

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



Volume 37, Issue 1

January-February 2014

## Happy New Year 2014 - The Year of the Horse

*By Tamara Loperfido*

January 31, 2014 is the Spring Festival earmarking the Chinese calendar's Year of the Horse. Commonly published articles about the zodiac sign describe the strengths of those born under the sign (1918, 1931, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002) as having contradictions in their character: "proud yet sweet-natured, arrogant yet modest, envious but tolerant, conceited yet humble. They want to belong but are burdened by their need for independence. They need love and crave intimacy yet often feel cornered. The Horse depends on their own wits and labor to get what they want."

Significant for our equine community is the importance of re-dedicating our efforts in taking a stand "to preserve our country living". New, exciting opportunities are coming our way, challenging our wits and demanding our labor to get what we want. 2014 is the Year of the Horse. *It is our year!*

**Note:** *Tamara is a new volunteer member of the SHPOA Equestrian and Trails Committee. Welcome Tamara and thank you for your service to Shadow Hills!*

## IMPORTANT!

**SHPOA Community Survey Results –  
See Pages 4 and 5.**

### **Happy New Year – New and Recent Members – Join Up or Renew Today!**

Unless you renewed your SHPOA membership in the past few months, your 2013 membership has expired. Please renew your membership for SHPOA today! New members are welcome. Membership is voluntary and only \$25 per year. **For convenience, use the enclosed envelope.**

## JANUARY SHPOA MEETING

Tierra del Sol,  
Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.

### **Big, Breaking News in Shadow Hills!**

**Come and hear our Guest Speakers on these Topics:**

- Hansen Dam Children's Museum
- Mountain Lions
- Ralph's Remodel in Sunland
- Residential Development on Wentworth
- LAPD

## How to "Volunteer" for the New "Volunteer Committee"

*By Dave DePinto*

SHPOA has created a new "volunteer committee." The purpose of the committee is in its name....VOLUNTEER. We've had many, many residents say they would like to help SHPOA and our community when it's convenient but that they cannot commit to a structured, scheduled arrangement due to work, child care, travel, etc. So we are attempting a creative way of harnessing this goodwill by creating a "pool" of volunteers who will have the opportunity to help out on a variety of projects on a case by case basis. We also want to solicit ideas from our members about projects our Volunteer Committee could undertake.

### **Here's how the Volunteer Committee will work:**

1. The Committee will be headed up by Anton Bosch, a relatively new resident of Shadow Hills. Anton is pastor of the Sun Valley Community Church, located at the intersection of Sunland and La Tuna Canyon. Thank you Anton for volunteering to lead this effort!
2. We are "recruiting" people via the newsletter, Daily Fodder and word of mouth to join the committee with no strings attached. Just let us know your name and phone number and we'll put you on our Volunteer Committee list. Over time, we hope to get several dozen people on this Committee list.
3. All SHPOA members, residents and the Board are free to suggest projects needing to be done in Shadow Hills – tree trimming, tree planting, litter clean up, weed abatement, trail maintenance, fence repairs, etc.
4. When SHPOA's board identifies and schedules a project worth doing, Anton will call folks on the list to check on their availability. If you can make it, great. If not, we'll call you at a later date for a different project. By being on the list, all you've committed to is trying to help out if your schedule permits.
5. The SHPOA Board will provide additional manpower, food, tools and other items needed for any projects taken on.

So, how about giving it a try? Please either email or call Anton Bosch (anton@ifcb.net or 818-823-8588).

**Thank you!**

### **2014 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, 401-9089	
	linda@wrightcolor.com	
Recording Secretary:	Ann Hesen	695-3290
	binkybink@yahoo.com	
Treasurer:	Lois Dayen	
	invoices@shpoa.us	
Membership:	Eric Stein	949-280-1339
	eric@shpoa.us	
	Susan Lozano	
	slozano7@ca.rr.com	

#### **Appointed Officers**

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		(H) 353-6191
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	kalkrulers@earthlink.net	
Equestrian and Trails:	James & Andrea Gutman	
	353-5974 - jgutman1@ca.rr.com	
	Tamara Loperfito	
	reddogs3@ca.rr.com	
	Nikki Ahten	
	imakowgirl@hotmail.com	
Special Projects:	Vacant	
Neighborhood Watch:	Sue Mansis	554-8113
	suemansis@shpoa.us	
Daily Fodder and Lost/Found Pets	Terri Ortiz	
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	Linda Fullerton, 246-8877	
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	34364@lapd.lacity.org	
	LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk	
	818-756-8861	
<i>Sun Valley:</i>	Ivan McMillian	818-635-0755
	36330@lapd.lacity.org	
<b>Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC):</b>	<b>www.ftdnc.org</b>	
<i>West Shadow Hills/ Stonehurst:</i>	Terry Kaiser	
	hdconcerns@ca.rr.com	
	Robert (Bob) Bell	
<i>East Shadow Hills/East LVT:</i>	Dale Gibson	968-8670
	Mike Carpenter	470-5235
	lamikec@yahoo.com	

