalk because a property owner fails to do so, are required to assess the property for costs related to the repair - the City only has an easement, it does NOT OWN the sidewalk and, as such, it is the property owners' responsibility to repair damaged sidewalks fronting his/her property. Assessment requirements of a property owner failing to repair a damaged sidewalk in a timely fashion are covered in the California Streets and Highways Code beginning with Section 5625.

On May 30, 2012, the Los Angeles City Council voted to oppose support for a State Bill that proposed to amend the existing State laws so that Cities, instead of private property owners, would be held responsible for sidewalk repairs. This is in conflict with the request of Councilmember Alarcon's current Motion calling for use of City AB 1290 funds for a sidewalk repair project in CD7 which was scheduled to be heard in City Council July 3, 2012.

Up-Date: At the July 3, 2012 City Council session, Councilmember Alarcon submitted an additional Motion listing \$500,000 funding recommendations to be approved for the repair of broken and buckled sidewalks in CD7. The \$500,000 would be transferred from the AB1290 Fund No. 53P Account No 281207 (which is CD7's Redevelopment Projects - Services fund) to a variety of other accounts as needed. Approved.



Get Ready to Vote!

By Dave De Pinto

The stakes will be high and the stakes will be local this November. In addition to electing the next president of the United States, residents of Shadow Hills will be choosing a new Assemblyman, with the choice being between Richard Alarcon, current LA city councilman for CD7, and Raul Bocanegra, current chief of staff for Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes.

Then, early next year, we'll be voting for a new mayor and a new councilperson to represent Shadow Hills and the balance of CD7. SHPOA will keep you informed about upcoming elections. Please register to vote and get out to the polls to exercise your unique right.

Property Owner Incentives for Sidewalk Repair

by Elektra Kruger

Over the past several years, the Bureau of Street Services has considered a number of approaches toward dealing with financing the cost of sidewalk repair such as establishing assessment districts, creating bonds or setting up a private owner point-of-sale, point-of-service or point-of-permit requirement to repair.

In 2012, at the request of City Council's Public Works Committee, the Bureau of Street Services is in the process of preparing a report as to how the City could even undertake a comprehensive review of the status of the City's sidewalk system, to make an accurate assessment of sidewalk damage and to estimate the total cost to repair our sidewalk system. The current estimate is that 40% of the City's sidewalks are in disrepair and that it would cost some \$2 billion to repair them.

Per State law, it is the responsibility of the property owner to repair damaged sidewalks fronting his/her property. Given the current stressful economic times, it is not feasible to place such a financial burden on the City's property owners. Given that, in late June 2012, Councilmember Jose Huizar suggested the development and implementation of some incentivizing mechanism for the City to share costs of sidewalk repair with private property owners.

This was tried before. Remember in 2004 when then Councilmember Wendy Gruel pushed the 50:50 sidewalk repair program through City Council. The City took 50% of the financial burden of sidewalk repair from property owners who proceeded to make the repairs and the program was well utilized. As the budget crisis hit the City, this program fell by the wayside. Now, in 2012, Councilmember Huizar presented a Motion to City Council recommending a study as to the feasibility of utilizing such things as perhaps tax incentives or fee incentives, etc. for those making the repairs.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee for their review and recommendations. *SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this recommendation.*

Public Safety Highlighted at July SHPOA Community Meeting

By Sue Mansis

Typically SHPOA holds a public safety discussion once a year, usually during the summer months, as that is when "activity" tends to rise in and around Shadow Hills, especially on the trails, in the Wash and on our outlying road areas. Remember, Shadow Hills residents NEED to be responsible for calling, reporting AND slowing down on our streets too. We really are the 'eyes and ears' of the law!

More than 80 people attended SHPOA's community meeting in July to meet our new Senior Lead Officer, Rudy Rodriguez, and to hear updates about Sunland Boulevard and safety in our community. Officer Rudy Rodriguez can be reached at 818-634-0705 (cell) or (office) 818-756-8866, or you can e mail him at 33940@lapd.lacity.org. Senior lead officers are responsible for handling issues of general public safety - homeless encampments, panhandling or illegal activities in public spaces, reoccurring crime in specific neighborhoods, etc. A Senior Lead is the liaison between the community and the police department and is responsible for keeping track of crimes in his/her "reporting district."

