

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 43, Issue 6

SHPOA Nov.-Dec. 2020

Thanks for the Memories! **By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your SHPOA President for the last 2 years. I rejoined the board in 2014 as Treasurer, then as Vice President, and became president in 2018. Prior to that, I was on the board years ago as Newsletter Advertising Coordinator and Recording Secretary. It's been an honor to work with so many outstanding volunteers and following our recent past presidents Dave DePinto, Elektra Kruger, Bill Eick, and Linda Fullerton. All of these folks were tough acts to follow and I hope that the 2019-2020 board provided the leadership that Shadow Hills deserves.

While the pandemic threw a wrench into all of our lives in 2020, we did manage to get a few things done. We brought back our pancake breakfast (thanks to Corral 20!), updated our Bylaws (with the most notable change in making it easier to vote—hey, no voter suppression in Shadow Hills!), sponsored a Town Hall with Senator Portantino and County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, co-sponsored a virtual Town Hall with Kagel Canyon for Adam Schiff, renewed our relationships with our elected officials and their staff, instituted a “Get Lit, Not Hit!” nighttime equestrian/pedestrian/cyclist safety campaign, kept everyone updated with the high speed train, got our meetings and newsletters back on schedule for 6 times per year, community cleanups, and fence repair. Meeting topics included active shooter training, neighborhood council promotion, Big Tujunga Wash post-fire remediation, DWP Ratepayer Advocate’s mission, history of Shadow Hills, LA County’s report on soil deposits into the Vulcan Pit, Shadow Hills’ non-profits, wildfire preparation, and ballot proposition information for the November 3rd election. One of our largest accomplishments was to get our new website up and running: www.shpoa.us and our new platform for Daily Fodder which is a 24/7 job for our amazing Outreach Director, Susan Wong. We also sent out a survey to Shadow Hills residents for their input where we discovered that most residents have lived here more than 10 years, maintaining horsekeeping rights is a top priority, and that our printed newsletter is a community favorite.

We were in the final stages of planning our
(Cont'd next column)

Join us for our virtual Zoom Meeting

Nov 10-7:00 pm

*** SHPOA ELECTION!**

*** Updates by our Elected Officials' Staff**

*** Vana Stangel from Teranga Ranch**

*** 2021 Priorities**

*** Shadow Hills Trivia game - win a \$25 Starbucks card**

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89109237985> will also be sent out via Daily Fodder, Facebook, NextDoor, go to calendar on www.shpoa.us.

or www.zoom.us Mtg ID: 891 0923 7985

(Cont'd)

Spaghetti Dinner at Villa Terrazo when the pandemic hit. We also had to put a temporary halt on fence repairs but are planning on resuming that when the weather cools off. SHPOA was also investigating construction of “Andrea’s Garden” on the triangular piece of property on King’s Island on Sunland Blvd. through the City’s “Adopt a Median” plan. This, too, was halted due to the pandemic and the fact that SHPOA would have to fund the construction as the City provides only the land. However, it’s quite possible we could get a Neighborhood Purpose Grant through the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council. But until the pandemic is completely under control, these plans will be on hold. We made a heroic attempt to get an automated membership program going, but unfortunately, it turned out to be a dud. We’re still researching this.

The ongoing issues that plague Shadow Hills are the usual suspects: Property owners and developers building structures that will forever invalidate their own and possibly their neighbors’ horsekeeping rights, illegal building/grading/dumping/parking, speeding on Sunland Blvd. and Wentworth (thanks to Councilwoman Rodriguez, an upgraded signal on Wentworth has put in a break between Glenoaks and Foothill), street racing, theft, and homeless encampments in the Big Tujunga wash. Thanks to the City’s online system, it is easy to look up to verify property’s building permit status and this has been very helpful in determining the naughty people who are doing illegal work on their property.

(Please see “Thanks” on p. 2)

2020 SHPOA Board Members

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

Executive Officers

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| President: | Cindy Bloom 818-445-5602 board@shpoa.us |
| Vice President: | Jacqy Gamble |
| Executive Secretary: | Vacant |
| Recording Secretary: | Vacant |
| Treasurer: | Lynne Toby |
| Membership: | Jo Rich, Chair Michael Stein |

Appointed Officers

| | |
|--|--|
| Land Use: | vacant |
| Equestrian and Trails: | James Gutman (Trails) Rosey Payne (Liaison) |
| Special Projects: | Jo Rich (Events) Michael Stein (Technology) Azalia Snail |
| Neighborhood Watch: | Thomas Despres |
| 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: | Cindy Bloom 818-445-5602 board@shpoa.us |
| Newsletter Coordinator and Ad Collection: | Linda Graves invoices@shpoa.us |
| Newsletter Design/Layout: | Cindy Bloom |
| Hospitality: | vacant |
| Historian: | Gerardo Barrientos |
| 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: | |
| <i>Sunland/Shadow Hills/LVT</i> | Cesar Contreras 818-634-0705 36373@lapd.lacity.org |
| <i>Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West</i> | Rich Wall 818-634 -0755 30204@lapd.lacity.org LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk 818-756-8861 |
| Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC): www.ftdnc.org | |
| <i>President:</i> | Kevin Davis president@ftdnc.org |
| <i>At large rep:</i> | Cindy Bloom cindy.bloom@ftdnc.org |

("Thanks" cont'd from p. 1)

At the last meeting of the year, SHPOA attendees provide us with a list of priorities for the upcoming year. Please refer to the article elsewhere in this issue for the status.

