



## Welcome To The Stonehurst By Tina Eick, Board

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association is thrilled to invite you to take a tour with us through the lovely gardens and historic landmark known as The Stonehurst. Our tour will be on January 14, 2023, 2-5 pm ... so mark your calendars for this amazing opportunity to visit one of the oldest and magnificently restored properties in our community. Parking will be on site and refreshments will be served.

Most of you will recognize the large brown barn on the corner of Stonehurst Ave and Sunland Blvd. It has always been a familiar landmark as one of the entrances to Shadow Hills. According to an article published in the Summer 1998 issue of Pacific Horticulture, "An Acre Of Color" by Pamela Waterman, the barn was built in 1874. That makes it 149 years old! I remember one of our former residents of Shadow Hills recalling that he attended Boy Scout meetings at the barn in 1908. It was also remembered as a stop over for the Pony Express. And now it has been restored and preserved to its former grandness. It sits on a large parcel of land (approximately 10 acres) surrounded by beautiful gardens and hand poured pillars, walkways and flower beds of river rock - a virtual botanical paradise.

For over 30 years the property was owned by Joe Stromei, an avid horticulturist who transformed the property into a hidden botanical oasis in the semi arid climate of the San Fernando Valley. Stromei built a large 3200+ sq ft green house in which he raised exotic plants from his global travels. He raised canaries and exotic chickens, one of which was highlighted in the January 1997 issue of Smithsonian, as Stromei's version of Big Bird. The LA Times featured his creative genius in an article "A Patchwork Planting" by Susan Heeger, Sept. 23, 2001. A reprint with permission follows this article.

This opportunity is one you don't want to miss! So mark your calendars for January 14th, 2023, 2 - 5 pm for our next SHPOA general meeting. See you at The Stonehurst!

## SHPOA Meeting

**Saturday, January 14, 2023**

**The Stonehurst (corner of Stonehurst and Sunland Blvd.)  
2 - 5 pm**

Be sure to mark your calendar for this special meeting and tour. See lead article for details for SHPOA's first meeting of the year!

*Reprinted with Permission from the Los Angeles Times Sept. 23, 2001*

A Patchwork Planting  
By Susan Heeger

Sixteen years ago, as a summer heat wave socked the San Fernando Valley with a week of 115-degree days, Joe Stromei transplanted his favorite 'Gold Heart' ivy from a bonsai pot to a broiling garden bed. "Long story short," as he likes to say, he nursed that ivy like a child, feeding it with ice chips and studying its progress on his hands and knees. "Is that silly?" he asks, before delivering the punch: "In three years, the vine engulfed my garden shed."

A handsome man of self-described "patrician proportions," with a beard that swoops up over his ears to work its way around his balding head, Stromei loves a tale that boils down to a tidy epigram. For example, depending on his mood: "Too much fuss can make you hate a plant." Or, "Without the fuss, where's the fun; without the fun, what's the point?"

After 22 years, Stromei's Sun Valley garden lies somewhere between an artful hodge-podge and a zany masterpiece. Though there's nothing stiff about it, some of its plant pairings might set your teeth on edge while arousing your goggle-eyed admiration. What chutzpah! What go-for-broke panache! In their stone-edged beds, roses from coral-pink to deep violet tangle with variegated cannas, society garlic, orange abutilons and blue palms; hellebores as tall as people jostle more



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Recording Secretary: Jacqy Gamble

Treasurer: Michael Stein

Membership: Sara Wenger  
 Michael Stein

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 Robin Phipps

Neighborhood Watch: Vacant

Daily Fodder and Lost/Found Pets: Susan Wong  
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Newsletter Editor and Article Collection: Tina Eick  
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Newsletter Advertising : Michael Stein  
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Newsletter Design/Layout: Cindy Bloom

Hospitality: Gerardo Barrientos

Historian: vacant

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*President:* Kevin Davis  
[president@ftdnc.org](mailto:president@ftdnc.org)

*Shadow Hills Reps:* Cindy Bloom  
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("Patchwork" cont'd from p. 1)

abutilons under variegated box elders. Spotted callas, Peruvian lilies, purple delphiniums, salvias--all are flung together with a fearless style and a genuine curiosity about what fate and nature might produce.

