



Minutes and Recap of March 10, 2026
 SHPOA Meeting
 By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

The SHPOA General Meeting was called to order by Tina Eick at 7:05 pm, March 10, 2026. The meeting was held at Tierra De Sol in the dining room. Eick welcomed the neighbors and introduced our Shadow Hills Deputies, Arthur Javadyan and Ricardo Flores from CD7 who were in attendance to answer questions and concerns from our community members.

The following Land Use issues were discussed by SHPOA Board members:

Our guest speakers were SHPOA Board members Rosie Payne (Trails Committee) and Jacqy Gamble (Vice President) whose presentation "Designated Trail System throughout Shadow Hills" covered the complex issues of maintaining and preserving the existing designated trails and possible recognition of new connector trails. It is clear that our trail system must be preserved in order to preserve our unique lifestyle of Shadow Hills.

Carlos George (SHPOA Traffic and Safety Coordinator) and Arthur Javadyan discussed the dangerous conditions on Sunland Blvd and options to address the issue including speeding safety systems and slowing the speeds in the commercial corridor along the boulevard.

Tina Eick appealed to the membership to submit a letter to the Mayor and to the Governor regarding the dangerous and potentially devastating effects of SB9 on housing construction in Shadow Hills. Please refer to article "It's Not Too Late" in this newsletter.

Susan Wong (Executive Secretary) gave an update of SB 79. She asked that letters of support be sent to LA City Council members before City Council votes on 3/24/26.

Following a thorough and energetic discussion of Land Use issues, Solomon Bothwell, Elizabeth Weinberg, Anthony Bosque, owners and operators of our local Shadow Hills Radio Station KPBJ, gave an enthusiastic update on their tower location and office location for future programming.

Michael Stein, (SHPOA Treasurer and Webmaster submitted his Treasurer's Report:

Checking Total: \$16,148.80
 SHPOA Portion: 15,818.60

(Continued next column)

General Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 7 pm
 Tierra Del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills

Guest Speaker: Local LAFD Chief Hilton

Topics will include: Brush Fire Requirements, Fire Season, Evacuation Planning

Land Use Issues will be updated including:

- Designated Trail System throughout Shadow Hills
- Speeding Safety System on Sunland Blvd. Discussion and options
- Call To Action - Effects of SB9 on housing construction in Shadow Hills
- SB 79 Update
- Shadow Hills Radio Station Update KPBJ Solomon Bothwell, Elizabeth Weinberg, Anthony Bosque
- Vote for our new SHPOA Logo (see p. 4 for details)

Our Shadow Hills Deputy, Arthur Javadyan from CD7, Olivia Hokr from State Menjivar's Office will be in attendance to answer your questions and concerns.

And **PIZZA** will be provided by our Hospitality Committee

(Continued)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| SAFE Portion | 330.20 |
| Savings/Trails | 6,015.83 |
| TOTAL Cash on Hand: | 22,164.63 |
| Less Restricted Funds | (6,015.83) |
| Less Safe Portion | (330.20) |
| Net Unrestricted SHPOA | \$15,818.60 |

Thom Despres (Membership) reported that joining SHPOA allows us to continue to represent our community before all levels of government, in our efforts to protect and preserve our unique community. Please refer to "Message From SHPOA Membership" in this newsletter.

Thank You to Our Hospitality Committee for Tonight's Refreshments - Betsy Kennedy, Cynthia Despres, Pam Nesmith, Jennie Freund

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. Thank you for your continued support. See you at the May 12th SHPOA meeting, Tierra Del Sol, 7:00pm !



2025 SHPOA Board Members

(if no email is listed, please send to board@shpoa.us)

Executive Officers

President: Tina Eick
board@shpoa.us

Vice President: Jacqy Gamble

Executive Secretary: Susan Wong

Recording Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Michael Stein

Membership: Thom Despres

Appointed Officers

Land Use: Bill Eick

Equestrian and Trails: Rosey Payne (Liaison)

Neighborhood Watch: Vacant

Daily Fodder and Lost/Found Pets: Susan Wong
shpoa@shpoa.us

Webmaster: Michael Stein
webmaster@shpoa.us

Traffic Safety Coordinator: Carlos George

Newsletter Editor and Article Collection: Tina Eick
board@shpoa.us

Newsletter Advertising: Michael Stein
webmaster@shpoa.us

Newsletter Design/Layout: Cindy Bloom

Hospitality: Betsy Kennedy, Cynthia Despres, Jenny Freund, Pam Nesmith

Historian: vacant

SHPOA's Mailing Address: P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041

SHPOA's E-mail Address: shpoa@shpoa.us or
board@shpoa.us

Website: www.shpoa.us

Senior Lead Police Officers:

Sunland/Shadow Hills/LVT Wilcer Godoy
36495@lapd.online 818-634-0705

Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West Eric Perez
38338@lapd.online 818-634-0755

LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk
 818-756-8861

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

www.ftdnc.org

President: Kevin Davis
president@ftdnc.org

Shadow Hills Rep: Gerardo Barrientos

Dear Neighbors,

I'm reaching out because I'm part of the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA), and I'd love to personally invite you to join us as a member this year.

