

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

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SHPOA July-August 2020

High Speed Train Update By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

After a welcome lull, this project is heating up again.

First, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) released the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Burbank to LA (Union Station) project section. While it doesn't directly impact us here in the N.E. San Valley, the and operation i m p a c t who work, c o m m u t e Burbank. difficult to & white, the the impacted areas around the airport and the Empire Center/ Costco. CHSRA's construction will dwarf the construction that took place along San Fernando Road for the last several years for the new Empire Avenue offramp and it will dwarf the current renovation of the Burbank bridge.

BREAKING NEWS: CHSRA announced 6/23 that they will delay approving the 2020 Business Plan until DECEMBER due to the state legislature calling them out.

The train station will be underground so tons of dirt will be excavated through either end of the tunnels. They are "acquiring" (a polite word for seizing) part of the Empire Center and Costco, and will impede Walmart customers from entering the store. They are fully "acquiring" many businesses along Victory Place adjacent to Costco and even the McDonald's across the street. At the airport, they will be "acquiring" a large portion of the adjacent airport property (near Hollywood Way and San Fernando Blvd. as well as a "partial acquisition" of the main area of the airport.) It also appears that Burbank's only animal shelter is going to be a temporary construction easement. I'm sure the animals will have no problem with the noise, dust, and vibration if they are still able to occupy the parcel.

Second, CHSRA released its 2020 Business Plan. The new estimated cost is \$98 billion, up from \$77 billion 2 years ago. It's been postponed from being adopted in July to December due to pushback. From there, it will be submitted to the Legislature. Although CHSRA as its own agency can approve and adopt their own business plan, the Legislature does hold some "power" which will be discussed more below. As the entity that provides funding to the authority, if the Legislature does not believe what is contained in those business plans is in the best interest of the state, it can choose not to fund the project until the plan is updated to reflect their priorities. And. They. Did.

HR97 came skipping along and then something historic happened. On June 11, 2020, HR97 passed. Hugely. Like 67-0 hugely. Bi-partisan basis hugely. Jim Frazier (D), the main author stated at the hearing, "I have personally lost all confidence in this group [California High Speed Rail Authority] to develop and deliver what they promised. Every business plan has been more costly and less scope offered...They provide fictional ridership expectations and exaggerated benefits." There's more, folks. This resolution had 51 co-authors including of course our own Assemblywoman Luz Rivas!

The gist of the bill is quite simple: It prohibits the CHSRA from entering into contracts without the legislature analyzing, approving, and appropriating.

(Please see "HSR" on p.2)

Join us for our virtual Zoom Meeting

July 14 - 7:00 pm (pants optional)

1. Update From State Electeds

2. Don't Get Burned: Wildfire Prep

Link will be sent out via Daily Fodder, Facebook, NextDoor, www.shpoa.us

SHPOA & KCCA Adam Schiff Virtual Town Hall a Success! By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

SHPOA and Kagel Canyon Civic Association (KCCA) co-sponsored a virtual Town Hall with our Congressman Adam Schiff (28th Congressional District) on May 20, 2020. Our meeting had 45-50 participants and was scheduled for 1 hour. However, due to participants' enthusiasm, Congressman Schiff stayed on for another 1/2 hour to ensure that everyone's questions were answered.

SHPOA and KCCA had asked for question submissions prior to the meeting, and then we took questions live.

There were a total of 19 pre-submitted questions. Some of the questions were:

- College students are burdened by student loans. Would you please propose legislation to make those loan payments deductible over a ten-year period from income earned starting at age 23? Educational expenses after a person has a job are deductible and I see no reason why the initial educational expenses, including interest on the loan amounts, which allow a person to obtain a better paying job should not be deductible for educational expenses incurred prior to getting a job. This is also an incentive for obtaining a good paying job after college.
- What security measures are being put in place to stop election interference by domestic political parties and/or a foreign government?
- Since much of Kagel Canyon lies in the Angeles Forest, we are always concerned about forest fires. What issues do you see during the pandemic with having adequate fire protection for both the fire fighters and residents?
- The PPP legislation requires the use of those funds by the end of June. That does not help businesses that do not have the authority to open before that date? Could you propose legislation to help those businesses?
- Is Congress regularly testing its members for Coronavirus or otherwise ensuring their health and safety?

We thank Congressman Schiff for him taking time out of his busy schedule and staying up late in Washington to have a meeting with us on the west coast.

You can watch the town hall meeting in its entirety at: <https://youtu.be/YuoY0AGzm28>.



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("HSR" cont'd from p. 1)

Background: CHSRA wanted to enter into 2 major contracts in the fall. Once signed, the Legislature is on the hook for 15 sessions going down the road, and will be left out of the conversation entirely--but then stuck with paying for it. To date, \$1.5 billion in change orders have been issued. Who benefited? Not state of California--but billions of dollars have been spent on consultants. Now CHSRA wants to double down on contracts before the Legislature can appropriate the funds. Unacceptable! The Assembly will not be supportive of any department trying to use these tactics.

Prior to HR97 (which went through the process in record time, by the way), on May 4th, Assemblywoman Luz Rivas (former mathematician) presented AB 3213 to the Transportation Committee. It passed 15-0 and was on its way to the Appropriations Committee. Currently, she has pulled it presumably because HR97 passed.

The intent of AB3213 was to call CHSRA out as for some reason, their "costs" now coincidentally equal the "available" money. To electrify the Central Valley segment is expected to cost \$4 billion. Assemblymember Rivas wanted HSR to provide an alternative plan which would analyze to see if this money would be better spent on electrifying other passenger rail services, e.g., Metrolink, Metrorail, CalTrain, etc. In the meantime, the Central Valley portion of HSR would be run on traditional fuel methods and then in the future could be upgraded to electric if feasible. Would it breach the mandates contained in Prop 1A? Possibly, but it's still cheaper than wasting another \$4 billion on electrifying the Central Valley portion.

Additionally, Gov. Newsom released his May revision to the January proposed budget for 2020-21. From January to May, he decreased the CHSRA budget by \$26 million which was a function of decreasing the infrastructure budget by \$35 million offset by an increase of replacing some consultants with employees. As employees, they cannot pass the buck [as easily as a consultant], and although not specifically stated, they can be furloughed or laid off as part of the statewide employee cost reduction due to COVID-19 and the resulting recession. Consultants are bound by contracts, therefore, they can't be furloughed as they are not state employees. So, the CHSRA budget is moving in the right direction.

The draft EIR for the Palmdale to Burbank project section is expected to be released in December 2020 after being delayed for several years.

