

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 31, Issue 6

Join SHPOA in 2010

By Roberta Cole

Shadow Hills is a unique and interesting rural community within the city limits of Los Angeles. Residents share a sense of well being and belonging, on spacious properties, with freedom to pursue a country living lifestyle.

The members of the Board of Directors are dedicated residents of Shadow Hills and relentlessly work toward preserving that lifestyle we all treasure and have come to expect.

For a lot less than a steak dinner, you can become a voting member of this progressive organization. With your support, SHPOA will continue to provide benefits such as:

- Representation of SHPOA interests at local, city and governmental meetings to support or contest changes to our "country" way of life
- Prevent unrestrained development in opposition to the Community Plan
- Challenge development and focus encouragement of open land for the Wildlife Corridor
- Preservation, development and connectivity of equestrian trails
- Associate with neighboring communities in their efforts to preserve open land
- Coordination with government, community, law enforcement and other organizations promoting public safety
- Bi-monthly meetings featuring respected and honored guest speakers on current affairs, with an open forum
- Community Activities: pancake breakfast, BBQ dinner and dance, garage sale, ice cream social, pizza night, etc.

Imagine: all that for \$20.00 a year per membership! Annual membership runs January through December. Membership is open to all residents (owners and renters) of Shadow Hills. Please refer to the attached form/envelope to become a new member or to renew your membership.



Hansen Dam Maps on Sale Now

Grid maps of Hansen Dam with phone numbers of Sheriff, LAPD, Rangers, Lifeguards, etc. are now for sale at East Valley Feed, by calling Chris Arlington at 818-421-2854, or Terry Kaiser at 818-353-4682. There is a very nominal fee of \$5.00.

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



November-December 2009

Election Update

By Dave DePinto

As you know Wendy Greuel has moved on to become City Controller and we are in the midst of an election here in CD2 to select a new council representative. A primary election was held on September 22 – Chris Essel and Paul Krekorian emerged as the two highest vote getters among the ten candidates and will now face off in a general election on December 8, 2009. SHPOA has been doing its best to keep you informed about the election and encourages everyone to read up on the candidates and the issues and to vote in December.

In August the SHPOA board conducted a bus tour of Shadow Hills for candidates to "see for themselves" many of the issues existing here in our community. It was a good investment and a good use of our limited funds (which we derive from your dues and occasional donations). We invited all ten candidates and were pleased that eight of the candidates attended. They were all very interested in our community and we commend each of them for their commitment and service.

The tour began at Stonehurst Park and proceeded into "industrial" Sun Valley where we showed the candidates the variety of trash, recycling, auto salvage, quarry, and other trucking businesses that impact our air quality and local roads. We proceeded up Sunland Blvd. to show them the since removed "psychic" sign, Tierra del Sol, Kings Island, and Fond Family Trust land. From there, we got a good vantage point above La Canada Way to discuss Angeles National Golf Course, hillside development,

Continued on page 6

Mitigation Bank

By Gregorio Benavides, Biologist, ECRP Consulting, Inc.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, through onsite visits to Big T and a simple but informative flier, has begun a new outreach effort in the Big-T Mitigation Bank. Each week, Big T receives a wide variety of visitors, many of whom are unaware of just how important Big T is for its plant and animal community. As is often the case when uninformed visitors come to Big T for recreational purposes, important park regulations are broken. These actions in turn hurt the plant and animal community. Some activities observed include swimming in the creek, cooking with open flame, and in some cases altering or destroying sensitive habitat.

In order to reach out to these visitors, Public Works launched a new outreach program designed to target and inform all of Big T's visitors. Through on-site interviews and informal question and answer sessions, it was learned that visitors care very much about protecting Big T.

Continued on page 8

2009 SHPOA Board Members

Executive Officers

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| President: | Elektra Kruger | 352-6220 |
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| Communications/ Executive Secretary: | Linda Fullerton | 352-3693 |
| | linda@wrightcolor.com | |
| Recording Secretary: | | |
| Treasurer: | Muriel Sullivan | 352-5052 |
| Membership: | Roberta Cole | 353-4633 |

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| Historian: | Gerry Kruger | 352-6220 |
| Hospitality: | Martha Hankins | 951-1669 |
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| Outreach: | Chris Arlington | 353-5534 |
| "Lost/Found Pets" | Shpoa4u@yahoo.com | |

SHPOA's Mailing Address:
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Website: www.shadowhillshpoa.com

| | |
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| | | |
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| <i>Sun Valley:</i> | Michelle Rodriguez | 634-0755 |
| | 31020@lapd.lacity.org | |

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>West Shadow Hills/Stonhurst:</i> | Terry Kaiser area5rep1@ftdnc.org |
| <i>East Shadow Hills/East LVT:</i> | Dale Gibson 818-968-8670 |

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| | Weekends: Fri 6pm – Mon 8am |

Permit Fee-Waivers for Drought-Resistant Landscaping

By Elektra Kruger

Given that we are in the midst of a multi-year drought and water conservation is of utmost importance, one way to conserve water is to replace traditional lawns with drought-tolerant landscapes requiring less water to maintain.