Since 1964, SHPOA has been the "boots on the ground" working to preserve the unique rural character that brought us all to Shadow Hills in the first place. Whether you're an equestrian, a hiker, or just someone who loves the peace of our open spaces, SHPOA is the reason our neighborhood stays protected and safe.

You might be wondering: "Why should I join and what's in it for me?"

While everyone in the neighborhood receives our newsletter, membership is what actually keeps the lights on. For just \$30 a year (that's only about 8 cents a day). Seriously—that's less than a decent pizza delivery. It's literal pocket change to make sure that our property values stay up and the vibe stays right. Your membership supports:

- **Protecting Our Land:** We actively monitor local legislation (like SB 9 and SB 79) and construction projects to ensure our neighborhood isn't overdeveloped.
- **Safety & Neighborhood Watch:** We coordinate with the LAPD and manage nearly two dozen block captains to keep our streets safe.
- **The "Daily Fodder":** Access to our daily community emails featuring local news, events, and a very active lost-and-found pet network (we even have a community chip reader!).
- **Trail & Community Care:** We handle trail maintenance and neighborhood cleanup projects so our area remains beautiful for horses and hikers alike.

Essentially, SHPOA is our collective voice at City Hall and our first line of defense in keeping Shadow Hills the rural gem that it is.

We'd love to have your support to help us keep doing this vital work.

You can join or renew easily right here: <https://www.shpoa.us/> (just click "Membership" at the top). Other ways to join: Send in your check and SHPOA Membership Form from the January SHPOA Newsletter, or 2. Bring your check to the next SHPOA meeting.

Thanks for being a great neighbor, and I hope to see you at our next general meeting!

Best regards,

Thom Despres, Shadow Hills Property Owners Association Volunteer



Hansen Dam Pedal Boat Program
 By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Pedal Boat Rental Hours 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Saturdays and Sundays only

30 Minute Rental Rates (Cash only)

- Adults (18-49) = \$8.00
- Children (17 and under) = \$6.00
- Seniors (50 and up) = \$6.00
- Persons with Disabilities = \$6.00

(Please see **"Boats"** on p. 3)

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

One-Hour Rental Rates (Cash Only)

- Adults (18-49) = \$11.00
- Children (17 and under) = \$8.00
- Seniors (50 and up) = \$8.00
- Persons with Disabilities = \$8.00

Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied on board a pedal boat by a parent or guardian.

The Pedal Boat Program is subject to closure due to inadequate staffing or inclement weather.



**BoS Report Re Single-Use Printer Cartridge Ban
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

The Los Angeles City Council has taken numerous actions against the harmful impacts of many single-use products including that of single-use printer cartridges. However, hundreds of millions of these printer cartridges are being sold annually with a significant portion not being recycled and ultimately being disposed of in landfills. If improperly managed at their "end of life", these cartridges can pose a threat to the environment as they contain plastics, heavy metals and harmful volatile organic chemicals which may leach into the environment contributing to soil and water contamination. However, the Consumer Technology Association (CTA) does not believe that medical devices or their ink cartridges to be the intended target of this proposed ban. Medical devices require manufacturer-specified, single-use cartridges for proper function. The Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other regulatory bodies often require use of approved consumables to maintain compliance with device certification and performance standards. Deviating from the approved cartridge design by refilling or reusing ink cartridges can void warranties, violate regulatory approval and expose facilities to liabilities. The CTA claims that the total volume of single-use cartridges used in medical devices is small compared to private consumer or office printing and would create an unacceptable risk to patient care and compliance with health regulations while offering negligible environmental benefit. The CTA requested an amendment to the single-use cartridge ban Ordinance leaving medical devices and their cartridges exempt from the proposed ban Ordinance. At their September 2, 2025 meeting, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee approved the proposed Ordinance as amended. At its December 19, 2025 session, the City Council approved the proposed definitions, impacted entities, implementation schedules and items of compliance to be noted in a single-use printer cartridge ban. We now await a Draft Ordinance to be presented by the Office of the City Attorney.



**Prohibit Use Of E-Bikes On Equestrian Trails
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

The City of Los Angeles is home to numerous outdoor spaces and trails that residents use for recreational activities including our equestrian communities. They serve as a lifeline for residents to enjoy public lands

(Please see "E-Bikes" on p. 5)

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.

Membership only = \$30

Newsletter only = \$10 (non-Shadow Hills area)

Donations are always gratefully received.