See map on p. 4



**Wildland-Urban Interface Hazard
Mitigation Task Force
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

In light of the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires, the City has taken a number of actions in recent years to adapt to this threat. This includes such things as expanding the LAFD helicopter fleet with the purchase of a fifth water-dropping helicopter, restoring 8 of the 11 engine companies closed as a result of the recession, increasing the City's participation in the statewide mutual aid system, purchasing improved Personal Protective Equipment for firefighters and passing an Ordinance banning the use of metal cutting blades for brush clearance. However, the increased frequency and severity of these wildfires has made it clear that we must go even further to adapt to this new normal. Wind-driven events have proven their ability to wipe out entire communities. In the context of the Wildland-Urban Interface, issues must now be re-evaluated especially within the roughly 133 square miles defined as Very High Fire Severity Zones - issues such as street width requirements, parking restrictions, the effectiveness of emergency alert systems, evacuation plans, shelter-in-place procedures, suitability of designated evacuation sites, safe evacuation locations for animals, current building code substantiality. Also, issues such as stricter enforcement of construction activities on narrow roads, should current Red Flag Parking Restrictions be

(Please see "Wildland" on p.3)

Please Renew Your Membership Today!
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

We know times are tough and we appreciate your commitment to paying your annual dues. More than ever, your dues help us pay for insurance, website, outreach email (Daily Fodder), meeting expenses (virtual or in person), the newsletter, and more. Please take the 2 minutes it will take to fill out the form (to the right) and send in your check for \$25 today (that's 7 cents a day!), or renew online via Paypal at www.shpoa.us and click on the "Online Member Payment" button. **Thank you!**



("Wildland" cont'd from p. 2)

expanded when the Burn Index (BI) reaches the classification of "extreme", whether or not high-voltage overhead transmission and distribution lines should be shut off during strong wind events and whether the Very High Fire Severity Zones themselves should be expanded. To look into these items, Councilmember Mike Bonin presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Los Angeles Fire Department together with the City's Chief Legislative Analyst assemble a Wildland-Urban Interface Hazard Mitigation Task Force consisting of representatives from the Police Department, Emergency Management Department, Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Animal Services, Information Technology Agency, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Department of Building and Safety, Department of City Planning, Department of Water and Power, etc and that within 60 days this Task Force provide a written report to the City Council outlining the scope of the work and the objectives going forward including such things as strengthening the City's response to wildfires in the Wildland-Urban Interface, enhancing coordination between City departments and outside agencies and increasing resiliency and recovery efforts after a major fire.



Howard Finn, Councilman Extraordinaire
From Shadow Hills
By Bill Eick, Resident

In 1981, after two unsuccessful attempts, Howard Finn, a Shadow Hills resident, was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in what was then the 1st Council District. This district included Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Sunland Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon, Sylmar, and parts of Pacoima. It was a large area, but it was contiguous and had shared interests since it was in the foothills and included some of the last horsekeeping sections in the City of Los Angeles. Howard knew the area and had been actively involved in land use issues for several years. Along with Shadow Hills royalty, James and Andrea Gutman, he was involved in having CalTrans build two bridges for the 210 freeway over the Big Tujunga Wash (as mentioned in a prior article this was the key in preserving the wash from development). Howard was a citizen politician. He was more of an architect-builder type who had the communities' interests at heart.

In 1986, the Federal Court issued an order requiring the City Council to reconfigure the council district boundaries so that it was more likely to elect a Hispanic representative. To accomplish the court mandate, one of the council districts had to be radically changed and a sitting council member would have to be in a district to which he would likely not be re-elected the next time. There was great political maneuvering and palace intrigue. However, Howard Finn had a fatal heart attack in council chambers during a land use meeting which he chaired. He was barely out of the council chambers on a gurney when the other 14 council members saw a solution to their problem. Joel Wachs represented the 2nd council district which included Studio City. He was the least liked of the council members and thus his 2nd District was reconfigured to include most of the old 1st District and 10% of his old 2nd district. The 1st district was moved to East LA so that it would now be 70% Hispanic as required by the court order. Howard Finn's wife, Anne, attempted to have the council appoint her to complete Howard's term. They refused, in part, because they preferred to have one fifteenth of the City to be unrepresented, especially

(Please see "Finn" on p.6)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's always time to join SHPOA! We are here for you!

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

Membership only = \$25

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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
- ✓ Assisting families impacted by fires or other natural disasters

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
- ✓ Leading the fight to defeat the high speed train proposals

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

**Got Weed(s)?
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

Now that summer is here, our area is looking like a weedfest, and I'm not referring to marijuana. Some paths have weeds chest high. Not only are they unsightly, but now they're high quality fuel for brush fires. If we all pitch in and groom the area just in front of our properties, it will immediately make our community look amazing. Just because we embrace and love our rural lifestyle doesn't mean we have to look like slob. Those nasty foxtail weeds can get into your pets' ears and cause very painful infections for them and some very painful vet bills for you.

Weed whacking the front of your property will probably take less than 30 minutes and the result will be worth it. It's good exercise, too. While SHPOA typically has two community cleanups per year, we've had to suspend them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, I challenge all of you hardy Shadow Hills and Stonehurst property owners: Go out and weed whack your property in front of your house or at least in the right of way. Since many of us are at home anyway, this is the perfect time to do it. Take a "before" and "after" photo, email them to shpoa@shpoa.us, and we'll put them into Daily Fodder!



**City Services Delivered to Council District 7 This Year
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

I got a mailer from our Councilwoman Rodriguez the other day and thought it was worth sharing. Remember, if you need services, get the 311 App for your smart phone, call 3-1-1, or go to myla311 on your computer. Hopefully, the austerity budget for 2020-21 won't reduce our city services too much.

Street Maintenance:

- Lane miles resurfaced: 46.19 (many in Shadow Hills/Stonehurst!)
- Slurried: 92.84
- Curbs swept: 8,546
- Potholes filled: 2,311 (22,861 sq. ft.)

Trash and bulky item pickup:

Bulky item requests: 48,928

("City Services" cont'd)

- Trash bags removed: 2,201
- Pounds of trash removed: 164,218
- Pounds of vegetation removed: 167,300
- Illegal dumping notices issued to violators: 29

Graffiti Removal:

- Total sq. ft. removed: 193,306
- Locations: 26,763
- Cleanup hours: 2,091.75

Tree Maintenance:

- Trees planted: 713 (435 coming soon!)
- Trees trimmed: 2,060
- Tree stumps removed: 275

Also, Fenton and Terra Bella had a new sidewalk installed.



**COOK'S CORNER Part 1
By Bob Renna, SHPOA Board**

Because there was no Cook's Corner recipe in the last Newsletter, I am including an extra one in this issue.