Incentive programs to encourage transition to drought-tolerant landscaping exist in the City of Los Angeles. The Department of Water and Power has a \$1/sq ft rebate program for homeowners replacing lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping or a \$1/sq foot rebate program for replacing lawns with artificial turf. Although these rebate programs reward City residents who switch to drought-tolerant landscaping, some permits that might be required before the transition may take place do have associated fees.

Councilmember Greig Smith feels that the City should ensure that there are no such disincentives barring people from considering transferring to drought-resistant landscaping and should consider waiving permit fees for landscape and parkway transition Projects. As such, in early September 2009, Councilmember Greig Smith presented a Motion to City Council recommending that the Department of City Planning, the Department of Building and Safety, and the Department of Water and Power prepare and present a report to the City Council on the fees that are currently being assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are being replaced with drought-resistant landscaping or synthetic turf and the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for those Projects.

Conservation of Construction Site Wastewater

By Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles has implemented many strident water conservation measures as a result of the serious drought that has hit southern California, measures severely impacting us all. Despite all these, there are still instances where water is either directly or indirectly being wasted. Construction projects requiring excavation are occasionally granted permits to discharge groundwater into the City's storm drain system where it eventually gets dumped into the ocean.

A recent example of such a permit allowed for the discharge of 90 gallons/minute. In view of this apparent waste of such a desperately needed resource, in late July 2009, Councilmember Ed Reyes submitted a Motion to City Council asking that the Department of Water and Power, the Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Building and Safety prepare and present a report to the City Council identifying the total amount of groundwater being discharged daily into the City's storm drain system from construction sites and to determine methods by which discharged groundwater could be conveyed to nearby spreading grounds or some other means to recharge the aquifer.

Both of the above two Motions were referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee for consideration. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of these Motions.

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Update

Join us on a candlelight labyrinth walk on Friday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m. Our labyrinth is built around the oak tree on the corner of Johanna and Sunland Blvd. and offers a quiet respite for stress reduction, contemplation, and/or prayer. Neighbors are welcome to come and walk the labyrinth whenever it is convenient. An information brochure is available in the church office.

National Memory Screening Day - Tuesday, November 17
Everyone is welcome to receive a free and confidential
memory screening in our parlor between 3:00 and 6:00
p.m. Additional information about memory and senior
health issues also will be available.

What gift can you give to someone who seems to have everything? This year, consider an alternative to the traditional “material” gifts. Consider buying a meal for an orphan, supporting medical care for refugees, emergency disaster relief, medical air transport, or even “Yaks for Youth”. On Sundays, November 22 and 29, at 10:00– 10:30 a.m. and 11:45–12:15 p.m., we will open an Alternative Gift Market and accept contributions for the 38 charitable organizations described in the Alternative Gift catalogue. You will receive a commemorative Christmas or holiday gift card to give or send to your loved one, letting them know how lives were touched by your thoughtful alternative gift.

On Saturday, December 5, Santa's elves will be leaving the North Pole and coming to Shadow Hills. At 9:30 a.m., our chapel will become Santa's Workshop. Children, preschool through 5th grades, are invited to come and make gifts for their family, friends, and those in need in our community.

On Sunday, December 13, at 9:00 a.m., Kathy Hernandez will present "Social Networking: A Guide for Parents". It is vital that parents are aware of computer social networking, such as Twitter and Facebook, so that they can protect and guide their children and teens in the use and abuse of electronic communication. Everyone is welcome to come and catch up with the latest networking technologies. This one hour presentation will include practical information as well as time for questions.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Thursday, December 24. Our families will lead a 6:00 p.m. family carol sing. At 10:00 p.m. we will have a traditional candlelight worship service. For additional information about these or any of our programs, check our website at shadowhillschurch.com or call 818-353-2500.

SHPOA General Meeting Election Night!

Pizza Night!

Tuesday • November 10
7 pm • Tierra Del Sol

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

Membership Form

Residents in the Shadow Hills area
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Tap Chicks Return to the Sierra Madre Playhouse

The Tap Chicks are a delightfully entertaining senior dance group taught by Pam Kay, a veteran Las Vegas entertainer whose act delighted audiences for over 15 years.

The dancers defy their years as they perform Broadway-style routines, from Allen Jackson's *Chattahoochee* to Gen Kelly's *Singing in the Rain*. In addition to the lively dance routines of the Tap Chicks, Pam sings and plays banjo and gets all age groups to "laugh it up" with her unique comedy act.

Make your reservations now! The performance date is Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 7 pm. The Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre. Call 626-256-3809 or order tickets online with your credit card at www.sierramadreplayhouse.org.



**RETURNING
to the
SIERRA MADRE
PLAYHOUSE**
7:00 p.m., Sunday
November 29, 2009
87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre



The Tap Chicks are a delightfully entertaining senior dance group taught by Pam Kay, a veteran Las Vegas entertainer whose act delighted audiences for over 15 years.



