

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



Volume 42, Issue 2

SHPOA May-June 2019

## SHPOA General Meeting: The Birds and the Trees - March 12, 2019

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

We had a great turnout for our second meeting in 2019. Thanks to all who attended. Guest speakers included Arturo Garcia from Assemblywoman Rivas' office who spoke about the proposed traffic congestion tax and Real ID (more on those in a separate article). Melanie K. Morita, PE, from LA County Department of Public Works, whose office is the lead agency for that area, gave an informative presentation on the Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Area post-fire recovery plans.

Almost all the vegetation was burned and some debris and non-native plants will be removed. The burned tree trunks ("snags") are still habitat to insects and will be used to define and redefine trails. Three trail crossings will be removed to protect the fish habitat and another three will be rerouted or added. Some fish, like large mouth bass and red swamp crayfish, will be removed as they're non-native and compete with the native species. The trail along Haines Creek will be realigned.

The campaign to remove Brown-headed Cowbirds will continue as they are brood parasitic birds that lay their eggs in other species' nests, and the chicks eat all the food brought by the parent(s). The Cowbirds can lay an amazing 40-100 eggs a season and can easily wipe out other species. Instead of planting native plants, non-natives will be removed to naturally give the natives a chance to thrive. Concerning recovery of burned trees, only approximately 25% will recover over a 5-7 year period. Currently, many are regenerating around the root area.

(Please see *"The Birds and the Trees"* on p.10)



Attendees listen intently for plans to remediate fire damage to the Big T wash.

*"The power you have is to be the best version of yourself you can be, so you can create a better world."*

~ Ashley Rickards

## Save the Date! Saturday May 4

Town Hall Meeting with Sen. Portantino and Sup. Barger (Co-Hosted by SHPOA)

**Senator Portantino and Supervisor Barger** will hold a Town Hall meeting to discuss items of concern in the N.E. San Fernando Valley. This meeting will replace our normal SHPOA general meeting for May.

**Place: Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave, Tujunga, 91042; 10am to noon.**

**Ample lot and street parking available. Light refreshments. Hope to see you there!**

**Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board**

## Special Spirit, Inc. is More Than Just Horseback Riding

By Eva Lund, CEO

Special Spirit Equine Therapy Center in Shadow Hills is a non-profit organization that specializes in therapeutic riding, serving children and adults in our community. We also offer regular horseback riding lessons, summer horse camps, birthday parties and work with the Girl Scouts to help them earn their horse badges.

The 2019 proposed budget cuts would affect a broad range of low- and moderate-income families and people with severe disabilities. Many of our families here at the ranch fall under this category.

(Please see *"More Than Just..."* on p.2)

## SHPOA Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, April 28th!

Hope you can join us at our reconvened annual Pancake Breakfast!

The iconic horse trailer for cooking the breakfast fare is back, thanks to our friends at Corral 20.

Menu includes pancakes (of course), sausage, fruit, coffee, juice. Place: Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills. Time: 9am to noon.

Cost: \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 3-12, and kids under 3 are FREE. T-shirts will be available for a suggested donation of only \$12.

Hope to see you there!

## **2019 SHPOA Board Members**

Contact

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

### **Executive Officers**

President: Cindy Bloom 818-445-5602  
board@shpoa.us

Vice President: Vacant

Executive Secretary: Vacant

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Treasurer: Lynne Toby

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Neighborhood Watch: Thomas Despres

Daily Fodder and  
Lost/Found Pets: Susan Wong  
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**SHPOA's E-mail Address:** shpoa@shpoa.us or  
board@shpoa.us

**Website:** www.shpoa.us

### **Senior Lead Police Officers:**

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36373@lapd.lacity.org

*Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West* 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

*President:* Kevin Davis  
president@ftdnc.org

*At large rep:* Cindy Bloom  
cindy.bloom@ftdnc.org

("More Than Just..." cont'd from pg. 1)

This causes families to have to make the horrible choice between their child's therapy and everyday necessities--a choice no parent should have to make. As with all non-profits, we strongly rely on donations from the community. In addition to donations, we are implementing self-sustaining programs that use ranch resources and the help of working volunteers. Our newest programs are a used tack store "The Trading Post," selling fresh eggs from our chickens, and the start of our newly constructed greenhouse which will have produce available to sell when it is up and running.

The Trading Post is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm and by appointment. Salar and his job coach Johnny who runs the tack store are always looking for new donations to add to the store.