A clothing merchant by trade (he owns 7 Aardvark's Odd Ark stores in San Francisco and Southern California), Stromei is a gardener out of temperament and passion. He planted roses as a toddler in Tucson, where he was born poor in the 1940s as the son of a stonemason and a gardening mother. "In my neighborhood," he recalls, "men raised vegetables, women grew flowers. I had to be different." By the age of 12, he had fallen for oddball spider mums, which he collected, propagated and sold before discovering patterned coleus and begonias. At some point, crested succulents caught his eye, and eventually, when he came to L.A. in the '60s and started law school, he was peddling rare plants--and vintage clothes and collectibles--at flea markets. "I dreamed of opening a nursery," he remembers. "But that took capital I didn't have and required me to sell to people I suspected would kill my plants." Similar moral qualms, he believes, squelched his law career ("I had too much integrity to be a lawyer"). He gravitated to clothes for the same reasons he craves plants: The pattern of a vintage tie grabs him just the way a variegated myrtle does--and both have stories to tell. The tie has traveled from hand to hand, neck to neck, witnessing all kinds of human dramas; the myrtle dates back to ancient Rome and early ornamental gardens. "It's the oldest known variegated plant," he observes. "Pliny the Elder wrote about it."

While he doesn't always know botanical names ("Who cares? We're not handing out pedigrees"), Stromei has crossed the world to glimpse plants in native and exotic settings. In South Africa, he ogled aloes and discovered the blue petrea he now has growing on a garden wall. He visited Holland to drink in tulips at the Keukenhof. And a trip to England convinced him that his prized variegated cordylines, previously pampered in a greenhouse, could survive outside among his succulents. "I paint the garden constantly in my mind," he says. "I think about it all the time. Is that silly?"

What he thinks about are colors--a certain moody blue his roses need to set them off--the blue of a glass collection he happens to have in his house, and which he's found lately in a flowering clematis from a catalog. He thinks about birds and what they eat, planting abutilons for the hummers and Johnson grass for his

(Please see "Patchwork" on p. 3)

(“Patchwork” cont’d from p. 2)

canaries, several hundred of which he pairs and breeds in four specially built canary sheds. He thinks, too, about stone. For the first 10 years that he lived in his house, a 1920s bungalow that sits in a dip below a busy road, speeding cars were constantly mowing down his cherished roses, or strangers were stopping by to tour his garden--and sometimes steal his plants and his canaries. In 1988, influenced by the Mexican-style walls of Arizona, he built his own perimeter wall, six feet high, 400 feet long, first getting a permit to gather stone from the Big Tujunga Wash and using a mortar recipe passed down from his dad. At the same time, struck by the character of individual rocks, their shapes, colors and striations, Stromei began to make garden figures, bolting together stones that would project an attitude or expression. Some of these icons had cocked heads or jaunty smiles or resembled celebrities; others drooped or looked sad or embodied loneliness or unrequited love. He called them “Los Fellitos, the ugly ones only a mother could love,” and arranged them around a statue of the Virgin Mary. Over time, they have multiplied. He now has 350 dressing up his garden beds.

As for plants, he has thousands, assembled virtually from nothing. When he moved to Sun Valley from Hollywood in 1978, he went from a city lot packed with orchids, lilies and bromeliads to 10 weedy country acres, part of a former chile-and-tomato farm. A pair of Aleppo pines struggled near the house, and a few decrepit pepper trees quickly fell down or had to be taken out. In an acquisitive frenzy, Stromei drove his battered panel truck to plant sales at botanical gardens and loaded up on roses, magnolias, tree ferns, euphorbias and echeverias. “I had to taste it all,” he concedes, describing one “Chinese painting” of a garden room he made with bamboo groves and real walking, squawking golden pheasants. Long story short: A neighbor’s dog ate the pheasants. Freezing winters claimed the dwarf geraniums, variegated ficus and several tree ferns. Hot summers burned rosebuds and blasted potted camellias. Gradually, says Stromei, “I came to value the survivors”: silk floss trees that have soared 20 feet since he planted them, iris that rebloom from spring to fall, sempervivums, the small, mosaic-like houseleeks he has embedded along a path.