### **Board of Directors for 2014**

The following elected positions were voted on at our November meeting:

- President – Dave DePinto
- Vice President – Sue Mansis
- Treasurer – Lois Dayen
- Executive Secretary – Linda Fullerton
- Recording Secretary – Ann Hessen
- Membership Director – Eric Stein

The following individuals have volunteered and/or been appointed by the Board to Committee assignments:

- Land Use – Bill Eick, Elektra Kruger
- Equestrian – Tamara Loperfito, Nikki Ahten, James and Andrea Gutman
- Hospitality – Martha Hankins
- Volunteer – Anton Bosch
- Outreach/Daily Fodder – Terri Ortiz
- Neighborhood Watch – Sue Mansis
- Newsletter Advertising – Toni Ingallina
- Newsletter Design – Mike McCoy
- Newsletter Editor – Dave DePinto
- Membership – Susan Lozano

Thanks to all of these “neighbors” who have stepped up to help Shadow Hills!

### **Damage to New Equestrian Crossings**

*By Dave DePinto*

After all the effort and funding required to make the new safety crossings at Mary Bell and Wheatland on Wentworth a reality, it's beyond disappointing to have to report the damage being done to the crosswalks by reckless and law-breaking motorists. Whoever thinks doing donuts and “laying a patch” of rubber on the new white crosswalks is fun or recreational deserves to be apprehended and punished. Hopefully, their days are numbered.

LAPD is on alert and will catch up with these people who are defacing public property and making our crosswalks less safe. Everyone: please be vigilant and if you see someone damaging the crosswalks, please record their license plate number or get a picture. Thank you.

### **Warning! Shadow Hills Residents Concerned about Speeding and Running Stop Signs**

*By Dave DePinto*

One of the most widely shared concerns in our community, based on our SHPOA survey results, is speeding and running of stop signs within the community by residents. We know from LAPD's traffic division that many citations of speeders on Sunland Boulevard are to residents of Shadow Hills.

We are supportive of LAPD conducting surveillance inside of Shadow Hills and ticketing motorists for speeding and for not coming to a complete stop at stop signs. Like

the speed limits and speed humps or not, safety trumps everything else, so we have to encourage everyone to slow down and obey the laws that keep us all safe. We have more pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle traffic than most residential communities, as well as darker streets and lots of vehicles parked on our streets, so we are going to have to live with more stop signs and speed humps. It goes without saying, the life or property you save may be your own.

As an FYI, many of you may be aware of a recent police pursuit that ended with a crash into a resident's front yard. Suffice to say, the fleeing vehicle was driven by a Shadow Hills resident.

That's your warning! Please drive safely and enjoy the ride through our beautiful neighborhood.

### Neighborhood Watch Updates

*By Sue Mansis*

As 2013 came to a close, we are happy to report that Shadow Hills experienced very little crime during the holiday season. Kudos to you who are staying proactive and aware of unfamiliar vehicles or strangers walking your blocks looking for quick and easy opportunities. Congratulations residents, for learning to leave nothing of value in your cars, locking your doors and windows, installing better lighting, installing locking mail boxes, and noting license plates or descriptions of suspicious activity. All of this helps to unify our community and keep us actively engaged in crime prevention!

Thanks to LAPD we also have experienced a recent victory in anti-drug enforcement. In the fall of 2013, several neighbors near Wheatland reported that a resident's family member was involved in drug dealing. Neighborhood Watch actively rallied for LAPD to increase patrols on that street in order to stop the frequency of suspicious vehicles arriving at the resident's home. With LAPD's Senior Lead Ivan McMillan, Patrol Capt. Jorge Rodriguez and Drug Enforcement Detective Travis Coyle involved, the person suddenly moved out of the area! This is a powerful example of how a block captain on your street helps unify residents against undesirable activity.

Call Sue Mansis 818-554-8113 if you'd like to begin a Neighborhood Watch program on your block. Let's continue to stay alert and safe in 2014.

### Update: Former Ralphs Property in Sun Valley

*By Dave DePinto*

We maintain close contact with the owner/developer of the former Ralphs grocery property at the intersection of Sunland and Glenoaks. As reported on a few months ago, there is still no definitive word about new tenants and the construction activity visible at the site relates to asbestos removal and other general structural improvements.

We have to remain patient knowing that our survey results and meeting at Village Christian School were very helpful to the developer/owner and have been taken into consideration for all leasing outreach and discussions.

As soon as we know specific information and updates, we will share the news with you and invite the new owner and tenants to a future SHPOA meeting.

## Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

# SHPOA

## Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, its time to join SHPOA for the 2014 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

### Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

#### **Preserve Country Lifestyle**

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

#### **Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values**

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

#### **Promote Shadow Hills**

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



## SHPOA Survey Summary

By Dave DePinto

Nearly 200 residents participated in the SHPOA Resident and Member Survey conducted in October and November 2013. The Board was able to review the survey findings as it planned committee activities for 2014. We hope our volunteer services are more on-target given the expert input we received. Thanks to each one of the respondents for taking the time to share your thoughts and recommendations. Rest assured, due to the nearly unanimous support, the name of our organization will not be changing any time soon. We found that very interesting as we've heard a lot of confusion about whether SHPOA is a mandatory HOA or a volunteer HOA. Please see the accompanying bar graphs for a quick visual overview and/or visit the SHPOA website to view the survey results in detail.

**Here are highlights from the survey by topic.**

### Transportation

1. Biggest concern is speeding and ignoring stop signs on residential streets.
2. Next most important concern is speeding on Sunland Boulevard.

### Public Safety

1. Biggest concern is home burglaries.
2. Next most important concern is lack of police visibility and slow response times.
3. Next most important issues are drug dealing and garage and car theft.

### Road Conditions

1. The most important concerns are repair of potholes and bumpy roads.
2. Next most important concern is overgrown trees that block signs, signals and visibility.

### Equestrian Services

1. Biggest issue is the desire for MORE trails within the community.
2. Next is are more "Share the Road" signs.

### Community Cleanup

1. The most important issue is removal of litter and graffiti.
2. Next most important issue is trees blocking signs and traffic lights.

### Communications

1. Daily Fodder and the bi-monthly newsletter are nearly even as the most highly-valued communications vehicles used by SHPOA.
2. Bi-monthly meetings are also seen as providing valuable information to the community.

### Property Values

1. Rundown properties are the most important concern relative to property values.
2. Quality of local schools is the next most important concern.

Here are the overall rankings, in order, of the topics you feel strongest about (with the strength of their ranking in parentheses).

1. Cleaning up litter and graffiti (167)
2. Protection against home burglaries (163)
3. Stopping speeding and running of stop signs on residential streets (160)
4. Increasing police visibility and improving police response times ((157)
5. Repairing potholes (153)
6. Satisfaction with Daily Fodder (149)

Thanks again for helping us with the survey. Your input is always welcome – contact [shpoa@shpoa.us](mailto:shpoa@shpoa.us) or any board member. We hope to repeat this process again later in the year.

Transportation 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Speeding on Sunland Boulevard						159	3.8
Sun Valley Truck Traffic on Sunland Boulevard						159	3.8
Speeding and drivers ignoring stop signs on residential streets						159	4.3
Speeding on Wentworth Street						159	3.2
Other						159	3.2

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Public Safety 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Mailbox Theft						154	4.1
Group Homes						152	3.7
Homeless and Transients						151	4.1
Home Burglaries						153	4.6
Garage and car theft						153	4.4
Recycling Cart (Blue Bins) Theft						151	3.3
Drug Dealing						152	4.3
Police Visibility/Response Times						152	4.6
Other						109	2.2

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Road Conditions 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Resurfacing Bumpy Roads						157	3.9
Pothole Repairs						157	4.3
Want More Speed Bumps						151	2.9
Want Less Speed Bumps						150	2.4
Mud and dirt slides						150	3.0
Overgrown trees/brush blocking views						154	3.2
Broken curbs						151	2.9
Other						109	2.5

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Equestrian Services 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
More "Share the Road" signs						163	3.6
More trails within the community						167	3.7
Staging areas/access trail systems						163	3.5
More white equestrian fencing throughout community						164	3.5
Other						120	2.6

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Community Cleanup 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Hillside Erosion/Mudslides						151	3.5
Trees Blocking Signs/Traffic Lights						154	3.8
Litter/Graffiti						154	4.3
Illegal Signage						151	3.1
Free cleanups for seniors and disabled residents						155	3.7
Other						110	2.7

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Communications 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Newsletter						171	4.4
Daily Fodder						171	4.3
SHPOA Meetings at Tierra del Sol						167	3.5
Create Community Events (pancake breakfast, BBQ, etc.)						168	3.2

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Property Values 1= Least Important to You 5= Most Important to You.  
1 = 1, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Rundown Properties						170	4.2
Quality of Local Schools						169	4.0
Group Homes						169	3.4

\*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Our Name (Which Do You Prefer?)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Shadow Hills Property Owners Association			141	83.6 %
Shadow Hills Property Improvement Association			7	0.0 %
Shadow Hills Improvement Association			9	3.6 %
Shadow Hills Property Owners Advocates			20	9.0 %
Other			9	3.6 %
No Response(s)			2	0.0 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>188</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*SHPOA Membership Status

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, I am a current SHPOA member			148	80.0 %
No, I'm not a current SHPOA member			40	20.0 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
<b>Totals</b>			<b>188</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Recycling and Waste Reduction – Progress!

By Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles has achieved a landfill diversion rate of 76.4% as of the beginning of calendar year 2012. Things that have contributed to this:

- Expansion of LAUSD blue bin recycling
- Adding film plastic, polystyrene and carton recycling to residential recycling bins
- Adding residential food waste to residential green waste recycling
- Implementing multi-family recycling through private waste hauler services
- Implementing restaurant food waste recycling at 1,000 participating restaurants diverting over 33,000 tons per year of compost-able food and paper
- Implementing a mandatory Citywide construction and demolition debris waste recycling ordinance
- Continuing support of LA SHARES, a non-profit organization which redirects donations of office supplies/equipment from businesses to non-profits and schools.

## 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](http://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.



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## **Speed Humps – No!**

*By Carlos George*

For those of you out there who are concerned about speed bumps or speed humps as they are more commonly referred to, I offer my reasons as to why we should not have them in public streets, or private streets/easements:

Speed humps slow down emergency vehicles. The maximum response time for victims of sudden cardiac arrest is 4 minutes, at which time you have a 50-50 chance of survival. At 5 minutes, you have a 19% chance of survival. The average time for a fire to burn beyond its flashover point is 6 minutes.

Speed humps harm the disabled and those with physical ailments. The commission on Disability at Berkley wrote that "For some people with disabilities, the pain and injury which can result from driving or riding over speed humps makes these traffic calming devices into virtual barricades."

Speed Humps cause further injury to certain patients transported by ambulances. Patients with chronic spinal problems report that speed humps aggravate their condition causing increased pain and further injury. In a memorandum to the City of Boulder, Special Transit, which serves 3,000 elderly disabled passengers, urged the City to consider other methods of traffic calming that do not include physical barriers (speed humps). Americans with Disabilities (ADA) opposes speed humps for this reason. "Spinal injuries from Speed Humps," as documented in the Journal of Accidents & Emergency Medicine, July 1996, David Bowrey, Rhys Thomas, Rubert Evans, Peter Richmond.

Speed humps can injure emergency response members. One firefighter was awarded permanent disability status due to a cervical spine compression injury. Yes, she was wearing a seat belt. Another firefighter, although returned to limited duty for ten months after a speed hump accident, was then awarded full disability due to head and neck injuries received.

Speed humps can cause accidental air bag deployment. One company confirmed four incidents of air bag deployment involving one of its models after striking a speed hump. Of the approximately 42 children killed by air bags, a clear majority has been in low speed accidents less than 15 miles per hour.

Speed humps increase air pollution and fuel usage. Research was carried out in Austria with 6 humps and a 40-kph speed limit over a mile stretch of road. Nitrogen oxide emissions increased 10 times, carbon monoxide 3 times, and carbon dioxide 25%. Fuel consumption rose 27%.

Speed humps increase noise. The increased noise is due to additional braking, acceleration, and jarring truck beds. This especially holds true for larger vehicles.

Speed humps increase a community's liability for accidents associated with them. California courts have held those installing speed humps liable for personal injuries resulting from faulty designs.

Speed humps increase vehicle wear and tear. This applies not just to our personal vehicles, but also to emergency vehicles and buses. Speed humps have caused fire



equipment and compartment doors to open and dump stored equipment onto the street, crack frames, break a truck tank, shear off a front-axle assembly, and break body welds. A British bus company estimates that speed humps cause it an additional 40,000 a year, with broken springs, skirting, exhausts, and a collapsed suspension. Sacramento, California, will not operate bus routes on streets that contain speed humps.

It punishes all for the transgressions of a few. Is it right to burden an entire community rather than the particular offenders?

For those of you who live on Wheatland Avenue what are your thoughts? **Email me at [webmaster@shpoa.us](mailto:webmaster@shpoa.us).** Based on the responses received we may do additional research of the community in regards to the speed humps.

### **CAUTION: When Passing at Electronic Crossings at Wheatland and Mary Bell!**

by Nikki Ahten

Everyone is rightfully happy about the new electronically enhanced safety crossings at Wheatland and Mary Bell on Wentworth. That said, you can't let your guard down!

Big shout out to LAPD!!! Natalie and I were using the new Equestrian Activated Rapid Flashing Crosswalk on Wentworth and Mary Bell. Of course, NO ONE was stopping for the flashing light and us trying to cross, when lo and behold LAPD Officer Frankman appeared and pulled over the two drivers that almost took my horse's nose off. YAY LAPD!!

He was at the other crosswalk on Wentworth and Wheatland later when we came back up out of the wash finishing up issuing another citation. When we were trying to cross there, multiple vehicles sped right through the crosswalk while the flashing lights were going. One lady went flying through and I simply pointed to the officer stopped on Wheatland and she looked over and stepped on the brakes! He had already issued multiple tickets there that day, even someone going 90 mph in the 45... that's going to be expensive! I talked to him and told him how much we appreciated him being there.

Be careful out there and don't assume anyone is going to stop for the flashing lights!

### **Edible Sidewalks?**

By Dave DePinto

Hungry? No food in the fridge? Few good restaurants nearby (unfortunately)? Tired of BBQ's in the back yard? Well, picnics in our front yards may be a wave of the future.