The dancers defy their years as they perform Broadway-style tap routines, from Allen Jackson's *Chattahoochee* to Gene Kelly's *Singing in the Rain*. In addition to the lively dance routines of the Tap Chicks, Pam sings and plays banjo and gets all age groups to "laugh it up" with her unique comedy act.



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Is LA Going Purple? Part 2

By Elektra Kruger

In early June 2009, the Department of Water and Power (DWP) submitted a report at the request of the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management Committee (PLUM) relative to assessing a "Water Sustainability Fee" on new developments and relative to the expansion of a "purple-pipeline" system for carrying recycled water for non-potable uses as well as the feasibility of possibly initiating a recycled water infiltration project which would also provide clean, POTABLE water from our wastewater stream.

The DWP is currently recycling approximately 7,200 acre feet of water for irrigation and industrial uses by means of its "purple pipeline network". Recycled water is being used to irrigate golf courses in the Valley and to cool the Valley Generating Station. In mid-April 2009, Councilmember Ed Reyes presented a Motion to City Council urging that use of recycled water be further expanded from non-potable use to include exploring infiltration processes for providing potable uses. Councilmember Reyes claims that there are natural and mechanical treatment methods capable of treating wastewater and cleansing it over and above

Continued on page 5

LA Going Purple?

Continued from page 4

basic use standards. The cleansing of chemical agents in addition to biological agents out of our wastewater stream has been highly controversial in the scientific community.

The report submitted by the DWP referenced the City's Water Supply Action Plan (the Water Plan) unveiled by Mayor Villaraigosa which established a set of goals to address our critical water supply shortage, one key strategy of which being to maximize water recycling. An aggressive program for expanding the recycled water system has been designed by a collaborative effort of the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Sanitation and the DWP. The goal is to provide a minimum of 50,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water by 2019, 35,000 acre feet of which would be distributed through a "purple pipeline network" for non-potable irrigation and industrial uses and 15,000 acre feet of which would be utilized for groundwater replenishment following wastewater purification treatment.

In March 2009, a contract was awarded to a consulting firm to prepare a detailed Recycled Water Master Plan to meet that 50,000 acre-feet/year recycled water goal. Key items of the Master Plan would include determining appropriate uses for recycled water; determining efficient and cost-effective expansion projects for the purple pipe distribution system; researching construction projects for satellite recycled water treatment plants; testing water treatment processes for purifying water to be used for groundwater replenishment; reviewing improvements and upgrades needed to the City's existing reclamation plants to maximize production of recycled water; and researching projects that would well exceed the 50,000 acre-feet/year output to full use of the entire 350 million-gallon per day Hyperion Treatment Plant output. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of the "purple pipeline network".

ATM Duress Code

By Elektra Kruger

Current ATM security measures are somewhat limited. We hear such things as "be aware of your surroundings", but where will that get you if someone forcefully and under threat of harm demands that you extract monies from an ATM machine with your ATM card? Installation of a "duress code" system in ATM systems could allow a person to covertly signal law enforcement that a robbery is taking place. For example, if your PIN number is 4321 and you were to enter 1234, the machine would still give you the requested money while, unknown to a robber, police would be alerted that a robbery is taking place and law enforcement personnel would immediately be dispatched to the robbery location.

This system actually already exists and could be installed at a cost of about \$25/ATM machine. Councilmember Greg Smith strongly believes that requiring banks to install some form of PIN duress system would greatly improve ATM security and client safety. In early September 2009, Councilmember Smith presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney to prepare and present a report reviewing and researching what security systems banks currently have in place, whether banks are currently utilizing any form of PIN duress system, whether it would be feasible to require banks to implement such a system where one does not yet exist, and what jurisdictional issues may arise from implementing PIN duress systems.

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



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City Council Election Update Continued from page 1

Hansen Dam and more. Little did we know the Station Fire would begin several days after our tour as we gazed at Big Tujunga Canyon and the surrounding mountains with the candidates.

Following the tour, each of the candidates was given a list of questions to respond to and we published a special edition of this newsletter. The issues covered were: Community Plan Revision, Inconsistent/Lack of Code Enforcement, Redistricting, and Trash and Trucks.

We encourage you to visit a web site/blog dedicated to election coverage: <http://cd2election.blogspot.com>. Please plan now to vote on December 8. Turnout throughout the District in the primary was very low - less than 15% of eligible voters - and one thing we know is the candidates will listen to communities that turn out to vote. If we want their support on issues like code enforcement, local crime, trash facilities, trail development, road improvements and more, we need to vote in larger numbers! We'll be providing frequent updates to the community via email about the campaign and we will invite the candidates to attend our general meetings.