This is yet another recipe from friends in South Georgia. This time, it comes from Pelham, Georgia. I call it:

CLAY ROGERS' MOTHER'S SAUTÉED BROCCOLI FLORETS

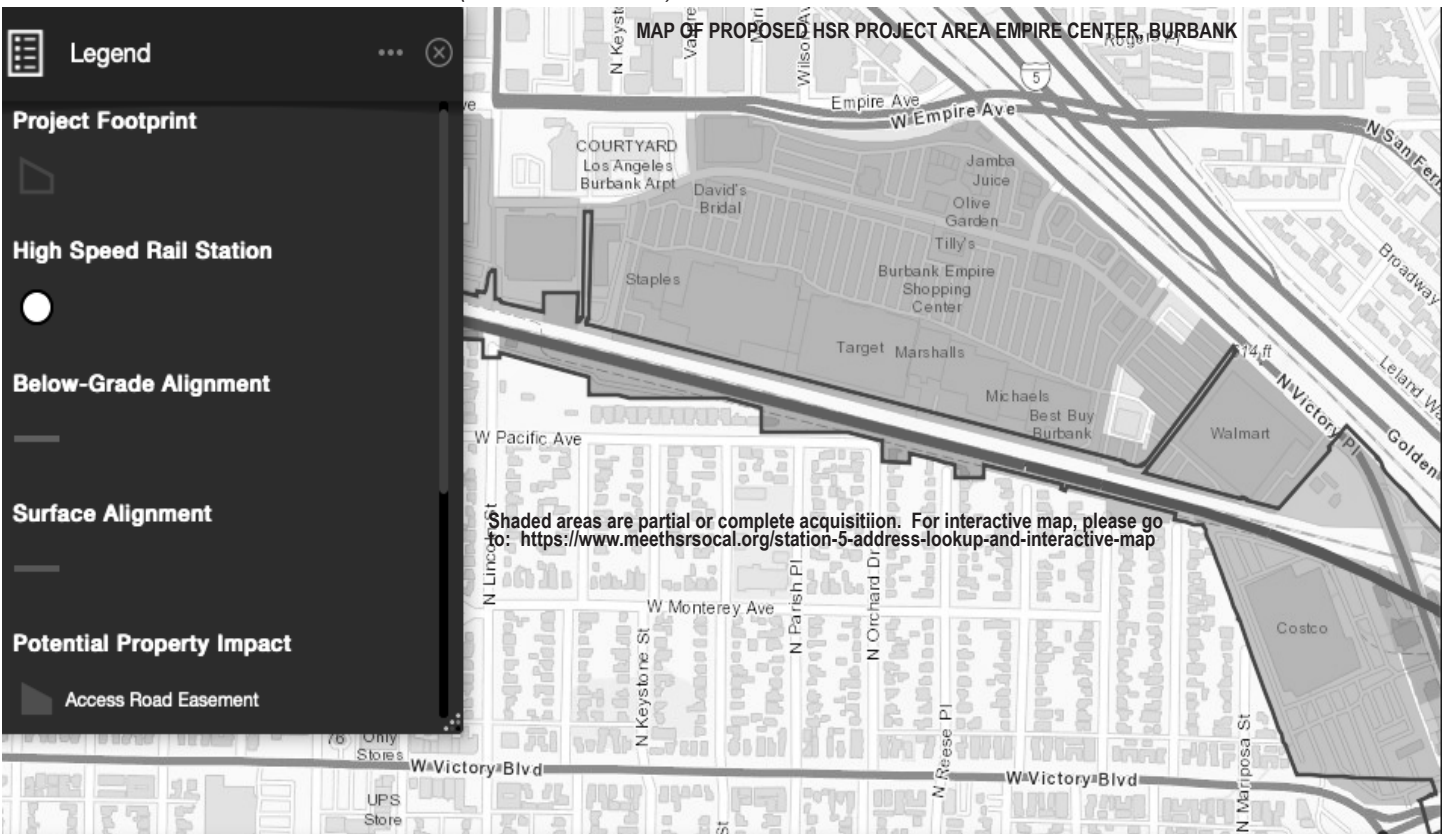
Ingredients:

- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Five (5) Garlic Cloves cut into thin slices
- 1 teaspoon of hot pepper flakes
- 1 head of Broccoli cut into florets
- 1 cup of Chicken Broth

Coat the bottom of a large frying pan with Olive Oil. Toss and coat the Broccoli Florets, garlic, and pepper flakes in the olive oil over medium heat for about three (3) minutes. Be careful that the garlic does not burn. Carefully pour the Chicken Broth into the pan. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cover tightly with a lid for 8 to 10 minutes. Soak up the "pot liquor" with crusty

(cont'd next column)

(Please see "Cook's" on p.5)



(“Cook’s” cont’d from p. 4)

French bread. This is a delicious way to entice your children to eat their Broccoli.

(By the way, Clay’s mother’s name was Bonnie. She would often visit her son in Atlanta and he would invite us to dinner to enjoy her company and feast on her wonderfully delicious “victuals”.)

EASY PEASY SOUTH GEORGIA COBLER

Here is another recipe from my sojourn in the South Georgia town of Moultrie. I got it from the Hodges’ cook, the wonderful Ms. Thelma Cotner. She sure could make delicious Southern food and was a great story teller. Here’s to you, Ms. Thelma:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup self-rising flour
- 3/4 cup milk
- pinch of salt

Mix the above ingredients together and pour 1/2 stick melted butter into deep dish. **Do Not Stir! Add to the deep dish 3 cups of fruit* pre-mixed with 1 cup white sugar.** DO NOT STIR. Bake 1 hour in a pre-heated oven at 350 degrees.

*you may use any fruit you like, but sliced peaches are the traditional ingredient. If using canned peaches (which is perfectly acceptable) make sure to drain the juice or else the cobbler will be too soggy. I think of dear, sweet, uncomplicated Thelma every time I make Cobbler. Y’all enjoy now, ya hear?



**Up-Date on the Sidewalk Repair Ordinance
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

It has been about four years since I last reported on the status of the City’s Sidewalk Repair Ordinance so let me give you a quick review about how and why the Ordinance came into being. Because the sidewalks were in such a state of disrepair and failed to meet ADA requirements for such things as intersection curb ramps, I can’t even remember when, but there was a Willits ADA lawsuit filed against the City of Los Angeles. The lawsuit settlement terms were that the City would take responsibility for doing an initial repair to every sidewalk in the City of Los Angeles over a period of the next 30 years. At any point in time that a sidewalk is repaired along the frontage of a private property whether residential, commercial or industrial, the private property owner would be issued a “Certificate of Compliance” – that meaning the sidewalk fronting their property is now fully repaired and fully in compliance with code – and henceforth, the private property owner would be responsible for maintaining the sidewalk at their own expense. City Council instructed the Bureau of Engineering to develop a Prioritization and Scoring System that would assign a numerical score to each sidewalk segment based on such things as:

- The severity of damage
- The contiguity of a damaged section
- Special emphasis on known High Injury Networks
- A mobility disability nexus of nearby residents
- Level of complaints filed about the segment in question
- The volume of pedestrian traffic

In early October 2017, the Bureau of Engineering forwarded a proposed Prioritization and Scoring System to both the City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee and Public Works Committee for their review and recommendations. Two stakeholders testified at the early November 2017 Public Works Committee hearing, one a private resident, one a Homeless Helping Homeless advocate – both testifying in opposition to the proposed Prioritization and Scoring System. It was however approved at this committee level. The Budget and Finance Committee heard the Bureau of Engineering’s proposed Sidewalk Repair Program Prioritization and Scoring System at their early December 2017 meeting. This Committee inquired about various financial options that might bring the program to fruition earlier than the proposed 30 years discussing such things as Public-Private Partnerships or bond issuances. A representative speaking on behalf of the Office of the City Attorney brought up the fact that under the terms of the Willits Settlement, the program would have to be carried out over a 30-year period thus not allowing for any accelerated schedule of the program. The Committee instructed the Office of the City Attorney to consult with the City’s Administrative Officer to verify this and report back to the Committee in 60 days after reviewing any possible financing options that could be considered to accelerate the program such as Public-Private

(cont’d next column)

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(“Sidewalk” cont’d)

Partnerships, debt issuance, etc. Further, the Committee judged the priority assigned to a couple of the issues associated with prioritization of the sidewalk repair program. Given these amendments, the Budget and Finance Committee approved the recommendations in the Bureau of Engineering’s Prioritization and Scoring System.