“In the past, I’d put paper sleeves on my variegated asparagus ferns to keep them white,” he marvels. “Now I think, let someone else do that!” Still, when he’s home, he’s almost always in his garden, and when he’s there, he’s either watering or picking weeds, a habit he can’t break.

(Please see “Patchwork” on p. 4)

**Shadow Hills Property Owners Association**



**Membership Form**

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

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

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**Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership**

**Preserve Country Lifestyle**

- ✓ Fight for code enforcement to protect residential zoning
- ✓ Provide legal counsel and referrals
- ✓ Expand trail system, open space and wildlife corridors
- ✓ Support equestrians and equestrian organizations
- ✓ Advocacy with government and law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Assisting families impacted by fires or other natural disasters

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

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

**Promote Shadow Hills**

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





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

"If I'd gone into the nursery business, this would be work," he says. "Instead, I'm relaxing in my open-air cathedral, watching the light change, hearing the wind."



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Recap and Minutes For SHPOA General  
Meeting November 15, 2022  
By Tina Eick, Board

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA) held its last in-person meeting of the year at Tierra Del Sol on November 15, 2022. The meeting was called to order by President Tina Eick at 7:04 pm. After a brief greeting, Eick led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and then turned the meeting over to Vice President Jacqy Gamble who also chaired the Elections Committee for the upcoming Board of Officers and Directors for 2023. The night's program was the election of the SHPOA Board of Directors for 2023. Gamble listed the offices and job descriptions for each office. She then read the proposed slate of officers and asked for any other interested candidates. As no other candidates came forward, a motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the slate as presented.

The SHPOA Board of Officers and Directors for 2023 is as follows:

President: Tina Eick  
Vice President: Tad Butler  
Recording Secretary: Jacqy Gamble  
Executive Secretary: Owynn Lancaster  
Treasurer: Michael Stein  
Membership: Sara Wenger

Following the Board of Officers and Directors election, Carlos George, Traffic Safety Coordinator, discussed the current status of the fence repair efforts on Sunland Blvd. and the stalled efforts to indemnify our volunteers by the City of Los Angeles. We are still waiting for this indemnification from the city before we commit to any future volunteer efforts by SHPOA. Since Eve Sinclair is no longer our Area Director for Councilwoman Rodriguez, many of our pending projects are still on hold (including the indemnification agreement). Our new Area Director, Ricardo Flores was invited to our meeting but was unable to attend. His contact information: [ricardo.x.flores@lacity.org](mailto:ricardo.x.flores@lacity.org)

Under Old Business a beautiful plant arrangement by Jacqy Gamble will be sent in appreciation to Julie Battaglia for her generous donation to the SHPOA equine account.

Under New Business two homeowners on Marybell discussed an on-going issue regarding the existence of a nearby home being used as a detox center on Marybell. There was a discussion if this type of business was a violation of the residential zone. SHPOA will be researching and sending the two homeowners

(Cont'd next column)

(Cont'd)

further information regarding this issue as soon as possible.

Finally, the evening was concluded with a wonderful raffle highlighting the elegant plant arrangements by Jacqy Gamble and Rosie Payne. There were also gift certificates to various stores including Lowes, Pet Smart, Ross and additional prizes from the membership. A special thanks to Gerardo and Tina Eick for the yummy Hors d'oeuvres.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



Ban Single-Use Printer Cartridges  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

At its March 8, 2022 meeting, the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee took a Resolution presented to the City Council by Councilmember John Lee into consideration. The Resolution would call for the City to include in its City's 2021-2022 State and Federal Program support of any legislation and/or administrative action that would ban the import and sale of single-use, new-built printer cartridges since they are harmful to the environment and cannot be recycled or remanufactured. The City Council approved the Resolution to support any such State/Federal legislative or administrative ban. Mayor Garcetti approved the Resolution on May 29, 2022.