There has been discussion at the L.A. City Council about turning sidewalk parkways into edible gardens. A potential new law would allow residents to plant food on their property and have fresh food "at their doorstep." The Los Angeles Food Council supports the idea and the City's Bureau of Street Services is looking to allow people to plant fruit trees. With our current issues involving theft from our blue recycling containers....be careful what you ask for!

Stay hungry, my friends. SHPOA will update you on this development in future issues.



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## "Why it's Important That We 'Don't Judge a Book by its Cover'"

By Denise Fleck, [www.sunnydogink.com](http://www.sunnydogink.com)

Usually I write the Pet Safety Tips for this newsletter, but at this festive time of year, when families and friends join together grateful for being in each other's lives, I want to make sure we remember that our dogs, cats, horses (finned, feathered and scaled creatures too) are Part of the Family too! With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, this may not be the best time to add to the family, but if you have thought it through...adopt yourself. Do not give pets as gifts!

When you adopt a pet, you adopt a best friend and family member for the life of that animal. Like us humans, dogs and cats come in all shapes, sizes, colors and personalities, so it's important to consider your lifestyle before adopting so that you choose a pet who will fit in nicely. As I tell my high school Animal Care students, "If you don't have a lot of time to spend brushing your cat, a Ragdoll may not be the best breed for you," and "If your dog will be left home alone for endless hours in an apartment, you'd do best to select a dog that doesn't howl like a Beagle."

I emphasize that although puppies are precious they require round-the-clock feedings, house breaking, socialization and training. Learning about breeds and tuning into each animal's particular traits is imperative for a happy home life, for you and the pet you adopt! Training and nurturing can make a world of difference, but if you don't exercise an active dog, you're setting him up to fail. When animals fail because humans do not take the time to teach them manners, provide sufficient exercise and spend quality time socializing and stimulating them, the animal becomes the victim ending up at a Shelter or worse.

Animals are our teachers. From them we learn to live in the moment. Have you ever had a dog look you in the eye with adoration like you were the most amazing creature ever? I have, and although I try not to let it go to my head LOL, it is an incredible feeling, to be loved so unconditionally, without judgment! Animals take time to play and recharge their souls. They don't carry a grudge nor do they judge others based on the color of their fur or the roof over their head. I often think of the dog who has had a leg amputated and he makes do like he's not missing a thing. He doesn't carry the baggage of worrying if other animals are going to think he's inadequate -- he just lives! Animals find ways to contentment and peace, and we'd do well to learn from them.

I have recently published my first children's story book about animals. Through the eyes of fictional characters (drawn by my good friend and fellow dog mom Lili Chin), my goal with "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover" is to entertain while making even the most jaded of us take notice of any indiscretions we may show in the unfair judging of an individual, two-legged or four-legged, based solely on the way he appears to our eyes or any misguided stereotypes. Being a long-time rescuer, Pet First-Aid & CPR Instructor, Dog Mom to Seniors and Animal Care Teacher to teens, I try to open peoples' eyes to all we can do to make our pets live longer, happier, healthier lives, and hope everyone will do their doggone best to make sure every pet becomes a fur-ever part of the family! Happy New Year to you and your best friends!



## Distracted Driving

By Dave DePinto

Research indicates that in more than 50 percent of all crashes, driver inattention was a contributing factor. How do you know when you are distracted? Well, how many of these things have happened to you?

- A passenger in your car screamed or gasped because of something you did or did not do?
- You ran a stop sign or stop light unintentionally?
- You swerved suddenly to avoid an animal, a car or another highway hazard?
- You slammed on your brakes because you didn't see the car in front of you stop?
- You didn't remember driving from one place to another? You drifted in your lane or into another lane of traffic?

If that doesn't "scare you straight" perhaps the exorbitant fines for driving while texting will catch your attention. Unfortunately, if you're driving distracted, you won't even see the electronic billboards touting those \$150+ fines and you'll never have a chance.

## Potential New Residential Development Near Rancho Verdugo Estates

By Dave DePinto

Thanks to vigilant neighbors in the Rancho Verdugo neighborhood within Shadow Hills, we've learned at a very early stage about a potential sale of property owned by a Church to a developer who would propose to build approximately 15 single-family homes. SHPOA was recently invited to a meeting of the Rancho Verdugo Homeowners Association at which the potential developer gave a presentation.

The exact location is on Wentworth, on the Hansen Dam side, just south and west of the existing, gated Rancho Verdugo neighborhood. The developer is Chuck Francoeur and his company is Montage Development. They have experience developing a variety of properties in the city of Los Angeles. You can "Google" either name to read about such projects.

Justifiably, Rancho Verdugo and other Shadow Hills' residents are wary of the developer's plans with concerns about everything from property size to location of roads, size of homes, preservation of trails and horse property, privacy, security, increased traffic, noise, pricing, construction-phase impacts and more. We must protect our horse-keeping rights, and we must protect residents from wayward development and construction impacts.

The good news is the property is only in escrow at this time so much work remains to be done and with that much negotiation and discussions between community leaders/representatives and the developer. It is rare but smart for a developer to reach out to a community so early in the process, and this developer is also making presentations to our local Neighborhood Council.

