

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 36, Issue 2

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



March-April 2013

Membership Reminder: New Members Welcome!

By Eric Stein and Susan Lozano, Membership Committee

Thank you to the more than 150 Shadow Hills residents who have made your voluntary \$25 dues payment for 2013. Your support helps our all-volunteer association provide many neighborhood improvement services. Most of the 150+ members to date are "renewals" and we welcome you back. To our "new" members we extend a big welcome aboard!

But, in a community of over 2,200 residences, we need more people to step up and help out. So, if you've not been a member before or if your membership has lapsed for a few years, please follow through right away and join. Here's how:

1. Clip and mail the membership application on page 3 of this newsletter along with your dues payment.
2. Visit our website (www.shpoa.us) and click on "membership" to pay online or to print out a mail-in application.

Read the membership benefits at right and on page three, and don't put off either renewing your membership or becoming a new member for only \$25. If you have any questions, please call or email Eric Stein (949-280-1339); eric@shpoa.us. Thank you.



Equestrian Safety Improvements Coming Soon!

By Dave DePinto

For nearly a year, SHPOA, Councilmember Alarcon and his staff, City Dept. of Transportation staff, and equestrian leaders from throughout the area have been working to increase equestrian safety in our community. Those efforts are close to producing results. In the next few months you will see new "Horse Crossing" and "Share the Road" signage and pavement messages sprouting up on interior Shadow Hills streets like flowers in your gardens. More than 65 locations and intersections are targeted.

In addition, there will be flashing yellow beacons and cross walks at several busy Wentworth Street equestrian crossings. You can go to <http://www.tapconet.com/solar-led-division/rectangular-rapid-flash-beacons> and play the video to see something similar to what we will try.

We owe thanks to all the volunteers who created and stuck with this initiative through many months of planning. We also owe gratitude to Councilman Alarcon and his staff for their leadership, for convening the key players and for helping access needed funding. We'll keep you updated in future newsletters and via Daily Fodder.

MARCH SHPOA MEETING Bring a Friend!

Who: Local Real Estate Experts

What: Shadow Hills Real Estate Forum – Prices, Interest Rates, Legislation, More!

Where: Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Boulevard

When: Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.

Why: Markets are Changing, Refreshments are Free and Prize Drawings!

Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

Preserve Country Lifestyle

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

Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

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

Promote Shadow Hills

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

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, its time to
join SHPOA for the 2013 calendar year!

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

Membership = \$25

Newsletter only = \$10

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Status of Nearby Sun Valley Trash and Recycling Projects

By Dave DePinto

Shadow Hills, in particular the Stonehurst community, has borne the impacts of neighboring trash facilities in Sun Valley for decades. Many of the older, polluting and nuisance facilities are either closing or proposing overhauls and remodels to comply with new environmental regulations....and, at times, to comply with local community input and feedback.

One thing is clear – we have a vision of a community in which trash is processed indoors using state of the art technology with strict and stringent safeguards over ALL facets of operations that process garbage, green waste and other forms of refuse. We think it is unacceptable for any trash or recycling operator to propose technology and procedures from the mid-1900s for facilities and permits that will extend well beyond 2050. We all deserve better and we all know better.

There are three such recycling and trash processing projects “alive” in Sun Valley at this time. None of them is a landfill. Fortunately, those days are over! Each is what are referred to as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and Transfer Facilities.

First is the Waste Management (WM) recycling and transfer facility proposed near the intersection of San Fernando Road and Sheldon/Coldwater. Located near the now closed landfill, WM more or less raised the bar with a proposal for a LEED certified, fully-enclosed facility. That planned project also entailed dozens of strict mitigations and permit conditions that would control truck and facility emissions, odors, truck traffic, water quality, air quality, landscaping, noise, lighting and more. In addition, a trust fund is planned that would accumulate funding for use locally in Sun Valley and nearby communities. That project has been on hold for several years due to a legal challenge and appeal process.

The second project is proposed by Athens Services and is located much closer to Shadow Hills/Stonehurst on Pendleton Street on the “residential” side of Glenoaks Boulevard. After several years of contentious hearings and negotiations in which Athens refused to implement many improvements and safeguards such as full enclosure of their operations, and they sought to process garbage at the location for the first time (historically the facility has processed inert construction and demolition debris) and after significant input and leadership from Councilman Paul Krekorian and his staff, the Athens project now compares in many ways to the WM model discussed above in terms of environmental protections. SHPOA joined with other impacted communities to not only oppose this project several years ago, but to slow it down when the applicant tried to rush the project through the permitting and approvals process during the time when Shadow Hills lacked city council representation (and a voice) within the city council (the nearly one year period after Wendy Greuel became City Controller and Paul Krekorian was elected). This project is in the midst of Planning Department reviews and has not begun construction yet.