Codify Equestrian Networks As Part Of The LA  
Mobility Plan 2035  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

At its May 2, 2022 session, the Los Angeles City Council approved beginning efforts to codify equestrian networks and horse trails as part of the Amended Mobility Plan 2035 and its accompanying Complete Streets Design Guide as recommended by a Motion presented to City Council by Councilmember Monica Rodriguez. At its May 2, 2022 session, the City Council instructed the Department of City Planning along with the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Building and Safety and the City Attorney to prepare and present a report with recommendations to codify a dedication process for a network of equestrian trails similar to the street dedication process that applies to both by-right and discretionary development that currently is administered during the Plan Check permitting process and that would include design standards and provisions for maintenance. The status of this report is still pending.



Donation Of 12 24-Inch Box Trees  
to Hansen Dam  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

There is a proposed park improvement project at Hansen Dam Recreation Area for the installation of twelve 24-inch box trees to include four Shumard Oaks, five Coast Live Oaks and three Torrey Pines along with a two-year maintenance plan under the Los Angeles Parks Foundation's (LAPF) Los Angeles Park Forest Initiative donated to the City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks through a \$25,000 donation by Wells Fargo. The two-year maintenance plan is to consist of monthly as-needed maintenance including deep-water irrigation, weeding and pest abatement and tree replacement in the event of tree loss, but not to include tree removal except of dead, damaged or deceased trees or limbs. The LAPF will be responsible for the selection of, purchasing of and installation of the trees and will be responsible for implementing the Project through its contractors including the two-year maintenance plan of the planted trees. The "Park Forest Initiative" was established by the LAPF and involves the solicitation of donations to support the planting of clusters of new trees within existing parks. Similar donations have been accepted for other parks throughout the City. These projects provide multiple environmental benefits such as improvement in air quality, increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat, increase in tree canopy coverage and shade, mitigation of the urban heat island effect and supporting groundwater recharge. The Hansen Dam Recreational Area tree planting was scheduled to occur in the month of November 2022.



Equine Crosswalk At Sunland/Johanna  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Shadow Hills is intersected by Sunland Blvd, a corridor we all know to have a high-level of traffic leaving Shadow Hills, little in the way of providing safe passage for equestrians from the north to the south side or south side to the north side of Sunland Blvd. One way to provide safe passage is to install a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) beacon signal at the intersection of Sunland Blvd and Johanna Ave. In mid-August 2021, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking that they, with the approval of the Mayor, authorize the transfer of \$455,500 from the Equestrian Facilities Trust Fund to a new account

(Please see "Crosswalk" on p. 7)

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

in the Department of Transportation Trust Fund to be entitled "Sunland Blvd at Johanna Ave Improvement" for the installation of a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk beacon signal and to ask the respective City Departments to identify a contractor for the construction of the Project. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review and recommendations. The Public Works Committee approved the transfer of the \$455,500 from an Equestrian Facilities Trust Fund Account to a new account in the Los Angeles Department of Transportation Trust Fund to be entitled "Sunland Boulevard at Johanna Avenue Improvement". Out of that \$455,500, the Public Works Committee recommended that \$5,000 be transferred to an "overtime account" in the Los Angeles Department of Transportation General Fund for design costs and another \$5,000 be transferred to the Street Lighting's General Fund as a staff overtime design account. The City Council approved these transfers of funds at their September 29, 2021 session and were approved by Mayor Eric Garcetti on October 12, 2021. Action on the HAWK signal is still pending.



Expansion Of The Wildlife Ordinance  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

In late April 2022, a number of Councilmembers co-presented a Motion with the aim of developing a Regionwide Habitat Connectivity Plan encompassing LA County, Ventura County and a plan for expansion of the Wildlife Ordinance to cover additional Protection Areas for Wildlife. On June 16, 2022 the Motion was reviewed by the City Council's Environmental Justice and River Committee resulting with the following recommendations to be forwarded to the full Council for final approval:

- Instruct the Bureau of Sanitation, in partnership with the Bureau's Biodiversity Expert Council and the Department of City Planning to participate in convening local and regional jurisdictions and conservation and environmental justice stakeholders for the purpose of sharing best practices, information and resources with the aim of developing a Regionwide Wildlife Connectivity Plan encompassing LA County and Ventura County connecting the Rim of the Valley to the LA River, the Arroyo Seco, the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains and beyond
- Instruct the Department of City Planning in consultation with the Bureau of Sanitation,  
(Please see "Wildlife" on p. 8)

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- For more information call: 888-4LAPET1 or 888-452-7381.