Anyway, I know that SHPOA will be in good hands for 2021 as most of our volunteers are remaining on the board, and the next president will do a terrific job. I will remain as the printed newsletter editor and layout person, and will take on the advertising component as well.

Thanks again for the honor of being SHPOA president for 2019 and 2020 and let's make 2021 a terrific year!



Monitor Valley Generating Station Methane Leak By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On August 21, 2020, the Department of Water and Power (DWP) was contacted by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) informing them that recent air-borne remote-sensing surveys of the LA basin conducted as part of JPL's Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Program detected methane near the Valley Generating Station. The Generating Station is located in an area that has endured decades of environmental injustice in the form of discriminatory land-use practices, a lack of open space and an overconcentration of polluting industries. It is unconscionable that the DWP does not have monitoring systems in place to protect residents living near the Valley Generating Station. In early September 2020, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking that the DWP in consultation with the Bureau of Street Lighting develop and fund a plan to install air quality monitors on street lighting poles and any other viable locations such as City infrastructure, residences and businesses within a one-mile radius of the Valley Generating Station. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environmental Justice Committee which reviewed the Motion in mid-September 2020. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power testified at the Committee hearing stating that henceforth it will:

- Develop a policy that would proactively identify and repair methane leaks in a timely manner
- Develop an air quality monitoring database available for public viewing with real-time up-dates
- Work collaboratively with the AQMD on fence line monitoring and establish a community notification protocol
- Monitor and quantify fugitive emissions
- Prioritize environmental justice as it pertains to a clean energy future
- Provide LADWP funding grants for emission reduction projects over the next 5 years which are to include Council Districts 2, 6 and 7 for the purpose

(Please see "Methane" on p. 4)

Please Renew Your Membership Today! By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

We know times are tough and we appreciate your commitment to paying your annual dues. More than ever, your dues help us pay for insurance, website, outreach email (Daily Fodder), meeting expenses (virtual or in person), the newsletter, and more. Please take the 2 minutes it will take to fill out the form (to the right) and send in your check for \$25 today (that's 7 cents a day!), or renew online via Paypal or by credit card at www.shpoa.us and click on the "Online Member Payment" button. **Thank you!**



SHPOA is Critical to Shadow Hills By Bill Eick, Resident

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association is an all-volunteer organization that has been in existence since 1963. It was originally created in response to the proposal by CalTrans to build the 210 freeway through the Big Tujunga Wash. In addition to the actual location through the Big Tujunga Wash, it was also cutting through Shadow Hills. Before the freeway, Shadow Hills extended to Fenwick Street near the former Sizzlers Restaurant in the Ralph's shopping center. Tragically, the residents east of the freeway, many of whom owned horses were cut off from the rest of Shadow Hills and ended up with limited access to the horse trails of the Big Tujunga Wash. Eventually that part of Shadow Hills became disconnected from the rest of the equestrian community.

SHPOA was instrumental in insisting that the freeway have two bridges under the freeway so that water could flow from both the Big Tujunga wash and from Haynes Canyon. One of the consequences of two bridges is that all of the water was not funneled into one fast moving water course. Some of the water spread out over a wider space which created a conducive habitat for the slender horned spine flower. That plant is endangered and extremely rare. The US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a "jeopardy opinion" which stated that the building of the Angeles Golf Course as originally planned would jeopardize the existence of the plant. The result was that the golf course had to be built around the plant. All of the work on the golf course was done by the volunteer members of SHPOA over a 10-year period.

SHPOA members attended all of the meetings and hearings and lobbied all elected officials. Joel Wachs, in response to the effectiveness of SHPOA, proposed the creation of Neighborhood Councils which would be funded by the City, subject to the rules of the Brown Act for open meetings. More importantly, private community organizations could not sue the City if it was opposed to the decisions of the City. SHPOA had in the past sued the City and strategized with other entities in its efforts to

(Please see "SHPOA" on p.5)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

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 = \$25

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

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

(**"Methane"** cont'd from p. 2)

of reducing particulate, nitrogen oxide and greenhouse gas emissions to be available beginning in late Fall 2020.

The City Council's Energy and Environmental Justice Committee approved the items noted in the Councilmember's Motion at their September 15, 2020 hearing. Any updates will be presented in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.



**Look What's New at Ahead With Horses
By Judy Beem, President, Board of Directors,
AHEAD With Horses**

Hello Neighbors (and potential Volunteers, Sponsors and Donors)!