The third project is proposed by Community Recycling/Crown Disposal for their location on Pendleton on the

“industrial” side of Glenoaks. Their present facility is among the worst in Los Angeles, let alone the state and country. It’s just flat out disgusting. It’s a wonder to all of us in this community that in the year 2013 it would be able to a) operate as it does with all of its attendant pollution, and b) that the City would grant ongoing contracts for waste processing and recyclables processing to this operator at this location. This operator, much like Athens, resisted input and dialogue with our community for years. Only recently, as their proposal was about to undergo final environmental, planning and community review, have they reached out anew to community leaders. And, with déjà vu written all over it, their aggressive permitting and approval efforts are happening in Council District 6 at a time when that District lacks a city council representative due to former Councilman Cardenas becoming a Congressman in January.

We view the current outreach by Community Recycling/Crown Disposal to be very inadequate and are working as hard as we did on the prior mentioned projects to have appropriate safety and environmental safeguards built in. We also are joining with other community groups and leaders to demand that the project’s permitting and approvals be halted until such time as new council members are in place in both Council District 6 and 7....giving you the voice you deserve. As this newsletter goes to press, meetings and negotiations are ongoing and SHPOA will keep you updated.

Pets and Your Yard

By Denise Fleck (www.sunnydogink.com)

Spring has sprung so spring to action and keep your pets safe. Let them get out and enjoy but always in the safety of your fenced yard or on a leash with the other end attached to YOU!

1. Watch Out for Poisonous Flowers, Plants & Weeds

Keep yards free of burrs and fox tails which can catch in your pet’s fur and work their way to the skin. Bulbs such as amaryllis, tulip, hyacinth and daffodil can damage a dog’s mouth and esophagus resulting in drooling, vomiting, severe diarrhea or even abnormal heart rhythms. Just a few leaves or petals of certain lilies (Day Lily, Asiatic and Japanese varieties) can be fatal to cats, so ask the florist to leave those out when sending Easter arrangements to feline loving friends.

Although many fruits and vegetables may be in season, don’t feed human foods to your pet without knowing which are poisonous: grapes and raisins contain an unknown toxin that can shut down your pet’s kidneys; seeds and pits of stone fruits (peaches, plums, apples and cherries) contain a cyanide-like substance; onions and chives cause hemolytic anemia; tomato and potato leaves and stems can result in digestive, nervous and/or urinary system difficulties, and iced tea or coffee can increase your pet’s heart rate and result in seizures as can chocolate! Carrots, green beans, broccoli, apples and bananas however, are safe and beneficial for most dogs and cats. Just make sure the pieces don’t become a choking hazard and know that bananas contain a lot of sucrose (in addition to fructose), so too much can pack on the pounds. Visit www.aspc.org or www.hsus.org if

(See “Pets” on p. 7)

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How To Register Your Horse

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

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Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Updates

Pre-School Update

2013 is moving along. We have been very busy and look forward to more fun Preschool activities. We invite you to check out our new website. We are proud of the look and the content (www.shadowhillspresbyterianpreschool.com).

We are currently accepting registration for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. If you are looking for a quality, creative, and fun preschool we are just the thing! At Shadow Hills Preschool we strive to create a love of learning in each student. As a developmental preschool, we teach through play and plan lessons based on children's natural curiosity. Please feel free to contact us for a personal tour of the school (818-353-7554).

Our big event for the year is coming up soon. That is our Annual Trike-a-thon Fundraiser! This is an exciting event with all students and families participating. Students gather pledges and then on the day of the big event they ride their trikes, or bikes, or any other vehicle that they can propel around the track. With music blaring, and friends and family cheering them on, they proudly work their way around our track, each one doing their best for their preschool! It is so much fun to be part of this event and we are always pleased at the amount of fundraiser monies we collect! This year, our proceeds will go towards improving school safety. This all takes place on Friday, April 19th.

Upcoming on May 16 at 7:00pm we have our Annual Open House where current families come to see the work their children have created and prospective families have an opportunity to find out all that Shadow Hills Preschool has to offer! We invite neighbors to visit and see first hand what we are all about.