A talking horse walks into a bar and approaches the manager. "Excuse me, good sir," the horse says, "are you hiring?"

The manager looks the horse up and down and says, "Sorry, pal. Why don't you try the circus?"

The horse nickers. "Why would the circus need a bartender?"

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

the Department of Building and Safety and the City Attorney to report with a plan for the expansion of the Wilderness Ordinance to cover the additional Protection Areas for Wildlife including the portions of the Rim of the Valley areas located within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles.

The Motion was heard in the City Council's June 28, 2022 session. During the Hearing Councilmember Bob Blumenfield presented an Amending Motion stating that "the Bureau of Sanitation in partnership with the Bureau's Biodiversity Expert Council and the Department of City Planning, as part of their regular convenings, be instructed to identify strategies to effectuate Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy's Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resources Protection Plan which identifies lands for conservation and indicates both known and probable habitat linkage/wildlife travel routes between otherwise disconnected habitat blocks. The City Council adopted both the Environmental Justice and River Committee's recommendations and the Amending Motion. Expansion of the Wildlife Ordinance will be up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



**High Value Projects To Bypass The PLUM Committee**  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Granting of entitlements for "high value projects" can be worth hundreds of millions of dollars resulting in developers of these projects to bring in teams of consultants and lobbyists who have been known to "influence" members of the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM), to date the first step in getting any land-use project approved. Given this, then Councilmember Nury Martinez presented a Motion to City Council suggesting that high value projects bypass review by the PLUM Committee and go directly to the Full Council to be voted on – except as I see it, consultants and lobbyists can just as easily target our Councilmembers. Going directly to City Council for an approval/opposition vote would have the effect of limiting public participation in the approval process giving unfair advantage to large corporate developers and placing communities and constituents, smaller development companies, non-profit organizations and public land trusts at a significant disadvantage to engage in public hearings. Any restriction of public hearings including that of the PLUM Committee reduces public participation in the land-use application

(Please see "PLUM" on p. 9)



(“PLUM” cont'd from p. 8)

process and might well be considered as going against the democratic spirit of the Brown Act. At its February 16, 2021 session, The City Council adopted Committee reports relative to establishing criteria defining “high value projects” and once established approved having the planning process amended so these “high value projects” are to be diverted from the PLUM Committee and go directly to the Full Council this with an amending Motion that “nothing in the proposed rule change shall preclude the PLUM Committee from hearing a “high value project”. The Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council submitted a Community Impact Statement asking that the City Council reconsider the Motion at such time as:

- A solution is found that creates a more generous appeal process for the public – and specifically for stakeholders in the neighborhood where the project is slated to be built – before the sitting City Council members make any final decisions
- A process be developed to limit or provide notice of contact outside of public meetings between “high Value” applicants or their representatives and members of the City Council or their staff.




LA WILD Proposing A Rehabilitation Center  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

LA City and County took in over 12,000 injured wildlife between 2019-2020. Neither are equipped to care for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife requiring the majority of these to be euthanized. LA WILD is searching for a secure and quiet site with one to two acres of land appropriately zoned for wildlife rehabilitation. In mid-February 2022, Councilmembers John Lee and Nithya Ramin co-presented a Motion to the Los Angeles City Council asking that they direct the Department of General Services, Department of Recreation and Parks and the LA Zoo to seek potential locations that could meet the facility’s needs. On March 22, 2022, the City Council’s Parks and Education Committee took this Motion under advisement and recommended that the City Council direct the Department of General Services, the Department of Recreation and Parks and the LA Zoo report with potential locations that could meet LA WILD’s facility requirements for a Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center. The City Council approved this direction at their April 6, 2022 session. The Sunland-Tujunga

(Please see “WILD” on p. 10)






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

Neighborhood Council suggested that the City consider the site of the old LA Zoo as a possible site for the rehab center. Unfortunately, any progress on seeking appropriate facility locations has fallen by the wayside. Perhaps we might consider asking our Councilmember Monica Rodriguez to help bring this motion back to life.