Last year Danny's Farm collaborated with Special Spirit and moved their organization to Shadow Hills. Danny, of Danny's Farm, is a young man with autism, and helps with many different aspects of the farm, special field trips, and birthday parties. Danny's Farm visits local schools bringing fun and laughter along with spreading their message about inclusion, acceptance, and love of all people and animals. They have a wide variety of animals consisting of five goats, two sheep, two potbelly pigs, four rabbits, a miniature horse, a miniature donkey, and three chickens. Kids can pet and interact with the animals, which is a joyful learning experience and fun for all.

Our in-house therapist is Valerie Stern; she meets with clients at the ranch and offers Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP). EAP is a unique alternative to traditional talk therapy.

It is amazing to see the look of pure pleasure and joy on the kids' faces as they enjoy their riding lessons and learning different skills.



Enjoying some good old fashioned horse therapy



*"If you want to make beautiful music, you must play the black and white notes together."*

~Richard Nixon



Goats love to be held, too.

Feel free to come and visit! Special Spirit is located at 9889 Helen Ave.

You can reach us at...  
info@specialspirit.org



Pigs make good friends.



## KEEP THE PROMISE

By Janice Marie Estrada, M.A., Tierra del Sol

Across California, nonprofit agencies like Tierra del Sol, that provide critical services to men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities are facing twin crises this Spring. Most of our funding comes from the state, but our reimbursement rates have essentially been frozen for two decades! This is happening against a backdrop of more demand and a push by the federal government to better integrate our clients into society; from creating more jobs and volunteer opportunities, to support for those attending college or seeking careers in the arts.

(Please see "KEEP THE PROMISE" on p.11)

## Please Make Your 2019 Membership Payment Today!

By Jacqy Gamble

SHPOA is a California non-profit organization. We operate on a relative shoestring, not to make money but to serve our community. **Please make your \$25 dues payment today by mailing in the enclosed membership form on page 3 or visiting our website ([www.shpoa.us](http://www.shpoa.us)) to pay online.** This helps fund our operations and saves the expense of reminder mailings. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to make their dues payments promptly, as well.

Thank you.

## 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

Donations are always gratefully received.

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

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

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

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

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

Check one: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Newsletter Only

Mail this form with your check to:

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



# The Trading Post

At Special Spirit

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## Look Around: Beauty is All Around You

By Thom Despres, SHPOA Board

It's been one of the most beautiful seasons ever in Shadow Hills this year. Having been a resident here since 1997, it has been quite a blessing to see nature begin to rebound from a long term drought and cataclysmic wildfires. Just having an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty on a short drive on the 210 Freeway or a drive up La Tuna Canyon and one can truly feel fortunate to live here in the Shadow Hills area. We live in Los Angeles, but for those who have never been here it would be hard for them to believe that such a beautiful rural area still exists. The Painted Lady butterfly migration was spectacular. We even have a flock of parrots. Rural charm and an equestrian lifestyle are only some of the assets available to anyone who calls this area "Home."

In a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting, we were told that Shadow Hills has one of the lowest incidents of crime in the surrounding area. Although this is something to be thankful for, it must also be continuously monitored and a degree of preemptive maintenance is needed. Maintenance is a key word. It can be applied to "due diligence" in keeping a watchful eye on our neighborhoods and it can also be applied to maintaining a graffiti-free environment. Other aspects of maintenance have to do with brush clearance for fire prevention as well as volunteering to trim weeds and any other unsightly public areas of concern. There is definitely a relationship between the upkeep of a neighborhood and the level of crime.

Due to the much-needed rainy season, this is going to be a "weed-fest" of a growing season. Brush clearance of public lands may be done by the city or county but we as a community will benefit greatly from weed abatement along the trails for both safety and aesthetic purposes. Many of our board members and Shadow Hills residents have and will continue to participate in SHPOA-sponsored cleanup efforts and we are going to announce the next date soon. As mentioned above, fire prevention is a vital reason for keeping the weeds and other vegetation in check.

The LA Fire Department sent out their annual brush clearance notifications for private properties and we all know that it is an imperative step towards "buying time" in the event of a wildfire during our now nearly year-round fire season.

In conclusion, "Happy Springtime" to everyone and let's make this a year of a positive difference in our community.



## How To Register Your Horse

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

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## Put on Your Math Hat—LAUSD Parcel Tax is Coming!

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

The LAUSD board recently approved putting a parcel tax on the June 4th ballot. One reason to do it sooner rather than later was to take advantage of the support they received during their recent teachers strike. The June election typically is a low turnout election so it's important that you vote regardless if you're in favor or opposed to this new tax.