Holy Week Services Information

818-353-2500

March 24 – Palm Sunday

10 AM Worship Service with Palm Procession

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

7 PM Tenebrae Service with Communion

Special music by musicians and choir

March 30 – Holy Saturday

Easter Dinner Distribution –Shadow Hills Church will provide Easter dinner fixings for needy families. Donations by March 29 welcomed. For info, call us.

March 31 – Easter Sunday – Alleluia!

9 AM Worship Service

10 AM Easter Brunch

10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt

11 AM Worship Service

(“Pets” cont'd from p. 5)

you're planting something new or if you pet has “counter surfed” to find out if it is safe.

2. Be Cautious with Fertilizers & Read Labels

Purchase “Pet & Wildlife Friendly” products, but even when you're going organic, take care. Dogs love the taste of two meat-based organic fertilizers, but ingesting blood meal can result in vomiting, diarrhea and severe pancreatic inflammation, while bone meal can create a cement-like ball in your pet's stomach. Rose-specific fertilizers containing disulfoton can also be deadly, so study-up for Fluffy and Fido's sake because what goes on your ground, gets on their paws and ends up being ingested when they groom.

3. Take Care with Pest Control

Spring means ants, termites, slugs and more. Many ant baits use peanut butter which screams out for your dog to take a nibble. Consuming snail and slug bait pellets may cause seizures. Misusing flea and tick products can also be dangerous, so talk with your veterinarian to get the safest product in the safest doses for your dog or cat. Have phone numbers accessible for the ASPCA's Poison Control Hotline (888/426-4435) and know where your nearest Animal Emergency Center is located. Animal Specialty Group (818/244-7977) is south from Shadow Hills down the I-5 at Colorado and is open from 2pm – 8pm Weekdays and 24-hours Saturday and Sunday, but visit www.pets911.org to find others. Remember...when an emergency strikes, you must know what to do and where to go for help without delay!

Increased Fine for False 911 Call?

by *Elektra Kruger*

Under existing law, any person using the 911 telephone system for any reason other than a true emergency, such as with the intent to annoy or harass another person, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, by imprisonment in a county jail for a period of time not to exceed 6 months - or both. In mid-December 2012, California Assemblymember Gatto presented a Bill to the California Assembly proposing that any person calling the 911 dispatch system where there is no true emergency with the intent merely of annoying or harassing another person AND police are actually dispatched as a result of that call shall still be guilty of a misdemeanor. It would be punishable by a fine up to \$10,000, by imprisonment in a county jail up to a period of time of 1 year - or both.

Further, under this proposed Bill, any person responsible for that false call would be guilty of a felony if any person sustained bodily injury in the course of the police dispatch punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment in a county jail for a period of time up to 2 years - or both. And further yet, under the proposed Bill the person responsible for that call would be guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter if any person sustained death in the course of the police dispatch.

If this Bill with its increased penalties were to be approved at the State level, it would impose state-mandated local programs at the City level as well. In mid-January 2013, the Bill was referred to the State Assembly's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Bill.



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Background on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course/ Tuna Detention Station Historical Monument

by Elektra Kruger

There were two detention stations receiving individuals considered "enemy aliens" at the outset of WWII in the LA area following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service took over the former Civilian Conservation Corps camp which opened in 1933 near the intersection of Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and La Tuna Canyon Road near the present-day Verdugo Hills Golf Course. The site was transformed into the Tuna Canyon Detention Station in 1941. It was a barbed wire enclosure with a capacity to hold up to 300 persons at a time with 7 barracks, an infirmary, a mess hall and office buildings.

Armed troops watched over these "enemy aliens" - most Japanese, but also Germans and Italians - many already American citizens. The Station processed more than 2,500 individuals before sending them on to internment camps in Fort Missoula, Montana, Fort Lincoln, North Dakota, Santa Fe and even our own Manzanar in the Mojave Desert.

Preservation of such historic sites is important to the City to help future generations understand, appreciate and learn from our culture and history. The site, along with the grounds of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, are currently being threatened by development of a dense residential subdivision of 224 homes which would eliminate an opportunity to commemorate this historic resource as well as remove the natural Open Space of the Golf Course and its environs.

When the war was over and the Station discontinued its operations, people may well have been ashamed of actions taken against neighbors - many of whom were already American citizens - actions that had arisen out of fear and they wished only to remove all traces of what once was there and to move forward. Those wounds may have healed, but must never be forgotten and the history of the Tuna Detention Station must be preserved to provide the tools to help avoid such atrocities and injustice against people based solely on their Nationality.