Rudy explained "Predictive Policing," which is being used very successfully by Foothill Division. The "proactive" approach is based on crime mapping, which records the areas where past crime has been the most concentrated. Rudy agreed that REPORTING crimes, suspicious activity or incidents helps to determine where future incidents might occur. So, please do NOT hesitate to report! For emergencies, call 911, but for reporting crimes, suspicious activity or incidents, call LAPD Dispatch at 818-734-2223 or Foothill Division front desk at 818-756-8861.

Our LAPD Valley Traffic division Senior Lead Officer is (temporarily) Michael Graham. Officer Graham can be reached at 818-644-8147 (cell) or 818-644-8000 (office). Email him at 32366@lapd.lacity.org. Officer Mike is covering for Joel Flores, who is out with an injury. Officer Troy Williams, Radar/Laser Coordinator for LAPD Valley Traffic also was in attendance. He indicated the last Sunland Blvd. street survey was done in 2010 and needs to be updated. Officer Williams said there's a false belief that ordering a street survey raises traffic speeds and also said that despite the speed limit postings, traffic usually moves at a speed that is consistent with the layout of a road. Troy Williams may be reached at 818-644-8016 or emailed at 27014@lapd.lacity.org. Since this meeting, we have been informed that sometime this summer, another speed survey will be done on Sunland Blvd.

Sergeant Art Gomez, LAPD Valley Traffic Division can be reached at 818-644-8000 or emailed at 26300@lapd.lacity.org. Sergeant Gomez confirmed that most speeders on Sunland Blvd. are from our community, so slow down! Sergeant John Caffrey of LA County Sheriffs Department (LASD) spoke about parts of the Wash and Mitigation area which are patrolled by LASD. Sergeant Caffrey may be reached at (661) 257-0881 (cell) or (LASD DISPATCH) 818-974-8000 or emailed at JTCaffre@lasd.org. Sergeant Caffrey assured us he would increase patrols in the area and spoke about including an LASD mounted equestrian patrol as well. As a result, LASD discovered a homeless encampment near the 210 freeway five days after this meeting complete with marijuana plants, bunk beds and BBQ grills.

Finally, Liz Cava, from "Fix Nation" spoke about how their organization provides free spay/neuter services

for homeless stray or feral cats and supports TNR, or "trap, neuter, return," where the cats are released back into their wild environments. Liz may be reached at 818-524-2287 or liz@fixnation.org. Feral cats help keep the rodent population down so they are worth protecting and respecting!

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Pre-School Update

By Kathy Shanley

Shadow Hills Preschool is growing! With our enrollment increasing, we are once again offering a 5-day program! We'll have half-day programs from 9am until noon and extended day from 9am until 2pm. Families can choose 2 days, 3 days or 5 days. We are a play-based developmental program which basically means we teach through fun.

Our teachers are experienced and professional. As always, we are excited to begin a new year of creative, hands-on learning. We look forward to welcoming new students and families, and greeting our returning families. School is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 10th with a one-hour orientation. Regular school hours begin the following day.

Want to know more about us? Want a tour of our facility? Call us at 818-353-7554.

Personal Finance: Why You Want to Plan for Long Term Care

By Seth Walsh

(part 2 of 12)

Last issue I gave you Reason # 1 - So your loved ones can carry on a normal life. And every issue I'll give you helpful information about this topic which will affect 70% of us.

Reason #2 – So the money you have worked hard for decades to attain will not be used up in a few short years paying for care.

Last issue we talked about your family having to care for you instead of living their lives. It can get worse. I know we all have fantasies like retiring to a tropical island, sitting back with a Mai Tai and watching the sunsets. But, if you don't plan for long term care, all your retirement dreams will likely go out the window as an astounding amount of money that you put aside for decades for retirement is spent instead very quickly paying for long term care.