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am Judy Beem, Volunteer Instructor and recently voted in as President of the Board of Directors at AHEAD With Horses (AWH). With my retirement in November of 2017, and our purchase of the 2 ½ acre vacant lot on Foothill Blvd (across from All Nations Church) in December 2017, I took on the project of getting the property ready for our program.

We have obtained the Conditional Use Permit and Zone Variance and are waiting for the approval of the ADA plans and sanitation plans from the City. We hit a snag at the same time the pandemic hit, when the Bureau of Engineering required us to improve the property with a 15 foot cement sidewalk, add cement curbs and gutters, plant 6 trees and add 3 street lights. The estimated cost was far more than what we could handle, especially with the pandemic forcing us to halt the program from mid-March to the beginning of June, and since then we have only been able to have a third of the students return.

We applied for a Waiver for Dedication/Improvement for the cement work and countered with a proposed bridle trail with rails, lights to be mounted on the utility poles and no trees for safety of the riders and horses. The City is behind due to the COVID-19 issues and appointments are by phone. There is a delay with no time estimate - and so we wait.

On a more upbeat note, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who have helped get the project off the ground, both before and during the COVID pandemic. We had UCLA students carry 8 dismantled pipe stalls and covers from Foothill Place to the property. Even the alumni moms served as crossing guards with their bright vests and STOP signs. The Love the 818 groups, Do Good Bus folks, Village Christian School students, National Charity League moms and daughters, random community volunteers and many more helped to plant aloes, trees, daisies and irises and weeded the most prolific assortment of weeds imaginable.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child and our village people are helping to bring AHEAD With

(Cont'd next column)

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Horses to Lake View Terrace for the special needs children that we serve. Our hearts are full of thanks and appreciation for the help by our awesome volunteers who have been out when it started raining or sweltering in the hot summer days.

Our program has restarted with a very well thought through protocol to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times. The riding equipment is covered--the pads have covers that are used only once then washed, the surcingles are wrapped in plastic wrap and sanitized and left in the sun to dry between lessons, the gates are wiped down and even the brushes and grooming equipment are cleaned between use. We have only one lesson at a time and keep 30 minutes between lessons. Handwashing, distance from others and masks are in the essential core of the protocols to keep everyone safe.

We have had limited fund-raising events and just completed our DOUBLE DARE event in September. Michelle Newman, our Director, and Omar Diaz were fortunate to be dared to sit in a bucket of lime Jello, then be washed off with a bucket of water over their heads. I was thrilled to be challenged to TWO whipped cream pies in my face and followed by a refreshing bucket of water to wash it all off. How can I thank my family enough for this DARE?!



If you need a "get out of the house" boredom buster, drive by the property to see our progress. We have a water main, 12 faucets, a drip system for the trees, plants around the fence lines, ground asphalt for the parking area in front and piles of decomposed granite and sand for the arena area. We have a sign up on the south east corner on the fence identifying our new FOREVER HOME.

We have "garden parties" if anyone wants to show off their green thumb. Included in the festivities are weeding, planting, watering (some hand watering and some filling our rain barrels attached to a drip system), fence repair, rock picking...you get the picture. Give us a call at (818) 767-6373 to schedule or go online at www.AWHLA.org to sign up.

We gratefully accept donations, both in kind and monetary, either a one time or with our new GEM-Giving Every Month Society. Again, you can find all of the info on our website www.AWHLA.org.



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

limit the golf course imprint. On the other hand, the developers were never under an obligation to disclose their strategy in public meetings with publicly available agendas. While Neighborhood Councils certainly have their place, the inability to sue the City or arrange for such lawsuits means that organizations such as SHPOA are and remain critical.

Another example of the importance of SHPOA is the high speed rail project. It was SHPOA that organized the opposition to the routes proposed through Shadow Hills. In other areas such as the Central Valley, the opposition was, to a large extent, organized and funded by governmental agencies. SHPOA, which is a volunteer organization funded only by membership fees/donations and newsletter ads, led the charge to stop the routes through the Big Tujunga Wash and through Shadow Hills. The Shadow Hills community along with other volunteers from Kagel Canyon, Lakeview Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon, and Sun Valley continue to safeguard the community from projects that threaten us.

In summary, the members of the Shadow Hills Community continue to protect our area. Each of you: Give yourselves a standing ovation.



Permanent Al Fresco Dining? By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On May 29, 2020 during the Covid-19 Emergency Declaration and Safer LA Orders, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the LA Al Fresco dining program permitting restaurants, sidewalk food vendors and food trucks to utilize sidewalks, private parking lots, street parking spaces, lane closures and even full street closures such that customers can maintain physical distancing while dining. The Al Fresco program received tremendous positive feedback from restaurants and diners as it supported the heavily impacted industry by allowing restaurants to continue operation in a safe, physically distanced setting. In late August 2020, Councilmember David Ryu presented a Motion to City Council asking that the City's Chief Legislative Analyst along with input from the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Engineering, the Bureau of Street Services, the Department of Building and Safety, the Department of City Planning and the City Attorney to report on the feasibility of developing a permanent Al Fresco program allowing for a streamlined outdoor dining permit process including such things as eligibility criteria, safety and infrastructure requirements, a plan that would enable interested businesses to opt-in to the permit program and to report on any changes to State or County Codes that would need to be made in order to effectuate the program. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Transportation Committee for their review and recommendations.