## SHPOA'S Cook's Corner

Cold Spicy Sesame Soba Noodles  
By Anna Serridge, Resident

- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. molasses
- 1/4 cup sesame oil
- 1/4 cup tahini (sesame seed paste)
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon chili oil
- 3 Tablespoons rice wine vinegar (red wine can be used as well)
- 1/2 bunch scallions (green onions) thinly sliced, use both white and green parts
- Salt
- 1/2 lb. Soba noodles
- Sesame seeds
- Optional toppings:
  - 1/2 cup roughly chopped cilantro
  - 1-2 small Persian cucumbers. Chopped into bite size pieces
  - Blanched, chilled broccoli florets

Reduce soy sauce over high heat in saucepan by half. Lower heat to simmer and stir in molasses until dissolved and warm briefly. Transfer to large mixing bowl. Add sesame oil, tahini, brown sugar, chili oil, vinegar and green onions. Whisk to combine. Reserve about 3 tablespoons of the sauce in a small bowl. Set aside.

Cook noodles in boiling salted water until al dente, approximately 3-5 minutes. Drain noodles and plunge into a large bowl of ice water. Rinse noodles well and drain again. Combine noodles and sauce, tossing until well combined. At this point, you can chill for at least an hour before serving, adding in the reserved sauce in the small bowl if the sauce has absorbed too much of the sauce and needs

(Please see "Soba" on p. 11)

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

more. I like to top my noodles with chopped cilantro, cucumber and broccoli. This salad is great on its own or can be topped with grilled salmon or chicken, leftover shredded chicken or leftover steak to make a heartier dish.

We make this ahead and keep it in the fridge when we know we've got a busy week ahead as it makes for a very satisfying last minute meal. If you don't have soba noodles on hand, you can always make this with spaghetti noodles, too, though it won't have the same toothsome chew as soba.

Serves 2-4 depending on your appetite.



Redesign The Los Angeles Seal And Flag  
To Recognize The Indigenous Peoples  
Historically Residing On Los Angeles Land  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

All land in California is indigenous and modern day Los Angeles sits on ancestral Tongva, Tatavian and Chumash land. Recognizing this, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, himself the first Native American of the Wyandotte Nation to serve on the Los Angeles City Council, believes that the City Seal and City Flag fails to include any mention of/recognition of the City's original inhabitants in effect denying them their history and that the City should take action to reevaluate the designs of the City Seal and Flag to include and more accurately reflect the culture and history of the City. In mid-October 2021, Councilmember O'Farrell, presented a Motion to City Council asking that they begin taking steps necessary to ensure that the City Seal and Flag be redesigned to be inclusive of the indigenous peoples of Los Angeles thereby reflecting all appropriate symbols of the culture and history of the City. The Motion asked that the City Council instruct the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department along with the assistance of the City Clerk, the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, the Department of Cultural Affairs and input of the local tribal governments such as those of the Gabrieleno-Tongva, Fernandenno-Tatavian and Ventureno-Chumash tribes to develop options to up-date the symbols contained in the City Flag and Seal to ensure the inclusion of the local native population and indigenous history of the region. The Motion was referred to the City's Rules and Intergovernmental Relations Committee for their review and recommendations which waived any consideration of the item. At their November 3, 2021 session the City

(Please see "Seal" on p. 12)

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

Council approved the Motion for a community engagement strategy to develop options to update the symbols contained in the City Flag and Seal to ensure the inclusion of the local native population and indigenous history of the region. This has yet to be done. All Angelenos should be encouraged to submit proposals for this evaluation in collaboration with the first peoples of the region. That same day, the City Council also resolved that the City of Los Angeles apologize to the California tribal nations for the many instances of violence, maltreatment and neglect in which the City has been complicit in inflicting such upon these people and commit to working with California Tribal Nations to develop strategies and solutions to correct the harmful actions of the past and improve access to City resources including services and programs. While the resolution was adopted by City Council, whether it has actually been put in place, I really don't know. That same day the City Council also resolved to include in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program Support for any legislative and/or administrative action to replace the name of portions of Interstate 10 currently designated as "Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway with an Indigenous name to reflect a future acknowledgement of, peace with, respect of and inclusion of our Indigenous past. The California State Legislature passed a Bill in 2022 removing the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway name from the portion of Interstate 10 beginning in Santa Monica and running east through the City of Los Angeles. I have been unable to determine whether an updated Indigenous name has actually yet been assigned to this portion of Interstate 10.