Many letters were submitted by community members and organizations to the Planning and Land-Use Management (PLUM) Committee to support the Motion - some hoping to go beyond mere acknowledgement of the site for its history, but also to protect the grounds from a proposed high-density development. The golf course itself additionally serves as an important wild-life corridor and is covered with large Oak trees. To lose this would be unthinkable.

Actions Related to the Verdugo Hills Golf Course/ Tuna Detention Station Historical Monument

by Elektra Kruger

The LAMC has provisions for the City Council to initiate consideration of a proposed site or structure as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Recognizing the importance of having the "Tuna Detention Station" (as well as the CCC camp before it, the boy's camp before that, resting spots for Padres passing from Mission to Mission before that, and Tongva Indian sites before that all at the same site) in mid-October 2012, Councilmember Richard Alarcon

presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Cultural Affairs Department to prepare an application to include the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Site in the list of LA Historical-Cultural Monuments and to submit the application to the Cultural Heritage Commission for review and consideration and a report.

The City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management Committee (PLUM) held a Hearing to review the Motion presented to the City Council by Councilmember Richard Alarcon. Numerous letters/E-Mails supporting the Motion were submitted to the Committee by community residents as well as supporting testimony was given at the hearing by community activists such as Nina Royal of the S/T Neighborhood Council, Lloyd Hitt of the Little Landers Historical Society, Karen Zimmerman of SaveTheGolfCourse.org, Marc Stirdivant of Glendale/Crescenta VOICE, and Cindy Cleghorn of S/T Neighborhood Council.

Speaking in opposition was the legal representative of the owner of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Land (location of the one-time detention camp) who are planning a 224 home development at the site claiming that the site's history had been fully researched and reported on in their Environmental Impact Report and stating that the project's effect on this historical resource would not be significant.

From PLUM, the Motion was forwarded to City Council "without recommendation". It would be totally up to City Council to decide the fate of the Motion. Councilmember Alarcon stated that he strongly believed that "a housing development would be inconsistent with our goal to preserve the legacy of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site". The members of City Council were also contacted by representatives of the property owners, Snowball West Investments, Inc., stating that this Motion was nothing more than a last-ditch effort to derail the pending development project and should be denied. In their opinion, the Motion to consider the site to be dedicated a Historical-Cultural Monument at this time would be a total waste of City time and resources.

BUT, the catch is, that if an application is in process, no development may proceed until the process is complete. If the application is eventually denied, the development may proceed. But, even if approved, it will not necessarily put a halt to the development, it might only require a small location on the property acknowledging the site's history. However, the time period during which the application is being reviewed gives us that much more time to deal with /negotiate with the developers. The Motion to begin the application process was approved by the City Council at its February 12, 2013 session. Updates to follow in future issues of this newsletter.

The California Gray Fox and Red Fox

By Martine Colette

The smallest canine species in southern California are the foxes, they are the California gray fox, the red fox and the island fox. The southern California kit fox died out in 1903. Foxes generally conjure up childhood fairy tales. With their large eyes and slightly upturned nose, they touch the hearts of people. Rare is the child that did not have the red fox as part of its childhood memories of (See "Foxes" on p. 10)

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(“**Foxes**” cont’d from p. 9)

fairly tales. One of the prettiest and most charming wildlife neighbors is the tiny California gray fox with its beautiful ticking in its grey coat, accentuated by russet, black and white colorations. It is much smaller than the red fox and holds its own position in the California landscape.

Its menu consists of small mammals, eggs, birds, small reptiles, insects and fruit. The Wildlife Waystation has frequently received calls from very surprised residents asking us to “rescue” a little fox that appears to be stuck up a tree, and we have to assure the homeowner that the fox climbed up the tree of its own volition and is perfectly able to climb down and requires no rescuing! Most folks don’t know that the California gray fox is quite an adept climber, using strong, hooked claws to scramble up trees to escape predators such as the domestic dog or coyotes, and they also will climb trees for arboreal food sources. To get down, they will either jump from branch to branch, or will descend slowly backwards like a housecat will do.

They are monogamous and the breeding season tends to vary depending on where they are geographically. The gestation period is approximately 53 days, at which time they can have a litter that ranges anywhere from 1 to 7, and generally 2-4 kits will reach adulthood.

They are no threat to people, and unless you have newborn chicks or ducklings, or other small fowl or animals, you should be able to enjoy watching this skilled animal go about its business! However, they can be a carrier of both canine and feline distemper, but if your pets are vaccinated even that would not be an issue.