The measure must pass at 67%. In terms of parcel taxes, it's expensive: \$.16 per livable square foot. That means if your house is 2800 square feet, it will cost you \$448 annually. This is on top of the non-permeable area tax that passed in the November election which was 2.5 cents per non-permeable sq.ft. of your entire property (house, garage, pool, concrete, walkways, driveway, etc.) In my case, my non-permeable area is 5,200 square feet, resulting in \$130. Also, the city is still rolling out the homeless measure HHH which hasn't hit in its entirety but that will cost only about \$40 a year. So, in a matter of a couple of years, assuming that this LAUSD parcel tax passes, my property taxes will have increased over \$600 annually. To add insult to injury, as we all know, due to the new federal tax plan, you do not get any additional write off for increased property tax liability due to your property taxes being capped or falling within the standard deduction.

Parcel taxes typically have a sunset date of 12 years. The parcel tax applies to all properties including homes, apartments, businesses, and commercial properties. There will be exemptions for the disabled and seniors but it's not clear if there is an income qualifier.



## HIGH SPEED TRAIN UPDATE

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

Since Governor Newsom's State of the State address on February 12, 2019, there have been some further developments.

**Background:** The federal government issued \$3.5 billion in grant funding for this project. \$2.6 billion of the grants have been expended, leaving around \$1 billion unspent. Two of the three requirements of the total grant funds remain unmet: (1) construction of the Central Valley segment and (2) completing the statewide environmental impact reports (which includes Southern California).

**February 19, 2019:** After a brief public twitter spat between Gov. Newsom and Pres. Trump, Ronald L. Batory of the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) wrote a letter to Brian Kelly, CEO of the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) outlining in detail their intention to terminate the grant agreement on March 5, 2019. Once the agreement was terminated, the FRA would then de-obligate nearly \$1 million in unspent grant monies. The grounds for such termination include CHSRA's failure to: (1) keeping on schedule including non-compliance with their own spending plan, (2) submitting grant funding reports, and (2) taking corrective actions to ensure project delivery.

(Please see "HIGH SPEED" on p.10)

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(Note: photos not current)

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## Real ID—It's Really Happening and It's Really Simple

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

Honestly, I hadn't heard about the Real ID until a couple of months ago and I automatically assumed it would be a tedious process as it involves the DMV. The Real ID replaces your "normal" driver's license or California I.D. card. But is it mandatory?

No, it is not. BUT, if you want to board a domestic flight or access some federal facilities such as courthouses or military bases, beginning October 1, 2020, you will need to schlepp along your passport or your military ID to do so. Otherwise, it makes sense to go ahead and get your Real ID. The cost is the same: \$36.

This is a mandate set by the Department of Homeland Security back in 2005. You may wonder why just now States are getting on board with this new requirement and there is no good answer. California's DMV started offering Real ID driver licenses and ID cards a little over a year ago, on January 22, 2018. Unfortunately for those "early adopters" the source document requirements pursuant to Homeland Security for procuring a Real ID changed since then so those folks will at some point have to re-apply with additional ID requirements. Currently, still, only a few states are even issuing Real IDs so in that regard, California is rolling along.

To prepare customers, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has created an interactive checklist to provide you with the documents you will need to apply for a California REAL ID driver license or ID card. Basically, you will have a choice of various documents to (1) prove your identity; (2) prove your current name; (3) prove your social security number; and (4) proof of address. You will then take these to your in-person DMV office. The most difficult item for this step was to locate a utility bill with my name on it as I stuck all the utility bills under my husband's name. But there was another choice I used for proving my address.

Go to <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/realid/checklist> for this interactive checklist. It's very easy, and at the end, you can print out your "shopping list" of documents. It is suggested that you make an appointment as it will save you a ton of time. They even send you a computer code that you can take on your phone for checking in. Since my driver's license was expiring in May, I gave myself a pep talk about going into the DMV to get my Real ID. I made my appointment online at: [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) and clicked on appointments. I then followed the prompts to make my appointment for a Real ID.

When I arrived for my appointment, the hardest thing was finding a parking place! But once I did, I entered the DMV office. It was packed. However, because I had an appointment, I was the next in line. A nice woman reviewed my documents (sort of an "ID Theft Kit") and told me to go to another window. That line was a bit long, but not too bad. Apparently, I could have filled out the application online prior to coming in, but didn't. It only took about 5 minutes to fill out the application on line. I was then assigned a number and a window.