And the chances of that happening are extremely high once you reach 65. In fact, the longer you live, the higher the chance that you'll need long term care (no surprise to most baby boomers dealing with this right now with their parents). It's not hard to find out how expensive long term care is today. Just visit any decent-looking nursing home or assisted living facility and ask them, or go online, or read articles.

The average cost of care right now in Los Angeles County for a private room in a nursing home is \$87,000 per year – for one person! Well, in 20 years, that cost will be more like \$230,000. Even if you can stay at home for your care the average cost of home health aide services in our county is about \$45,000. In 20 years that cost will be \$120,000 per year. The average need for care for a woman is 3.7 years, and for a man it's 2.2 years. Do the math....it can get expensive and out of control...and fast.

Fortunately, there are some solutions to this problem and you don't need to rob a bank. You can start planning for the need for long term care – NOW, with an affordable long term care plan. If you don't plan for care and you want to retain this risk, then you need to look in the mirror and ask yourself the question Clint Eastwood asked of the bad guy in the movie Dirty Harry, "Do ya feel lucky?" And you absolutely need to squint when you do that. If you have questions, please call me at 818-825-3702 or email me at seth@sethwalsh.com.



Back to School Pet Safety Tips

By Denise Fleck (www.sunnydogink.com)

As the school bell rings, don't let your pet go back to school too. Dogs and cats may become lonely and try to tag along. Keep your pet confined when children leave for school, and don't bring pets along if you drop off at school or the bus stop. Animals learn quickly and may try to retrace the steps later on resulting in them becoming lost or injured. For severe separation anxiety, place the t-shirt your child slept in the night before in your pet's bed -- as long as he doesn't rip it to shreds, it will make your pet feel like his boy or girl is there with him.

With school in session, mom and dad may now have more time to spend with the canine and feline family members. This is prime time to teach doggie manners by getting involved in an exercise and obedience training program. When training is done for the day and you need a little time to yourself, you won't want Fido or Fluffy acting like a velcro pet, sticking to your side every second of the day. Interest dogs in interactive toys to entertain themselves. Toys filled with treats, tennis ball launchers and chicken scented bubble machines are just a few novelties on the market. For cats there are electronic mice, bungee cord and laser light toys. Just know your pet and supervise him. Don't believe labels claiming products are indestructible!

Do remember that a sudden change of schedule can lead to stress in your animal resulting in behavioral issues, vomiting, diarrhea or skin problems to name a few. Your pet may eat too much, not eat at all or eat strange objects, so brush-up on your emergency skills and know the location of your nearest Animal ER BEFORE you need it!

If your four-legged kid still seems bored, consider adopting a second pet to keep him company. The duo will play and exercise together, and you will have saved a life.



Overview of LA Equine Areas

by Elektra Kruger

LA is one of the few urban cities that can still boast it possesses extensive equine areas and horse trails. There are over 90 miles (of recognized) horse trails in LA, most of which are to be found in Griffith Park and throughout the SFV including such areas as Hansen Dam, Lake View Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, Sylmar, Chatsworth and Shadow Hills.

Councilmember Alarcon has begun speaking strongly for the great need for these trails to be properly maintained, for the trail network to be expanded throughout the City and for the establishment of a user-friendly and complete outreach program for equine opportunities within the City. While the City's General Plan acknowledges the importance of our equine areas and its Conservation Element includes policies to encourage expansion of equine opportunities within the City, the Plan has not been updated since 2001.

Currently, the City does little to promote equestrian opportunities and the City website offers no maps or listings of equine areas. In recognition of this, in early March 2012, Councilmember Alarcon presented a Motion to City Council asking that it direct the Department of Recreation and Parks to prepare a report for the City Council's Parks Committee listing all City-Owned equine areas and all efforts being done to maintain, improve, expand and promote these areas. Further, the Motion directed the Planning Department and other city agencies to prepare and present a report to the Parks Committee regarding efforts to update the Conservation Element of the 2001 General Plan as it relates to the equine community. The Motion also directed Recreation and Parks to prepare and present a report with recommendations on how the City can better promote LA's horse trails and equine opportunities online and offline.