Although California has its own version of the red fox that lives in the Sierras, the red foxes that may be seen in areas of southern California are an accidentally introduced species. Some say they are escapees from fur farmers, or people that had them as pets. They have done very well adapting to living here and are considered a danger to our ground nesting birds, and where endangered species are present the red fox has found itself afoul of the authorities to the extent that trapping is encouraged to eradicate the fox from certain areas.

The fox will not harm your children or larger pets, but if you do have poultry, make sure that your coops are sturdy, as the fox is very skillful when it is looking for food! In short, try and get along with these shy, elusive, beautiful animals. They are great wildlife neighbors, and we are lucky to have them!

Homeless “Count”

By Sue Mansis

During the last week of January, over 60 volunteers spent four nights counting and surveying the homeless in Shadow Hills, Sunland, Tujunga and parts of Lake View Terrace. This event was coordinated by LA Family Housing, LA Dept. of Mental Health, Richard Alarcon and CD7 staffers, S/T Neighborhood Council and SLO Don Boon, of LAPD Foothill Division.

Undoubtedly one of the coldest weeks of the year, it was difficult to find local homeless in their usual locations. Bundled up with scarves and gloves, we trotted out to fields, canyons and freeway underpasses to survey and speak to any homeless we could find, with the help and guidance of LAPD. We found two encampments under

the 210 bridge, a few people in fields and the Park, and several people along roadsides, parking lots and convenience stores. Many did not want to be interviewed, but a few told their story and accepted our bags of food and \$5 gift card to McDonalds.

The purpose of this survey was to determine which homeless are most vulnerable and needy of LA Housing services. Survey results will be released in a Community briefing soon. As Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, it was interesting to take part in this survey/count and listen to many points of view about homelessness. The frustration is that many so-called ‘homeless’ do not want to accept services, even though they are freely offered through various government, non-profit and private services. It was our job to “count” the homeless and not to judge which were experiencing mental illness, bad luck or poor life decisions, or how to approach their rehabilitation. This is a complicated and often politicized issue, one which we all should be familiar with.

Helpful Hint of the Month for the Horse Owner

By Dr. Lindsey Brown

Signs of Abdominal Pain Also Known as “Colic”

Signs may include lack of appetite, looking/kicking/biting at abdomen, lying down, rolling, restlessness, sweating, pawing, lack of manure output, stretching out as if to urinate, absent or reduced gut sounds, and increased heart or respiratory rate. Try not to give non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as phenylbutazone or banamine prior to our arrival. NSAIDS can cloud our initial assessment. Most colics resolve with initial treatment in the field. However, sometimes referral to a hospital is necessary. Be prepared. If the initial assessment indicates hospitalization is necessary (or your horse’s pain persists despite initial treatment), is hospitalization an option for you? If so, do you have transportation?

Ban on Speed Humps?

by Elektra Kruger

In mid-February 2013, the Department of Transportation submitted a letter to the City Council and the Mayor of Los Angeles asking that they ban the installation of new speed humps or the replacement of existing speed humps that had been removed as part of road resurfacing projects due to reduced emergency vehicle response times for which they are responsible along with the need to avoid damage to sensitive equipment on-board emergency vehicles.

Studies have determined that emergency response times have been reduced by anywhere from 2 to 10 seconds per speed hump, the length of time dependent upon the type of vehicle. The longer delays affect emergency vehicles with long wheel-bases and stiff suspensions and those with sensitive equipment on-board such as paramedic units.

The American Heart Association reports that sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States. Statistics show that survivability of sudden cardiac arrest directly correlates to the timeliness of medical intervention. Similarly, timeliness is critical in cases of trauma, the third leading cause of death. The proliferation

(See “**Speed Humps**” on p. 12)

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of speed humps throughout the City already contributes to an elevated response time of emergency vehicles.

If City Council cannot bring themselves to accept a total ban on speed humps, the Department of Transportation offered an alternate proposal of providing the Council the option of prioritizing neighborhood traffic management vs. emergency vehicle response time. This would require review and approval of a proposed speed hump location and conceptual plan by the Los Angeles Fire Department prior to project initiation and would authorize the Department of Transportation to develop and administer guidelines for the installation and removal of speed humps based on local traffic safety considerations and input from the various emergency response agencies such as the Fire Department and Police Department. The Department of Transportation letter of mid-February 2013 was referred to the City Council’s Transportation Committee for their review and recommendations.