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Check one: New Renewal Newsletter Only
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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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SHPOA Logo Design Contest!

Are you creative? Do you enjoy design?
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The winning logo will be used for **outreach** and our upcoming online merchandise store!



Prize:
Public recognition + a FREE coffee mug featuring your winning design



Important Dates

- Submission Deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM
- Voting: Tuesday, May 12th meeting (members only)

Contest Rules

1. Only paid SHPOA members may submit entries
2. Only paid members may vote
3. Maximum 3 designs per household
4. File format: PNG (recommended max size: 7" H x 10" W)
5. By submitting, you grant SHPOA full rights to use the design (website, newsletter, merchandise, etc.)
6. Designs must be original and free of copyright/royalty restrictions
7. SHPOA reserves the right to reject submissions due to quality/formatting

Include:

- Your name
- Email address
- Phone number

How to Submit:

cbloom571@gmail.com
Questions? Email to Cindy
Bloom at same email

We can't wait to see your creativity-good luck!

("E-Bikes" cont'd from p. 4)

in a safe and enjoyable manner. However, the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on these trails have created dangerous situations for humans and animals alike. In 2022, Assemblymember Laura Friedman authored AB 1909 which allows any local authority to prohibit electric bicycles on any equestrian, hiking or recreational trail. The Bill also authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation to prohibit the operation of electric bicycles on any bicycle path or trail within the park's jurisdiction. Given that as a local authority, the City of Los Angeles may prohibit e-bikes from using any equestrian, hiking and recreational trails Councilmember John Lee presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to prohibit the use of e-bikes within their jurisdiction utilizing signage and all enforcement means available to them. The e-bike prohibition is not to include designated Class I, II, III or IV Bikeways. The Los Angeles Police Department along with the Department of Transportation and the Office of the City Attorney will be creating a substantial fine structure with increasing fines for repeat offenders to discourage e-bike use in restricted areas with the Office of the City Attorney preparing and presenting an Ordinance that would prohibit the use of e-bikes on restricted City trails along with a proposed fine structure. The Motion was forwarded to the City Council's Parks and Community Enrichment Committee and Transportation Committee for their review and recommendations. The status of this Motion will be up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



Protecting a Growing City: Why Los Angeles Needs More Officers on the Street
By Carlos George, SHPOA Board


Late one evening, a resident called for help. It wasn't an emergency—but it wasn't nothing either. Suspicious activity. Something that didn't feel right. They waited. And waited. When an officer finally arrived, the explanation was simple—and honest: "We're stretched thin." The Los Angeles Police Department serves one of the largest and most complex cities in the country. Millions of residents, hundreds of neighborhoods, and a city that never truly slows down. As Los Angeles has grown, one question has become harder to ignore: do we have enough officers to meet the need? When compared to cities like New York City, the difference becomes clear. New York has a higher number of officers per resident, more visible patrol presence, and faster response capabilities in many situations. Los Angeles covers a larger geographic area, has fewer officers per capita, and relies on officers handling higher call volumes. The result is longer response times and heavier workloads. Being understaffed doesn't just affect emergencies—it impacts everyday situations. There are delayed responses to non-emergency calls, fewer proactive patrols, less visibility in neighborhoods, and increased strain on existing officers. Over time, that strain leads to burnout, retention

(Please see "Officers" on p. 6)

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SHPOA

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(“Officers” cont’d from p. 5)

challenges, and even fewer officers available. Behind every response time is a person trying to do their job. Officers are moving from call to call, prioritizing the most urgent situations, and covering larger areas than ever before. When resources are limited, difficult choices have to be made, and sometimes residents wait longer than they should. Public safety is one of the core responsibilities of any city. Funding is not just about numbers—it’s about hiring new officers, retaining experienced ones, providing training and support, and ensuring coverage across all communities. Without adequate funding, the gap between demand and response continues to grow. Residents across Los Angeles are noticing fewer patrol cars, slower responses, and a sense that help is not as close as it used to be. In communities where safety is already a concern, this has a real impact on quality of life. A stronger system would mean more officers per capita, faster response times, increased neighborhood presence, and better support for those serving. A well-staffed department benefits everyone. Los Angeles is unique in its size, diversity, and complexity, and as the city continues to grow, so must its ability to protect and serve. Public safety is not a luxury—it is a necessity. When someone calls for help, they should not wonder how long it will take or if anyone is available. They should know that someone is on the way. A city this big needs a police force strong enough to match it.