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**Disasters, The People
By Marlene Hitt, Resident**

It couldn't happen. Not here. Terror hits home right out of the blue ...days of tears...America Under Attack... surprise, fear, personal doom, words that still live on. Those words were blasted in black from the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

9-11 2001 was a day to be remembered as a major day in history. Never to be repeated, the reporters announced.

That day for the two of us, a newly retired man and a woman wanting to be traveling, was the beginning of our long planned road trip. We were just about ready, as I was bringing the last of my luggage, him watching TV, waiting. Suddenly we saw on the screen a huge airplane plow into the World Trade Center, New York City.

As so often, when disaster is shown on TV, it doesn't seem real. We wondered whether to stay home or drive on. There was really nothing we could do so we left home, loaded up for 6 weeks on the road.

(con't'd next column)

("Finn" cont'd from p. 3)

during redistricting. This would not be the last time our area was not represented in council (that is a story for a later date). As part of the move, Sylmar and Pacoima became part of the 7th council district. The result of all of this gerrymandering was that the formerly contiguous 1st Council District was represented by a council member who did not know one end of a horse from another.

Joel Wachs was very smart and remembered everyone's name and their issues. It was a remarkable exhibition of political skill. He came out to Shadow Hills and we put him on the gentlest horse we could find. It was difficult to determine who was more uncomfortable, Joel or the horse. In his first election in his newly configured district he won handily. As with all politicians, there is good and bad. The good was that he created and passed the Hillside Ordinance which limited hillside developments. The bad news is that when Joel first ran for city council he had the substantial help from a UCLA senior named Mark Armbrewster who helped with manpower and logistics. When Armbrewster graduated he went to work for Joel Wachs on the council staff. Thereafter he went to law school and started practicing land use law which included lobbying his former boss Joel Wachs. This included lobbying in favor of the Angeles Golf Course in the middle of the Big Tujunga Wash (the Los Angeles River before cement). Joel refused to talk to the community in person about the project, but when it came down to a vote in City Council, Joel figured out that because of some maneuvering on the part of the community, he would lose the vote and the discretionary approval needed to build the golf course. That never happens to a council member for a project in their district. The golf course owners subsequently sued the city and in typical fashion, the city went behind closed doors to resolve the litigation in favor of the golf course owner. There is much more to that story, but that is for a later date. In 2000 Joel Wachs ran for Mayor and came in third. He still was a council member, but resigned and moved to New York to become the president of the Andy Warhol Foundation, a position he holds to this day. The district was once again without representation (and it wouldn't be the last time either).

It was not until 2012 that that the City Council finally was able to reunify our geographic areas in the newly reconfigured 7th Council District. Not to be forgotten, Howard Finn has a park named for him next to the City Hall building in Sunland.



("Disasters" cont'd)

My lessons began, not about terrorists but about unity of people. At the first rest stop, after being glued to KFI radio for miles, we saw a man heading for us. He had been listening too, so we compared notes. He was a stranger whom we had never seen before, never saw again but a brother citizen who also worried about the news.

As we continued on, the radio voices universally echoed: "Like Pearl Harbor." "Smoke, blood, burns, debris, worry, war, need blood, give financial aid..."

Edwards Air Base was silent. Traffic was light. The sky was empty. The finger pointing had begun as we heard, mile after mile, just as everyone in the nation, was hearing, all the thoughts from all the minds.

In Jean, Nevada, we began to hear, "...attack against freedom, nothing will be the same again, Palestinians were laughing and jumping with glee, beginning of the end of U.S., we will be a third world country, troops are at the highest level of readiness, five hours until search and rescue could enter the Pentagon."

The desert did not heed. Those clouds, frothy flat on the bottom. This shallow sea of air, the only one in all the universe, is the only place we can all remain alive. Las Vegas was quiet with some casinos closed, hotels open only to registered guests, no parking. Norris Air Force Base closed to visitors but, all was, according to plan. Stood in readiness was an armed guard at the gate. An armed guard in America? We saw one in Northern Ireland once, then paused in shock. No air tours would be allowed over the Grand Canyon. LAX and all airports evacuated.

Headlines shouted that Americans across the country were united and would do anything the President wanted. Everything would change. How? Grieving accelerated. Security tightened at borders, checkpoints here and there. By Friday the 14th, most everyone shared the same thoughts and conversation.

The Navaho-Hopi Observer published in Flagstaff, Arizona, stated

(Please see "Disasters" on p.7)

("Disasters" cont'd from p. 6)

that the WWII Navajo CodeTalkers were gathered to honor the U.S. flag and give a new flag to TCDS Primary school in Tuba City. No mention in that newspaper was made on Wednesday, September 12 of the news of the New York attack. However, *The Arizona Republic* headlined that Bush was the target, the attack an act of war. Flight 93 heroes were acclaimed. *The Rocky Mountain News* 9/15, spoke sharply that the world of arts and leisure had come to a virtual standstill when tragedy struck America: How long would it take to recover?

As we toured the Western States, reading newspapers, listening to radio news, I learned that through the various media and messaging, we Americans, now under threat, were united and ready to defend ourselves.

Does any of this sound familiar as we watch our programs in our homes today? Now we have radio, TV, people talking to each other and various social media, again people talking to each other and everyone. How much and how quickly will we change and be changed?



**Where Do We Live?
By Bill Eick, Resident**

Sometimes when people ask, "Where do you live?" there are a multitude of answers depending on why you are asking the question. If you want your mail delivered, you either live in the 91352 Sun Valley zip code or the 91040 zip code. There is no Shadow Hills zip code. Although if you list Shadow Hills and add the Sunland zip code, you will probably still get your mail. SHPOA once spent considerable time trying to get the post office to create a Shadow Hills zip code, but with no luck. We were told that we did not have enough residents to justify our own zip code.

The reason that zip codes are important is that other agencies use them to define their own boundaries. For instance, back in the early 1970s we lived on Wheatland Ave. in the 91040 zip code. In 1976, we moved to a much larger house on the west side of Stonehurst Ave. which is in the 91352 zip code. Our car insurance with a very well known insurance company went way up. Our driving record had not changed and we drove the same cars. We were the victims of redlining. I complained, but to no avail. The company denied that it was redlining, but it clearly was. Their position was that the 91352 zip code had more accidents. We no longer use that company.

Had we moved to the east side of Stonehurst rather than the west side, our insurance rates would have been less as the zip code ran down the middle of the street. Not only did we get different insurance rates, we received different versions of the newspaper. Both the *Daily News (Valley News and Green Sheet)* when it was first created in the 1960s and given away for free) and the *Los Angeles Times*. The 91040 zip code received papers with supplements that provided news for Sunland, Burbank, Glendale, La Crescenta, and La Canada. The 91352 zip code provided none of that information.