(Please see "Real ID" on p.7)



("Real ID" cont'd from pg. 6)

Then I sat around for a bit as they called the numbers and windows. It was now my turn. A friendly DMV lady went through my documents again, I lied about my weight, and she then told me to go get my photo taken, and return afterwards. There was no line at the photo booth so that went quickly. When I returned, I asked to see my photo and hey, it wasn't too bad. She took my old drivers license and punched a hole in it, gave me back all of my stuff, including a temporary ID, and wished me a good day. Total time from: 20 minutes (would have only been 15 minutes had I filled out the online application at home).

However, don't wait until the last minute, especially if your current driver's license is expiring. Appointments will fill up quickly as the deadline of October 2020 approaches.



### The San Fernando Groundwater Basin Aquifer

By Elektra Kruger, Shadow Hills Resident

A clean and reliable supply of local water is critical to the future sustainability of the City of Los Angeles. The primary and largest source of local water in Los Angeles is the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB) Aquifer. However the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has had to cap off about 50% of the one-time active wells which had been extracting water from the SFB due to chemical contamination along with depletion of its natural recharge due to our long-term prolonged drought and expanding urbanization.

The DWP has undertaken a \$573 million remediation project which constitutes the construction of treatment facilities that will pump water from the SFB aquifer and serve to improve the water quality. The first of these facilities, the North Hollywood West Wellhead, broke ground in January 2018. Three more are in the planning stages expected to be completed in 2022. But remediation of contaminated water alone is costly and to simultaneously work to recharge the aquifer to avoid groundwater depletion and assist diluting contamination is also much needed.

Recharge can be achieved via stormwater or recycled wastewater capture, many projects of which are under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) through its wastewater and run-off management systems. In November, voters passed Measure W which provides the City with \$90 million annual funding for stormwater projects. LASAN has developed a 5-year plan including 59 projects within the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed prioritized on the basis of improving water quality, augmenting the water supply and assuring flood control.



*"It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but even more, to stand up to your friends."*

~ J.K. Rowling

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### Time to Check Your Smoke Detector!

By Lynne Toby, SHPOA Board

One thing we've all learned in recent years is that we need to be ready for emergencies. Day or night, big or small, inside or out. No one wants to be a statistic so taking small steps can make a big difference. Working smoke detectors save lives! They can alert you to imminent danger before smoke or flames are visible. Seconds count and smoke detectors can give you time to escape before exits are cut off.

Smoke detectors are required by local building codes. They are recommended/required in every bedroom and outside the bedroom area. They should be installed on every level of a home, even the basement. On levels without bedrooms, they should be placed in the living room, den or family room or near the stairway leading to another level. It's not recommended to install them near exterior doors or windows, A/C or heating ducts or near fireplaces.

Batteries should be replaced at least one a year. The battery may not be dead, but you don't want to discover that during an emergency. Most detectors have an annoying beep when the battery is low. Smoke detectors should be tested once a month. If you can't reach the test button from the floor, use a broomstick or step ladder. Be careful! When replacing a battery, use a Sharpie to write the date on the side facing out so you'll always know how long it's been in the device.

Take the used batteries for games or non-vital uses. Then recycle them. The Sun Valley S.A.F.E. Center on Randall St (between Pendleton and Tuxford off Glenoaks Bl) takes dead batteries. Put them in a bag or container and the friendly staff will take them out of your car. You never leave your vehicle.

While you're at it, don't forget to check your carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers. More on that later.

This article was compiled through online research and the author is not an expert in this field. Please consult professional sources for more information.



*"Forget about the fast lane. If you really want to fly. Just harness your power to your passion."*

*~ Oprah Winfrey*

### Rodriguez Family Home Day Care

**Ruth Rodriguez**

Lic. # 197700147

9986 Stonehurst Avenue Sun Valley, CA 91352

Cell # (818) 293-9171

Home # (818) 394-9696

## Pet-Friendly Affordable Housing?

By Elektra Kruger, Shadow Hills Resident

Statistics compiled by public animal shelters show that one of the most prominent reasons that pet-owners relinquish their pets is their inability to find rental that allow pets. In late April 2018, Councilmember Paul Koretz expressed his feeling that as the City promotes and assists financing new affordable housing, that owning a pet should not create a barrier to low income families who otherwise qualify for residence in these publicly financed rental housing.

Certain Federal and State affordable housing programs already require allowing pets which should encourage the City to similarly require this to apply to all developments utilizing public financing whether through the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCID) or any other City agency.