Paying More, Getting Less: A City Budget Story
By Carlos George, SHPOA Board

In Los Angeles, we are used to hearing big numbers. Billions allocated. Millions redirected. New initiatives announced with promise and urgency. But for many residents, the experience on the ground tells a different story: We pay more than ever—yet still have to push just to get basic services done. The City of Los Angeles operates on a massive budget. Every year, we hear about budget gaps, deficits, and shortfalls that require adjustments. At the same time, residents contribute through property taxes, sales taxes, utility fees, and special assessments. It raises a fair question: if we’re paying some of the highest taxes and fees, why does it still feel like we’re chasing basic services? For many communities, the pattern is familiar: you report an issue, you wait, you follow up, you push, and only then something happens. Whether it’s street repairs, signage and safety improvements, or cleanup and maintenance, the system often feels reactive rather than proactive. Part of the frustration comes from not knowing where the money is going, which department is responsible, or why issues take weeks or months to resolve. There is no simple dashboard showing what was funded, what was completed, and what is still pending. Without that visibility, it becomes difficult to connect spending with results.

(Please see “Budget” on p.7)

("**Budget**" cont'd from p. 6)

Beyond taxes, residents also pay with their time—writing emails, making calls, attending meetings, and following up repeatedly. Progress often happens only after sustained pressure, and that shouldn't be the standard. Many have come to understand an unspoken reality: the louder and more persistent the request, the more likely it is to be addressed. But that creates inequality, as not everyone has the time, knowledge, or ability to navigate the system. Budget deficits are not just accounting problems—they have real-world consequences such as delayed services, reduced maintenance, and spending priorities that may not align with community needs. At the same time, residents are being asked to pay more, accept less, and be patient. A transparent and accountable system would provide clear public reporting, measurable outcomes, timelines, and defined responsibility. Residents want a city that works efficiently, communicates clearly, and delivers on its commitments. Taxpayers are not just funding the system—they are depending on it. Los Angeles is a city full of potential, resources, and dedicated people. But when it comes to budgets and services, one truth continues to surface: Paying more shouldn't mean pushing harder just to be heard. It should mean seeing results. Until accountability matches the scale of the budget, residents will continue to speak up, follow up, and push forward.



Illegal Fireworks Strain City Safety Resources
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Every year the City of Los Angeles experiences a sharp increase in emergency calls due to the illegal use of fireworks, particularly during the weeks surrounding the Fourth of July holiday. These incidents pose significant risks to public safety by straining overall City department resources, especially those of the fire and police departments. With this in mind, in mid-September 2025, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Los Angeles Police Department to prepare and present a report on:

- The number of on-line fireworks complaints submitted through the City's complaint portal over the last three years listed by year, Council District and timeframe (eg month, week of July 4th, etc)
- The process by which on-line complaints are reviewed, prioritized and dispatched to field units or investigative teams.
- The number of complaints that resulted in enforcement action (eg citations, arrests or confiscation of fireworks, etc)
- Any public education , outreach or follow-up actions taken by the LAPD in neighborhoods with high volumes of fireworks complaints.

At their September 10, 2025 session, the City Council adopted the Councilmember's Motion as well as the recommendation submitted by the City Council's Public Safety Committee to have the feasibility of establishing

(Please see "**Fireworks**" on p.8)

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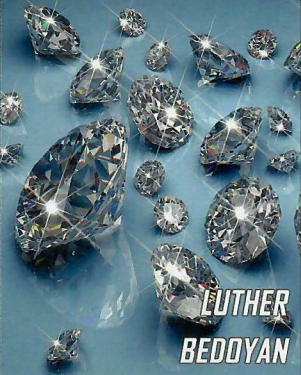
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("Fireworks cont'd from p. 7)

a drone pilot program to be used for the detection of illegal firework activity in real time. A "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) pilot program was launched on July 16, 2025. The original pilot program was for a 90 day trial ending on October 6, 2025, but was extended by an additional 90 days ending on January 4, 2026. It is anticipated that the Drone Program will be established and will no longer be in the "pilot phase". An estimated quote for the purchase of drones, docks and other relevant equipment ran about \$3,780,735 for 36 months for 24 drones and drone docks. Several cities in California including Riverside, Sacramento, Stanton, Brea, Hemet, Elk Grove and others are utilizing drones to enforce laws against illegal fireworks by documenting violations and subsequently mailing citations to property owners. The "anti-firework Ordinance" in these cities include a "host liability" clause which means that property owners can be fined for hosting ie not preventing illegal fireworks on their property. Fines for these illegal firework violations average around \$1,000 with incrementally larger fines for additional violations in a one-year period.