Empathy For The Orange Listed Animals  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Department of Animal Services maintains a color-coded system to identify the status of animals in its care at any given time. Green-listed is for adoptable animals. Red-listed is for those in danger of being euthanized within the next 48 hours. The "FAS" list is for animals suffering from Fear, Anxiety or Stress making them subject to being moved to the Red List. The Orange List is for animals in need of serious veterinary care which the Department can't provide. The Blue List is for animals experiencing any kind of ailments. The Department uses these lists to notify staff, New Hope Partners, other rescuers and the public of each animal's

(Please see "Orange" on p. 13)



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

current status in the shelter system. In recent years, Red-listed animals are almost always pulled from the shelters before a decision has to be made to euthanize them. However, based upon a recent review of City animal shelter operations, Orange Listed animals which are by policy supposed to be brought to the attention of New Hope Partners, fail to be brought to the attention of a wider audience that could provide these sick or injured animals a better chance of survival. The Department has an important program called "Good Samaritan" whereby members of the general public can step in and provide unwell animals the veterinary care they need. However, it is not clear that would-be Good Samaritans are regularly made aware of Orange-listed animals. In early October 2022, Councilmember Paul Koretz presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Department of Animal Services to fully utilize the Orange list to be sure that organizations and individuals willing to cover costs of expensive vet care are always notified and given the opportunity to save the lives of these sick and injured animals. On October 24, 2022, the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee recommended that the Council approve the Motion and submitted the matter to the City Council for its consideration. The Motion was adopted by City Council at its November 8, 2022 session.



Use Of Goats To Eliminate Invasive And Overgrown Brush  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Pursuant to the adoption of the Mayor's 2022-2023 Budget, recommending partnerships of the Conservation Corps and other outside entities to consider the use of goats to eliminate

(Cont'd next column)

(Cont'd)

invasive and overgrown brush, the City Council referred the Budget recommendation to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendations asking that it consult with the Fire Department. According to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, goat grazing is an excellent solution to the need to control large stands of highly flammable invasive weeds where weed removal by hand is impractical and the use of mechanical devices are either too destructive or impractical. Following goat grazing, the amount of flammable material is greatly reduced and the soil is left fertilized and only lightly disturbed. The use of goats to control flammable weeds in our urban-wildland interface would be a significant step in protecting, preserving and expanding our native habitats and park lands. Several Neighborhood Councils submitted approval of the consideration of utilizing goat grazing to control overgrown brush with one also recommending consultation with the California Native Plant Society. I recall seeing the current use of goat grazing for brush clearance on a field across the #118 freeway across from the Reagan Library.



Gun Owners' Firearm Liability Insurance  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

In 2021, the Los Angeles Police Department reported a 54.2% increase over 2019 shootings. Nationally, 75% of school shootings are carried out by kids who have access to unsecured or unsupervised guns at home. Every day 8 children are shot with an improperly stored or misused gun located in the home. Facing similar statistics, the San Jose City Council recently took preliminary action that would require gun owners to purchase liability insurance through

(Please see "Guns" on p. 14)

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*("Guns" cont'd from p. 14)*

their homeowner's or renter's insurance. Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Koretz, Paul Krekorian and Mitch O'Farrell suggested that the City of Los Angeles follow suit and co-presented a Motion to that effect to the Los Angeles City Council in early February 2022. The Studio City Neighborhood Council filed a Community Impact Statement opposing the Motion arguing that the City of Los Angeles and the State of California already regulate storage and transport of firearms, the type of firearms that are California compliant, etc. A comment submitted by a member of the general public opposed the proposed Ordinance as being a nefarious attempt to place a burden on law-abiding citizens who are merely exercising their constitutional right to bear arms. An insurance requirement would be unconstitutional and should not be regulated being a constitutional right whereas eg regulating liability insurance on an automobile should be regulated as driving an automobile is only a privilege. We need to get tough on criminals instead of law-abiding citizens. However, the San Pedro Neighborhood Council voted to support the Motion requesting a feasibility study on gun owner liability insurance. For ten months now this Motion has been collecting dust on a back burner. Council District 7 (our Council District) has carried its fair share of these shooting statistics. Wouldn't it be time for our Councilmember Monica Rodriguez to ask her peers that initiated this Motion to bring it back to the table?