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**Being Creative in Covid Times
By Eva Lund, Special Spirit, Inc.**

It is believed that literary genius William Shakespeare not only wrote King Lear during an endemic of 1564, but also got a head start

(Please see "Covid Times" on p.7)

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**LAPD and CD7 Updates
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

These notes were from the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council meeting that took place on October 15, 2020.

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(Cont'd)

Cesar Contreras, Senior Lead Officer: Crime is up 9% compared to this time last year (or 22 more crimes). While this sounds bad, it was 20% last month so it's going in the right direction.

The fire-prone Hansen Dam area is owned by So. California Edison, Army Corp. of Engineers (federal), CalTrans (state), and the City of Los Angeles. Edison showed up to do some brush clearance and cleanup, mostly removing brush and vegetation that was concealing encampments. LAPD made a push to clear out the homeless but most of them moved to the property along the freeway. Ideally, CalTrans, Army Corp. and Edison should work together in order to avoid the constant "shuffling." CalTrans needs to do their part.

There is an ongoing problem at the Lake View Terrace Rec Center with cars racing in and out of the parking lot late at night. Also, there are now kiosks selling beer. Equestrians purchase beer and hang out with their horses in the evening. LAPD has a security services division which is responsible for patrolling parks and recreation buildings. The senior lead officer has been alerted. The Security Services Division has a program to close parks at 10:30 pm to 1:00 am. The problem with the LVT Rec Center is that the parking lot does not have gates, so there will be additional patrols ordered. They will also reach out to Recreation and Parks to ensure that the evening recreational activities are not impeded. Currently, due to COVID-19, this is not a problem. We need to rely on the Council Office to push for a gate. Orcas Park and Hansen Dam have gates. Additionally, the Street Racing Task Force have cited these people in the past, but the task force is valley-wide so resources must be shared with other communities.

Dominique Vitti, CD7 Representative: Regarding the cleanup at Hansen Dam, Edison did send a large group. The City's Outreach Team housed 8 people in bridge or winter shelters. CalTrans said verbally they'd do their part but only 2 showed up and did minimal clearance. Readers: Please Assemblywoman Rivas (818) 504-3911 to request that CalTrans to clear out their property. Apparently, according to CalTrans, "fire" doesn't constitute a level 1 danger! There were 8-10 encampments at the Dam which is down from 30 last year. They are making progress but it's slow.

CD7 has received a bid through Recreation and Parks for the aforementioned gate. The cost is \$32,000 which apparently is a "reasonable" amount but they will get other bids. The Neighborhood Council could help with funding the gates.

Their office has now delivered 181,000 meals to seniors since the COVID outbreak. They are working with the County for a food drive. Next month, CD7 will be sponsoring a small business webinar. The purpose is to connect and educate businesses so they are aware of what aid is available.



("Covid Times" cont'd from p. 5)

on Macbeth and Antony and Cleopatra. On the opposite end of the creativity spectrum, mathematician and physicist Sir Isaac Newton's work in the late 1660s, while he was quarantined at home because of the bubonic plague, produced some of his best work (as per a report in the Washington Post).

According to cognitive scientist Margaret Boden, such work would be termed as "historical creativity", i.e., creation of something new and surprising to the world. But there is another type of creativity, "psychological creativity," which is the capacity of an individual to create something that is valuable and surprising to themselves. During these months of isolation and quarantine, many of us have surprised ourselves with our newfound skills, and experienced some form of "psychological creativity."

These are hard times for all non-profits; we need to tap into new ways of being creative to find funds, and to keep our horses and farm animals in good health. With the help of a supportive friend, Rachel, we received a surprise donation from Macy's of about 300 prom dresses. What on earth would an equine center do with prom dresses you may ask? Many did, but then we came up with an idea of making a calendar with all girls in prom dresses taking care of the animals and hanging around the barn. Many thought us crazy, but in these crazy times, why not? Each girl participating got to keep their dress, and the remaining dresses are donated to programs helping foster youth, challenged individuals etc. The calendar is ready for distribution in the beginning of November.

Remember to pay attention to air quality in regards to yourself and your animals. Despite all of our best efforts, Algot, one of our therapy horses, got very sick due to the bad air caused by all the fires around us. At his worst, he had a temperature of over 105 and was not eating or drinking anything. After several days of around the clock care and lots of advice and support from the amazing Dr. David Robertson, his fever broke and he finally started eating and drinking. Although still weak and sometimes with a little bit of a cough, he is on the mend and doing fantastic. Thank you (again) for all of your help, Dr. Robertson!