Where Is the Line? A Shadow Hills Story About Property Boundaries
By Carlos George, SHPOA Board

In Shadow Hills, space is part of the lifestyle. Wide lots. Open trails. Fences that don't always follow straight lines. Neighbors who wave across acreage instead of across sidewalks. It's one of the things that makes this community special. But it also leads to a surprisingly common—and often frustrating—question: Where exactly is my property line? It started with something small. A homeowner wanted to repair a fence. Nothing major—just maintenance. But before starting, they did what any responsible property owner would do: they checked the city maps. What they found didn't bring clarity. It brought confusion. Turning to official tools like the Los Angeles County Assessor and the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, the homeowner expected to see clear boundaries. Instead, they found lines that didn't align with existing fences, parcel shapes that looked slightly off, and measurements that didn't match what had been assumed for years. On one map, the line appeared closer to the driveway. On another, it shifted several feet toward the neighbor's side. And on the ground, there was an old fence placed decades ago quietly suggesting its own version of the truth. In areas like Shadow Hills, property lines aren't always simple rectangles. Many parcels were originally subdivided decades ago, adjusted over time, and defined by old surveys, landmarks, or natural features. Digital maps, while helpful, are often approximations—not legal boundaries. Even when using official systems, differences can appear due to outdated survey data, mapping overlays that don't perfectly align, and variations between city and county records. Eventually, the homeowner spoke with their neighbor. The neighbor had their own map, and it showed something slightly different. Now there were two maps, one fence, and no clear answer.

(Please see "Boundaries" on p.9)

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

In Shadow Hills, where properties are larger and more rural in feel, it's easy to assume that if the fence has always been there, it must be correct. But assumptions can lead to disputes over a few feet of land, issues when selling or refinancing, and complications with permits and improvements. The only true way to determine a property line is through a licensed survey. City maps, assessor records, and online tools are helpful—but they are not definitive. They are guides, not guarantees. What started as a simple fence repair became something more: a reminder that even in a tight-knit community, clarity matters. Not because neighbors are in conflict—but because everyone deserves certainty about their own property. For Shadow Hills residents, the takeaway is simple. Check your records but don't rely on them alone. Communicate with neighbors early. Consider a professional survey for important projects. In a community built on openness and trust, knowing where the line is helps keep everything else in place. In Shadow Hills, the beauty is in the space between homes—the land, the trails, the freedom. But when it comes to property lines, that same space can create uncertainty. And sometimes, the most important line is the one you can't quite see.



Growth, Connection & New Beginnings
By Eva Lund, Resident

As we welcome May, we are reminded of the beauty of growth, renewal, and connection. This time of year is especially important in both ecology and agriculture, as many plants reach peak growth and flowering, supporting essential pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Migratory birds often return to their breeding grounds, and ecosystems are alive with activity. This vibrant season reflects what we witness every day at Special Spirit: progress, resilience, and transformation in every rider, volunteer, and horse.

The RCD of the St. Monica Mountains came out and conducted a Wildfire Home Evaluation of the ranch, which was incredibly informative. They provided practical recommendations for reducing fire risk, improving defensible space, and better protecting both the property and the animals in our care. Best of all, this valuable service was offered free of charge, making it an accessible and impactful resource for our community.

Tiffany recently celebrated her birthday at the ranch with all the animals. Over the past year, she has grown from a quiet, uncertain rider into someone who forms meaningful connections with our animals. Her mom expressed gratitude for the support Tiffany has received, noting exciting progress in Tiffany's communication at home, with mom, dad, and her service dog.

Katherine, a new client who once struggled to leave her home, has experienced remarkable change through time with the horses. She is now enjoying walks and hikes with growing confidence, an inspiring

(Please see "Growth" on p.10)

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(“**Growth**” cont’d from p. 9)

transformation we’re honored to support.

We’re also excited to welcome new life to the ranch. Our mama goats, Ro and Payasa, are expecting babies any day now! Rufus and Casper, our alpacas, recently got haircuts, and we’re exploring ways to use their valuable fleece. If you’re a spinner or knitter in Shadow Hills, we’d love to hear from you.



Grandview hosted a Family Day at the ranch, inviting clients and their families for a joyful Easter celebration. The afternoon featured animal visits,

(Cont’d p. 15)

The Audit That Came and Went: A City Story About
Accountability
By Carlos George, SHPOA Board

Every year, reports are written. Detailed. Thorough. Full of findings. They come from the office of the Los Angeles City Controller—tasked with auditing departments across the city of Los Angeles. The purpose is clear: find what’s not working, recommend improvements, and make the city better. On paper, it’s exactly what taxpayers would hope for. An audit looks at how a department operates. Are resources being used efficiently? Are systems working as intended? Are there gaps, delays, or waste? Then it delivers findings, recommendations, and a path forward. It’s meant to be a tool for accountability. The report gets released. It’s discussed. Sometimes it makes headlines. Maybe a meeting is held. And then things seem to go quiet. The same issues continue: delays in services, confusing processes, and lack of follow-through. Residents are left wondering: what happened to the audit? The challenge isn’t identifying problems. It’s what happens after. In many cases, recommendations are not required to be implemented, departments may acknowledge issues but move slowly, and there is limited tracking of progress over time. An audit can highlight inefficiencies—but it doesn’t always enforce change. Without clear accountability, audits risk becoming information without action. There is often no simple way for the public to see which recommendations were adopted, which were delayed, and which were never implemented.