Our knee-jerk reaction is normally to fight or to oppose development within or near Shadow Hills. Change can be scary. But, I try to encourage everyone to also look at the

(See *Rancho Verdugo Development* p.11)

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**Movie Shoots in Shadow Hills**

*By Sue Mansis*

Seems that our little Shadow Hills has become popular for film and TV shoots on location. Do we have any say in the process though? Yes!

The City of Los Angeles contracts an independent agency called "Film LA" to take care of permitting, licensing and processing of these shoots. Once an organization files for permission to shoot on location, Film LA takes care of notifying residents who are within 500 feet of the planned activity and obtains a conditional use permit from LAPD if the filming is to continue after 11 p.m. If there will be disruptive activity (noise, lights, vibrations) during a shoot, Film LA is also required to go door-to-door conducting a "Signature Survey," within a 300 foot radius of the planned filming location to inform residents of the future activity and to consider their concerns. Signature Surveys require resident 'sign off,' verifying that all neighbors within that 300 foot radius have full knowledge of what's to come.

If residents have a complaint, they can call Film LA at 213-977-8600 (24/7) and will usually be directed to the "location manager" on site of the filming. If there is no response, another call to Film LA is warranted and if the problem is not remedied, a formal complaint may be filed with Ms. Eva Bitar at the L.A. Dept of Economic Workforce and Development at 213-744-9049. Although we welcome filming in our community, we desire that residents are not inconvenienced or annoyed by unnecessary disruptions.



**Resolve to Get Fit, Stay in Shape and  
Live More Happily**

*By Carlos George*

Resolve is an interesting word. It implies that we have the will and power to achieve something. So in many ways, I think the term "New Year's resolution" lacks strength. It should be "New Year's resolve."

If you want to resolve to lose weight, to get fit and stay in shape and to feel good about yourself and increase your longevity and totally de-stress, while learning some vital defense skills, I recommend what I came across last year—"Kickboxing". While I have tried gym, and my own machines and other exercise programs, I have found these classes to be fun and interesting because every class is different, and it's like having a trainer for 45 minutes telling you what to do and encouraging you throughout each class. For busy people as myself and crazy schedules, I have found the schedules that are offered and the ease of getting in and out easy is a plus, as well as being only 10 minutes away from Shadow Hills. The positive encouragement and the skills that are taught in this location I have not seen anywhere. The place I am talking about is Martial Arts World in Burbank. Master Keith Winkle is an amazing, motivating instructor, new resident of Shadow Hills and member of SHPOA. Please see his ad in this newsletter for more information and try a class! Age is not a factor, as I have friends in their 60's doing these classes, I hope to see and meet you in one of the classes! Wishing everyone good health for 2014!

(*Rancho Verdugo Development cont'd from p. 9*)

benefits of new home construction – enhanced property values, improved aesthetics, enhancements to nearby trails, road improvements and more. Property owners are within their rights also, so it's best that we all work together. In these situations, as we've learned through working with the new owner of the former Ralphs property at the intersection of Sunland and Glenoaks, everyone has to communicate, compromise and participate in an open and ongoing dialogue.

SHPOA looks forward to working with the Rancho Verdugo HOA on this issue and will keep you updated about this proposal.

"A man may well bring a horse to the water,  
But he cannot make him drink without he will."

—John Heywood, c.1497-c.1580, *Proverbs*, 1546

## Local Forage

By Tamara Loperfido

Working in downtown Los Angeles gives me a city perspective that is sometimes a welcome distraction being a Shadow Hills "Country" gal. The DownTown News highlighted a local restaurant called "Forage". The premise of the restaurant is to serve food obtained from local growers.

Why sure, we do that by supporting the Farmers' Markets. But much of their food includes backyard bounty: romaine lettuce grown at a local elementary school, grapefruit and figs and apricots and mulberries and persimmons from local neighbors' trees. The idea has taken restaurateurs by storm: it's cheaper, supports their communities and is a great PR gimmick.

So where am I going with this? You know the saying: Think globally, Act locally. We have a bounty to be shared right here if we'll just give it some thought and effort. Remember Sue Mansis's article about volunteering? We can volunteer to organize and contribute to our own local food bank of sorts. What incredible edibles do you have growing in your yard?

To take it a step further...I researched "forage". Google found a link to Urban Outdoor Skills. A fun factoid is that a local Lake View Terrace gentleman by the name of Pascal Baudar teaches classes in wild, local food sources. He partners with Mia Wasilevich who teaches Transitional Gastronomy. Right off the top, I'd like some ideas for nettles, wouldn't you?

Sure, I'm a foodie and "Food is Love" insofar as my pets are concerned too. I'm always looking for ways to stretch my hay-dollars and do something that will engage my horses: chomping up some luscious grass at the dam, nibbling dandelions at the curbside, cleaning up fallen mulberry leaves or having a grand ol' time tearing at freshly cut palm fronds. Just as we can forage nutritious sources of food for ourselves, so too can we think outside the box to provide new delightful tastes and textures that they will be grateful for...and they'll help us reduce the waste going into the green can.