Harrison, one of our great volunteers, fell in love with Monty. Monty, a 9-year old ranch gelding donated to Special Spirit last year, is used as a therapy horse for our larger clients. Over the course of lockdown and the preceding months, their bond has grown stronger and we are proud to say that Harrison is now leasing Monty. They spent the last several months sorting at Gibson Ranch, the first time for both of them, and progressed very quickly to earning money in the rounds. In fact, the team just missed earning a buckle in the Novice division. Watch out for Harrison and Monty in the next sorting season!

We were also lucky enough to have had a socially distant equine emotional intelligence clinic with Robert Gonzales. He worked with Algot, Gidget, Helen, and Christopher Pine on emotional balance and gave some great insight into these amazing creatures we love

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so dearly. In his evaluation, he was able to tell us that Algot needed just a few teeth on one side of his mouth floated down because they were ever so slightly out of balance. Amazing! Robert came back another day and worked with our big horse Hudson on loading into trailers. Although he did not go all the way in, the learning and successes we gained were well worth the effort. Robert will be back in December for more equine coaching; we highly recommend him! You can visit him on <https://gonzaleslivestock.com/>

Going back to the origins of this post, we have a young volunteer who is showing us exactly what it means to be creative during the Covid times. Fallon has started working with us to create some key baking recipes for us to use in the future. Think

(Please see "Covid Times" on p.8)



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("Covid Times" cont'd from p. 7)

Special Spirit cakes, cookies, and even horse treats!
Here is what Fallon has to say about volunteering: "I



Calendar teaser

enjoy being on the ranch because of the atmosphere and being around the wonderful people. It is a nice way to get out of the house and do something that I would normally not get to do."

Regarding lessons, we are still following the guidelines provided by the state and by Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship. We are currently in Phase III of the process, detailed as follows: "Mostly Independent riders who might require hands-on assistance during lesson for any physical or behavioral considerations. May require instructor intervention for safety. All parties will wear masks while within 6 feet, although riders may unmask once they are riding." We are following the trends and continuing to keep safety of others and ourselves at the forefront of decisions, even when those decisions hurt financially. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Special Spirit, Inc, to help us cover the expenses of our herd of animals during these uncertain times. We appreciate this community so much. We hope everyone continues to stay safe and remembers to find their CREATIVITY in these crazy Covid times.



**Should You Wear a Mask When Walking
Outside in Our Neighborhood?
By Susan Wong, RN, SHPOA Board**

This discussion is now being held all over again in neighborhoods all across America as we have watched the news about the Sept. 26th super-spreader event outside in the White House Rose Garden.

There is consensus that COVID-19 is spread by breathing air from someone who is infected. The original guidelines put out during the first scary days of the pandemic called for droplet precautions: stay 6 feet away to avoid getting droplets in your nose, mouth, or eyes, and wash your hands to prevent spreading virus from droplets that you may have touched to your nose, mouth, or eyes. Since droplets are visible and fall to the ground between 3-6 feet, we could readily see and understand this route of infection. As time went on and scientists studied this new virus more, we learned that, in fact, the virus is also aerosolized. Aerosol transmis-

(Please see "Masks" on p.9)

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

sion is similar to droplet transmission, except that the bits of fluid are so small that they can linger in the air for minutes to hours. Droplets move like cannon balls in the air; aerosols float around like smoke.

Actually, an understandable analogy is cigarette smoke (which is also an aerosol). The closer you are to someone breathing out smoke or virus-carrying aerosols, the more likely you are to breathe in larger amounts of second-hand smoke or aerosolized virus. We also know that the more virus you breathe in ("viral load") the more likely you are to get enough virus particles to get infected. But while "six feet apart" works well for droplets, it certainly isn't enough for aerosols. Have you ever smelled cigarette smoke as you walk down the street, and look around and see that someone is smoking on a porch 20 or even 30 feet away? I have - just last week.

We have also learned that COVID is spread much more easily inside where aerosolized virus particles can collect in indoor spaces. However, Dr. Lewis Nelson, professor and chair of emergency medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, says, that, "Outdoors is safer than indoors, but it's never totally safe."

Well, then, how far apart is safe when outside without a mask? There are several studies, but no easy consensus. It depends on what you are doing (walking, jogging, sitting) as well as wind speeds, humidity, and how contagious a person is when you come in contact with them, etc. If you pass someone who is walking outside and not wearing a mask, some experts say to stay at least 10 feet away, while others say if walking behind someone stay 4-5 meters (13-17 feet) away, and another study says if you are following someone on a bike riding slowly, you should stay 32 feet apart, and if the people are riding bikes fast, you should stay 64 feet away.

Masks, whether outside or inside, allow oxygen and CO2 to pass freely. Wearing a mask does not lower your oxygen saturation levels. As a nurse I know that people with some respiratory problems often wear masks to help them breathe easier. Moreover, masks cut down on viruses passing through the fabric. Loretta Fernandez, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Northeastern University who is testing masks for filtration efficiency, points out that "masks work cumulatively (albeit on a logarithmic scale): if two people who are interacting are each wearing a mask that catches 50 percent of exhaled particles, between them they'll catch 75 percent. No, it's not N95 levels of protection. But it's still significant."