(Please see “**Audit**” on p. 11)

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

Without that visibility, momentum fades. Audits are funded by taxpayers. They represent time, effort, and expertise dedicated to improving city operations. When findings don't lead to visible change, it creates frustration, skepticism, and a sense that the system is not responding. After seeing the same issues persist, many residents begin to wonder if nothing changes, why bother auditing at all? It's a fair question—but it may not be the right one. Audits still matter. They document problems clearly, create an official record, and provide a roadmap for improvement. But they are only the first step. Real change requires follow-through, public visibility, and continued pressure. To close the gap between findings and results, the city could track implementation publicly, set timelines, assign responsibility, and report back regularly. Audits don't fix systems on their own. They give residents the information needed to ask better questions. When communities stay engaged and demand results, those reports become more than documents—they become tools. Audits are not the problem. The gap between finding the issue and fixing it is; because identifying inefficiency is only valuable if it leads to improvement. In a city as large as Los Angeles, accountability shouldn't end when the report is written. It should begin there.



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Risk Of Eliminating Clean Water Act Protections
 By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Wetlands and small waterways provide essential ecosystems including flood control, water filtration, groundwater recharge, habitat for fish and wildlife and climate resilience. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a new definition of "Waterways of the United States" that would dramatically reduce Clean Water Act Protections leaving only 19 percent of wetlands in the contiguous United States subject to federal oversight and would require wetlands to have continuous surface water connections to relatively permanent waterways during wet seasons ignoring scientific data about subsurface hydraulic connections and intermittent water flows. Approximately half of the U.S. States lack adequate state-level wetland protection programs in which case the new proposed federal definition would leave most wetlands in these States completely unprotected also narrowing protections for streams by requiring "bed and banks" which would potentially eliminate Clean Water Act jurisdiction over numerous headwater streams and ephemeral waterways that contribute to drinking water supplies. Southern California's unique hydrology includes many intermittent and seasonal streams and wetlands that could lose federal protection under this new proposed definition despite their critical importance to regional water quality and ecosystem health. Reduced federal oversight would increase regulatory burdens on State and local agencies to fill these protection gaps with their more limited resources leaving weakened wetland protections to result in increased pollution, increased flooding risks and increased infrastructure costs to those individual cities. Councilmember Traci Park believes that clean water and healthy ecosystems are fundamental to public health, environmental justice and quality of life for all Angelenos bringing her to present a Resolution to the City Council in early December 2025 that, if adopted, would call for the City of Los Angeles to include in its 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program opposition to any action by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers to redefine "Waters of the United States" as it would eliminate Clean Water Protections for over 80 percent of the nation's wetlands and streams. Several Neighborhood Councils submitted Community Impact Statements supporting the Resolution as wetlands are critical biodiversity hotspots supporting up to 40% of the world's species and are the most effective carbon sinks on Earth capturing more than twice as much carbon as the world's forests combined. Protection of Los Angeles' remaining wetlands is critical to our City's climate response and flood tolerance.



A Crosswalk, A Click, and a Community That Refused to Look Away
 By Carlos George, SHPOA Board

It started like many things do in our neighborhood—with a simple observation. A faded crosswalk. Most people drove right past it. Some slowed down. A

(Please see "Crosswalk" on p. 13)

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(“Crosswalk” cont’d from p. 12)

few noticed. But one afternoon, a resident stopped, looked both ways, and realized something important: This wasn’t just faded paint—it was a safety issue waiting to happen. In a community like ours—where horses share the road, families walk their dogs, and children cross streets that feel more country than city—something as small as a crosswalk matters. It represents visibility, awareness, and protection. So instead of ignoring it, a report was filed through the MyLA311 app. A quick photo. A short description. Submit. Simple... right? Days passed. Then weeks. The request showed as “received.” Then “assigned.” Eventually, it was marked “closed.” But nothing had changed. The crosswalk was still faded. Cars still sped through. And the question lingered: If it’s marked complete... why is it still unsafe? That’s when something shifted. Another resident submitted a request. Then another. And another. What began as one report became many—not out of frustration alone, but out of shared responsibility. Neighbors started talking. Photos were shared. Stories were told of close calls and near misses. The issue was no longer a line of paint. It became a community concern. Through this experience, something became clear: Reporting matters. Following up matters more. But working together matters most. Systems like MyLA311 are powerful tools—but they are only as effective as the voices behind them. A single request can be overlooked. A community cannot. This wasn’t just about one crosswalk. It was about slowing traffic on roads that feel forgotten, protecting riders, walkers, and families, and preserving the unique character of our neighborhood. It reminded us that living here means more than enjoying the space—it means protecting it. Eventually, the crosswalk was repainted. Fresh lines. Clear markings. Visible again. To some, it was just maintenance. To those who spoke up, it was something more: proof that persistence works. If you see something—report it. If it’s not fixed—follow up. If it still isn’t addressed—bring others with you. Because change doesn’t always start with big moments. Sometimes it starts with a faded crosswalk, a simple report, and a community that refuses to look away.