The Motion (12-0307) was first referred to the City Council's Parks Committee for their review and recommendations. In looking over the file, I have to say I have rarely seen such an outpouring of public support on official record. While some letters detailed the history of the horse and southwest culture, or the economic benefits provided by the equestrian industry and lifestyle, many letters simply stated they supported the Motion. That is all it takes - no voluminous essays, just those 4 words tells your representatives how you as their constituents feel about an issue standing before the City Council.

SHPOA will update you on Councilmember Alarcon's Motion as it progresses.

Expedited Plan Check for Barns

by Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles has a large equine population estimated to be about 90,000 horses many of which are housed in barns on private property. These barns are often standard and pre-fabricated, designed by only a very few manufacturers in the country. You could call them "barns in a box."

Currently, each time a property owner proposes to erect a pre-fabricated barn on private property, the City initiates a time-consuming and costly permitting process relying on the services of City staff with limited knowledge of barn design and specifications. Due to input from our equestrian community and a welcome response



by Councilmember Alarcon, the City's Department of Building and Safety is reviewing recommendations for an expedited Plan Check Review for such barns. That is, if a barn made by a company is approved for use in one location of the City, if the exact same barn is proposed elsewhere, it should be quickly approved.

In early May 2012 Councilmember Alarcon presented a Motion to City Council asking that it instruct the department of Building and Safety with input from the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee to prepare and present a report to the City Council's Parks Committee and Planning and Land Use Management Committee with recommendations on designing an expedited Plan Check Review and Approval Process for the installation of barns. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Parks Committee and Planning and Land Use Management Committee for further processing. The Motion has now been reviewed several times by the Parks Committee. ***SHPOA will update you on this issue in future newsletters.***

LA Wildlife Management Program - Part 1

by Elektra Kruger

It is the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services that is called upon to help resolve issues regarding wildlife encounters in Los Angeles. In recent years the Department has attempted to transition from a policy of trap-remove-euthanize to one of educating the public to co-exist with wildlife. This "education" has included such things as Public Service Announcements broadcast on Channel 35, presentations at SHPOA and Neighborhood Watch programs/meetings, presentations at schools and website postings.

After recent budget cuts, the Department has only one officer dedicated to wildlife management. Given this limited staff resource, in late January 2012, Councilmember Tom LaBonge presented a Motion to City Council asking the Department of Animal Services to present a report to the City Council on the status of its wildlife program. Many letters were sent to the City's Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee by the public regarding the status of the Wildlife Management Program. All mentioned how communities around Griffith Park have to deal with wildlife issues on a daily basis. We, in the NE foothills, have our own fair share of "encounters" all the way from bears helping themselves to a cooling splash in our pools to Mountain Lions trying to use long-gone wildlife corridors to coyotes perching on hills above our yards.

The Department of Recreation and Parks Rangers historically assumed the role of working with communities surrounding large regional parks such as Griffith Park, but Rangers have literally been decimated through a "consolidation" process which left personnel resources strapped. We too, for a short period, had our own dedicated Ranger present in the Hansen Dam Regional Park (the Wash).

No other agency can better provide wildlife services than the Animal Service's Wildlife Program both proactive and reactive. Many residents in the communities surrounding Griffith Park support a strong and fully functional wildlife program as do residents of the NE foothills. Comment letters expressed the need to find room in the City budget to support this program because once we lose this vital wildlife population it will most likely be lost forever. ***To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.***

History/Status of Wealtha Project - Part One

by Elektra Kruger

The owner of the property at the intersection of Wealtha and Wentworth, rather than developing the entitled 6-lot equestrian Project, began digging what eventually became a 60' deep gravel pit resulting in, among other things, foundation failure of adjacent homes. The Wealtha owner had initially gone through all the proper channels for obtaining the 6-lot entitlement which did require a 7-foot excavation of gravel from the top to be refilled with clean, compacted fill.

The property was located on part of the gravel based Tujunga Wash bed which would not be able to properly support the foundation of a two story home, a support that the compacted fill was intended to supply. In 2004, the owner began excavating the property after properly obtaining necessary grading permits. But rather than merely removing the top seven feet of rock and gravel and refilling the excavated hole with clean fill, he continued digging - he brought in rock crushers on-site, sifters on-site, all the equipment typically associated with a rock and gravel mining operation.