We are still in the early stages of understanding this new and dangerous human virus. Monica Gandhi, a professor of medicine and an infectious-disease expert at the University of California at San Francisco says that for now, "the recommendation is to do both," wear a mask and socially distance while outside. Gandhi says, adding that clearer information "on whether one is more important than the other" will come with time. Neysa Ernst, nurse manager of the Biocontainment

(Please see "Masks" on p.11)



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Every Street Has A Story By Marlene Hitt, Resident

On the east end of Shadow Hills is an undedicated dirt road, unwanted by the City, that has its own stories. At one time there were 7 families living along the one-block road, with 3 boats, 3 trailers, 17 four-wheeled vehicles, 11 horses, some goats, an extra loud rooster, a community of cats, and at least two dogs per household. Coyotes visited by night. Rabbits, gophers, many creatures set up homesteads.

What was once a trail was developed into a modern neighborhood early in the 1950's. Horses and other livestock ran free on large pieces of fenced property. The road led around several hills with an occasional white wooden fence on its edge that was sometimes lined with lupines. The hillsides were rich green in winter and spring. Dotted around were outbreaks of poppies.

To saddle up was to ride for hours through Shadow Hills or down through the wash, even up into the canyons. Sounds and smells of horses permeated the air. Buildings were unique. There was a reddish-brown barn-house, a castle, a Swiss Chalet, and an old leaning barn. At one time the barn was used as a community playhouse. It is said that later the place was turned into a chop shop. When a house was built on the property, of course the old sagging structure was demolished.

Little by little the rural romance began to peel away. The hills were ploughed earlier and earlier in spring and the green left too soon. Fire hazard caused the wildflowers to be mowed too, before seeding.

The road itself was so muddy during wet spells that every rainstorm brought neighbors to answer doorbells, as people whose cars were mired asked to use the phones. Somewhere beneath today's asphalt is a boot belonging to a fellow who was riding his motorcycle on what he thought would be a puddle but turned out to be a deep trough of mud. The poor guy couldn't get his boot out, so it stayed there in the road for years.

A donkey lived over the rise and his voice could be heard often, usually just as the neighbor's daughter was saying good-night after a date. On a quiet night, one young woman opened her front door to go to fetch something from the car. She froze, then yelped as she stared at the shaggy head of the donkey looking straight at her. Guess it got loose and came over the hills to check out the neighbors.

The neighborhood boys dug forts, brought home ticks, and named one hill "Devil's Hill." Why? Perhaps because the eerie sound of "pot-parties" and the banging of bullets during the night came from that hill. It did turn out to be aptly named later.

One day the boys were riding up and down the hillside on Bucky, the mare, with some parents waiting below. The first boy came downhill and said,

(Please see "Streets" on p.11)

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Me and My Shadow Hills II - Lucky Us! By Azalia Snail, SHPOA Board

How lucky to live in a place that has maintained a natural habitat in the middle of a city that, like almost every other American city, sees gentrification evermore as the years surmount.

Recently, a small house on a gorgeous, expansive corner property became available to buy after decades of the same owner, a petite woman who liked to sit outside, painting the variety of trees and the abundance of nature around her.

We don't know the exact details, but whoever owned the house rented it out over the last few years.

We had a feeling that as soon as the "For Sale" sign went up, somebody would likely buy it and want to expand the tiny one bedroom house and extend it either backward, forward or both. What we didn't expect, however, was that bulldozers would come and wipe away the essence of the hillside in one fell swoop.

It's unclear if permits were required but they definitely were not pulled. Regardless, they bulldozed it swiftly and defiantly. Now it is a bare, ugly muted piece of land that once was green and shady. The decades old pine trees were ripped from the earth, crushed and taken away. The wonderful smell of pine lasted a couple of days and then was wiped away by the lingering smoke from the recent fires.

We know that some of you think that just because you own a piece of land that you have the right to do with it "whatever you want." In essence, that may be true, but what a shame to not want to protect one of the most glorious neighborhoods in Los Angeles just because "you can."

Mother nature is surely taking notes. Some of you may be old enough to remember the commercial for the buttery product that depicted a bolt of lightning and the words "it's not nice to fool Mother Nature."

This should serve as a reminder that we should want to protect this beautiful environment and not shatter it. After all, we are only the temporary masters of this domain.



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

"There's a car up there!" The second went up, then down again with the message, "There's a car up there and the motor's running." The first boy galloped up a second time and came back with the message, "There's a car up there. The motor's running and the car is full of smoke!" Sure enough, there was the car with a man inside who had rigged up his exhaust pipe with a vacuum hose into the back

(Please see "Streets" on p. 13)

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

Unit at Johns Hopkins Medicine, notes, "It's not a mask OR six feet away. It's a mask AND six feet away."

The LA County Health Order states that everyone should wear a mask when outside of your house. There are few exceptions:

- Children who under the age of 2
- People who are unconscious
- People who could not physically remove a mask if it were to get into their mouth.
- People who "are in a solitary area... do not need to wear a face covering."