2025 LA Fire Hydrant Information
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

In February 2025, the Los Angeles City Council instructed the City’s Chief Legislative Analyst in coordination with the Fire Department and Department of Water and Power to respond to a series of questions resulting from reports that there were a significant number of inoperable fire hydrants in the Pacific Palisades area during the wildfire of January 2025. Responses included:

• How many hydrants are inspected annually?: All 65,996 in the City were inspected in 2025 which included +/- 5,000 hydrants that are not actually the

(Continued Next Column)



(Continued)

responsibility of the LADWP being either private hydrants or hydrants serving the Los Angeles World Airports. If any repairs are identified with hydrants not the responsibility of the LADWP, a notice is sent to the property owner who is required to complete the repairs using a LAFD certified repair company. Completed repairs are to be reported to the fire department through an internet portal that only LAFD certified repair companies can access. Hydrants are then scheduled for re-inspection in the next annual inspection cycle. So, does this mean that hydrants in need of repair might remain out of service for another year until that next annual inspection cycle takes place?

- How often does the LAFD inspect hydrants?: Annually.
- How many hydrants are repaired annually by the LADWP?: The LADWP repairs all hydrants identified by the LAFD’s inspections as being inoperable annually. 1,407 hydrants were repaired by the LADWP in 2025, a number not including any hydrants repaired by the Los Angeles World Airports or private owners
- How many hydrants are offline due to maintenance, repair or other issues?: All hydrants identified in the annual 2025 inspection have been repaired. Some hydrants may be offline on a short-term basis due to LADWP water system maintenance work.
- How many fire hydrants are still in need of repair or maintenance?: Zero LADWP maintained hydrants as of the date of the Chief Legislative Analyst’s report presented on October 17, 2025. BUT WHAT WOULD THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN IN 2024 PRIOR TO THE JANUARY 2025 WILDFIRES?
- How will the LAFD address issues related to LAFD Connections, hydrant theft and vandalism?: The LAFD has not experienced any significant issues with theft or vandalism of fire hydrants, but has experienced issues related to theft of valuable brass components from the LAFD connections that Engine Companies use to connect with their own hoses to provide pressurized water to support firefighting in larger buildings. Building owners currently have the option to keep these components in locked cages using locks that the LAFD has the ability to remove when needed. The LAFD is also working to make locking covers available to property owners on an optional basis once staff is trained and the necessary equipment to unlock the covers is distributed to all fire stations. This option will be at the expense of building owners. The LAFD anticipated completing training and making covers available later in the Fall of 2025. We’ll see.
- Identify inaccessible City fire hydrants and recommendations to make them available: No permanently inaccessible hydrants were identified.

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Slowing Down for Safety: Our Efforts on Sunland Boulevard

By Carlos George, SHPOA Board

There are roads you drive on... And there are roads you live with. For those of us in Shadow Hills, Sunland Boulevard is the latter—especially the stretch from Stonehurst Avenue to La Canada Way. It's a corridor that carries more than just cars. It carries families, equestrians, cyclists, and neighbors trying to cross safely in a community that still values its rural character. But over time, something changed. The speeds increased. The risks grew. And the concern became impossible to ignore. Sunland Boulevard was never meant to feel like a freeway. Yet today, many residents describe it that way, with cars accelerating well above posted limits, limited safe crossing points, and drivers unfamiliar with the community's equestrian presence. For those who walk, ride, or live along this stretch, it's not just inconvenient—it's dangerous. What began as conversations between neighbors has grown into a coordinated effort. Residents have documented speeding patterns, shared stories of close calls, organized communication with city officials, and submitted multiple reports and requests. Tools like MyLA311 have been used to log concerns, but reporting alone is often not enough. The community has followed up, pushed, and stayed engaged. A key part of this effort is advocating for the implementation of Assembly Bill 43. AB 43 allows cities to set speed limits based on safety, reduce speeds in high-risk areas, and account for pedestrians, cyclists, and community use. This is critical for roads like Sunland Boulevard, where traditional speed-setting methods often result in limits that are too high for actual conditions. By pushing for AB 43, the community is making it clear that safety should come first—not just how fast cars are already going. The goal is simple: slow traffic, improve safety, and protect the community. Residents are advocating for implementation of AB 43 speed reductions, traffic calming measures, better signage and visibility, speed studies that reflect real conditions, and safer crossings for pedestrians and equestrians. These are practical, reasonable steps to restore balance to a road that serves a unique neighborhood. From Stonehurst to La Canada Way, Sunland Boulevard connects homes and families, trails and equestrian routes, and a lifestyle that is increasingly rare in Los Angeles. When speeds increase, that connection is put at risk. One of the biggest hurdles has been navigating the process. Requests are submitted, studies are discussed, but clear timelines and communication are often lacking. Meaningful change requires persistence and a community that continues to show up and be heard. There is progress. Awareness is growing, data is being gathered, and voices are being amplified. With continued effort, solutions are within reach. This is a community-driven effort, and every voice matters. Report unsafe conditions, share your experiences, support AB 43 implementation, and stay informed and involved. Because the more unified the message, the stronger the impact.

(Please see "Sunland" on p. 15)

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

Sunland Boulevard should not feel like something to endure. It should feel like part of the community it runs through. With continued effort, collaboration, and persistence, we can make that a reality. Slow it down. Make it safer. Protect what makes Shadow Hills special.



The AB3074 "Ember-Resistant Zones Act"
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Due to the notable increase in frequency and destructiveness of California fires, in 2020 State Assemblymember Laura Friedman introduced AB 3074, the ember-resistant zones act intended to define "defensible space" to reduce wildfire risk. The Bill asked that the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection be instructed to create a new "defensible zone" of 0'-5' around structures that would eliminate materials likely to be ignited by embers thereby aiming to increase property protection while still taking ecological impacts into consideration, this definition to be undertaken with input from fire officials, government representatives, environmentalists utility companies, the building industry, insurers and insurance research organizations and other significant stakeholders. The guidance document should include, but not be limited to:

- Regionally appropriate vegetation that preserves and restores native species that are fire resistant/drought tolerant, minimizes erosion, minimizes water consumption yet would permit trees near homes for shade, aesthetics and habitat while minimizing/eliminating any risk of flammable non-vegetative sources of combustion such as woodpiles, propane tanks, decks and outdoor lawn furniture.

The Bill instructed the Board of Forestry (BOF) to create guidelines for these provisions, but no action was taken until after the Palisades and Eaton Canyon fires when Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order instructing the Board to finalize the guidelines by the end of 2025. The proposed "Zone 0" (0'-5' zone) regulations go beyond what was intended in the AB 3074 extending it from an "ember-resistant zone" to a "non-combustible zone". Non-combustible implies "no vegetation or other

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burnable material" while "ember-resistant" allows for healthy, well-maintained vegetation because it is full of water while non-combustible could mean virtually no branches on the trunk of a tree to 5' from an adjacent roofline or adjacent wall and 10' from a chimney or stovepipe. This requirement could mean virtually no branches on the trunk of the tree to above the roofline or no branches on one complete side of the tree. Either scenario could inflict structural or life-threatening damage to a tree. Native trees and shrubs are especially ill-suited to this kind of pruning. The State's proposed Zone 0 regulations impose a "one-size-fits-all" solution on an enormous State the size of California which is vastly different from one area to another. Many of the underlying case studies and graphics used in devising the proposed Zone 0 regulations are based on conditions more commonly found in forested areas in Northern California. LA's hillside communities however, are a mix of irrigated landscapes, cleared and degraded hillsides, native chaparral and ever-expanding often densely built residential areas which make LA's firefighting more challenging. Proposed Brush Management regulations will be further up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



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

horseback riding, equine activities, an egg hunt, and a BBQ, fun for all ages.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Our equine-assisted programs offer a powerful way to support emotional well-being, helping individuals build trust, stay present, and feel grounded through connection with horses.

Upcoming Events

- Gentle Yoga & Sound Bath – June 6, 7 PM (limited space; book early at www.specialspirit.org)
- Summer Camps – Weeklong sessions coming soon (contact us for details)

Thank you to our incredible community; your support makes everything we do possible. With gratitude, The Special Spirit Team



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- Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)**
 - 4th Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
 - www.ftdnc.org
- FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting (currently inactive)**
 - 1st Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Via Zoom (see www.ftdnc.org calendar)
- FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting**
 - 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Via Zoom (see www.ftdnc.org calendar)
- FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting**
 - 2nd Tuesday, Every Month 6 p.m.
 - Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- LAPD Community Coffee Time**
 - 1st Thursday, Every Month 9:00 a.m.
 - SVANC Office, 8720 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley
- Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board**
 - LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
 - Hansen Dam Horse Park Club
- ETI C20**
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 Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace
 Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd. intersection); Pastor Doug Nason (818-353-2500)
 Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)
 Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8014)
 Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)
 Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)
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