Perhaps the most maddening thing is the City of Los Angeles which defines Shadow Hills not by zip codes, but by the Rancho Verdugo land grant and the San Fernando land which run down Clybourn Ave. East of Clybourn is Shadow Hills and west is Sun Valley for planning purposes. That means that community plans are dictated by lines drawn before Los Angeles was a City. For instance, Stonehurst School and East Valley Feed are in the Sun Valley Community plan and every thing else is in the Shadow Hills Community Plan. When Joel Wachs was our council representative (a story for a different article) he said that if we could collect enough signatures he would change the boundary lines. I collected 180 signatures approving the boundary change so that the two areas could be combined into the Shadow Hills planning area. Joel Wachs was given the signatures but never did anything. In fact, Robert Sutton who was high up in the planning department just refused to do anything because he said it was too much work. I was really glad when Sutton retired. The elected officials for our area are

(Please see "Live" on p.15)

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Embracing Change!
By Eva Lund, Special Spirit, Inc.

2020 has become the year of major changes for all of us. The virus COVID-19 has really made a profound impact on our lives. Change is daunting, as we are entering into the unknown. But often, when you get out on the other side, the change is usually for the better. To quote the very wise Winnie the Pooh: "Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be!"

Special Spirit lost our Equine Therapist Valerie who moved up north to reinvent herself as a Ranch Owner/Cowgirl. We wish her the best of luck, but it was bittersweet to see her leave. Change is scary! However, we found a new EAGALA therapist and life goes on.

We gained an intern from London, England named Ollie, who became a ranch hand and horse whisperer, as well as keeping the petting farm happy and looked after while they too were in isolation.

T-Rex, our 20-year-old mini-stallion, was retired from "Danny's Farm" to "Wild Seed Farm," a regenerative community farm at Village Playgarden in Altadena. Helen, a 21-year-old fancy dressage warm blood arrived and joined our horse community and quickly bonded with Pumpkin and settled into her new home.

We are opening up very carefully with our therapeutic riding lessons. There will be a lot of changes following CD7 recommendations, so we can proceed giving safe lessons. Many of our quarantined riders and volunteers are eagerly waiting for us to open so they can come back to the ranch.

Rachel and Gabe described the personal impact of quarantine like this:

From Rachel-Essay for Special Spirit

The challenges I faced during quarantine were mostly being stuck at home, waiting to be able to go back to the barn again and having to deal with online school. These challenges took a big toll on me, especially later in quarantine when COVID-19 got worse. When I found out that there was going to be a stay-at-home order, I immediately thought about the barn, all the animals, and wondered when I could see them again. When the pandemic first hit, I coped with it by doing art, talking to my friends, and spending more time with my family. I soon realized that something very important to me was missing. The animals at Special Spirit and just SS in general. Every day I thought to myself, I wish I was at the barn right now, spending time with the horses and riding. So, I kept reminding myself that when each day passes, it's one day closer to be able to see them again. The day that I went to the barn, I was extremely happy. I felt like the missing piece of the puzzle was finally fixed. I couldn't even stop smiling for a second. Being around the horses feels like heaven. When you have a strong bond with them, they understand you and they know how you're feeling. Horses are a very big part of my life and I love that they are always there for you no matter what. Even when I am having a bad day, they always know how to cheer me up. This means so much to me that I am fortunate enough to be able to have horses in my life. The day that I could finally ride came, and I rode the horse that I've always wanted to ride! Her name is Giselle and she was amazing to ride! I am super grateful that I got to ride her that day. I was so excited to be on a horse again that I literally could not stop smiling at all! I finally got one of the most important aspects of my life back. This quarantine has been a long journey, but I got through it knowing that I would get to see the horses again, which did happen!

From Gabe-Essay for Special Spirit:

The quarantine affected me in both positive and negative ways. It helped me by increasing my love for reading and enhancing my guitar playing skills. Also, I've taken a more passionate interest in photography and have been taking a lot of pictures that give me a lot of joy.

However, being in quarantine has been a strain on me having to adjust to being home all day and not going to school. Another challenge has been doing exercises. I feel like I don't have motivation to try as hard to exercise because I'm at home and don't

(Please see "Embracing" on p.9)

("Embracing" cont'd from p. 8)



Oliver riding Helen

have the space to practice my karate.

However, since the beginning of the quarantine, I have learned how to be more independent and have improved on doing things on my own. When school classes become virtual for a long period of time during a quarantine, they become more challenging since students have to spend longer time with their assignments.

For example, my Spanish family tree project in the beginning required me to ask for a lot of help, but I watched my older cousins do their work on their own, which encouraged me to try that myself. Also, my family got a new puppy during quarantine. A puppy takes a lot of hard work to raise and train. It feels great to be back at the barn because I like to spend my time at a great place where I can take care of the animals. I miss Aramis the greatest horse at the barn. During this quarantine, I have learned to be more patient with other people around me every day.



Real Stinkers
 Courtesy of Our California Legislature
 By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

Part of our services to our community is to keep you updated on pieces of legislation that threaten our lifestyle here in Shadow Hills and adjacent communities. Here is a list, courtesy of LivableLA, of terrible pieces of pending legislation for your perusal and action. SHPOA has sent in our opposition to some of these and will be doing so very soon for the balance. You can also help (the more opposition, the better) by contacting Assemblywoman Luz Rivas or her staff (assemblymember.rivas@assembly.ca.gov) and Senator Portantino or his staff (senator.portantino@senate.ca.gov) to voice your opposition. You can oppose all bills in a single email, if desired. Our Senator Portantino, though, came up with a winner (SB 1299) so it's also appropriate to thank him for his work on it.

If you recall, the divisive and now-dead SB 50, by Bay Area state Sen. Scott Wiener, would have banned single-family zoning, allowed 10-unit luxury apartments on ANY residential block, and allowed apartments several stories high in low-density communities.

SB 1120 (by Scott Wiener and Toni Atkins)
 Crushes single-family zoning in California, a threat to 8 million homeowners at all income levels. State Sen. Scott Wiener has called yards and single-family homes "immoral." SB 1120 allows 4 market-rate homes where a single home now stands (theoretically it allows 8 units, if cities have local "granny flat" laws). Requires NO affordable units. Clearly opens California to speculation frenzy.

SB 902 (by Scott Wiener):
 Allows a majority on any city council to overturn voter-approved ballot measures that protect open space, shorelines and other lands — killing a 108-year-old California voter right AND allows any city council to rezone "any parcel" to 10-unit luxury apartments, overriding all other zoning including single-family, and inviting gentrification into older, diverse, multi-family areas. Requires NO affordable units. Clearly opens California to speculation frenzy. THE WORST PART IS THAT IT REMOVED THE EXEMPTION OF BUILDING IN HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONES!

SB 995 (by Wiener and Atkins):
 Slashes the number of affordable units developers must build to qualify for large "fast-track" apartment complexes that get around the environmental protection law, CEQA. Currently, a "fast-track" building can ignore CEQA only if a developer

(Please see "Stinkers" on p.10)







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("Stinkers" cont'd from p. 9)

offers 49% of units as affordable. SB 995 slashes the 49% to just 15%, allowing huge buildings but SEVERELY CUTTING the legislature's commitment to affordable housing. This is wrong.