Send Billy To A Sanctuary  
 By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Billy, an Asian bull elephant, has lived at the Los Angeles Zoo for decades much of the time in conditions meeting only minimum standards set by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). It is long past time that the mental and physical discomfort and potential threats to his health that Billy has faced for much of his life comes to an end. More than a decade ago, the Zoo sent Ruby, an African cow elephant, who would not have been compatible with the Asian elephants of the current elephant exhibit to a sanctuary in Northern California to live out the rest of her life in the most positive environment then available to her in North America. This earned the Zoo plaudits. Subsequent litigation (Leider v. Lewis) found that the Zoo still needed to improve its care and treatment of its elephants. The court remains disputed as to whether the Zoo has consistently complied with

*(Please see "Billy" on p.15)*



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

all the instructions of the court for the improved treatment of the elephants, specifically in that the Zoo allegedly is not providing the elephants a soft surface in the exhibit which is adding to concerns about their physical health. To relocate Billy to a sanctuary would be an optimal solution for him and also would provide the cow elephants Tina, Jewel and Shaunzi more space in the Zoo's exhibit. Additionally, for several years the Zoo has attempted unsuccessfully to collect genetic material from Billy for use in assisted captive breeding efforts. Techniques for collecting this material is extremely invasive adding to the list of ways Billy's long stay at the Zoo has been detrimental to his well-being. According to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, assisted reproduction techniques have not been perfected suggesting that Billy would continue to be subjected to invasive treatment in the future with scant prospect of effectuating successful breeding. In late September 2022, Councilmember Paul Koretz presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Los Angeles Zoo immediately cancel any current or future elephant breeding activities and that they, along with the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, report on steps necessary to begin the process of safely relocating Billy to a suitable sanctuary environment. Additionally, the Councilmember's Motion asked that the City Council instruct the Zoo to comply with all provisions of the *Leider v. Lewis* court case by managing the Zoo's Elephants of Asia exhibit as a more open environment for no more than four female elephants at a time thereby making more extensive use of the available acreage for the cows. Billy's potential relocation will be further reviewed in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.



Save Angeles Forest for Everyone (SAFE)  
Submitted Comment Letter to California High-Speed Rail Authority  
By Cindy Bloom, Board

On November 30, 2022, SAFE submitted a comprehensive 156-page comment letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) in response to the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section's Draft Environmental Impact Report. This comment letter raised many questions concerning the safety and viability of the project. CHSRA is required to answer these questions as part of their final report. SAFE hired a highly credentialed consultant who submitted a report on seismic dangers. Both of these reports can be found at [www.dontrailroad.us](http://www.dontrailroad.us).



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**Next SHPOA General Meeting: Sat, Jan 14 @ 2 pm at The Stonehurst**

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#### Community Calendar

- Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)**
- 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
  - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
  - www.ftdnc.org
- FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting**
- 1st Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
  - 9747 Wheatland Ave.
- FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting**
- 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
  - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting**
- 2nd Wednesday, Every Month 6 p.m.
  - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- LAPD Community Coffee Time**
- 1st Thursday, Every Month 8:00 a.m.
  - Rise n Shine Cafe, 9685 Sunland Blvd.
- Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board**
- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
  - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- ETI C20**
- 1st Monday, Every Month
  - Nikki Ahten, 818-489-6527
  - ETINational.com

#### Key Community Locations & Contact Info

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Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)  
Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,  
Lake View Terrace  
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd.  
intersection); Pastor Arlo Tysinger (818-353-2500)  
Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)  
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Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)  
Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)  
City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member  
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