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

Will ‘Hay’ Be The Next “Gold”?

By Steve Crouch, MetaGardens

Will hay be the next “gold?” Robin Schmahl, an agricultural commodities broker, posited this question in a recent article written for the Dairy Today blog. Dairy farming consumes a huge amount of feed hay, so it’s worth noting the effect of the larger market on hay prices for Shadow Hills area horse owners.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported on its 2012 “Crop Production Summary” that alfalfa and alfalfa hay mixture production was at the lowest level since 1953, down 20% from 2011. Drought throughout the Midwest and Southwest has farmers converting to other crops or letting land go fallow.

Ironically, while US production is down, exports to China, Saudi Arabia, and Japan have increased significantly, up by 19% last year. Chris Gresham, a manager at East Valley Feed and Tack, says the large U.S. growers can’t resist the prices overseas brokers are paying (as much as 50% more) so that puts pressure on the local price of hay and its availability. When the dollar goes down (it’s plummeting right now), local prices go way up even though hay is sourced here in the West.

As a consequence of rising hay prices, illegal “backyard” growers are trying to unload their crops in the area, often undercutting commercial sources. But the risks are great when buying from these sources, since there is no legal recourse with regards to safety or service.

Some horse owners are looking at alternative feeds. One Shadow Hills local experiences great results adding almond hulls to her horse’s diet, cutting hay back by 75%. She also experimented with growing “green fodder” in a hydroponics system but found it to be a lot of work.

While there is a lot you can do to control what you pay for your hay, the overall trend for hay prices is rising with no real end in sight. What do you do to manage these costs? Share your stories here in the SHPOA Newsletter, or contact me at stevecrouch@metagardens.net.

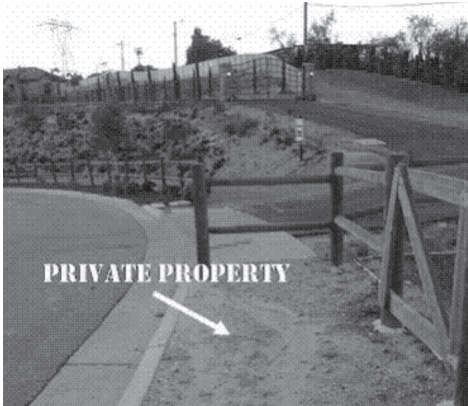
Trails within Stallion Ranch Estates

By Nikki Ahten

In recent months, various community members have brought to the attention of SHPOA and ETI Corral 20 concerns of trail access in the Stallion Ranch Estates development. In January, representatives from SHPOA, CD7, the equestrian community and Stallion Ranch Estates met and reviewed the concerns and issues of our trails and open space land within the development. We discussed the trail that is on the boundary line between the Shadow Hills Estates and the Stallion Ranch Estates, as well as the fencing that was put across the perceived trail at the top of the development (see photos below). The developer is communicating and working with us on these issues. He provided maps of the dedicated trail system within the development and discussed the trails in question.

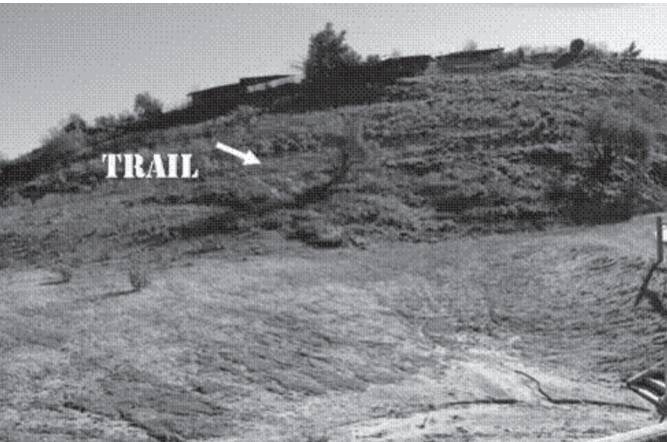


The trail that is near the house-Lot 7 (pictured above) on the boundary between the Shadow Hills Estates and the Stallion Ranch Estates, is an existing trail and will remain a trail. At this point the building project is not complete and is an active construction zone. We need to be careful and patient when riding through there during construction. The developer is cleaning up the site more diligently to make sure construction debris does not obstruct or litter the trail. Also, there is a driveway easement that will interrupt the trail and that work will be happening shortly. The developer was open to input for the best possible options for that driveway easement. While that work is underway the trail may be temporarily inaccessible.