So here's wishing you a Happy, Healthful New Year! Let's count our blessings and share our local bounty.

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## Helpful Hint of the Month for the Horse Owner

By Dr. Lindsey Brown

**Credible Online Equine Information** - The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) web site provides credible and quality information specifically for horse owners. Some examples of topics are vaccines, nutrition, reproduction, wound care, podiatry, corneal ulcers, dental care, internal parasites, tying-up, equine herpes virus, equine volunteer opportunities, and much more. **The web site is:** <http://www.aaep.org>.



## Athens Services Community Benefits Fund

by Elektra Kruger and Dave DePinto

On December 3, 2013, the Los Angeles City Council approved Sun Valley-located Athens Services plans to operate a 79,849 sq. ft. fully-enclosed Recycling and Materials Processing and Sorting Facility. The facility is located on Pendleton, off of Glenoaks near our Stonehurst community.

The Mayor signed his approval to the Council vote on December 6 after community leaders from SHPOA, La Tuna Canyon and Sun Valley worked together for several years to hammer out improvements to Athens' original, deficient and short-sighted plans. For several years, Athens' resisted community input and fought the community tooth and nail on many common sense improvements and mitigations that would enhance public health and the economy. Finally, with the assistance and leadership of Councilman Paul Krekorian and Planning Deputy Karo Torossian, Athens finally came to the table and an acceptable plan was developed.

One of the conditions of approval negotiated by SHPOA and other community leaders is that Athens must contribute money each year into a Community Benefits Fund to be divided equally among Council Districts 2, 6 and 7. The Fund can only be used to address air quality/environmental/health impacts and land use compatibility issues affecting the neighborhoods of Sun Valley, Shadow Hills, Stonehurst and La Tuna Canyon.


Athens must contribute a minimum of \$234,000 per year into the Fund, which will be increased annually based on the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area Consumer Price Index to be capped at 4% per year. Expenditure of monies from this fund, entitled the "Athens Services Community Benefits Trust Fund," is to be solely for health care, environmental, and transportation programs and services. The Fund will be administered by the City Clerk.

Input as to where monies shall be spent will be determined by a locally constituted Community Advisory Committee referred to as a "CAC,

Neighborhood Councils representing the affected areas and other community groups as deemed appropriate by the respective three Council District Offices. All monies deposited into this Fund and not spent in any one Fiscal Year must remain in the Fund along with any accrued interest earned. The effective date for establishing the Trust Fund will be January 19, 2014.

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### 30-Day DWP Billing Cycle?

by Elektra Kruger

As the City of Los Angeles has placed its resident's energy, water and sanitation charges all onto one billing, that bill has become quite a shocker when it arrives in the mailbox - further magnified by the fact that DWP billings run on a 60-day cycle. Were that billing broken down into two 30-day cycles those billings might be a little more manageable. While quantitatively the overall billing would be the same, the kick to the wallet at any one period in time would not be as painful. Also, for a customer to see a bill a little more frequently might improve awareness of energy and water usage and help improve management/conservation a little better.

In late July 2013, Councilmember Felipe Fuentes submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they request the DWP to present a report on the feasibility of converting to a 30-day billing cycle and how this might effect the processes and procedures of other City departments to do so. The Motion also asks that the DWP be requested to include a comparison of other local/regional companies on how they conduct their billing in this report. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you updated on the status of this Motion.



### DWP Customer Call-Back?

by Elektra Kruger


The DWP recently implemented a new Customer Information System which is supposed to be a modernized (?) billing system. Since its September 2013 debut, the system has been impacted by software glitches resulting in thousands of inaccurate bills for customers. Customers call the Department's help-line to rectify their bills, but that has meant long wait times - 45 minutes on hold, 45 minutes to an hour talking with a representative and still not always getting the problem cleared up. The DWP admits to being aware of these issues.

Councilmember Mitch Englander began considering the possibility of having the DWP implementing a customer call-back feature as part of its customer service system, a feature that has been used effectively in the private sector. As such, in early November 2013, he submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they request the DWP to report on the feasibility of implementing a customer call-back feature in its customer service system. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you updated.



It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races.


—Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, [1894] *Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar*, ch. 19



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## **Public Online Access to City Archives**

*by Elektra Kruger*

The City Archives and Records Center is part of the City Clerk's Records Management Division located at the City's Piper Technical Center located at 555 Ramirez St, Room 320, in Los Angeles. The public may review historical records and files identified in the Council File Management System in the City Archives at Piper Technological Center by appointment. Council Files are also indexed on-line and are available to the public at <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index/cfm>.