SB 1085 (by Nancy Skinner):

Currently, developers are awarded a 35% increase in apartment building size — a "Density Bonus" — if 40% of the units in the building are affordable to moderate-income households. SB 1085 slashes to just 20% the required moderate-income units, allowing huge buildings but CUTTING IN HALF the legislature's commitment to affordable housing. This is wrong.

AB 725: (by Buffy Wicks and Scott Wiener)

A severe threat to more than 300 cities who have not attracted enough housing to hit state-ordered growth targets known as "RHNA." AB 725 would bring density and upheaval to single-family, duplex, and multi-family areas, whose residents have never even heard of "RHNA." "RHNA" was once a helpful growth-forecasting tool, but is now used (especially by Scott Wiener) as a state weapon to force excessive density on communities.

AB 1279 (by Richard Bloom):

IF this radical bill became law, an obscure state committee would ONLY THEN identify neighborhoods as "Opportunity Zones" where 50-unit to 120-unit apartment buildings could be built, ignoring local zoning as long as affordable units are included. For developers who don't want to provide affordable units, the bill lets them pay a woefully insufficient "in lieu" fee — then build profitable 10-unit luxury apartments. All without a single hearing. This is wrong.

AB 2345 (by Lorena Gonzalez and David Chiu)

Allows developers to add 50% in "Density Bonus" size to a building if they agree to provide more affordable housing units than are now required under "Density Bonus." To create huge buildings, developers would be allowed to ignore most well-planned city controls on height, open space such as courtyards, parking, design review, building setbacks, side yards, trees, sustainable materials and other local standards.

AB 3040 (by David Chiu):

It's a "Sophie's Choice": Cities can choose to comply with AB 3040 by sacrificing single-family homes older than 15 years — think South L.A., East L.A., and diverse older suburbs — to satisfy state growth dictates known as "RHNA." OR cities can refuse to comply with AB 3040 and try to meet the growth dictates by relying on the state Density Bonus program. Stay with us here, folks: Unfortunately, the Density Bonus program is a FAIL, preventing cities from approving even close to the number of affordable units required by "RHNA." 300 cities won't make the "RHNA" deadlines. When cities fail, a divisive and punitive law by Scott Wiener, SB 35, will let developers ignore many local zoning rules to build as they wish. As we said, "Sophie's Choice."

AB 3107 (by Richard Bloom and Phil Ting):

Wrecks height havoc by allowing tall apartments where cafés, shops or businesses now stand, even if adjacent to homes. The new apartments would contain 20% affordable units. Each city faces a different fate — the bill arbitrarily upzones to the tallest height now allowed in commercial or residential areas ½ mile away. In L.A. it means 9-story apartments citywide. It wipes out a citywide residential 30-foot height limit in Manhattan Beach to allow 99 feet. We predict chaos.

THE GOOD HOUSING BILL OF 2020 😊

SB 1299 (by Anthony Portantino)

Yay for Senator Portantino! The only housing bill with a serious plan to fund housing AND acknowledge the pandemic, AND treat cities as partners not as enemies, SB 1299 rewards cities who choose to repurpose big box stores and other idled commercial buildings, and then rebuild them as housing.



**Another Solar Farm!
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

Remember a few years ago when we banded together to fight a proposed solar farm project that would have been built near the Lake View Terrace and Shadow Hills border? Nancy Woodruff, land use extraordinaire, led the fight to stop that project that would have been a permanent ugly wart in our communities. Not only would it be hideous and permanently ruin our community character, but also the revenue and profit generated from its electricity would benefit an out-of-state

(Please see "Solar" on p.11)

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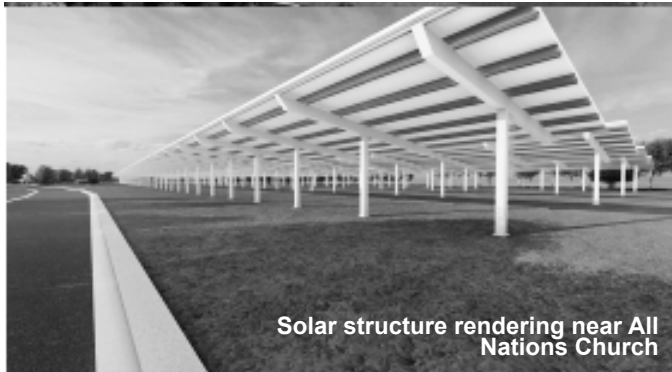
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("Solar" cont'd from p. 10)

company. Through luck or our efforts to scare them off, the company pulled out of the deal and then turned around and sued the City and our councilman at the time, Felipe Fuentes. The project eventually sort of went away...

It's déjà vu all over again. There is now another solar farm proposal in the works on the property located at 10100 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace (5 acre vacant lot west of All Nations Church). There are two main players involved: PCS Energy, the company which will build the structures and Don Hart, the owner's rep. This is the same lot where unsightly big rigs and other large trucks currently park illegally with the blessing of Mr. Hart who apparently charges them storage fees. If you remember the Vargas Circus, it rented this parcel for operations. Although it was legally permitted, it was highly unpopular with residents in the area.

The energy generated by the panels would feed DWP's grid through the Feed-in-Tariff program run by DWP. DWP's website states, "The FIT program allows property owners and developers to sell the output of local eligible renewable energy projects directly to LADWP (as opposed to consuming the energy onsite to satisfy the customer's load). This program generates local renewable capacity through a public-private partnership while helping LADWP achieve Renewable Portfolio Standard mandates." Now, we are supportive of renewable and clean energy but we are also very protective of our community character and this project is not a good fit. The solar panel structures will be visible from the 210 Freeway and from Foothill Blvd. both of which are scenic corridors per the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Specific Plan. It's also a 20-year commitment.



Solar structure rendering near All Nations Church

This project requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), which basically means the property is not specifically zoned for this use, but the CUP, if approved, would allow the property to be used for this purpose if certain conditions are met and maintained.

PCS Energy made a virtual presentation to the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee on June 2. The current rendering shows 19 separate structures. The size of the panels appear to be about 43 x 13 feet, the panels are tilted with the low side being about 14'6" and the tall side about 21'. There are several pillars holding up each panel structure. Mr. Hart attempted to appease our fears by saying he would put hay (for horses?), and construct a nursery of sorts by storing plants and trees under the panels so it would look appealing. One suggestion was to use the land underneath the panels as a horse arena but the number of pillars and the relatively low profile of the structures would not lend itself to any type of equestrian-type use. Another suggestion was to eliminate the solar panel structures and instead install the panels on a large indoor horse arena.

(cont'd next column)

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To quell the fears of neighbors seeing the structures from the street, the presenters stated they would plant trees along the street. These trees obviously would have to be quite tall to block 21' structures, and also would have to be quite dense.