Please note as of press time there is a candidate forum scheduled for **Saturday, November 7**, co-hosted by SHPOA, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, the Los Angeles Horse Council, the Wentworth Woods Home Owners Association, and other foothill community groups. **The forum will be held at North Valley City Hall, located at 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga. A meet and greet will occur from noon until 1pm to be followed by the forum.**

Ambiguity in Truck Gardening Code

By Elektra Kruger

The Municipal Code allows for truck farming to take place in a number of zones, however the definition of "truck farming" or "truck gardening" is not clear in the Code in terms of what kinds of produce - fruits, vegetables, flowers, nuts, etc. - it applies to or the quantity that may be grown in any given zone for consumption on-site or sale off-site (such as at a Farmers Market).

There is increased interest in the City of LA in promoting urban gardening for a number of reasons: 1) Growth of these products are directly related to the City's efforts to "green LA" by reducing the carbon footprint not only by virtue of the CO2/O2 exchange provided by the green vegetation, but by the reduced dependence on imported food items from other parts of the country and the world; 2) promote nutrition by increased availability of fresh produce in the City; and 3) foster stronger bonds in the community by participation in such events as Farmers Markets.

There is a need to clarify what activities may or may not take place in these various zones. In the interest of providing the needed clarification of our Code, in early July 2009, Councilmember Eric Garcetti presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Council instruct the City's Planning Department and City Attorney to submit a report to Council relative to the cultivation of flowers, fruits, nuts or vegetables as food products of any tree, vine or plant and their use on-site or sale off-site. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion.

Help, My Pet is Choking!

By Denise Fleck

It was a picture-perfect Thanksgiving. A patchwork of red, orange and gold leaves blanketed the ground while a smattering of green still clung to the branches above. The house was filled with the sound of football while all anxiously awaited the holiday meal. Suddenly, Brutus, a 90 pound Rottweiler, entered the room with an unsteady gait. Unable to breathe and making a ghastly assortment of noises, the dog was in grave distress while the humans nearby froze in a panic. Fortunately for Brutus, dog lover Terri was on the scene and could sense the true emergency at hand. She quickly hugged the large dog around his abdomen and gave a quick thrust. Nothing happened, so Terri tried again, and this time a chunk of dog food literally flew out of Brutus' mouth and across the floor. The grateful Rottie, whose breathing returned to normal, began licking Terri's face if to say a great big canine "thank you," while Terri herself breathed an enormous sigh of relief.

For Choking incidents, use your fingers to remove any visible obstruction, but look at what you're doing – do

not blindly sweep your pet's mouth. If that doesn't work, a modified version of the "Heimlich Maneuver" may be necessary which can be learned in a



Pet First-Aid Class. Stand behind the animal and place your arms around his waist keeping his head down. Close your hand making a fist and place your fist in the soft part of the stomach just behind the last rib (use the flat pads of two fingers for smaller pets). Grasp your fist with your other hand and compress the abdomen by pushing up in a quick and rapid manner similar to the Heimlich Technique commonly performed on humans. If the pet goes unconscious, lay him on his side and compress its lungs by squeezing with the heel of your hand (or a few fingers for small pets) on the side -- where the animal's elbow touches the chest -- to dislodge object.

Note: Shadow Hills Resident Denise Fleck is a Pet First-Aid and Animal Care Expert. She has trained Oprah Winfrey's household staff, worked with Homeland Security on their K9 Border Patrol First-Aid Program, and has appeared on numerous animal and news-related television and radio programs. Visit her website at www.sunnydogink.com to learn how you can help your pets.

Vote-By-Mail?

By Elektra Kruger

The LACity Council has been discussing various alternative voting options that might be available to the City - among them the possibility of instituting a Vote-by-Mail process. Under this procedure, all registered voters would receive a ballot in the mail along with instructions on how to fill out the ballot and deadlines for ballot submission. Currently,

many jurisdictions across the nation are utilizing Vote-By-Mail including the State of Oregon and nearby the City of Burbank. During a recent statewide election, Los Angeles had a mere 17% of registered voters casting ballots whereas Sierra County, where everyone votes by mail, had a 54% voter turnout.

Vote-by-Mail provides voters with the convenience to vote on their own time and would greatly reduce the cost of running elections - no need to set up voting equipment in polling places, no rental fees for polling sites and no payments to poll workers. In late May 2009, Councilmember Wendy Greuel presented a Motion to City Council requesting that they direct the City Clerk to review steps the City would be required to take to implement a Vote-By-Mail election system, especially for local elections that would have anticipated low voter turnout such as Council District Special Elections.

The Motion has been referred to the City Council's Rules and Government Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the status of this Motion.



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Mitigation

Continued from page 1

This first glimpse into the possibilities of what outreach efforts can attain is very promising. The Big T flier, which is written in English and Spanish, describes the resources and sensitive nature of the species and habitats found in Big T. The flier has been well received by many of the families and groups interviewed during onsite visits by ECORP biologists. Outreach efforts will be continuing on weekends, during which park visits peak. Keep an eye for the ECORP biologist on these peak days and say hello. Your help and cooperation will bring the County Department of Public Works closer to achieving its management goals.