The community begged for assistance from then Councilmember Wendy Gruel receiving only the feedback from her staff that the Department of Building and Safety informed them that operations were in order and the site was regularly inspected. Failing assistance from the local Council Office, a community resident attended a session of City Council with a packet of pictures for distribution to each of the Councilmembers as part of a Public Comment asking their assistance to put a stop to this abomination.

The very next day, in December 2005, Councilmember Gruel arranged issuance of a "Cease and Desist" order against the Project - an order which was blatantly ignored. One day another community resident followed a loaded truck departing the site to a retail rock and gravel processing/selling site where, due to the outstanding cease and desist order, the law had the means to take over responsibility of the case. The retail site, not wishing legal action brought against itself, turned over all records between themselves and the owner of the Wealtha Project. These records showed a total of \$650,000 in payments made to the Wealtha owner.

Fast forward to 2007. The owner pleaded "No Contest" in court to improperly operating a rock/gravel operation in a residential neighborhood without proper approval for doing so and was fined \$650,000 to be placed in a Community Fund to compensate the community which had been negatively impacted by the operation for so long. At this point, the Fund was to be managed by court appointed fund managers and the community was to have a voice in the eventual distribution of the monies. ***To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.***

Vehicle/Equine Collision Survey

by Elektra Kruger

In order to obtain much needed equestrian safety signage and road cross markings, Councilmember Alarcon has emphasized the need to document vehicle/equine incidents - however minor - to produce an official survey of such incidents. The more evidence documented, the more likely we are to get those much needed signs/cross-markings. This documentation needs to include the names of those involved in the incident, the date it

happened, the time of day it happened and the nature of the incident.

A local equestrian also mentioned the importance of educational police enforcement so that the general public will understand the meaning of - and respond appropriately to - equestrian signage. We have regular non-equestrian commuters along Wentworth St. An example of educational enforcement could be that for a day or two, rather than giving out speeding tickets, law enforcement would give out warning citations to drivers violating basic equestrian codes. Common sense codes like: equestrians have the right-of-way, or, if a horse owner is crossing a street and is motioning to a driver to slow down because the rider is having difficulty controlling his horse - or for any reason - the driver must slow down or even stop. There is a need for educational enforcement to get the message across to non-equestrians - to all drivers - what that horse sign means as he/she enters an equestrian community.

Avoiding Equine Collisions/Injury

by Elektra Kruger

At a community meeting hosted by Councilmember Alarcon held at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center, he asked for input from the equestrian community regarding a Motion he had presented to the City Council. The Motion, if approved, would instruct various city agencies to review and present a report on vehicle/horse collisions inclusive of the nature of the injury, the locations of said injuries and recommend a plan for at-grade road crossings along trails which would enhance equine safety and avoid collisions.

At the gathering, a local equestrian related how riders either risk slipping or find it necessary to walk a horse until reaching an Open Space trail. The Department of Building and Safety requires that driveways be constructed of concrete or asphalt - a slippery surface for shod horses especially in instances where driveway slopes are steep.

Simi Valley has what is referred to as a "bridle path". Although the apron of the driveway is made of concrete and the portion of the driveway between the edge of the path and the garage is of concrete, the 10' path on the bridle side of the street as opposed to the sidewalk side of the street consists of DG. Horses can go along this trail without sliding and falling. There is a need to develop new standards for new developments. Anita Serna, the City Planner overseeing the North Valley unit of the Planning Department, reiterated that there is a big issue with lack of signage and crossings and that she has been working with Corral 12 in Sylmar to determine where signage should go in that community.

The Councilmember emphasized that the Motion called not for a mapping of signage proposals, but for a mapping of actual accidents that have occurred and at what frequency. Ms. Serna responded that this information could come from the community or the Equine Advisory Committee. To her knowledge, the majority of the incidents have been along Foothill Boulevard and Wentworth Street. Councilmember Alarcon noted this to be anecdotal data - in order to apply pressure for trail safety related improvements, one needs to present official, statistical data to prove actual necessity. Can this data be obtained from the Department of Transportation? No one really had an answer.