The new fence obstruction on the perceived trail at the top of the development at lot 13 (pictured above) closest to

Bella Vista stables is not on the dedicated trail. The actual dedicated trail crosses the driveway and either splits off to the left behind Bella Vista, or to the right and up a short distance to a cut out on the hillside (see photo below). The trail is about four feet wide and is along the ledge of the hillside. It connects back to the roadside bridle path in front of lot 14, taking you down the emergency access road out to Wheatland Avenue.



The “trail” that many people have been using and that is located directly along the street is not a “dedicated” trail and is actually private property. Out of respect for our neighbors we need to make it a priority to use the dedicated trails and not cross through private property. There is also a lovely trail that goes up between lots 8 and 9 that is easy to miss because it appears to go through private property, and thus it is not being used much (see photo below). Next time you are out riding, try to make it a point to ride through there so that others can see that it is a dedicated trail. It can be confusing and hard to see where the actual dedicated trails are; we are working with the developer to possibly install signage indicating the dedicated trails within the development.



While we may not like the development or the interruption to our trails, we should be thankful that we still have trails there and need to thank those who have fought to keep them there. Out of common courtesy to our neighbors and as representatives of the equestrian community, please show respect while riding in the Stallion Ranch Estates. It should not be a nuisance to have us ride through, but a pleasure and a vivid reminder of the unique equestrian community we all live in.


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Funding for Street Tree Maintenance - Update

by Elektra Kruger

With the status of the City’s budget, among the items to have seen notable funding cuts has been routine proactive tree trimming in the public right-of-way resulting in a marked increase in the number of fallen trees, broken limbs, obstructed views and blockage of traffic signals and street lighting. This has led to a rising number of street tree “emergency requests” dealing with ever larger tree failures and legal claims related to these failures.

In mid-September 2012, Councilmember Herb Wesson presented a Motion hoping to identify sources of funding to increase general street tree maintenance and repairs of City street median island irrigation systems - such sources including perhaps monies from the Public Works Trust Fund. In mid-November 2012, the City Council’s Public Works Committee reviewed the Motion.

In addition to considering the Motion’s request to utilize Public Works Trust Fund monies to supplement proactive street tree maintenance, the Committee additionally recommended that the City’s Administrative Officer and City Attorney report on how much money the City has paid out over the last 5 years in liability claims resulting from fallen tree limb incidents. At its own meeting in mid-December, the City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Public Works Committee and concurred with them. SHPOA will inform you of the outcome of the discussion/votes relative to this issue in Council.

Up-Date: *The City Council approved the Motion at it’s January 9, 2013 session and forwarded it to the City Attorney for processing.*

Update on Multi-Year/Discounted Equine License Fees

by Elektra Kruger

In late September 2012, the City Attorney presented to the City Council - upon their request - a Draft Ordinance authorizing the Department of Animal Services to issue multi-year and discounted equine licenses. Currently the cost of annual equine licenses is \$14.00. The proposed Ordinance provided for a discount of 10% for a one-year license (does that mean an annual fee of \$12.60 which is 10% of the current \$14.00?), 20% for a 2-year license, 30% for a 3-year license, 40% for a 4-year license and 50% for a 5-year license.

In mid-October, the City Attorney caught the glaring error of the original Motion - the 10% discount for a one year license. They testified before the City Council’s Animal Welfare Committee to apprise them of the error and to request authorization to revise the proposed Ordinance. The revised draft Ordinance was prepared and presented to the Animal Welfare Committee in late October 2012. A one year license will remain \$14. From there multi-year licenses will be discounted as presented in the original Motion - 20% for a two year, 30% for a three year, etc. Along with correcting the one-year discount, they additionally specified that equines owned by the City such as Los Angeles Police Department horses would be exempt from the licensing requirement and not be subject to this fee. Because the Ordinance involves a mere change in fees and will not result in any impact,

direct or indirect, on the environment, the Ordinance will be exempt from CEQA. Alterations in fee structures do require public hearings per California State code. The item was scheduled to be heard in City Council in early January 2013. SHPOA will inform you of the discussion/ vote on this issue.

Street Repair Bond Measure?

by Elektra Kruger

More than 8,700 lane miles of streets in the City of Los Angeles are in need of repair (DAH!). At the rate that the City is currently repairing our City streets, it would take 60 years to finish all 8,700 lane miles - and that assumes that in those 60 years, no roads newly fall into a state of disrepair. In early January 2013, seven Councilmembers stated that a General Obligation Bond approved by the voters would be the only way to secure sufficient funding for a realistic 10-year repair program. Once repaired, the street systems could be maintained in good condition through available sources of funding.