(Editors note: The Big-T Mitigation Bank is roughly the area of Hansen Dam including the Tujunga Ponds to the Wheatland crossing or the high power lines.)



City Needs Improved Trail Standards - Update #4

By Elektra Kruger

In 2007, in response to his constituents' frustration regarding the loss of trails in their communities and the often poor construction of those they do manage to get, Councilmember Greig Smith submitted a Motion to City Council asking City Planning to prepare a report clearly outlining procedures for establishing horse trails, development standards dictating when in the development process horse trails are to be created, and specific trigger factors for the establishment of horse trails.

What did Councilmember Smith get in response? A report that merely copied existing procedures as currently written in the Code - something Councilmember Smith could easily have done himself and avoid wasting Council time.

So was this the intent of the Motion? Of course not! The intent was to establish procedures to assure horse trails are established where Community Plans intended them to be and to establish procedures so that promised horse trails are not lost in the development construction sequence. Did the City Planning report recognize, analyze and recommend solutions to eliminating weaknesses in the CURRENT code? No. They merely wasted Planning Department time preparing and Council time reviewing a report that did nothing more than quote an existing code.

So what happened at the final Council vote? "The Council noted and filed the report from the Director of Planning relative to the provision of equestrian trails in conjunction with tract map approvals. The report was submitted in response to Motion (Smith-Greuel) and was submitted FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY". File closed.

So nothing changes, no weaknesses in the current code improved, and we will continue to lose our trails. Maybe we need Councilmember Smith to try yet again, along with support from our own new Councilperson, to submit a new re-worded Motion that says in clear, basic English - fix it! That may be the only English our Planning Department can understand.



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Limitations on Roosters?

By Elektra Kruger

Councilmember Janice Hahn took her initial Motion of dealing with noise complaints of crowing roosters one step further with a second Motion, a step that goes perhaps a little too far for residents of a community like that of Shadow Hills where a small flock of chickens and a couple of roosters might be the norm - as pets, as a source of eggs, just the normal everyday thing you might have a flock for on a small ranch.

The second Motion claims the majority of roosters bred, raised or kept within the City of Los Angeles are used for the illegal sport of cockfighting. Unfortunately, even Shadow Hills is not immune to its share of these but it is NOT the norm. According to Councilmember Hahn, the noise, odors, health and sanitation issues caused by the keeping of multiple roosters create a serious public nuisance which disturbs the quality of life in many communities. She is not wrong when it comes to ranches raising roosters for the sake of cockfighting - the owners priorities are not exactly with the proper care of the roosters and often not with the properties upon which they are bred and raised. But again, this is not the norm in Shadow Hills.

Councilmember Hahn's Motion goes on to claim that maintaining, transporting or importing uninspected birds for the purpose of illegal fighting can cause the spread of avian diseases including the Avian Flu and Newcastle Disease to all birds and poultry in the City. Also probably a true statement, but hardly one to call for the harsh limitations that her Motion wishes to put on the number of roosters we may have in our yards. Perhaps she carries things a bit far when stating in her Motion that cockfighting events promote illegal gambling, prostitution, human trafficking, drugs, weapon sales and brings other illegal criminal and gang activities into residential communities.

Unless authorized otherwise by permit, you are limited to one rooster per property.

Update: ordinance passed 9-22-09, effective 10-31-09.



Get Them Lines Underground

By Elektra Kruger

Putting power and utility lines underground vastly improves the aesthetic quality of our neighborhoods. Not only does this improve the appearance of our City, but the lines would be far less susceptible to storm, human, vegetation and debris damage. Results would include a reduction in the need for tree trimming, growth of larger tree canopies to cool structures, and an attendant reduction in air conditioning costs and overall heat in our urban areas.

The Department of Water and Power currently has a 50:50 program in which a local community needs to come up with 50% of the cost of "undergrounding" utility lines - not exactly a cheap undertaking. Instead of a 50:50 program, San Diego is levying a surcharge on utility companies to cover the cost of "undergrounding" utility, cable and telephone lines and, to date, 10% of all the City's power and utility lines are underground with a goal of "undergrounding" all utility lines in that City within 50 years.

In an effort to reduce visual blight in Los Angeles by power and utility lines, in mid-July 2009, Councilmember Herb Wesson presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Department of Water and Power report to the City Council on the status of its underground power line program and to recommend parameters for a program

that would "underground" 25% of all utility lines in the City of Los Angeles by 2030. As part of the report, the Councilmember would like the Department of Water and Power to review the San Diego program as well as similar programs in other Cities throughout the country to develop a successful and effective program for Los Angeles.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee for its review and recommendation. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion.



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Community Scholarships to be Presented

By Michael Carpenter

All Nations Church will again present scholarships to worthy students from the community, not affiliated with the church. They will be presented at the 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ along with the "Spirit of Johnny Carpenter" Awards. The event will take place Friday, November 20th, 2009. Dinner is at 6 pm in the cafeteria with the awards and presentation at 7:30 pm

in the sanctuary. A classical music concert will follow. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the NHOER. Admission is free.