The streets of Shadow Hills are not solitary areas. Yet on my daily walks my estimate of mask compliance in Shadow Hills is about 10%; 90% are non-compliant. I meet people on the street every

(Please see "Masks" on p. 12)

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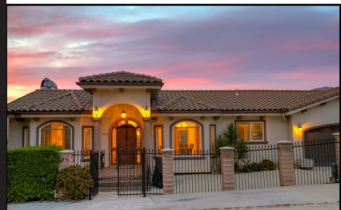
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SHPOA 2020 Priorities – How'd We Do? By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

At the last meeting of the year, we ask SHPOA members to provide us a list with what they feel should be our priorities for the upcoming year.

Let's see how we did!

| No. | Status |
|-----|---|
| 9 | Completed |
| 6 | Continuing or ongoing due to the nature of the item |
| 5 | Halted due to Pandemic |
| 3 | Not Started |
| 3 | Stopped due to infeasibility |
| 26 | TOTAL PRIORITY ITEMS |

The following are the individual items that were COMPLETED. The entire document will be available on our website on the "community info" tab.

Strategic Priorities 2020 Completed Items

Provide leadership and support to efforts to develop maps for the trail system within Shadow Hills and the Big Tujunga Wash

Address perception of increasing truck traffic on Sunland Blvd – contact Sun Valley truck operators such as Athens to re-route trucks to freeways and commercial roadways such as Penrose, Osborne, etc.

Provide Pre-Emptive Emergency Info and Training before Santa Ana Wind/Fire Season (Sep-Dec)

Address "no camping" at any time (in fire zones)

Address illegal fireworks

Reflector/light campaign for equestrians/pedestrians

Set up some type of kiosk for people to borrow reflectors

Promote askLAPD.org

Utilize social media to post ongoing safety reminders and messaging

SHPOA managed to complete the majority of the 2020 items and we are hopeful that 2021 will allow us to pursue those items that were halted due to the pandemic. Thanks to the volunteers who worked on our priorities!



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

day during my walks. I have been on streets with maskless people coming towards me on both sides of the street, and I have to walk in the middle of the street to avoid walking in either of their airstreams. I have had large trucks lumber by me as a maskless person is walking directly at me, and the truck prevented me from crossing the street and away from them. I have seen two dogs get into a tangle and the two dog owners coming into very close proximity as they untangle everyone. I have seen maskless people walking four abreast across the whole street, not allowing me to get far enough away from them

(Please see "Masks" on p.15)

Temporarily Suspend Construction in High Fire Severity Zones?

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Twenty-eight major wildfires rage across California with 24 fatalities and over 4,200 structures destroyed due to elevated warm, dry, fire weather conditions. In response to the Bobcat Fire, on September 13, 2020, County Supervisor Kathryn Barger signed a proclamation declaring a local emergency. Record heat, low humidity and strong Santa Ana Winds have precipitated red flag warnings in the San Gabriel Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, the San Fernando Valley as well as many other locations in southern California. These conditions are anticipated to continue for much of the California fire season. During this unprecedented fire season, where our fire response resources are already stretched thin, the City must do all it can to prevent further fires in Los Angeles' hillsides and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. One of the causes of these fires are ongoing construction projects. Construction vehicles and haul routes are major risks in terms of egress from hillside areas in the event of required evacuation. The siting and defensibility of new homes must be taken into consideration in areas that are indefensible, inaccessible or at risk of wildfire and must be off-limits to on-going construction during peak fire seasons. In recognition of this, in mid-September 2020, Councilmember David Ryu presented a Motion to City Council asking that it instruct the Department of City Planning along with the Department of Building and Safety and the City Attorney to prepare and present an Interim Control Ordinance

(Cont'd next column)

(Cont'd

(ICO) to suspend all construction not necessary for the provision of utilities or water supply and prohibit the issuance of demolition, building, grading, hauling and any other applicable permits for properties located in either Hillside or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones until November 30, 2020 on properties located on streets with single points of ingress/egress, on streets serving as collector streets for multiple streets with single points of ingress and egress, on any substandard streets or any property in a Hillside or Very High Fire Severity Zone in which the average LAFD emergency response time is greater than or equal to 7 minutes. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee for their review and recommendations.



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

window of the car. The man was long dead. The police came. The kids thought they would be on TV. The officer said those things happen every day, no big deal. Great lesson by Pal Policeman.

During 1979, or about then, the great state of California began to build the 210 freeway. The castle, the chalet, the barn, the hills, the streets, maybe even the muddy boot were all leveled to freeway size as it is now. The way of life was changed forever. The boys played on the vast roadway in the way that boys do. After the crews left, the leveled

(Please see "Streets" on p. 14)

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("Streets" cont'd from p. 13)

dirt bed was used for a galloping place and for a safe place to shoot off rockets. G.I. Joes fought until dusk. Dogs ran unleashed for an hour or so there. Now those boys speed along the 210 to get to work and back.