This on-line index to the City's Archives and Historical Records is a valuable research tool. Councilmember Blumenfield feels that the City Clerk should make a brief demonstration of its capabilities available to the public and as such in late August 2013 presented a Motion to City Council requesting that they instruct the City Clerk to report on any efforts made by the department to inform the public about the availability of the on-line index of historical records and archives and to provide a brief live demonstration of its capabilities. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Innovation and Technology Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of the Motion.

## **Protection of Toyon and Mexican Elderberry Up-Date**

*by Elektra Kruger*

Public support has been high to add the Toyon and the Mexican Elderberry to the Los Angeles Municipal Code Protected Trees List. Among those supporting this Motion, presented to City Council by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell in early October 2013, was Julian P. Donahue, a biologist, entomologist and birdwatcher. He submitted an E-Mail to the Council File indicating that the significance of these two species to our local environment could not be overemphasized. In addition to the qualities of the Toyon that were presented in the original Motion, Julian also let it be known that the fruit of the Toyon provides food for many other native birds such as the Northern Mockingbird, American Robin and Phainopepla. Birds visiting Los Angeles in the Winter also feed on the Toyon fruits - birds such as the Cedar Waxwings and Hermit Thrushes.

You can tell Julian is a birdwatcher - he never mentioned the Coyote that frequently feeds on the Toyon berries. Anyone hiking in our local mountains can see that. Julian also made a very important point in that these two plants, being native plants, are fed upon by native insects - primarily caterpillars of moths and butterflies which in turn provide a different type of food source for both resident and over-wintering birds. It is so important to retain native plant populations whose natural cycle of feeding and predation keeps everything in check whereas non-native insects feeding on non-native plants lack populations of their native predators and can end up becoming a serious pest infestation.

Another supporter, Daniel Marlos, feels that removing ANY species from a local ecosystem can have dire consequences for the entire system. Preserving the natural habitat within our boundaries should not be

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limited only to saving individual trees although adding the Mexican Elderberry and the Toyon, which just last year was declared our official Los Angeles plant, will advance efforts at preserving our local ecosystem. Protecting the entire ecosystem would mean protecting native trees, shrubs, flowers, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and native insects.

The Motion was heard by the City Council's Public Works Committee on December 4, 2013. Many people testified in support of the Motion including representatives of the Community Forest Advisory Committee and the Theodore Payne Foundation. The Committee moved to approve the recommendation and forwarded the file to the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management Committee, the next Committee to review the Motion. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this proposed addition to our Protected Tree List.

### Mortality to Sycamore and Coast Live Oak

by Elektra Kruger

The polyphagous shot hole borer *Euwallacea* sp are a new insect disease complex causing injury and mortality to more than 20 native and ornamental hardwoods trees and shrubs in southern California including the avocado, big leaf maple, California box elder, California Sycamore, Coast Live Oak, castorbean, red willow, white elder, etc. Injury symptoms include small round adult entry/exit holes, white to tan boring dust, staining, gummosis on urban ornamental trees (sugaring on the bark exterior near the entry holes) and crown and branch dieback.

Beetle attacks are initiated by the adult female along the main stem and larger branches by creating an entry/exit hole approximately 0.85 mm in diameter where it feeds on symbiotic fungi, not the wood itself. The boring dust can be seen around the entry holes, in bark cracks, at the base of the tree and in spider webs along the main stem. The adult females construct "branching galleries" stained a brown to blackish color by a symbiotic fungi stain. The "galleries" look very much like the branching of capillaries in our own bodies both internally and externally like our own varicose capillaries. These features are something to look for especially in our native trees as a high population of beetles and their galleries will result in extreme injury to the tree leading to stem failure and eventual mortality. Many instances of California sycamore mortalities have been noted in LA County.



California Coastal Live Oak

Photo: Giovanni LoCascio

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**Michael Armstrong 818.635.6223**

**MRAsound@gmail.com**

## Emergency Animal Hospitals

**Animal Specialty Group** [www.asgvets.com](http://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](http://www.valleypet911.com)  
 11730 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604  
 (818) 760-3882 Mon–Thurs: 6pm–8am  
 Weekends: Fri 6pm–Mon 8am

## East Valley Animal Shelter

Needs Blankets, Towels,  
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 Please Bring Items To  
**East Valley Feed & Tack**

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## SHPOA Regular Meeting -Tuesday, January 14, 2014 - 7:00 pm • Tierra del Sol

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### Key Community Locations & Contact Information

**All Nations Church:** 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace  
**Bolton Hall:** 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)  
**Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center:** 11075 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace  
**Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church:** (Johanna/Sunland Blvd. intersection); Pastor Rebecca Prichard (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 Felipe Fuentes; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

## Community Calendar

### LAPD Community Coffee

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

### FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

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

### Neighborhood Watch

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

### "Prime Timers 60+"

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

### Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

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

### Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

3rd Thursday, Every Month  
 • 7 p.m.  
 • Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center  
 • [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org)

### ETI C20

4th Wednesday, Every Month  
 • Call Becky Borquez, 818-352-3634

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE For the Mar/Apr Newsletter: Feb 3!

## IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

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 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