This year, the church has reached out to community organizations to be part of the committee to recommend and choose the recipients. If you would like to know more about the community scholarship program, or to RSVP for the BBQ, please call 818-470-5235 or email: lamikec@yahoo.com.



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Calling All Rainy day Games!

By Marlene Hitt, Sunland Archivist and Co-Director, Bolton Hall Museum

Here it is late summer/early fall! We've done Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, parks, the beach, the swimming pool and sleep-overs. The rainy days haven't come yet but even before shut-in days come around there is something to do. It's time to get all those game pieces together, clean out the closet and see what you have.

First, toss out the deck of Old Maid cards with the Old Maid missing and those with the queen of spades gone somewhere under the sofa cushions way down under.

In the days before television, computer games, video games, personal cell phones, all those wonderful things, friends came together on a sultry afternoon or in the evening to play a game of cards or a board game. To gather around the table face to face, join in friendly combat and laugh a lot (or cry, as in Monopoly), is one of the most satisfying activities I can think of.

One can emulate a young person in ancient Egypt or Rome and play a game of marbles. The marbles themselves can be magic as each is different and fun to gaze into. Sometime they shoot off into the distance where the search for them leads to a once lost earring in a corner. Or even an old M&M. After marbles, we could find a nice floor and play Jacks. Some of the girls I knew had wonderful coordination and could grab up those jacks as fast as you could focus.

Probably the oldest known board game is chess, a form of which has been played in China for thousands of years. Chess needs a teacher and can use a good brain.

Playing card games is as old as the history of civilized man. More games can be played with cards than with any other equipment, like solitaire played alone, and Spite and Malice played with many, Old Maid, Rook, Authors, Rummy, Gin, Pinochle, Hand and Foot, War, canasta, bridge, and on and on. There is something satisfying about using the cards in your hands rather than on a screen, and better to play with other people than playing with a computer. (Computers don't love you enough to let you win).

My two Grampas used to play checkers with me and I tried so hard to outsmart them. We also played cribbage and that taught me how to add. We played with a handmade cribbage board and matches (without the flinty stuff) for pegs. As kids, we often would alter a game to suit ourselves, such as Parcheesi, when we would write our own instructions, codes, and secrets on the game board.

What have you found in your game closet?

Note: Bolton Hall is hosting "Rainy Day Games" on Sundays and Tuesdays through March 2010 from 1-4 pm.

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"National Night Out" a Well Attended Event

By Michael Carpenter

All Nations Church served as the Lake View Terrace host site for the annual "National Night Out," sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Held the first Tuesday of August, NNO is an opportunity for the community to come out, meet their neighbors and local law enforcement. This event creates the opportunity to start neighborhood watches, learn about local groups and events, or just enjoy the evening with good food and entertainment.

ANC provided a Korean BBQ and the community responded with many side dishes. Groups participating included LA Horse Council, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, Phoenix House, Lake View Terrace Improvement Association, ETI Corral's 20 and 210, New "Heaven on Earth Ranch" and our local law enforcement, Foothill Division, LAPD with their local Explorers post. We also welcomed Station 24 LAFD. The office of the Mayor and Council District 2 were represented as well. All total, over 150 people were present throughout the evening.

Part of the evening included the first community candidate forum for the vacant LA City Council District 2 seat. A packed room of 100 heard from the candidates, who addressed local equestrian concerns. Music was provided by Clyde Logan, Siggie Young & Monica Ashton. The Reel Cowboys provided these contacts. Paul Myers created the banner, which will be updated every year. The BBQ was prepared by the Community Outreach Team of all Nations Church and the cake by Katherine Carpenter. We thank Target for being a corporate sponsor.

High-Risk Hillside Construction

By Elektra Kruger

There is a continual and massive expansion of urban construction on Los Angeles City hillsides. Heavy rains and the associated mudflows have been known to cause a great deal of damage to hillside properties. On October 25, 1952, the City first adopted a Grading Ordinance to address issues of slope stability and erosion control. In 1963, the Ordinance was amended to take into account geologic factors related to hillside development. In 1992, a whole new Hillside Ordinance was adopted to establish regulations for building set-backs, fire protection, lot coverage, street access, sewer connections and grading for construction in high-risk hillsides within the City.

While this Ordinance was intended to provide appropriate regulations to ensure that hillside construction is safe and accessible, we are all aware that often our decision-makers turn their heads if a determination would result in a finding that would either result in complete denial of a proposed Project or would require large-scale mitigations to meet the Ordinance standards.