Increase in Street Sweeping Services? - Part 2

by Elektra Kruger

In 2009 Councilmember Cardenas presented a Motion to City Council with recommendations to help increase the number of curb-miles citywide that may benefit from an expansion in street sweeping services by the Bureau of Street Services. In late February 2010, the Bureau submitted a report to the City Council responding to each of the recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Cluster posted routes to allow for possible addition of a new route. **Response:** Restricted Parking Routes (the ones with signs saying no parking on such-and-such day between such-and-such hours for street sweeping) are already clustered in the same geographical location following a series of clockwise loops to minimize left turns and u-turns and having the least amount of time traveling from one point to another while not in sweeping mode known as "deadheading".

Recommendation #2: Lengthen the sweep-frequency of 3 established routes by one week and use those weeks to create a new additional posted route. **Response:** Altering the sweep-frequency on existing posted routes would require a re-posting of the established routes to reflect the new dates/times a sweeper might be expected to pass through. A single posted route constitutes about ten curb-miles and it would cost (in 2010) approximately \$45,000 per route. In 2010, there were 856 posted Restricted Parking street sweeping routes citywide.

Recommendation #3: Expand the size of posted routes. **Response:** The existing routes have a two or three hour posted time window during which a sweeper can be expected to pass through - to extend the size of a route would require the sweep-operator to pass through faster which, in turn, would reduce the thoroughness of the cleaning process.

Recommendation #4: Expand the number of sweeping routes per day. **Response:** This would require additional personnel and equipment.

The issue has been scheduled for consideration in City Council at its June 5, 2012 session.

Up-Date: For clarification, this original Motion was ONLY to ask City Council to reopen an old file on this issue which had been closed due to inaction several years ago. That Motion was adopted at the June 5, 2012 session of City Council. In early August 2012, Councilmember Cardenas presented a subsequent Motion recommending that City Council direct the Bureau of Street Services to prepare a report determining the feasibility of initiating recommendations submitted by the Councilmember in his new Motion. SHPOA will provide you with a Reader's Digest version of that report when it is released.

OPS to Merge with LAPD

by Elektra Kruger

As of July 1, 2012, the Office of Public Safety merged with the LAPD, bringing the Ranger Division under the umbrella of the Police Department. The Ranger Division employs Peace Officer Park Rangers, Civilian Park Rangers and Park Patrol whose duties are supposed to include such things as providing interpretive programs, emergency medical aid, wild land fire-fighting and law enforcement.

Park Rangers currently are supposed to be patrolling such parks as Griffith Park, Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Basin, Verdugo Mountain Park, etc. During the past several years, the budget has severely impacted the Park Ranger program essentially leaving these services non-existent. Councilmember Tom LaBonge has stated that it is imperative that the City of Los Angeles protect the Park Ranger and Park Patrol program from further staffing cuts.

Therefore, in mid-June 2012, the Councilmember presented a Motion to City Council asking that they request the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Police Department to prepare and present a report to the City Council's Parks Committee on the challenges facing the Los Angeles Park Ranger program in the up-coming fiscal year and on the transition from the Office of Public Safety to the Police Department. ***SHPOA will keep you updated on any progress related to this issue.***