The dust no longer rises daily on the road; then to settle once again in a different pattern. There are more stories about this street, lots more. Every street is full of stories. To protect the innocent, all names have been omitted.



Empty Homes Penalty? – Up-Date By Elektra Kruger

While facing both a crisis of homelessness AND a shortage of "affordable housing," Los Angeles still additionally suffers from a state of elevated housing unit vacancies. Not being unique to Los Angeles, how have other jurisdictions brought empty or under-utilized properties into use as long-term rental units? One approach other jurisdictions have employed is to levy an Empty Homes Penalty on property owners with long-term empty or under-utilized housing units. In late August 2019, the City Council's Housing Committee reviewed the Motion which was co-presented to the Council by four Councilmembers that asked for a similar penalty or tax structure to be levied against homeowners with long-term empty though habitable housing units in the City of Los Angeles. Five Neighborhood Councils filed Community Impact Statements approving the concept of levying either "Empty Homes Penalties" or "Vacancy Taxes" on these long-term empty though habitable housing units. The Housing Committee recommended that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department along with input of a number of other departments prepare and present a report on the number of known vacant though habitable housing units in the City of Los Angeles and the reasons why they continue to remain vacant. The Committee also recommended that the Council instruct the City's Chief Legislative Analyst along with input from a number of other departments to review the use of Empty Homes Penalties, Vacancy Taxes and Speculator Taxes in other jurisdictions and to prepare and present a report listing policy options for a potential Empty Homes Penalty structure or any other policy options in the City of Los Angeles to incentivize bringing units into productive use. The recommendations of the Housing Committee was approved by the entire City Council at their mid-September 2019 session. Subsequent to Council approval of this Motion, the City's Commission on Revenue Generation engaged Blue Sky Consulting to study the feasibility of levying such a vacancy tax, compare any structure of a vacancy tax in Los Angeles to that recently utilized in other jurisdictions, review policy options for a potential vacancy tax structure in the City of Los Angeles, create a schedule that must be adhered to should this proposal move forward as a ballot initiative and review recent legislation that could achieve similar objectives.



Quickies!
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

1. Shadow Hills Sign Update. No update since last issue. The Department of Transportation has possession of our sign and was scheduled to reinstall it right before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Currently, they are only doing essential work but will get to it once things return to normal. If you are entering Shadow Hills from Sun Valley, it will be reinstalled on the right side near the intersection of Stonehurst Avenue.
2. Devils Gate Dam/Vulcan Pit: Los Angeles County is now hauling excavated dirt to the Manning Pit in Irwindale for the remainder of the season.
3. COVID-19: Shadow Hills' cases are now 71, up 42% from 50 cases in the Sept-October newsletter. The rate per 100,000 is 1,598. Compare this to Sunland at 2,465, Tujunga at 2,078, Lake View Terrace at 4,432, and Sun Valley at 3,460.
4. White Vinyl Fencing: Due to COVID-19, we fell behind on repairing the numerous areas along Sunland Blvd. and Wentworth where the fencing is damaged either to wear and tear, or more commonly, vehicle accidents. Once the weather cools down, our Special Projects committee will be coordinating volunteers to repair the wear and tear items. We are still awaiting police reports to pursue insurance claims. To report fence damage, please send an email to board@shpoa.us
5. Community Cleanup. Eventually, we will resume these, too, so please be patient. In the meantime, if everyone just tidies up the area in front of their property, especially along Sunland Blvd., that is greatly appreciated and is a quick remediation.
6. Illegal Dumping. Dumping is still occurring along Wentworth. We urge you to take advantage of FREE bulky item pickup through 311, and several times a year, the city offers a free dropoff event. If you see someone dumping, please take a photo or video exposing their license plate number and report it to 311.



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

and their airstreams.

I also walk in other neighborhoods in the La Crescenta Valley, some of which I estimate have upwards of 90% mask compliance. I believe that Shadow Hills can do better in respecting their neighbors who do not want to get COVID-19.

Current research suggests that people may actually be MOST likely to spread the virus to others during the 48 hours BEFORE they ever start to experience symptoms. So, even if you feel fine, you may still be contagious. Assume you need to protect your neighbors.

Dr. Lucy Jones, a retired earthquake expert who loves to pour through scientific data, is now running the *Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society*, whose prime aim is to help communities grow stronger by incorporating scientific facts into their policymaking. She sums it up like this, "Don't share your air."



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Community Calendar

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

- 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- 9747 Wheatland Ave.

FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting

- 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

Neighborhood Watch

- 3rd Tuesday, Every Month 6:00 p.m.
- Sunland-Tujunga Library, 7771 Foothill Blvd

LAPD Community Coffee Time

- 1st Thursday, Every Month 8:00 a.m.
- Rise n Shine Cafe, 9685 Sunland Blvd.

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

ETI C20

- 1st Monday, Every Month
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Key Community Locations & Contact Info

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: Council Member Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 209, Pacoima, CA 91331 (Tujunga location being renovated) same phone number: (818-352-3287)

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