I guess Councilmember Greg Smith is trying once again to address the issue of high-risk hillside development. He feels that that the City should undertake a survey of hillside areas and research appropriate means to mitigate risk for properties that have already been built on high-risk hillsides. In early September 2009, Councilmember Smith presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of City Planning and the Office of the City Attorney to

Continued on page 13

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Understanding "Declawing"

By Elektra Kruger

"Declawing" is a real misnomer. This procedure, technically referred to as onychectomy, is not the mere removal of a cat's claws - it is the total amputation of the entire phalanx. All ten of them - including bone, nerves, joint capsules, collateral ligaments, as well as extensor and flexor tendons. In human terms, this is not a mere manicure; it is akin to amputating the last joint of each and every finger.

Cats walk and run on their toes not by means of a heel to toe movement as do humans. Remove the toes and you alter the cat's gait resulting in arthritis and other complications caused by postural changes. Declawing can result in high risk for long-term painful physiological conditions including severe pain, damage to the radial nerve, bone chips, possible unseen re-growth of the claw inside the paw and lameness due to chronic back and joint pain.

Declawed animals cannot adequately defend themselves if they spend time outdoors leaving them at greater risk of injury or death. Declawing increases public health and safety risks because declawed animals become more prone to biting as a form of self-defense and cat bites tend to be associated with higher rates of infection than are cat scratches. Declawed cats often elect not to use a litter box as the rough texture of cat litter is unpleasant to a maimed paw.

There are numerous alternatives to declawing.

- Training a pet to use a scratchpost
- Use deterrent pheromone sprays
- Cover furniture
- Restrict pet access to certain areas of the home

Local governments traditionally have been able to pass public safety legislation such as measures preventing animal cruelty, but just this term Sacramento passed legislation that would divest Charter cities of the right to make legislation in this area - legislation that will go into effect beginning January 1, 2010. In early September 2009, Councilmember Paul Koretz presented a Motion to City Council urging the City Council to adopt a declawing Ordinance prior to December 1, 2009. If such an Ordinance was to be approved and an Onychectomy were to be performed for any but a medically necessary reason in violation of this new Ordinance, the following persons would be guilty of the violation:

- The person(s) performing the procedure
- Anyone assisting in the procedure
- All persons procuring the procedure

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

High Risk Hillside Construction *Cont'd from page 12*

conduct a geological survey of high-risk hillsides located in the City to determine the location of high-risk hillsides, to determine issues associated with hillside development and to determine risk mitigation measures that can be instituted for properties built on high-risk hillsides.

The Motion has been forwarded to both the City Council's Public Works Committee and Planning and Land-Use Management Committee for their review and consideration. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion.

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**SHPOA General Meeting
Election Night! Pizza Night!
Tuesday • November 10
7 pm • Tierra Del Sol**

Understanding City Services

By Elektra Kruger

SIDEWALKS

There are almost 11,000 miles of sidewalk in the City of LA, of which close to 5,000 miles are considered "damaged". That is what you call "deferred infrastructure maintenance". It would cost almost \$500 million to repair all these damaged sidewalks. Given our economic status, repairs will likely end up being further "deferred". Given that the City's budget cannot provide for repair of all sidewalks, what criteria is used to select which are repaired?

The Department of Disability may identify sidewalks with priority for repair. Areas with low to moderate income census tracts (though I have no idea what this should have to do with prioritizing sidewalk repair locations) are toward the top of the repair location list. Locations where slips, trips and falls have occurred tend to be prioritized. Perhaps if more of the sidewalks were repaired in the first place, there would be less trips, slips and falls and fewer slip, trip and fall lawsuits against the City so that rather than spending money to pay off lawsuits the City would have more money in its coffers to repair more of the sidewalks.

Private property owners may obtain a cost-free permit to repair damaged sidewalks themselves by contacting the City's Service Request Section at 800-996-2489 or the "One Call to City Hall" 311 number and asking the operator to transfer you to the Service Request Section. A request form may also be obtained on-line at the City's Web-Site at www.lacity.org by clicking onto "Permits and Licenses". The City also initiated a 50/50 cost split with private property owners if the owner undertakes the responsibility of repairing the sidewalk himself/herself. There might be a hold on this program now because of the City's economic situation - but it doesn't hurt to check.

STREETS

The City is responsible for close to 7,000 miles of streets of which close to 5,000 miles constitute local streets and 2,000 miles constitute major streets. The City claims that the average life span of a newly constructed local street is about 25 years. Now this is either a completely new asphalt/concrete surface street or a complete replacement of an existing street that involves the total removal of existing asphalt and complete replacement with new surface material. This does not refer to the slurry seal that is often being used these days to extend the life of a road showing only minor wear and tear.

The integrity of our streets is rated by the City from level A to level F. The City claims that, overall, our street system rates as a level "C". Unfortunately, for those of us that frequently review Environmental Impact Reports submitted by developers containing analyses of how their proposed Projects would affect traffic on adjacent roadways (also analyzed with a rating system of A to F), what they rate as a level "C" of traffic congestion, you and I would easily rate as a double F.