The upshot of the meeting was that community members were not keen on this idea and would prefer an equestrian use or legitimate use consistent with the existing zoning but would be willing to look at additional renderings of the project. PCS will come back at the July Land Use Committee meeting with some refined renderings. Comments were also made about the fact that Mr. Hart has continued to allow big rigs to park on the property illegally even though he has been notified to stop this practice.



Quickies!

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

1. Park Rangers City Council File 20-0190. Probably not the best timing right now, but the Park Rangers asked several communities to support their request to allow them to carry (Please see "Quickies" on p.12)

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Wild for Raptors
By Lynne Toby, SHPOA Board

Earlier this year I received an email from "Friends of Griffith Park." They were looking for volunteers to help on their annual Raptor Survey. This citizen science driven survey strives to catalog and trace hawk and owl nests in and around one of the largest urban parks in the nation. After orientation, we were assigned a nest to monitor from February to June, the mating and nesting season.

Although the survey was centered in Griffith Park, there were nest sites all over the area, some repeats from last year and some in new places. Each volunteer reported on their neighborhood nests, even if there were no raptors present so they can be checked next year.

My nest was located in Griffith Park but I found several large nests in the Stonehurst/Sunland Blvd. area which are now "on the list." My neighbors were very helpful. I started right away checking my GP location every week. It was an established nest and I've seen the Red-Tailed Hawks who live there many times as I hiked to Mt. Hollywood, overlooking the Observatory. This was a shy pair who lived far in the top of a tree.

Week after week I stood below the nest with my binoculars watching for activity. I reported my observations every week to the survey leaders. Although I occasionally saw the adult hawks, and even saw them mating, I didn't see any evidence of an offspring. Finally, when I had about given up hope, I was standing under the nest on a quiet day and heard a high-pitched squeaking. At last, I knew something was going on up there.

The adults continued to be shy but if I stayed too long, they would leave the nest, land 5 trees away and let me know what they thought of me. I got to recognize their calls and this one was "get lost." Finally, after a couple more weeks, I saw a little white head through the side of the nest. Success! Every week that I saw the chick, it grew a little bigger and darker. He was shy like his parents. Finally, I got a good look at him when he perched at the side of the nest. I felt like a proud parent.

He had doubled and tripled his body weight in a few short weeks. Next, I saw him standing on a branch outside the nest, more hawk-like and less juvenile. His parents hovered around him, flapping their wings and going from branch to branch, but never too far away. The next week I saw him flexing his wings and he looked quite grown. I didn't realize the male was on a branch about 20 feet above me until he hissed and gave me the "back off" message. We don't want to upset the hawks so I moved off and went on my way.

Last week I went to check the nest and didn't see any of them. I did hear one hawk calling from the switchback above me and one in the canyon below. I'll check one more time but I think my happy little family has moved on to the next step in their lives. They'll still use the nest but the "chick" will move on to another nest next year.

What a joy it was to follow these wonderful creatures. I was also lucky to observe other chicks (including a nest of three) on my hikes. I can now check off the Sharp Shoulder Hawk, Red Shoulder Hawk and White Tailed Kite on my list. When You start looking at birds, you'll be amazed at what flies by. It was a privilege to participate in this important study to help preserve these ever-threatened species. Thanks to Friends of Griffith Park and I'll see them next year.



("Quickies" cont'd from p. 11)

firearms while on duty. This was prior to the George Floyd killing and the accompanying emotional issues, and based on what SHPOA was told, we felt it was important to support their request based on the following. The men and women who patrol our parks went through the same extensive training, including use of a firearm, as other sworn police officers, including those of LAPD. Upon graduation from the Police Academy, they are then required to surrender their firearm. Our parks are frequently the site of homeless people and drug addicts and require a higher level of

(Please see "Quickies" on p.13)

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("Quickies" cont'd from p. 12)

law enforcement, i.e., armed officers. Many times, rangers are in remote areas of parklands and are confronted by people, many who are on drugs, with deadly weapons and/or bombs. The rangers have no way to defend themselves, and if in a remote and not easily identifiable area of a park, are unable to give a specific location for LAPD backup to assist. The rangers are losing skilled personnel to other law enforcement agencies due to attrition. This is even more dire since there are only 25 park rangers to cover the entire city. Besides being our parks' first responders, LA City Park Rangers are also tasked with a broad range of duties, including wild-land fire-fighting operations, rope rescues, medical call responses, and so on. Based on the foregoing, we feel that our Park Rangers must be able to carry a firearm to (1) keep our parks safe for patrons, and (2) keep our Park Rangers safe when confronted with potentially dangerous situations. SHPOA submitted a letter in support of this file on March 8, 2020.

- 2. Devils Gate Dam/Vulcan Pit: The trucks containing excavated dirt started running again on June 4th and will run through the fall. So far, they have abided by our wishes, i.e., entering the pit on Sheldon and exiting on Glenoaks. CalTrans is doing some construction so trucks will have to abide by detours. The plan is to split the dirt 50/50 with the Manning Pit in Irwindale. The County of Los Angeles has been very pro-active with keeping us updated and addressing our concerns.
- 3. Homeless Count: As expected, the news isn't good. The count was taken in January 2020; homelessness increased 12.7% in the county and 14.2% in the City of Los Angeles. LA County Service Area 2 (San Fernando Valley) showed an overall increase of 18%, well above the county average. Details by LA Council Districts are not yet available.
- 4. New SHPOA Membership Platform/Website: By the time this hits your mailbox, SHPOA's new website will be up and running. It will feature a community-wide comprehensive calendar, enhanced outreach capabilities, ability to check on paid membership status, and much more. We will also

(cont'd next column)

("Quickies" cont'd)

- 5. Hollywood Beautification Team: SHPOA had written a letter of support and HBT was awarded a grant to plant 750 trees. In early June, 37 of 40 were planted at Stonehurst Park. In late June, 47 will be planted at Roger Jessup park. Ritchie Valens Park will receive about 90 trees and eventually Hansen Dam will receive a substantial number. These trees are for open space, parks, parkways, and trails. Obviously, the main barrier right now to getting all of them planted is the safety concerns for volunteers to work during the COVID-19 crisis. Some areas need watering and that's another issue but will be worked out. HBT also received an additional grant for 750 trees which will also be used for open space, trails and parkways. For more information, contact Sharyn Romano at hbt@labteam.org.



**Is Defunding the Same as Unfunding the Police?
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

The word "defund" is a terribly misleading word as it means vastly different things in different contexts and cities. In Minneapolis, the word means to dismantle the police. Here in Los Angeles, that is not the definition; instead, the intent is to fund the police, but not overfund; and to redistribute some of the city budget so that everyone gets a fair share. For example, there are numerous 911 calls that do not require the dispatch of a sworn and armed peace officer.

According to *The Cut*, "Defunding the police does not necessarily mean getting rid of the police altogether. Rather, it would mean reducing police budgets and reallocating those funds to crucial and oft-neglected areas like education, public health, housing, and youth services. (Some activists want to abolish the police altogether; defunding is a separate but connected cause.) It's predicated on the belief that investing

(Please see "Defund" on p.14)

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(“Defund” cont’d from p. 13)

in communities would act as a better deterrent to crime by directly addressing societal problems like poverty, mental illness, and homelessness — issues that advocates say police are poorly equipped to handle, and yet are often tasked with. According to some estimates, law enforcement spends 21 percent of its time responding to and transporting people with mental illnesses. Police are also frequently dispatched to deal with people experiencing homelessness, causing them to be incarcerated at a disproportionate rate.” In Los Angeles, the police spend 80% of their time dealing with homeless issues. What a terrible use of resources!

