

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 35, Issue 4

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



July-August 2012

## If Your Horse Could Talk...

by *Elektra Kruger and Deirdre Vierra*

Los Angeles Municipal Code (section 53.15.1) requires any resident that owns a horse and keeps a horse, pony, donkey, burro or mule 12 months of age or older to license their equine. Licenses cost a mere \$14 per year.

Why do we need equine licensing? Why do we need an accurate census? What are you waiting for?

**1. To Fund and Protect Trails.** The money collected from the license is deposited into an equine trails fund managed by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. The money is used to maintain designated public trails and equestrian parks.

**2. To Protect Equestrian Properties from Developers.** As long as a private horse owner has a licensed horse on their property, the city will not grant their neighbors zoning permits to build within 75 feet of the horses. This provides some agricultural zoning protection for horse keepers. Without this protection residents can build next to a private horse facility, and then demand the horse be removed. Non-horse owners can buy a horse license to help protect their property from developers.

**3. To Demonstrate Economic Power of Equestrian Community.** The city uses equine licensing as a way to census the number of horses residing within the city limits and as an economic indicator of how large the horse keeping business is in Los Angeles. Currently less than 2,000 horses are registered in the City and only about 2,800 horses are registered in Los Angeles County when in reality there are closer to 90,000. Without the numbers to back us up many of our issues will not be addressed.

**4. To Become Eligible for Curbside Manure Pick-Up.** Any Los Angeles private horse owner with a licensed horse is legally eligible for curbside manure pick up.

**5. To Become Part of City of LA Master Plans.** The LA Planning Department has designated 17 of its 35

Community Plans to include a local element relating to alternative transportation for hiking and equestrian trails. These trails would become part of the proposed updated Los Angeles Hiking and Equestrian Master Plan map. The Department of Transportation needs a copy of that map and a copy of CEQA authorizations so that the City can begin applying for State funding, a funding that requires CEQA clearance to be eligible for that State funding.

**6. To Obtain Federal/State Funding for Trails and other Purposes.** We have three State recreational trails recognized here in Los Angeles, two of which are the Rim of the Valley Trail and the LARIOS - the Los Angeles River Trail. These are 2 of the 26 trails in the statewide trail system. Other jurisdictions have applied for and received millions of dollars in grant monies, but Los Angeles - because of its outdated Master Plan - has failed to qualify.

### Thank You Councilman Krekorian and Staff

Provided no last minute appeals or legal challenges, new Council district lines and representation will go into effect on July 1 (after this issue went to press).

We express sincere thanks to Councilman Paul Krekorian and his professional, dedicated staff for their excellent work on our behalf the past two years. We made progress on many challenging issues and groundwork has been laid for an improved quality of life in Shadow Hills.

Good luck to Councilman Krekorian in his "new" district, and welcome Councilman Alarcon and staff.

### How To Register Your Horse

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

### JULY SHPOA MEETING

General Meeting Topic for July:

#### PEOPLE AND ANIMAL SAFETY IN SHADOW HILLS

- **TUESDAY, JULY 10, 7p.m.**
- **TIERRA DEL SOL, 9919 Sunland Blvd.**
- Meet New LAPD Senior Lead Officer Rudy Rodriguez
- Other Guests May Include Valley Traffic Division, LA Sheriff's Department, Foothill Mounted Patrol and Neighborhood Watch

## 2012 SHPOA Board Members

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

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Mary Ann Geyer  
maryanngeyer@aol.com

*East Shadow Hills/East LVT:* Dale Gibson 968-8670  
Mike Carpenter 470-5235  
lamikec@yahoo.com

## **Safety Gate Proposed to Protect Runaway Horses**

by Elektra Kruger

The FTDNC - *the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council* - has dedicated \$5,000 for the construction of a protective gate at the Wheatland/Wentworth entrance to the Hansen Dam Wash. If a rider gets thrown and the horse gets away, that horse is going to head for where the food is - he is going to head straight for home. Horses leaving the Hansen Dam Wash basin through the current Wheatland/Wentworth access gate immediately face the danger of having to cross a 50 mph 4-lane highway.

Through the years, several horses have seen their way over "the rainbow" while crossing Wentworth St. One day the owner of the home across Wentworth St at the Wheatland gate was thrown while riding in the Wash. He immediately grabbed his cell-phone to call his wife. "Hey honey, the horse is on his way home". She ran out onto Wentworth St to stop traffic as the horse arrived at the Hansen Dam access gate. The horse safely crossed the street and headed straight for the feeding trough at home.

To protect run-away horses from having to face the dangers of that 50 mph 4-lane road crossing, Terry Kaiser has proposed a design for a one-way Hansen Dam access gate which cannot be opened by a horse, but can be opened by a person - a kind of "gravity-flow" gate. The FTDNC dedicated \$5,000 toward it's construction with ETI dedicating the remaining \$300 needed to meet the construction bid. The equestrian community would like to see a similar gate installed at the Mary Bell/Wentworth access gate. At a community meeting held at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center hosted by Councilmember Alarcon, Terry asked the Councilmember "for his help and his money" to bring this second gate to fruition. The Councilmember informed the audience that that very same day the City Council had passed a Motion to transfer \$70,000 from the CD7 redevelopment Projects/ Services Fund to the General City Purposes Fund for CD7 Community Services to support 7 Neighborhood Councils in CD7, \$10,000 per Neighborhood Council, inclusive of those Neighborhood Councils to be the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council. The Councilmember recommended that perhaps these funds could be used for construction of that second one-way gate at Mary Bell/Wentworth.

## **Equine License Fee Discount?**

by Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles has a large equine community (estimated to be between 10,000 and 90,000 horses) of which fewer than 2,000 are actually registered. To simplify the process, Animal Services recently has made it possible to register horses on-line. However because this process is not well publicized and is not totally user-friendly, this has not led to a notable increase in horse registration.

Collection of equine registration fees which are deposited into the city's Equestrian Facilities Trust Fund is very important as the monies are allocated to such things as creation and maintenance of horse trails throughout the City. It also helps keep an accurate accounting of the actual number of horses in a given area to help ensure that equine areas are less likely to be encroached upon. Thus far, we have only been able to testify at Planning Hearings with anecdotal statements rather than truly

**Benefits and Value  
of SHPOA Membership**

**Preserve Country Lifestyle**

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

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

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

**Promote Shadow Hills**

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

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association



**Membership Form**

Shadow Hills area residents, it's time to join SHPOA for the 2012 calendar year!

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

Membership = \$25  
Newsletter only = \$10

*Donations are always gratefully received.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: New  Renewal  Newsletter Only

***Please detach this form and mail it with your check to:***

SHPOA - P.O. Box 345, Sunland CA 91041-0345

helpful official statistical data. This has not held up well for our cause to remain equestrian and semi-rural.

Recognizing the importance of these issues, in mid-May 2012, Councilmember Richard Alarcon presented a Motion to City Council which, if approved, would call for the Animal Services Department to make the on-line horse licensing process more user-friendly and also for the City to work more closely with the equine community and their associated Council Offices to publicize the importance of and process for horse licensing.

The Motion further requests that the City Attorney's Office prepare and present an Ordinance to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to create a multi-year licensing option with discounts thereby incentivizing owners to license their horses with a 10% discount for one year, a 20% discount for two years, a 30% discount for three years, a 40% discount for four years and a 50% discount for 5 years. The Motion was forwarded to the City Council's Parks Committee and Animal Welfare Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will update you on this issue in the future.

## City of LA Moves to Ban Plastic Shopping Bags

*By Andrea Gutman*

In a recent meeting, the City of Los Angeles took an important step toward becoming the largest city in America to ban plastic bags. Our Councilman, Paul Krekorian voted for the measure citing the contamination of our oceans and beaches, the killing of marine life from Santa Monica to Tokyo, and the blighting of communities as the reason for his support. "I wholeheartedly supported this common sense measure," said Krekorian, "knowing that it will save taxpayers millions of dollars each year on the costs of cleaning up discarded bags strewn about our city."

This ban will not take effect immediately. The Council has instructed the City Attorney to begin the process of drafting the ordinance, and the Bureau of Sanitation will conduct a four-month environmental review. That review will be followed by a phase-in period of six months before the plastic bags will actually be banned. Once the plastic bag ban is in place, single use paper bags may still be offered by stores, with a ten cent charge. There are no current plans to ban disposable paper bags.

***Editor's Note:*** *While this action by the city council has merit in some respects for our environment and for marine life, as the following article discusses, it is increasing frustrating to see the council spending so much time and taxpayer dollars on non-essential issues when basic services are neglected.*

## Whoa...or is it Woe...Mary Bell Avenue

*By Dave De Pinto and Mary Bell Avenue Neighbors*

Many residents are frustrated about the lack of street paving and surfacing work in our communities and the inability of the City to provide basic services. The situation on Mary Bell Avenue is about as bad as it gets and shows how the knee-jerk, feel good reaction of our elected bodies to fringe issues keeps them from having the time and focus to provide basic services which we as taxpayers pay for and should receive as a first priority.

There is no record of the last resurfacing or repaving of Mary Bell Avenue from La Canada Way to the end of Mary Bell where dozens of Shadow Hills homes are located. Residents that have lived here for more than 25 years have never seen their street paved or resurfaced and live with crumbled road surfacing, large and small potholes and rocks, cracks, broken curbs, overgrown brush and tree roots and hillsides that have slid over curbs onto the street. ***How could that be?***

In 2011, after years of requesting repairs from our council offices, the Board of Public Works and various street-related city departments, residents on Mary Bell finally found out that their entire street was mistakenly marked as a private road by the City in 1984, and, thus, was mistakenly deemed ineligible for paving or resurfacing. This was due to the CITY incorrectly implementing council motion 83-1744, which declared a small piece of dirt road adjacent to Mary Bell Avenue as a private road so Southern California Edison could put up a gate to keep dirt bikers out of the hillsides around Mary Bell.

So, we, the residents of Mary Bell, asked through our council offices to not only be added to the list for street paving and resurfacing in the future, but that we be moved up higher in the priority list due to the decades of neglect



due to the CITY'S error. A year later, still no progress.

No worry, we Mary Bell'ers keep paying our taxes and watch our home values, road safety and road appearances plummet. Here is a call from the bumpy confines of Mary Bell Avenue that our City Council focus solely on basic services. If we can't fix our own streets, we have no business spending taxpayer dollars and City employee time delving into such non-essential issues as the ban of plastic shopping bags.

Heck, if we had more plastic bags to recycle, we could collect them, grind them up, lay them down on the streets and make our roads smoother to drive, walk, ride or run upon. Anything would be an improvement!

### **SHPOA Fights to Have "Equestrian Rights Run With the Land"**

*by Elektra Kruger*

Councilmember Alarcon recently hosted a City Council committee meeting at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center to get input from the equestrian community regarding what things are of most concern to them and how he could help. Bill Eick, SHPOA's eminent land-use chairperson, stated that SHPOA fully supports the equestrian-related Motions recently presented by the Councilmember to our City Council. However, to ensure preservation of our horse-keeping area we also have to take the position that one does not need to have a licensed horse to preserve horse-keeping rights on one's property as currently required by our Los Angeles Municipal Code.

SHPOA's position is that there are many reasons why a given property owner may not possess a horse, but this should not strip the property of its equestrian status for a subsequent owner. Also, if a neighbor should build a house too close to one's property line, one should not lose horsekeeping rights on one's own land. Mr. Eick submitted a 5-page document to Councilmember Alarcon and the City Council's Parks Committee indicating the portions of the current equestrian code in the LAMC that need to be removed, added to or reworded. He urged the Councilmember to present Motions to these effects to the City Council. He offered his own time and expertise to work with the Planning Department to deal with any issues that may arise in bringing these Motions to fruition.

Mr. Eick mentioned that many Shadow Hills residents as well as others in the City license "phantom horses", horses that do not actually exist, for the sake of retaining equestrian status for one's property. Councilmember Alarcon agreed that "equestrian rights should run with the land" and should not be denied because one does not own a horse anymore than one could be denied the right to construct a "granny flat" simply because one does not have a "granny".

That engendered not only a chuckle among audience members, but also a big round of applause. Councilmember Alarcon recently presented a Motion to City Council asking that \$100,000 be transferred from the Lopez Canyon Amenities Fund to a special fund to be utilized for improvements to the CD7 trail system. He recommended that the community get recommendations to Planning concentrating on Recreation and Parks controlled areas. He suggested the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee hold a special meeting to formulate those recommendations.

## SHPOA's Weekend Meeting at Stonehurst Park Succeeds!

*By Dave De Pinto*

For the first time, SHPOA held its member meeting in May on a weekend and at Stonehurst Park. In addition, we invited horses to attend. We are very pleased with the results and had one of the more interactive and enjoyable meetings in memory.

More than 100 guests attended (with an additional 10-15 horses) and nearly all identified themselves as equestrians. Approximately a third of the attendees were from the Stonehurst community. We thank special guests Councilman Richard Alarcon and his staff, local equestrian leaders, as well as local Neighborhood Council and LAPD representatives for joining us.

We discussed important equestrian issues and matters before the City Council, as well as needs and improvements desired in the Stonehurst community. We assisted attendees with horse licensing, SHPOA membership and other information and look forward to future events in the Stonehurst Park vicinity.

Here are some photos from the outdoor meeting. See if you can find yourself or your friends!



*The meeting was well-attended, and the weather was wonderful! The mic was passed so all have opportunity to voice their concerns or ask questions.*



*Shadow Hill's equestrians joined the party.*



## **How Best to Use \$100,000 for Trail Improvements in CD7** *by Elektra Kruger*

Councilmember Alarcon recently presented a Motion to City Council asking that \$100,000 be transferred from the Lopez Canyon Amenities Fund into a special fund dedicated toward improvement of equestrian trails in CD7. At a City Council committee meeting that the Councilmember hosted at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center, he requested input from the community as to how we feel those monies might most effectively be spent - such things as improvements and maintenance – and conveyed an urgency to getting the funds committed and spent.

A number of speakers discussed how long it takes to implement “real” Improvements.

- Mary Benson suggested that trails and trail access to equestrian areas such as the Hansen Dam Wash and the impacted fire-destroyed areas in the wake of the Station Fire need the most work.
- Kevin Reagan from the Department of Recreation and Parks mentioned that there are many miles of trails in CD7, many of which were destroyed or severely impacted by the Station Fire and are in desperate need of regrading.
- Royan Herman, a resident of Shadow Hills, stated that if there were a way for equestrians to safely cross dangerous intersections in the area, this would be quite helpful.
- Deirdre Vierra, co-chair of SHPOA's Equestrian and Trails Committee, spoke for the Foothill Mounted Patrol, a volunteer equestrian group that serves to provide security in the Hansen Dam Wash, and recommended spending a portion of the \$100,000 for greater random police patrol.
- Rebecca Borquez, Pres. of ETI's Corral 20 in Shadow Hills, described the dangers in riding horses from one's home to trails, which requires one to ride in the street until one reaches a trailhead. Because vehicle drivers appear unaware of the basic safety code that “horses have the right-of-way” as do pedestrians, she requested improved signage emphasizing the need to “Share the Road”.

The termed out Councilmember emphasized one challenge being to spend the \$100,000 wisely and soon for items urgently needed before the next Councilmember steps into his shoes and potentially takes that \$100,000 back at the end of Councilman Alarcon's tenure.

### **Councilmember Alarcon Reaches Out to Equestrians** *by Elektra Kruger*

Rather than holding a typical meeting of the City's Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee at its usual daytime time or downtown location ever so inconvenient for the general public to attend, Councilmember Alarcon - as Chairperson for the Parks Committee - called a Special Meeting of the Committee in the evening at Lake View Terrace Recreation Center, a time and location far more convenient to the Shadow Hills “communities of interest” and the equestrian community. Councilman Alarcon will officially represent Shadow Hills and Stonehurst effective July 1 when the redistricted City Council lines go into effect.

The Agenda dealt solely with several Motions relative to equestrian issues that Councilmember Alarcon himself

presented to the City Council – issues such as barn standards, trail crossings, maps of equestrian areas, and an inventory of equestrian services city-wide. Joining the Councilmember at the head table were members of the City's Equine Advisory Committee whom he called upon to first make a presentation to the audience. The Equine Advisory Committee reminded us that the City's Equestrian Master Plan had not been updated since 1968. The existing Master Plan fails to have standard qualifications of any sort as they would apply to the equestrian community and has no CEQA authorization that makes it ineligible for us to receive either State or Federal funding for our equine interests.

## **Hansen Dam Access in Jeopardy**

*by Elektra Kruger*

People are failing to pay attention to rules and regulations as they apply to the Hansen Dam Wash. People are not permitted to enter waterways in the Wash - but they do. People are not allowed to alter waterway pathways - but they do. People are not allowed to build dams in the waterways to create swimming holes - but they do. People are not allowed to use BBQ's or build campfires - but they do. People are not allowed to drink alcohol on-site - but they do.

One weekend there were 2 large parties along the waterway drinking beer and hard liquor with BBQ's and campfires. That weekend we had our first fire in the Wash this year. Luckily there were people around who saw the fire and called the fire department. The Fire Department got on it super-fast since it was one of our hot, dry weekends and that fire could have spread quickly. A full squadron of water-dropping helicopters and trucks arrived ASAP and thankfully we lost only 1 acre of land....that day. And the incident cost taxpayers a pretty penny!

But what about the next time? For back-up assistance to help us deal with problem situations in the Wash, we often call OPS - the Office of Public Safety - but they only have 1 or 2 officers serving the whole Valley - they can't possibly get to the Wash in time to offer assistance as needed. The LAPD will come only if guns are involved, they will not be around for general policing. On Memorial Day weekend this year, Terry Kaiser from the Volunteer Surveillance Team stopped counting when he reached 275 people visiting the Wash. This many visitors - on a holiday weekend - requires oversight.

The waterways had been dammed up in some areas creating swimming holes up to 4 or 5 feet deep. At any time the Department of Fish and Game or the Army Corps of Engineers could shut down public access to the Wash. The waterways are home to an endangered species - the Santa Ana Sucker - a bottom dwelling fish that cannot survive in deep waters.

We must cherish the opportunities Fish and Game and the Army Corps have provided us. This precious nature and recreation area requires oversight that neither the volunteer Foothill Mounted Patrol nor the Volunteer Surveillance Team are able to safely and adequately provide. Help is needed and many feel an LAPD mounted patrol is needed to monitor activities in the Wash. The community as a whole has begged for return of a Ranger dedicated solely to the Hansen Dam Regional Park, a Ranger that we had for only a short time before City Rangers were merged with the Office of Public Safety as a result of the City's budget crisis. We are wondering why construction of a Prop K financed Ranger Station in Hansen Dam continues when we have no Rangers to man it.

## **Dusty's Riders Returns to Shadow Hills**

*by Sarah Williams*

In 2001, Dusty's Riders hosted its first group of at-risk kids at Bella Vista Stables in Shadow Hills. Our humble beginnings began with a single Boys and Girls Club and outings one Saturday a month. For many reasons, we moved to the Atwater Village area to grow our program,





and grow we did. We have grown to include nine different organizations serving our local youth including five Boys and Girls Clubs (Burbank, Variety, Watts-Willowbrook, West San Gabriel Valley and San Fernando Valley), The Dream Center, Helpline Youth Counseling, Living Proof Ministries and Vista Charter Middle School. Our program now utilizes over 100 volunteers to serve our community on nearly every Saturday of the year with additional summer weekday outings.

In January, we were thrilled and blessed to be chosen as



“Ride for a Cure’s” 2012 charity. While spending time at Gibson Ranch, in the company of peaceful animals, clean air, and like-minded horse people, I was reminded how much I love this area. It got me thinking about how moving back to Shadow Hills would also be a great way to get

the kids further out of their concrete jungle to help open their horizons and minds to new opportunities. So, eleven years and many kids later, we are thrilled to be back in the area where we began! Dale, Heather and everyone at Gibson has welcomed Dusty’s Riders with open hearts and arms.

For those new to our program, Dusty’s Riders is a non-profit organization powered entirely by volunteers that inspires at-risk youth to find the self-



confidence needed to overcome challenges in their lives. By providing positive interactions with horses in a natural setting, we encourage them to develop a sense of self-



worth, work as a team, discover how to master their own fears and experience joy with their peers. These essential skills are important to help children look beyond their current surroundings and open their minds

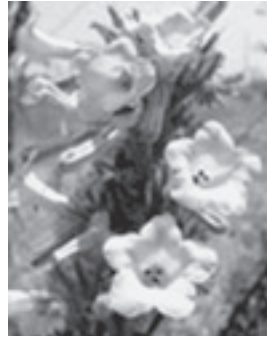
to dream for a better future. For more information, please visit our website at [www.dustysriders.org](http://www.dustysriders.org).

Please consider joining us at “Ride for a Cure’s ‘Aim For The Moon Party Under the Stars,’” a ride, dinner, dance, and dessert auction taking place on August 4th at Gibson Ranch. ([rideforacure.net/events/aim\\_for\\_moon\\_2012/aim-for-the-moon.htm](http://rideforacure.net/events/aim_for_moon_2012/aim-for-the-moon.htm)) It will be an evening of horses, fun and raising money to help Dusty’s Riders continue to make sure “every kid has a place to dream”.



## **Beware...the Pretty, Purple Poodle-Dog Bush**

**Go to:** <http://takeahikesocal.com/hiking-information/beware-the-poodle-dog-bush/#more-397>



A pretty purple-flowered bush blooming on the hills of the burned areas is a danger to people, according to the Department of Forestry. As a result of Southern California's recent fires, hikers need to be aware of poodle-dog bush growing along the trails. The flower, commonly known as poodle-dog bush, is an irritant akin to poison oak. Symptoms range from itching to a rash or blisters lasting as long as two

weeks. An over-the-counter remedy is calamine lotion or anything that has a cortisone derivative...or see your doctor.



In the Spring, the floral stalk is brilliant and it's very attractive, especially along hiking trails or roads where people make a stop. Often, people unknowingly pick it and take it home as a flower arrangement, not knowing that contact, for the vast majority of the public, will cause a poison oak reaction. Later in the season, the flowers drop and the shrub will continue to exist, but it has no particular characteristic that would cause the public to come in contact with it.

## **Dogs in Your Garden?**

*By Carol Ann Heinis, Certified Dog Trainer and Behavior Specialist (myhomebuddies.com/burbank)*

Have your dogs become landscapers? Digging dogs can ruin a beautiful garden. They have good reason to dig and the key to solving the holes in your yard is finding out why.

Common reasons for digging are: overheating, boredom, or other animals living underground. The ground underneath your topsoil is cool. The process of getting to that coolness serves a dual purpose and gives your dog a fun activity. If he sees you digging in the yard, he may think it's perfectly acceptable to do the same (they learned it from you!).

How do you stop the digging? Exercise your dog. This includes physical and mental exercise like teaching him new commands. A tired dog is a good dog! Giving your dog stimulation in the yard with interactive toys will make him less likely to dig. Additionally, provide him a place for cooling off, like a baby pool filled with water. If your dog's breed makes him a natural digger, you can provide him

an acceptable place (either a sandbox or a designated spot in the yard) to dig. Burying toys and treats in this area will attract him to the spot.

Monitor your dog while he is outside. Scolding your dog when he digs teaches him that digging gets your attention. Instead interrupt the digging, give him something appropriate to do, and praise/reward the good activities. Of course, there are other less common reasons for digging. If the above suggestions don't work, seek the help of a trained professional. Here's to a beautiful hole-free yard!

## **12 Reasons Why You Want to Plan for Long Term Care**

*by Seth Walsh (new Shadow Hills resident)*

Each issue I will talk about a different reason why you should look into long term care planning. I'll give you the good, the bad and the ugly about this topic which will affect 70% of you, if you make it to age 65.

### ***Reason #1 – So your loved ones can carry on a normal life.***

Statistics gathered from claims experience tell us some things that will give you pause if you think your spouse or children can care for you. Things like: your spouse will live a shorter life; your children will miss promotion opportunities at work and have lower retirement incomes; there will be less money for your grandchildren to go to college; your children may possibly be sued for nursing home expenses under "filial responsibility" laws (yes California has them).

If you stay self-insured the burden of caring for you will fall upon your loved ones. It will consume their lives, and you have to ask yourself these questions: My loved ones are not care professionals, are they really qualified to care for me? Whose life do I want to sacrifice to my need for care? I told you it would get ugly. Call me if you have any questions or need more information at 818-825-3702.



## **Gourmet Food Trucks on Foothill Boulevard**

San Fernando Valley's Gourmet Food Trucks have arrived. You can't miss them! They'll be between McVine Avenue and Oro Vista Avenue on Wednesday evenings from 5-10 p.m. this summer. Artists displays, music, choice foods offered by local shops, cafes and restaurants as well as a host of GOURMET trucks to choose from. Come shake off the mid-week blues and have a blast! Don't miss the fun! For more information, contact Sonia Tatulian at 818-352-4433.

## Temperatures...and Snakes....are Rising

By Dana Stangel, SHPOA Wildlife Advocate

With temperatures rising, so does concern about SNAKES. Our local Southern Pacific Rattlesnakes are in abundance right now because they are coming out to get some sun! There have also been record numbers this year, and the belief is that because of excess rains in 2010, the rodent population exploded in 2011, which has resulted in more snakes in 2012. Authorities are also claiming to be finding larger nests than usual.

### **A few TIPS and MYTHS to dispel:**

1. The size of the rattler doesn't matter. They say the babies cannot control their venom, but the adult has more venom. The adult's larger mouth is more likely to be able



*An Adult Rattlesnake*

to get its back teeth into someone than a baby rattler's mouth. It's safe to say you do not want to be bitten by either one!

2. If you see a rattlesnake, and if you CAN, the best thing to do is back away and ignore it. They are as afraid of you as you are of them.

3. Rattle snakes often do not rattle and they are often not found in the coiled position. We are not prey. An attack will only happen if the animal is frightened or threatened.

4. When you hike in brushy, chaparral-type areas make some noise as you go. Drag a stick. Talk loudly to your friend (because you shouldn't hike alone!). This will keep most wild animals far away. If you come across a log, don't step over, step ON it, then over. If you are climbing, try to see where you are putting your hands before you put them there. In your yard, just watch out. They can be in the vegetation or anywhere.

5. Rattlers are more likely to be found where gophers are. So, if your yard is gopher friendly, it will also be rattler friendly. (They don't like watered lawns, I hate to admit.)

### **What to do if you find a rattlesnake?**

1. Please don't kill it!! They are important to the ecosystem. They are keeping our rodent population down. If you can just leave it and warn nearby people, that's best.

2. You can also call a local reptile rescue or herpetologists group, and they may be able to move the snake for you.

3. If you MUST destroy it, be very careful in handling afterwards because the teeth and head are still toxic. And, be aware, trying to kill a rattlesnake can get you bitten!



*An Adult King Snake*



Mostly though, you are going to see king snakes (they will shake their tail at you, too!) who EAT rattlers and gopher snakes. These snakes are harmless to humans.

Should you have any questions about rattlesnakes or other local reptiles, please do not hesitate to email info@terangaranch.org or call 1-818-305-HERP.



## **Our Former Shadow Hills SLO “Raps” and is Honored at Phoenix House**

*By Sue Mansis*

Sergeant Larry Martinez, Shadow Hills’ former Senior Lead Officer, was honored June 6, 2012, by Phoenix House in Lake View Terrace for his long standing dedication to a program called “Speak Up” in which plain clothes police counsel 13-18 year olds who have been involved in gangs, violence and drug or alcohol addictions. Most of these kids admit they disrespect police authority, which is why educating young people to rethink their stereotypes through “Speak Up” is so critical.

Larry’s commitment to this program has been a significant reason the program has succeeded. I was privileged to attend a recent presentation by Phoenix House residents called “West Side Story Project.” Complete with artwork reflecting the kids’ environments, dreams and frustrations, as well as short workshops and skits, the program’s highlight was a performance by several “rappers” who wrote and sang about how their opinions and lives have been changed by Phoenix House and how their view of cops is now one of protection rather than persecution.

Guest starring was Larry, rapping, “I’m driving with my partner, looking for some crime; thinkin’ bout my family but the streets are on my mind; Ready for some action so I always stay prepared; I protect and I serve just because I really care. We want people to feel (our) protection but somehow they can’t make that connection; Phoenix House has helped me to better understand; that our lives can be the best if we’re working hand in hand.”

Congratulations Larry and to these kids who are trying hard to find future success by present commitment inside the walls of Phoenix House!

**Note:** the following note was received from Sergeant Larry Martinez: *“I would like to thank the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA) and the Shadow Hills community for the kind words that were written in the brochure that was given out during Phoenix House’s 9th Annual Triumph for Teens event on Wednesday June 6, 2012. To have the community acknowledge me for my work is an honor and means so much to me. Once again, thank you for supporting me during my nine years as a Senior Lead Officer and your continued support during my career as a Sergeant.”*

## **Spring Cleaning in Shadow Hills?**

*By Dave De Pinto*

Each year residents receive warnings from the Fire Department about brush clearance and each resident is required to make their property safe from fire. With summer upon us, most residents appear to have heeded the word from the Fire Department out of “fear” of either the fire danger or the fines. But, too few have practiced the age old tradition of Spring cleaning.

I’d like to encourage brush clearance and cleanup for other reasons such as safety and neighborhood beautification. I get many calls and emails on this subject. Being a daily jogger, I see many, many unkempt properties in Shadow Hills. Bushes, shrubs and trees frequently block stop signs, fire hydrants and street signs. Bushes and shrubs often protrude onto roadways, often on curvy roads where drivers have to cross the mid-line into opposing lanes of traffic to avoid brush. Junky cars, building debris and other “rubbish” often spill out of people’s garages and backyards into their front and side yards which become visible “eye-sores” to neighbors and guests. This devalues the properties in our community from a financial standpoint, as well.

What has happened to community pride and respect for the property of others? I’d call on everyone in Shadow Hills to abide by the age old tradition of Spring cleaning as a time to clean out garages, remove old/dying/overgrown brush and generally increase the curb appeal of your home while improving the image of Shadow Hills overall. Country living in Shadow Hills should be laid back and beautiful to all of our senses.

## **Increase in Street Sweeping Services? - Part 1**

*by Elektra Kruger*

In 2009 the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) had approximately 135 motor sweepers in operation throughout LA. Due to the budget crisis many of these are currently in hibernation, but this story begins back in 2009 when those 135 were up and running daily. At that time, there were 4,721 curb miles within the restricted (i.e. temporary no parking) posted route program.

As part of this program, streets were posted with no parking signs stating a specific day of the week and a specific window of time during which a given street was scheduled to be swept. In addition to these posted routes, the Bureau also covered a total of 8,058 “non-posted” curb miles divided into routes stretching approximately 31 miles each. In 2009, the Bureau’s goal was to maintain a 4-week sweeping frequency on each of these routes (a frequency that unfortunately has since expanded some due to increased curb/non-curb mileage since 2009 and reduced numbers of active sweepers).

Non-posted routes have no legal parking restrictions so much dirt, debris and trash gets left behind as sweepers have to swerve around parked vehicles. In 2009, approximately 60% of City streets were swept once a month, but for the sake of reducing the amount of dirt, debris and trash entering storm drains which eventually ended up in the ocean, the hope was to add more streets to the program.

In recognition of this, in early June 2009, Councilmember Cardenas presented a Motion to City Council asking the Council to direct the BSS along with the Department of Transportation, the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, and the City's Administrative Officer to report on the feasibility of expanding the number of posted routes as well as the total number of miles overall to be swept. He also offered several recommendations. The BSS submitted its report in late February 2010. SHPOA will update you on the Bureau's response to the recommendations presented in the Motion in a future issue.



### **Time to Update the Hiking and Equestrian Trail Master Plan**

*By Elektra Kruger*

In April of this year, for the first time, the California State Parks held a greenway conference in Los Angeles at the Marriott in Woodland Hills. These conferences generally are held in either northern or central California. The State Parks Administristries are responsible for 100% of State funding for recreational trails in California. Lacking a clear understanding of grant requirements, Los Angeles has been losing out on this much needed funding source.

There has never been a more opportune time for Los Angeles to update its Hiking and Equestrian Trail Master Plan and to begin qualifying for this funding source. California has the largest equestrian economy in the entire United States. Texas may have more horses, New Jersey may have the highest per capita horse ownership, but it is California that has approximately a \$7 BILLION horse economy.