If you believe this, I have a bridge to sell you! If existing funding were adequate once roads were repaired, how in the world did the roads get in such terrible shape in the first place? They didn’t start out that way! Los Angeles vehicle owners incur an average \$750 in additional wear and tear to their vehicles due to poor street conditions. Poorly maintained roadways slow down rescue ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles -time critical in emergency situations.

The Councilmembers argued that with interest rates being at their lowest in 40 years, now would be the time to lock in those low rates for a Street Repair and Safety Bond. The seven Councilmembers asked that City Council request the City Attorney to prepare Resolutions necessary to place a 20-year \$3 billion Street Repair and Safety General Obligation Bond Program on the May 21, 2013 General Municipal Election Ballot with all work to be performed in ten years.

Consideration of this matter by the City Council has now been postponed.

DWP to Transfer “Surplus” Funds to the City

by Elektra Kruger

The Board of Water and Power Commissioners is given City Charter mandated authority to control revenue produced from the Water and Power revenues including transfers to the City’s General Fund when there are “surplus” funds at the close of a fiscal year. And these transfers are no pittance. At a Board Meeting in early December 2012, the DWP Board Commissioners determined that there were “surplus” monies in the Power Revenue Fund at the close of fiscal year 2011 to 2012 and approved the transfer of \$246.5 million of these “surplus” funds to the City’s Reserve Fund during the fiscal year 2012 to 2013.

If there are \$246.5 million “surplus” in the Power Revenue Fund, why are my DWP rates scheduled to rise - by substantial amounts? Why are these “surplus” funds not being dedicated to upgrading aging infrastructure? A similar thing will happen with the Water Revenue Fund and its “surplus”. I don’t yet know what its “surplus” is, but the amount will be equally astounding. The proposed

Ordinance for the transfer of the “surplus” Power Revenue Funds will call for the transfer of \$123.3 million in one lump sum within 10 days of the effective date of the Ordinance with the remaining amount to be transferred in equal monthly installments so that by June 30, 2013, the full amount of \$246.5 will have been paid.

In mid-December 2012, the City Attorney prepared and submitted a Draft Ordinance for the City Council’s review. Realizing that it didn’t matter what they had to say, the City Council’s Energy Committee decided to save time and just waived consideration of the matter and forwarded the item to the full Council for a vote. For all the good it did, public testimony presented at the City Council’s December 14, 2012 Hearing on this matter spoke against approval of the Ordinance. The Council, of course, approved the Ordinance.

Human felicity is produced not so much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen, as by little advantages that occur every day.

Benjamin Franklin
Autobiography
Chapter 9

ANGC Fund for Foothill Trail

by Elektra Kruger

One of the Conditions that the Angeles National Golf Course had to agree upon in order to get its entitlement for the Golf Course in the Big Tujunga Canyon Wash was to set aside a \$250,000 fund to be used for the construction of an equestrian trail on the north side of Foothill Blvd. thereby providing for connectivity between the Golf Course and the Hansen Dam Recreation Area. Initially this trail was to go from the Golf Course to the Wheatland/Foothill intersection - a designated equestrian crossings which was to be used to access Hansen Dam.

Before this trail was put in place a Foothill Blvd. bicycle lane has been added to Foothill Blvd making this aforementioned planned trail location unfeasible. Thus, as part of the recent Motion related to installation of equine traffic devices, there was added a requirement to develop a rerouted trail to serve that same purpose. The new trail route would call for an equestrian crossing south of the Conover Fire Road, trail improvements as needed on both the north and south sides of Foothill Blvd. and Foothill Place and an access ramp connecting these trail improvements to the Tujunga Wash soft bottom located between the Foothill Blvd. Bridge and the Foothill 210 Freeway to provide trail access to and from the Tujunga Wash to Hansen Dam.

City Council instructed the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of City Planning, the City Attorney and the CD7 staff to prepare a Project Concept Report and Work Plan to the City Council for their review. To be updated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.

Up-Date: *Project Concept Report and Work Plan is still pending.*



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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 Janet Winslow (818-353-2500)
Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)
Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley
Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills
Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley
City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office CD7
Councilmember Richard Alarcon; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

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

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4th Wednesday, Every Month
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