We are asking police to do too much. Police are not mental health counselors, social workers, medical professionals or education specialists and it is unfair to ask them to be responsible for everything. Why should the police be called because you’re cutting back your neighbor’s vine that’s on your side of the fence? Because someone is having a loud party? To remove homeless encampments (why not social workers in conjunction with LA Housing and drug addiction counselors who can actually put the people into housing?). As noted above, 80% of our local officers’ time is dealing with homeless people and in most cases, after the encampments are moved, they’re back within just a few days. I can only imagine how frustrating that is for our officers to put so much time and energy into a task only to have it reappear hours later.

“Defunding the police” means investing in our communities and our people; and funding our schools, hospitals, services, and infrastructure. Remember the saying, “An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure?” Again, it does NOT mean getting rid of the police!

Imagine you’re hired to be an Executive Assistant. Your job description includes answering the phone, taking notes, writing correspondence, and scheduling. But then, you are asked to babysit the boss’s children, run personal errands for your boss, including picking up your boss’s dry cleaning and groceries. That’s not what you signed up for! And I’m sure many of our dedicated officers would prefer to do the job for which they were hired: To Serve and Protect.

Police officers’ time would be better used for serving and protecting, and preventing and solving crime-- not on calls that could be handled by unarmed non-sworn officers. I don’t know if it’s still true, but the City of Burbank employed SWORN police officers to run the animal shelter. In their defense, I do know some pretty mean cats, but still...ARMED officers to manage doggy and kitty adoptions?

Some things to think about: Parking enforcement is a good example of a niche job within LAPD where employees are not sworn officers. Also, do routine traffic stops need to be performed by an armed, sworn peace officer? In Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Britain, and Ireland, police officers generally do not carry firearms and yet their societies are generally ones of “law and order.”

So, when the City proposed reducing LAPD’s 2020-21 (July through June) budget by up to \$150 million, people were naturally upset. “We need MORE police!” “Our crime is terrible now! What’s going to happen with less police?” These reactions are legitimate. Most of us have been victims of crime and now with social media, it seems that every day someone posts a video of someone stealing something out of a car, a package off the porch, or scoping out the neighborhood. If you report the crime, the police come out, take fingerprints, ask if you have surveillance video, take a report. Even if they do find a suspect, they have to pull together enough evidence for the prosecutor within 48 hours. If not, the suspect gets released. It can be a revolving door as many criminals know exactly how to work the system.

Even though the perception is that crime is increasing, the fact is that for our Foothill Division, YTD 2020 v. this time last year, violent crimes and property crimes decreased 13.1% and 11.5% respectively. Violent Crimes: 344; Property Crimes: 1,761.

(Please see “Defund” on p.15)



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("Defund" cont'd from p. 14)

Let's dissect the LAPD budget to get some context. First, the amount identified for re-allocation from LAPD for re-investment is \$100-\$150 million (or 5% of the \$1.9 BILLION budget). While this seems like a staggering figure, the overtime budget ALONE was \$177.7 million. So, by reducing (not eliminating) overtime, the savings would be realized without giving up the number of officers on the street. Officers may also take "comp time" in lieu of overtime. Top city analysts said that \$150 million could be realized simply by scaling back hiring. This effort would leave LAPD with 9,957 officers by the end of 2021, just a little shy of its arbitrary 10,000 goal. Second, the proposed 2020-21 police budget includes nearly \$11 million for "equipment"—the largest of ANY department! What is it for and can it be deferred?

Looking at it a different way, the proposed 2020-21 budget for city departments is \$5 billion (entire budget is \$10 billion). LAPD's budget of \$1.9 billion is by far the largest departmental budget and represents 37% of the entire departmental budget! The next most funded department is the Fire Department, at \$732 million, and represents only 14% of the departmental budget.

Legal settlements have cost LA City taxpayers more than this budget reduction. According to the LA Times, from July 2005 to 2018, taxpayers had to pay \$190 million in legal settlements due to police misconduct.

Budget cut pain must be shared. Cities, counties, states, and the federal government are reeling from a recession and many government employees will be laid off or furloughed (2 unpaid days off per month). California's unemployment rate is 15.5% at the time of this writing so many people are hurting. Prior to the George Floyd murder in April, Mayor Garcetti had proposed a 7% increase to the LAPD for new raises and bonuses—yet cutting 10% for most other city employees—hardly a fair proposal. LAPD is only looking at a 5% cost reduction which conceivably and hopefully can be attained with no reduction of services through reducing overtime, scaling back new hires, eliminating waste, and deferring capital equipment costs.

Shadow Hills is lucky to have our Sr. Lead Officers Cesar Contreras and Richard Wall, and our always smiling Traffic Officer Joel Flores. It pains me greatly that our dedicated officers who are truly friends of our community may be unjustly judged by outsiders merely because of the deadly actions of a very few police officers who probably should not have chosen law enforcement as a career.

Imagine what would happen if a substantial number of calls currently handled by the police department could be handled or prevented through social investment and police could then dedicate 100% of their time into preventing crime by patrolling and solving crimes instead of dealing with incidents that could be better served by another agency or department? We will not know unless we try. If it doesn't work, we can always try a different approach.

Note: I urge you to Google "Camden New Jersey police" to read about how they dismantled and rebuilt their department into a successful community-based program.



("Live" cont'd from p. 7)

varied and change every time there is a census. District lines are redrawn and new people are introduced as your representative. We have reproduced the maps of these various boundaries and put them on the website for everyone's amusement.



"We must accept finite disappointment but we must never lose infinite hope."

Dr. Martin Luther King

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Animal Emergency Centre www.valleypet911.com
11730 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
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Mon 8am
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Community Calendar

- Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)**
 - 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
 - www.ftdnc.org
- FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting**
 - 1st Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - 9747 Wheatland Ave.
- FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting**
 - 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- Neighborhood Watch**
 - 3rd Tuesday, Every Month 6:00 p.m.
 - Sunland-Tujunga Library, 7771 Foothill Blvd
- LAPD Community Coffee Time**
 - 1st Thursday, Every Month 8:00 a.m.
 - Rise n Shine Cafe, 9685 Sunland Blvd.
- Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board**
 - LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- ETI C20**
 - 1st Monday, Every Month
 - Becky Borquez, 818-262-7764
 - ETINational.com

Key Community Locations & Contact Info

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace
 Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)
 Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,
 Lake View Terrace
 Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd.
 intersection); Pastor Arlo Tysinger (818-353-2500)
 Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)
 Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley
 (818-767-8014)
 Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)
 Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)
 City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member
 Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 209,
 Pacoima, CA 91331 (Tujunga location being renovated) same phone
 number: (818-352-3287)

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- Abandoned Car..... (800) 222-6366