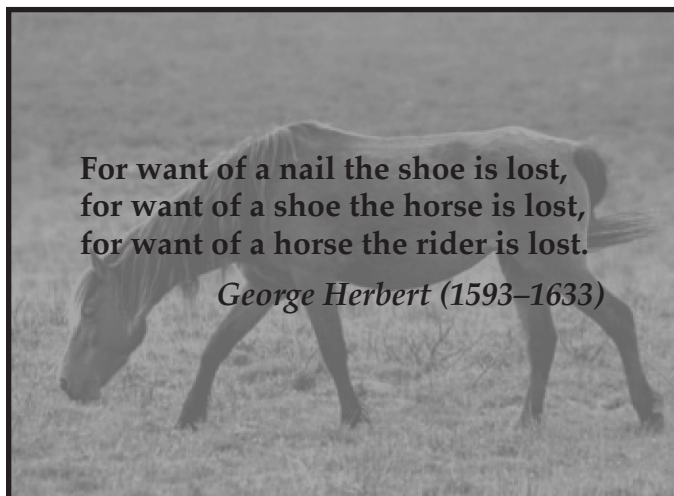
Your City: Los Angeles

by Elektra Kruger

Los Angeles (El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula - The City of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula) began as a Spanish pueblo, a farming community on the west bank of the Los Angeles River. The name was larger than the village itself :-). Over time the name was simplified to La Ciudad de Los Angeles - the City of Angels.

Founding ceremonies took place on September 4, 1781 when the population of the pueblo was just over 40 inhabitants and was still intended to be a part of Spain's planned colonization of California. Officials presiding over the founding included California's then Spanish Governor Don Felipe de Neve and Father Junipero Serra. The City was incorporated on April 4, 1850 with a population of over 1,600 people (still manageable?) and an area of 28 square miles (still manageable?).

There were no sidewalks (buckled, cracked or otherwise), no street lights and no graded streets (better condition than our paved streets today?). Today, the City encompasses 469 square miles - a size definitely difficult to manage, with a population of more than 3.6 million people - a number definitely difficult to manage with our current limited City resources. Los Angeles is the second largest City in the Nation with boundaries extending from Sylmar in the north to San Pedro in the south, Pacific Palisades in the west to El Sereno in the east.



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

Please Bring Items To
East Valley Feed & Tack

Mark your calendar . . .

SHPOA Regular Meeting - Tuesday, September 11, 2012 - 7 pm • Tierra Del Sol

Community Calendar

Airtight Pest Control.....	15	Kim Villalobos - Realtor.....	7
Akeela Carpet Cleaning.....	4	LA LAW Center.....	3
Armstrong Insurance	8	Learn After Effects.....	5
California Polo Club	9	Mean Stitchery	12
Century 21 – Fran & Ray	5	Michael Rich Real Estate	14
Classic Bath Design	15	MicroArtisans	5
CM Copy Print	5	Mission Valley Bank	4
Computer Help - Laura Klick.....	7	Murray Teens Work	5
Corky's Bookkeeping	12	Pampered Pets	12
Corsica's Deli.....	15	Paul Mattox Floors	15
Creature Comforts	12	Piano Lessons (MRA Sound) ..	7
Critter Sitter	13	Professional Painting	10
Dale's Automotive	11	Randy's Property Maint.	14
David Robertson, DVM.....	3	Real McCoy Graphic Arts.....	13
Delphi Academy.....	6	R. Caruso Construction.....	7
Daybreak Massage.....	12	Richard's R.R. Plumbing	8
Devries/Gopher Constr.	9	SCW Insurance Svces	7
Digital Doctor, Don Delson....	14	Sharon Yoho, Realtor	15
Eagle Plumbing	10	Sheridan Gardens.....	6
East Valley Feed.....	7	Sicari Plumbing	5
Eick, William E. - Attorney.....	6	SoCal Turf/Tractor.....	11
Ellingford Brush Clearance.....	5	SoilDirect.com	14
Handymn - Antonio Jain	9	Sweetwater Veterinarian	13
Joe's Bar & Grill/Champs	13	Trish Ramsey Realtor.....	14
John Nelson Plumbing.....	7	WRD.....	8

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

1st Tuesday, Every Month, 8 a.m.–10 a.m.

- Albertson's/Starbucks. 6240 Foothill Blvd.

• 9747 Wheatland Ave.

3rd Tuesday, Every Month, 6:30 p.m.
• East Valley Municipal Bldg.

3rd Wednesday, Every Month

- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
- Call church 818-352-2500

• Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

3rd Thursday, Every Month, 7 p.m.

- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

4th Wednesday, Every Month
• Call Becky Borquez, 818.352.3634

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, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills
(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 CD7

Councilmember Richard Alarcon: 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland