

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 39, Issue 1

July-August 2016



Two candidates for the 25th State Senate District, Mike Antonovich (at left) and Anthony Portantino spoke at a recent Candidates Forum. ALL candidates oppose above-ground High Speed Rail.

SHPOA Hosts Candidate Forums – All Candidates Oppose Above Ground High Speed Trains!

By Dave DePinto

Continuing its tradition of educating residents about local politics and elections, SHPOA sponsored three extremely well-attended candidate Forums this spring. Questions and debate focused on high speed trains, local transportation and sound walls, transients and homeless and public safety. The Forums were very helpful in terms of getting commitments from every single candidate against high speed trains and above ground segments, in particular. Every candidate (nearly 20 candidates in total at the three Forums) voiced strong opposition to high speed routes that disrupt and divide the hillsides/communities of Shadow Hills and Lake View Terrace and strong support for banning the trains from the Big Tujunga Wash.

Turnout from both candidates and residents from throughout the Foothills area was robust to meet, greet, question and listen to candidates for the 39th State Assembly District (Assemblymember Patty Lopez and Raul Bocanegra took the top two places in the June primary and advance to the November general election); 25th State Senate District (County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Anthony Portantino took the top two places in the June primary and advance to the November general election); and 5th County Supervisorial District (Katherine Barger and Darrell Park advance to the November general election).

SHPOA will again host candidate Forums prior to the November general election. 🐾

A New Meaning for INDEPENDENCE DAY!



Several dozen members of the SAFE Coalition participated in the July 4th Parade along Foothill Blvd. in Sunland-Tujunga carrying banners, lawn signs and leading anti-high speed train cheers and chants.

New High Speed Train Lawn Signs and Banners *By Dave DePinto*

We've updated educational materials for the campaign against high speed trains to include images of the train desecrating the Big Tujunga Wash. We found that after many months, large numbers of residents throughout the region still were lacking basic information about the challenge we face. So we decided to be more direct.

The effort has proven successful to date as new volunteers (See **New Lawn Signs** on pg. 2)



HOT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE...

- **State Candidate Forums Oppose High-Speed Rail! p. 1**
- **New Design Lawn Signs & Banners against HSR! pp. 1 & 2**
- **Equestrians & Cars Share the Road Safely! Rules pp. 4 & 5**
- **SHPOA needs YOU in 2016! JOIN or RENEW NOW! SEE p. 3**
- **City Tree-Pruning Issues! p. 6** • **Coyotes! SEE p. 9**

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Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC): www.ftdnc.org Info. below from their site.

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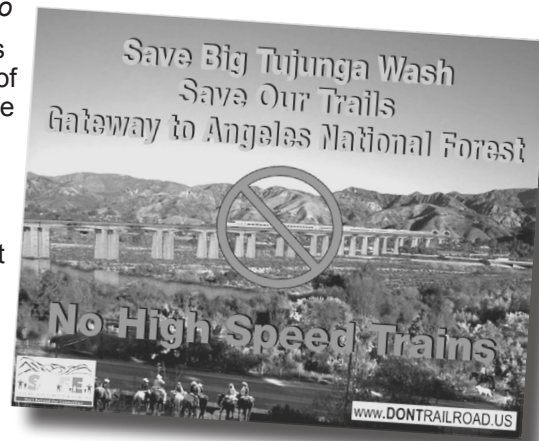
(New Lawn Signs cont'd from pg. 1)

have emerged in Lake View Terrace and within the equestrian community. If you'd like your first lawn sign, a new lawn sign or just to support the S.A.F.E. education or legal effort, please go to the www.dontrailroad.us website and order your new lawn sign today for a donation of \$10. If you'd like a larger 4 foot by 6 foot banner, please call me at 818-352-7618 and we can make a banner for you and work out a reasonable donation to cover the cost. 🐾

Equestrians Mount New Effort to Stop High Speed Trains

By Dave DePinto

Everyone knows our area is one of the centers of the world for equestrians throughout Southern California... everyone except the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). That is changing, however, due



to an aggressive campaign by the SAFE Coalition to educate residents, elected officials, media and CHSRA about how badly the proposed E2 refined route would damage the equestrian economy, safety and lifestyle. The campaign has recently received front page coverage in the LA Times, Daily News, LA Weekly and CityWatch, as well as a national feature story on National Public Radio/NPR.

Key to the effort have been new lawn signs and banners with the messages, "Save Big Tujunga Wash" and "Save Our Trails." The visuals show the proposed high speed train viaduct/bridge extending across the entire Big Tujunga Wash from grotesque tunnel openings in Shadow Hills and Lake View Terrace. The SAFE Coalition and SHPOA wish to thank Lisa Hoffort who is a long-time resident and horse owner in the Stonehurst section of Shadow Hills for injecting new energy and passion into our equestrian community. Our equestrian cavalry has been attending "Charreada" events to inform Latino riders and friends, and featured a large contingent of equestrians opposed to high speed trains in the Sunland-Tujunga 4th of July Parade. 🐾

Daily Fodder – All the News that's Fit to Print...Daily By Terri Ortiz

SHPOA has a daily "community news" service called "Daily Fodder." For free, anyone may subscribe to Daily Fodder and receive updates of breaking news such as fires and power outages, public safety such as Neighborhood Watch updates, equestrian news such as events and fundraisers at various venues, garage and estate sales with great merchandise at great prices, local charitable events, equestrian equipment sales, high speed train updates, community meeting dates and locations, important City news and much, much more. There is nothing that even comes close to Daily Fodder in the entire Foothills region.

It's free and you should not leave home without it. Just ➡➡

Contribute \$25 for your 2016 SHPOA Membership Today!

It's the perfect time to make your \$25 donation to support SHPOA for 2016. SHPOA operates by calendar year from January through December. At present, we have about 300 paid members, but many people who have received all of SHPOA's benefits this past year (newsletter, meetings, Daily Fodder, representation on high speed rail, Neighborhood Watch, etc.) haven't contributed to those benefits with either funding or volunteer involvement.

SHPOA is an all-volunteer organization and your contribution is used solely for services provided on your behalf. Your contribution and participation really are important. Please mail your membership payment of \$25 to the address on the Membership Form today, or visit the SHPOA website (www.shpoa.us) to join and/or pay on-line.

Thank you.

In Memoriam Carol Roper

by Sue Mansis

Long time resident Carol Roper, passed away on July 1, 2016. Both avid equestrians, Carol and her husband Troy moved to Shadow Hills in 1967 because back then it was known as the "poor man's horse properties." When Troy passed away nine years later, Carol became very active on the SHPOA board and also helped formulate "The Dam Trail Groomers" - a conscientious group of women who took their horses and dogs "trashing" every Thursday morning in the Hansen Dam Wash to keep our trails clean.

Carol was a vocal advocate for our open spaces and equine way of life. As she aged, she was still active in the community but slowed down a bit. In the last decade of her life, she bought a horse on a whim, saying "Old Girl, you look as tired as I am!" and brought the horse home to give her a good retirement on her Shadow Hills "ranch." A tough exterior with an unmistakably tender heart, Carol was the neighbor who'd do just about anything to help anyone: She has rescued countless 'strays' throughout the years, those on two legs AND four!

Carol is survived by her horse, Bogie, and her Beagle, Toby. She will be greatly missed. 🐾

Donations may be made in Carol's name to:
Best Friends Pet Adoption Center
Attn: Donations
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Mission Hills, CA 91345



send your contact information (especially your email address) to Terri Ortiz at shpoa@shpoa.us and you'll be added to our daily distribution list. You can always delete a topic you're not interested in or unsubscribe. But, isn't it good to know the information you need about our community is at your fingertips? 🐾

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA Membership Form

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

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

Membership = \$25

Newsletter only = \$10

Donations are always gratefully received.

Name: _____

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Check one: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Newsletter Only

Mail this form with your check to:

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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

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



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Rules of the Road for Drivers and Equestrians

By Dave DePinto

Horses have been a part of life in Shadow Hills from the beginning and are central to the charm of the neighborhood. Horse-keeping has protected our neighborhood from over-development, construction of multiple-family units and increased congestion. We should all be thankful for our neighbors who own horses.

As you know, a tragic incident involving a vehicle and rider occurred recently which resulted in a horse having to be euthanized due to its injuries. Driving in a neighborhood where neighbors own horses requires caution and responsibility on the part of both drivers and riders.

Here is a list of some common sense rules for newcomers and neighbors who do not own horses and for those neighbors who do and who ride on the neighborhood streets, a reminder for staying safe.

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD - For Drivers

1. Give equestrians the right-of-way. Your vehicle isn't a living animal with a mind of its own. Decide to help keep the horse and rider safe.
2. Nobody owns the road. Try a little courtesy and patience, and lower your blood pressure at the same time.
3. Slow down and be aware of the hazard of animals and riders, both on the street and off.
4. Use caution when approaching horses on streets or trails. It takes only moments for a horse to get spooked and bolt and for a terrible accident to happen.
5. Don't honk your horn. Horses are animals that are preyed on and so have an instinctual drive to escape frightening situations and our children and neighbors can get hurt in the process.
6. Respect the right-of-way of others by not violating traffic laws such as failing to stop at a stop sign or traffic light, speeding or making unsafe lane changes or illegal turns.
7. Use Caution When Passing Horses. **IT'S THE LAW. Caution in Passing Animals VC 21759**
The driver of any vehicle approaching any horse drawn vehicle, any ridden animal or any livestock shall exercise proper control of his vehicle and shall reduce speed or stop as may appear necessary or as may be signaled or otherwise requested by any person driving, riding or in charge of the animal or livestock in order to avoid frightening and to safeguard the animal or livestock and to insure the safety of any person driving or riding the animal or in charge of the livestock.
8. Pass horses from behind with care. Allow the rider extra room and drive slowly around to give the horse a chance to see you. If there's not enough room in your lane to pass, wait until there is room in the other lane or when the road widens before you slowly proceed past.
9. If a horse is acting up: stop for a moment to allow the rider to get the horse under control, then

proceed slowly and be prepared to stop if the horse starts to act up again.

10. If people are loading a horse: give plenty of room in case an inexperienced horse suddenly backs out of the trailer - or better yet, wait until the horse is loaded onto the trailer.
11. Do not "send a message" by driving close to a horse because you feel the rider is hogging the road or being rude. Be the better person and have patience.

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD - For Riders

1. Nobody owns the road. Be courteous and keep to the right when vehicles are present.
2. Ride defensively. Assume that not all drivers know what to do and that not all drivers will do the right thing.
3. Share the road. When you see or hear a vehicle approaching, be polite and move to the right to give the driver room to pass.
4. When Riding Two or More Abreast, you may be as wide as a vehicle, but you're not a vehicle. Return to single file as quickly as possible to allow drivers to pass.
5. At intersections, let the faster, heavier vehicle go first, even if you do have the right-of-way. After all, what's your hurry?
6. Don't be a traffic controller. Do not ride in the middle of the road or lane just to slow down traffic.
7. It's your job to protect your horse. When being passed, if necessary, stop your horse until the vehicle goes by. Horse vs. Vehicle = Horse Loses.
8. You are responsible for your own safety. Ride with traffic, be visible, alert and communicate your intentions, and always wear a helmet.
9. When loading or unloading a horse, do so on a side street and out of traffic, when possible. If your horse has trouble, signal any approaching car to go around or stop, or wait until the vehicle passes. Do not assume that the driver knows your situation and what to do.
10. When crossing the street or using an equestrian crossing, you have the duty of using due care for your own safety. No horseback rider shall leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed suddenly into the path of a vehicle which is close enough to constitute an immediate hazard. VC Section 21805 Equestrian Crossings.
11. Use the trails when possible. Remember that it's all about being safe and enjoying the ride.
12. At night, use lights and reflectors to increase your visibility. Remember, Shadow Hills lacks significant street lighting to enhance the equestrian experience so it's darker here than in most places. While it's easy to see a car with headlights, it's not easy to see a dark horse at night.



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- Register online: www.laanimalservices.com/Laws_Policies/Dog_License.htm
- Visit in person: East Valley Animal Control located at 14409 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys CA 91405
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Illegal City Tree Pruning

by Elektra Kruger

In January 2016, the City became aware of private parties pruning trees in a number of City Right-of-Ways that were done without permit and damaged/destroyed many trees. Permits are required for any pruning activities done by private parties on City Right-of-Way trees such as the Sapphire Dragon trees along Sunland Boulevard.

The urban forest is an essential component of life in a densely populated environment helping purify the air we breathe, intercepting pollutants from water penetrating into the ground, reducing run-off/flooding and providing shade thereby reducing the "Heat Island Effect." The City has some inspection and enforcement protocols as they relate to street trees, however incidents of private-party poor-quality pruning do occur and lead to the deterioration of the City's urban forest.

As such, in late January 2016, Councilmember O'Farrell submitted a Motion to City Council recommending that it ask the Bureau of Street Services along with the City's Administrative Officer and any other relevant departments to report to the City Council on all current protocols for inspection and enforcement of both permitted and non-permitted tree pruning and removal activities, the funding and staffing levels within the Bureau of Street Services needed to effectuate current and any proposed guidelines as well as any general recommendations to improve current practices. He further suggested that the City Council ask the Bureau of Street Services, the City Attorney and any other relevant departments to recommend to the City Council any means to establish monetary fines for illegal tree pruning and removals including inclusion in the Administrative Citation Enforcement Program.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review and recommendation. In mid-February 2016, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council submitted a Community Impact Statement supporting the inspection and enforcement of both permitted and non-permitted tree pruning and removal activities on public property - but, of all things, for the specific benefit of billboard viewing (???).

Personnel in the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division (UFD) is the staff with the knowledge/experience to properly evaluate a tree's health/vitality to determine when pruning or removal may be necessary/required or if such action would be inappropriate and familiar with any and all permit request processes as they relate to maintenance of the Urban Forest. However the Los Angeles Municipal Code currently does not authorize them to enforce code violations. Given the recent increase in illegal street tree pruning/removal being done with seeming total impunity, the Bureau of Street Services has recommended that:

- Bureau employees be granted the authority to issue administrative citations that would result in monetary fines in incidences of code violations
- That a time/date stamped photo of all trees proposed to be pruned must accompany all Tree Pruning Permit Applications submitted via the MyLA311 system

- The Permit Application (along with the accompanying photo) must be reviewed by a licensed Tree Surgeon prior to issuance of a Tree Pruning Permit
- That the Bureau inspect pruned trees after they are pruned to assure it had been done so following tree pruning guidelines and to have the authority to issue citations if any had been violated 🐦



Keeping the Flock Cool & Healthy

by Ann Masterson

Chickens can be very susceptible to heat stress. A few things you can do to help them get through the intense summer heat:

1. Make sure they have access to lots of clean, fresh water & ample shade.
2. Area(s) for dust bathing
3. If you see them panting, it's important to reduce their body temperature, this can be achieved by submerging (at least) their feet and under body area in cool (not cold) tap water. I use a plastic dish-washing bucket but anything will do as long as the bird can easily be submerged enough to cover the bottom half of their bodies. Start slowly by dunking the feet & usually they will relax into the water more deeply, but sometimes I need to gently hold them down so the water can reach their stomach & shoulder areas. Hold them there for a few minutes until the panting has stopped & you can feel their body temp cooling.
4. Freezing high water content fruits; berries or pieces of melon, and giving as a cooling treat.
5. Making a simple electrolyte solution, either mixing it with their water, giving it to them straight or freezing it in ice cube trays & putting a couple cubes in their water bowls, is a great way to increase their hydration levels.

Electrolyte Recipe from *Fresh Eggs Daily*:

- 1 Cup Water
- 2 teaspoons Vinegar
- 1/8 teaspoon Salt
- 1/8 teaspoon Baking soda

Feel free to email me with questions- justsave1@aol.com



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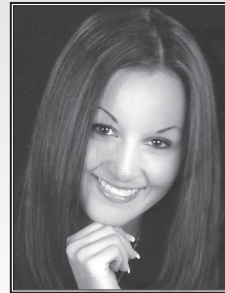
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Lopez Canyon Equestrian Projects

by Elektra Kruger

In 2010, the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation (LASAN) prepared a development plan proposal for the now-closed Lopez Canyon Landfill which consists of three phases. The third phase cannot take place until the landfill has totally stabilized and fully settled from compaction of landfill refuse which creates methane gas and liquid leachate. Methane gas production must be reduced to a level considered safe for public access before this third phase can begin. We have yet about 25 years to go for that date to arrive.

Several "end-uses" for the landfill have been identified being separated into two main groups - one being further use by LASAN and the other Community/Public Uses. To date, all LASAN office and training structures are in temporary trailers as the land is not yet stable enough to support a permanent structure. At the end of those next 25 years, LASAN may finally construct permanent buildings for its office space, training rooms and conference rooms.

Examples of Community/Public uses would include both active and passive recreational opportunities such as a golf course, an organized sports facility with baseball, basketball and soccer fields, playgrounds and a hiking/equestrian trail network (Scholl Canyon in Glendale is an example). During the course of those next 25 years, required maintenance and monitoring of the landfill will include maintenance of the final cover, groundwater monitoring, gas monitoring and maintenance of the over seven miles of gas conveyance pipe and 450 gas extraction wells, and maintenance of the leachate and condensate control and removal system.

While public access to the landfill proper is restricted, there are "buffer" areas on the Lopez Canyon landfill property bordering the landfill and the LASAN report supported allowing limited and controlled access to hikers and equestrians along these areas until the post-closure maintenance and/or settlement has decreased to a less than significant level. It is along these buffer areas that the Bureau supports development of an equestrian staging area and trails.

Development of an equestrian staging area and trail network has been on the radar of the now-closed Lopez Canyon Landfill for many years. Claims of a lack of funding to move forward with the plans has hindered any progress in development of the network. Then along came a proposal to place a 23-acre solar generating facility atop the landfill and in so doing a thought to tie the solar generating facility together with the development of the trail network and in so doing to join funding sources. This proposal did not sit well with the community.

First of all, while the community as a whole eagerly sought development of the trail network, the community strongly opposed placing a solar generating facility atop the landfill. Environmental impacts of a the staging area/trail network would be minimal requiring a low level, relatively quickly completed environmental review whereas a solar generating facility would be far more environmentally impactful and could easily require a higher and more time-consuming level of environmental review. There was no need to bog down the equestrian project with this extensive review time period.

Similarly, construction of a staging area and development of a trail network would be far less involved than the process of designing, obtaining funding for, negotiating

contracts for a solar generating facility. By snail mail, by E-Mail and by personal testimony at City Council Committee meetings, numerous community stakeholders urged the City Fathers to disconnect these two projects which shared no common ground. While public access to the landfill proper will be restricted for many years during its settling period, there are buffers on the landfill property that even the Bureau of Sanitation itself agrees having limited and controlled access to hikers and equestrians to be totally acceptable. *To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.* 🐾

Coyote Management Program

by Elektra Kruger

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates that there may be a population of 750,000 coyotes in the State of California. Coyotes are increasingly sighted in rural and suburban areas of the City and are also beginning to be sighted in urban areas. Coyotes searching food often prowl residential areas of the City bordering Open Spaces, parks, hiking trails and even such large open spaces as school playgrounds. Typically coyotes pose no threat to humans, but this proximity does create concerns for parents and owners of small pets unsure of a coyote's aggressiveness.

Prior to 1994, the Animal Services Department routinely trapped and euthanized coyotes, a practice that has since ceased based on studies relative to coyote behavior. Animal Services is now working with residents to modify human behaviors that tend to inadvertently attract coyotes by providing food, water and cover. Coyotes are attracted to areas with lush landscaping, fruit trees, garden vegetables, ponds, fountains, bird feeders and even compost piles both of which tend to attract rodents - a major natural food source.

Despite efforts of the Department of Animal Services, anecdotal evidence suggests that problems with coyotes persist and have gotten worse as coyotes at times are seen during daylight hours especially in open spaces and parks raising concerns about potential attacks on children and small pets.

Coyotes feed primarily on rodents, insects, carrion and fruit, but given the opportunity will make a meal of cats, small dogs, poultry, sheep or goats given the opportunity. They will learn that domestic animals are easier to catch than wild prey and will seek out unattended domestic animals. But you can protect your family, your pets, your poultry and your livestock.

Councilmember Joe Buscaino believes the City Council should review the Animal Service Department's Coyote Management Program to ensure that the department is prioritizing resident's safety by deterring these wild animals away from our neighborhoods in addition to the Department's efforts to educate residents about coyote behavior. The Councilmember has submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Department of Animal Services to report with a detailed explanation of the Department's Coyote Management Program, the resources currently deployed to implement that program and any recommendations for improvements to the program that would further control the coyote population in the City's residential neighborhoods.

In response to the Motion a Los Angeles resident sent a copy of the Coyote Management Plan for the City of

(See **Coyote Management** cont'd on pg. 10)

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(Coyote Management cont'd from pg. 9)

Calabasas which is touted as being highly successful in managing urban coyotes in that area by the Calabasas Environmental Services Manager. Everyone enjoys observing wildlife in its natural environment, however residents of urban hillsides and rural areas have promoted

an unnatural boldness in coyotes by intentionally or even unintentionally feeding them. Just as the coyote is indigenous to Calabasas, it is indigenous to the NE San Fernando Valley - that means here in the Shadow Hills area. Further updates to come in the SHPOA newsletter.

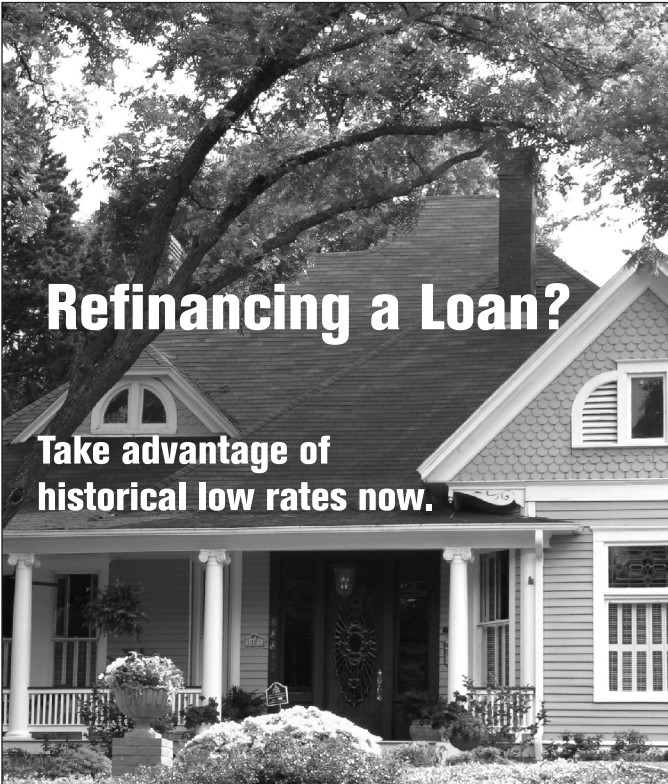
Neighborhood Watch "Housecleaning"

by Sue Mansis

With summer comes more foot traffic and looky-loo'ing through our neighborhoods. Some are very legit, others not so much. As often as this may frustrate us, we need to keep our community looking pristine and cared for by picking up other peoples' messes. Bottles, cans, papers, automobile parts, shoes, discarded flyers can be trashed in our own cans. Larger items such as furniture, mattresses, tires - all can be picked up by calling 311 Bulky Item Pick Up. You can also call our Council Office to report large scale junk discards or trash heaps 818-352-3287. Happily, we have a community that pulls together when needed and the time is always NOW when we see our area being trashed! Additionally, every Thursday morning, 'Heaver Retrievers' meet on Wentworth to collect and bag trash. Email shpoa@shpoa.us for details.

Summer also brings out canvassers. Again, some legit, but please be very savvy who you open your door to. We have had reports of solicitors who claim to know someone on your block; ask for help in locating one of your neighbors, claim that they are waiting to install something at a house for sale on your street, etc. All these lines can be clever ploys to check out your surroundings, whether you have dogs, security systems, etc. so please try to discourage this by asking them to leave. Go with your gut - that usually tells you what the real truth is. Call LAPD non-emergency for suspicious behavior 818-734-2223.


While somewhat controversial, another factor to consider is freeway begging. There is a revolving 'business' that occurs daily at our freeway off ramps which many drivers fall prey to by giving monetary handouts to these people. The City of LA is reaping the consequences from years of lenient policies regarding 'homelessness' and now we are being subjected to transiency on the rise which is affecting our crime rates and safety of our public parks and open spaces in particular. Transient squatters pose a real threat to vacant homes and their encampments become dangerous havens for drugs, violence and crime that max out LAPD's ability to meet the publics' need for security. Giving money at freeway exits helps reinforce those locations for return 'business' and in the long run, subjects our neighborhoods to more trash, soliciting and crime. Shelters and charities need your hard earned money to care for the truly homeless- why not consider donating there instead? 🐾



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Spring and Summer are Baby Animal Seasons

By Dana Stangel

For the most part, baby animal "season" in Southern California is from about March until about June. Many baby animals are born during this time, and you are likely to see one or more. If you are lucky, you'll see them in your yard moving from one place to another. Or maybe you'll observe them in a park or other wild place just doing their thing. However, many baby animals find themselves in dangerous situations.



One example is opossums. Opossums are North America's ONLY marsupial! Opossum babies grow in the uterus for only 12-14 days before they need to make their way to the marsupium (their mother's pouch) for 70-125 days. Many babies are born, but there are only 13 teats, so there can be a maximum of 13 babies at a time. Opossums do not live very long at all. Their average lifespan is 2-4 years. Opossums are nocturnal and don't move very quickly, which makes them more susceptible to becoming roadkill.

While you are driving during the spring, if you happen to see an opossum seemingly dead on the side of the road, consider stopping to see if there are babies on the belly or moving in the pouch. This is a common occurrence. The babies can be put into a box and brought to a local rehabber. I only recommend doing this if you are certain the opossum is dead. That would mean seeing blood or other such trauma.

Opossums have an amazing defense mechanism where they "play dead". It's an involuntary response to fear of predators. There is even a nasty death smell associated with this. It can last up to 4 hours. My recommendation is to carefully (with a towel or box or other something where you don't come in direct contact w/the animal) move the animal away from the road, and come back in a couple of hours. Don't take babies away from mother if not sure. But if you are sure, please call the rehabber for advice.

Another example is a baby bird (of ANY kind). We have heard that we should never touch them because their mother will reject them if they smell like humans. This isn't true. If you see a bird outside of a nest and you know where the nest is - put the baby back in there. Mommy bird will be so grateful. In some cases, mommy bird can help baby back into the nest herself, but not always. And especially not when there are predators around (your dog, for example). Or a hummingbird. We see one in a precarious situation and we freak out. When you contact the hummingbird rehabber, she'll tell you to give it some drops of sugar water- it's like MAGIC! (And you thought you'd be raising that bird!) Rehabbers are amazing.

What is a rehabber? A rehabber is a person who has taken in-depth classes and has certification to take care of wild animals that have been displaced or are not well. It is illegal to take in and try to care for any sick wild animal without a license. Rehabbers exist for almost all our local animals, although some are harder to find than others. For example, finding someone who rehabs birds is relatively easy. Finding someone who rehabs bats - much harder. But with determination, they can be located. 🐾

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Who to Call to Help Wild Animals in Distress

By Dana Stangel

If you find yourself in a challenging situation, please call **Teranga Ranch (818-305-4377)** or find us on Facebook. We are here to help. There are two places I call or visit online when I am confronted with a wildlife situation. They are: the **California Wildlife Center in Malibu** (<http://cawildlife.org/> 310-458-9453) and **Wildlife Care of SoCal** (<http://wildlifecareofventura.org/> 805-428-7105). Either they can take the animal and they'll work out with you how the animal will get to them, or as in most cases, they will give you the information for the LOCAL person who rehabs the kind of animal you have found. (Teranga Ranch is working very hard to build a rehabilitation center for local wild animals. Soon this situation will be much easier for local people and animals.) 🐾

The City's 2016-2017 Budget

by Elektra Kruger

On May 19, 2016, the City's 2016-2017 Budget was adopted. The following were included among the Adopted Budget Recommendations:

The Department of Animal Services was instructed to report to the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee on what steps might be needed to overcome barriers for homeless to enter shelters with their pets and to devise a plan for emergency sheltering that would allow homeless to stay with their pets.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) was instructed to report to the City Council's Homeless and Poverty Committee on how to accommodate pets, storage and 24-hour access into Winter Sheltering programs including any data LAHSA may have on the transition of homeless from Winter Shelters into "rapid-rehousing" or permanent housing and how successful rapid-rehousing is as a first-step into permanent housing solutions as well as an access point to other important and necessary supportive services.

The Department of Animal Services was instructed to report to the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee on the effectiveness of on-line licensing for dogs and to recommend ways in which the number of licenses on-line may be increased. There was also a suggestion that licensing of cats be reviewed.

The Department of Animal Services was instructed to report to the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee on the possibility of increasing the number of dogs or cats permitted on a lot per code for those lots having more than one legal dwelling unit or on any lot larger than 10,000 square feet.

The City's Administrative Officer was instructed to report to the City Council's Rules and Elections Committee and the Intergovernmental Relations and Neighborhoods Committee on the possibility of having, as a voter-approved provision, a reduced DWP water and power rate for our Department of Recreation and Parks included in the up-coming DWP reform.

The City's Administrative Officer was instructed to report to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee on the possibility of/implications of increasing penalties for illegal dumping including a comparison of City fines vs. County fines.

The City Planning Department was instructed to report to

the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management Committee on what changes would need to be made to City codes to allow for alternative dwelling solutions such as cargo containers from the port to be used for homeless housing. REALLY? If you were homeless and you had a choice between living in the Wash in a "dwelling" of sorts made up of materials you picked up in the neighborhood and living in a ship's cargo container, which would you choose? A cargo container is hardly a "step-up" and hardly what I would call an incentive to seek housing/services from the City.

The City's Administrative Officer was instructed to report to the City Council's Public Works Committee on how close the City has come to creating a single repository for sidewalk complaints.

SHPOA will monitor and report on the progress of each of these Budget instructions. ♣

The City's 2016-2017 Budget – Homeless & Transients

by Elektra Kruger

In early June 2016, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) prepared a report in response to two entries in the City's 2016-2017 budget:

- Instruct the Los Angeles Services Agency to report to the City Council's Homeless and Poverty Committee with steps/benchmarks/timelines of transformations to the nature of shelters including changes to hours of operation, allowing pets, being able to stay with a partner, etc. and how many more people these new types of shelters would serve and where these new types of shelters would be available throughout the City.
- Instruct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency to report to the City Council's Homeless and Poverty Committee on how to accommodate pets, storage and 24-hour access into the Winter Shelter program. The report should include data on the transition of homeless individuals from Winter Shelters into rapid-rehousing/permanent housing and how successful this has served as a first step into permanent housing solutions as well as an access point to other supportive services.

"Bridge Housing" is a shelter concept providing individuals a means to keep in close contact with housing services provided by the City of Los Angeles as they seek permanent housing. "Bridge Housing" is an all year shelter operating 24 hours/day providing three meals/day and allowing participants to store items during the day. ♣

Response to Increased Crime Rate

by Elektra Kruger

In 2015, City crime rates rose to their highest levels in two years with a 20.2% increase in violent crimes and a 10.7% increase in property crimes as compared to those in 2014. Despite these seemingly alarming numbers, per capita crime levels are still at their lowest since the 1950s. Los Angeles is not alone in seeing a rise in crime statistics - crime levels were on the increase throughout the State of California.

In response to this, the Los Angeles Police Department has doubled the size of its Metropolitan Division which is now deploying officers reactively to crime "hot spots"

(See **Crime Rate** on pg. 14)

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(*Crime Rate* cont'd from pg. 13)

as they occur. This approach is removing officers from their more preventative patrol activities. There is a need to understand what is driving the increase in crime, which crimes are the major factors in the increase, the specifics of the Metro strategy and its effectiveness, what impacts may be incurred by removing officers from their routine patrol function and any other strategies the Department may be considering to deal with the increase in crime.

In late January 2016, Councilmember Mitchell Englander submitted a Motion to City Council that they request the Police Department to report to the City Council's Public Safety Committee on crime levels over time including the current increase, an analysis of the possible cause, recommendations for solutions to dealing with it including a detailed explanation of the Metropolitan Division strategy.

Anybody ever consider increasing our law enforcement resources? The Councilmember further asked that representatives of the Los Angeles Police Protective League and Los Angeles Command Officer's Association - the organizations that represent the City's sworn officers and police command staff respectively - be invited to address the Public Safety Committee to present their own analysis of and recommendations for dealing with the increasing crime levels. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendation. *To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.* 🐾

Responsiveness to Bulky Item Pick-Up Requests by Elektra Kruger

In early 2015 the Los Angeles Times printed an article dealing with service requests for bulky item/illegal dump pick-ups processed through the Bureau of Sanitation's Customer Care Center. City sanitation crews failed to respond to more than 20% of the service requests citywide with some neighborhoods experiencing a greater than 50% non-response rate with most unanswered/delayed response requests being in the Central, South and Northeast (our) portions of Los Angeles.

This comes at a time the City itself has recognized the need for an increased effort to clean our streets and has increased efforts to do so through the Clean Streets Initiative. This increased budget resources to the Bureau of Sanitation for bulky item/illegal dump pick-up requests and the City's 311 system as the primary means for residents to submit service requests. Currently there are two existing "strike teams" which close out an average of 8 CSI requests per team per day processing 320 requests/month.

The Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) responded to the article with explanations/excuses as to why such a high non-response rate was reported. LASAN has a "customer service system" in which requests are entered and closed once the items have been picked up. LASAN claims that there are a number of reasons why such a high number of requests were left "open" in the system. Once a bulky item pick-up is completed, there is a "field check" to verify that the pick-up had been done following which, if indeed it had been done, the entry in the customer service system was to be designated as "closed". "Excuse": the request was referred for a field check, the field check was done, but there was no follow through to "close" the request in



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the system. "Excuse": Community clean-ups took care of the bulky items themselves so requests were not "closed" in LASAN's customer service system. "Explanation": The field check never even happened. "Excuse": LASAN was truly unable to respond to the request due to limited resources.

Supposedly the first three years under scrutiny by the LA Times was at a time the City was experiencing the worst of the Great Recession with staff reductions and budget cuts. Funding for the illegal dumping program - then a responsibility of the Bureau of Street Services - was cut every year until it was completely defunded in 2012. That left a huge service gap that LASAN has done its best to bridge since taking over responsibility for bulky item/illegal dump pick-ups despite its own limited resources.

Each Council District is guaranteed one service day/month. Currently, new CSI referrals are submitted at the rate of +/- 250/month and requests from Council Offices/Mayor's Office at the rate of +/-175/month leaving a backlog of 105 requests/month. Addition of a third "strike team", which can be done within the existing CSI budget, could clear the backlog in 16 months. Needless to say, this alone is not going to meet expectations of Los Angeles residents or elected officials.

The Bureau of Sanitation reports that having three strike teams working overtime every Saturday would clear the backlog in 6 months, but would require an additional \$505,000 from the General Fund. Adding a fourth team on regular time rather than three strike teams on overtime will clear the backlog by April 2016, but will require an additional \$1.2 million from the General Fund. Whichever option is selected, once the backlog is cleared, LASAN is committed to responding to CSI cases within an average of 15 working days.

On October 30, 2015, the City Council adopted recommendations of its Energy and Environment Committee which was subsequently approved by the Mayor on November 3, 2015. These recommendations included the following:

- Instruct the City Administrative Officer to report on the feasibility of a Citywide surveillance camera program and other resources necessary to strengthen enforcement of illegal dumping activities.
- Encourage LASAN to achieve and maintain a daily balance of bulky item pick-up service requests received with request closures such that there will be no additional backlog.
- That LASAN, in coordination with the Mayor's Office, City Council and the Board of Public Works develop measurable, quantifiable and accountable response times with respect to the more complex illegal dumping services being provided by the Clean Streets Initiative strike teams.
- That LASAN, in coordination with Council Offices, create pilot programs to more effectively eliminate behaviors that lead to illegal dumping.
- Authorize the Controller to transfer \$900,000 from the Solid Waste Revenue Fund to the Bureau of Sanitation's General Salaries Account.

To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.



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Key Community Locations & Contact Information

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace

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)

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)

City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office CD7 Councilmember Felipe Fuentes; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland (818-352-3287)

Community Calendar

Alcoholic Family/Friends Support Group

- Every Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna Ave. @ Sunland Blvd.
For Info: (818) 353-2500

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

1st Tuesday, Every Month

- 7 p.m.
- 9747 Wheatland Ave.

Neighborhood Watch

3rd Tuesday, Every Month

- 6:30 p.m.
- East Valley Municipal Bldg.

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

LAST Tuesday, Every Month

- 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

3rd Thursday, Every Month

- 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

ETI C20

4th Wednesday, Every Month

- Call Becky Borquez, 818-352-3634

SHPOA ADVERTISING DEADLINE
For Sept-Oct '16 Newsletter: August 17!

IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

Dial 311 – Info on all City Services

L.A. Dept. of Water & Power (800) 342-5397

Street Service (800) 996-2489

Large Item Pickup..... (800) 773-2489

Abandoned Car..... (800) 222-6366