How much faith can we place on that C rating that the City gives our overall street system? You and I travel those streets daily - what rating would you give them? The City claims nearly 1,500 miles of streets require full-blown reconstruction - that means removal of all existing surface material, repacking of the base and replacing the entire surface with asphalt or cement. The term reconstruction does not refer to placing a coat of slurry seal on the surface of a roadway with limited wear in an attempt to extend its lifespan - that is the procedure that we have been seeing the last couple of years along Foothill, Sunland

and Wentworth. With 1,500 miles of streets requiring full reconstruction, at best, only two hundred twenty five have been reconstructed annually in recent years and, given our current financial status, we can expect far less.

This begs the question: Can we, as individuals, do anything about our local roads? Neighborhoods can form an Assessment District in which all property owners along a given roadway could share in the cost of improving that local roadway. You have to want it pretty bad - that would be really expensive. The City claims that it will "maintain the streets after they are improved". Don't bet on it. If they did, LA would not have 1,500 miles of streets requiring full reconstruction and you would not feel the need to even consider the possibility of forming an Assessment District in the first place. In recent years, the City has been making about 200,000 pothole/crack repairs a year.

What can we expect in these tough financial times? What rating will even our own City have to give its overall street system in a few years?

STREET TREES

The Bureau of Street Services' Urban Forestry Division maintains LA's street trees, the largest and most diverse street tree population in the country. Unless specific circumstances call for sooner attention, the Division attempts to trim the street tree population in a seven year cycle. A private property owner may trim a street tree at their own expense, but must first obtain a cost-free permit from the Urban Forestry Division by calling 1-800-996-2489 or the "One Call to City Hall" 311 number and requesting the operator to transfer you to the Bureau of Street Services. A permit request form is also available on the City's Web-Site at www.lacity.org and clicking on "Permits and Licenses".

STREET LIGHTING

There are two major types of streetlights. Utilitarian lights are installed on wooden power poles without cost to nearby property owners. These are typically the softer "yellow lights" that are not nearly as offensive to our area as the electrolier streetlights constructed of concrete or steel poles. It is these that are the glaring, white lights.

Adjacent property owners must pay for the installation and annual maintenance of these "electrolier" lights. Adjacent property owners are members of a Lighting Assessment District and installation and maintenance costs are divided among the owners part of the Assessment District. Initial one-time installation costs run around \$2,500 per property owner and this cost can be paid in installments over a 10 year period - with interest of course. Annual maintenance fees run about \$75 per property owner.

Neither property taxes nor general taxes pay for installation or maintenance of electrolier streetlights. That is the reason for establishing Lighting Assessment Districts. Before the City can establish a Lighting Assessment District, it must send out a ballot to the potentially effected property owners. You have the option of accepting or rejecting becoming part of a Lighting Assessment District.

Please be heard - whichever way you wish to vote; do not throw the ballot away. A ballot not received by the City will be counted as an acceptance of the District. A majority vote approving the Lighting District will cause the District to be created and regardless of how you voted, you will become a part of that District. If you do not have electrolier lights and would like them installed in your area, you may call 213-847-6382 or call the "One Call to City Hall" 311 number and ask the operator to transfer you to the Bureau of Street Lighting. You may also request installation on the Bureau's Web-Site at www.lacity.org/bsl.

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Mark your calendar . . .

SHPOA General Meeting - Elections and Pizza - November 10 • 7 pm • Tierra Del Sol

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Lakeview Terrace Rec. Ctr.: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,
Lakeview Terrace

Shadow Hills Church: Johanna at Sunland, Shadow Hills,
Pastor Janet Winslow.353-3500

Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Sun Valley, 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 Municipal Building/CD 2 Field Office:
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Community Calendar

Ongoing Sundays and Tuesdays through March 2010

Bolton Hall - "Rainy Day Games" - 1 pm – 4 pm

Tuesday, November 10, Tierra del Sol - 7pm

SHPOA General meeting
ELECTIONS- PIZZA

November 1 – 6

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Friday, November 20

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November 13 – 15

Corral 20 - Caspers Ride
Contact Susan: 729-4508

Friday, November 20

Thanksgiving Dinner
All Nations Church (see article)

Saturday, December 5

Ho Ho Ride
Contact Linda: 352-3693

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Key Dates (see article)

Friday, November 13, 7 pm - Labyrinth Walk

Tuesday, November 17, 3-6 pm - Memory Screening

Saturday, December 5, 9:30 am - Santas Workshop

Sunday, December 13, Lecture "Social Networking: parents' guide"

Thursday, December 24, 6 pm service - Family Caroling

1st Tuesday, Every Month

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Land-Use Committee meeting
9749 Wheatland, 7 pm

3rd Tuesday Every Month

Neighborhood Watch
East Valley Municipal Building, 7 pm

3rd Thursday Every Month

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council General Meeting
Location variable (check website for location www.ftdnc.org) - 7 pm

Important City Numbers

Dial 311 for Information on all City Services

Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power: (800) 342-5397

Street Service: (800) 996-2489

Large Item Pickup (800) 773-2489

Abandoned Car: (800) 222-6366