Councilmember Koretz presented a Motion to City Council asking that it instruct the Housing and Community Investment Department initiate as soon as possible regulations to be applicable to all its affordable housing financed programs including the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Proposition HHH, all State and Federal housing finance programs including tax credits and any others to require developers and building managers of any publicly financed building to permit residents to own pets but additionally that the HCID work with the Department of Animal Services to develop "pet policies" by which building owners, building managers and building residents alike maintain pets in a responsible, safe and harmonious manner.

A Public Comment by a lawyer from the Venice area supported the Motion testifying that the homeless problem will never be solved even among many of those seeking to get on their feet because they have bonded so strongly with their pets that they would never desert them even for a place to live. Others have stated that having a pet is very therapeutic and would serve to help the homeless to recover from their traumatic experiences. Initially the Motion was referred to the City Council's Housing Committee in late April 2018, however was instead transferred to the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee in late June 2018 for their review and recommendations.

Why that transfer I am not sure as this, I would assume to be, a Housing issue. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.



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*("The Birds and the Trees" cont'd from p.1)*

On related note, Councilwoman Rodriguez secured a \$500,000 grant for debris removal and general cleaning up of the mitigation area. Formerly, she had secured a \$1 million grant to remove debris near the Hansen Dam area so we are thrilled that she was able to obtain further funding for the mitigation area as it's a sensitive environmental area in great need.

Most of the funding will be used for hiring wildfire clean-up crews to work 20-40 hours weekly for up to 20 weeks (April-June 2019) at \$13.50 per hour.

If you or someone you know wishes to be considered for hire, please call 213-355-5304 or 213-355-5300.



Melanie Morita from LA County Dept. of Public Works gave a terrific presentation on the post-fire mitigation area.



*("HIGH SPEED" cont'd from p.5)*

**March 4, 2019:** Brian Kelly responded to the FRA citing various excuses for why the federal government should not terminate the agreement, claiming that no material breaches occurred. He also urged the FRA to not "claw back" the already expended grant funds. While he didn't specify what that amount is, public records indicate it is \$2.6 billion. Over a month has passed and as of this writing, no further updates have been released by either party.

**March 7, 2019:** Rep. Kevin McCarthy introduced federal legislation (Federal Railroad Act) that, if approved, would repurpose the entire FRA \$3.5 billion for California water storage infrastructure projects.

**March 12, 2019:** Kern County Board of Supervisors approved 4-1 a resolution that calls for total abandonment of the project even though it would result in repayment/forfeiture of the \$3.5 in federal funding. They consider it just a "bad investment."

**March 20, 2019:** 18 California Congress members signed a joint letter to Elaine Chao, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, opposing FRA's attempt to cancel the nearly \$1 billion in funding.



**("KEEP THE PROMISE" cont'd from p.3)**

Also, for the first time in 25 years, the State has hired consultants to take a hard look at how much they should pay to support these services. The results of their proposal could make matters even worse if the Governor and Legislature adopt it without first vetting the rates with service providers. There are faulty assumptions like failing to account for rising minimum wage rates for staff or local inflation.

To date, Tierra pays Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) slightly above minimum wage, while still offering a good benefits package. But, this is not enough. We, along with many other providers throughout the State, are experiencing a 40% turnover rate. Many of our staff are forced to work second and third jobs or simply leave to find higher paying jobs in other industries. These constant changes hurt our services drastically, and the people we serve are impacted deeply. It is simply not right! If you agree that something must be done, the time to act is now.

Tierra has teamed with Regional Centers and other providers to contact state Legislators and the Governor between now and June. A letter, phone call or personal visit from YOU will carry weight and send a clear, united message – Disability rights ARE civil rights!

On Tierra's web site, [www.tierradelsol.org](http://www.tierradelsol.org), there are sample letters you can cut and paste and a link to find your elected representatives and contact info. Tierra is dedicated to keeping everyone in the community informed and empowered. Together, we will make a difference on the legislative front so we can continue empowering men and women with developmental disabilities to live a life of meaning and purpose.



**("HIGH SPEED" cont'd from pg. 10)**

**March 26, 2019:** The non-partisan California Legislative Analysts Office released an update restating that the total project funding gap remains between \$55-58 billion and that the legislature needs to evaluate whether or not the project should move forward or to modify the scope of the project.

**March 27, 2019:** California issues an additional \$600 million in Prop 1A bonds, bringing the total amount of issued bonds to \$3.2 billion (of the \$9.95 billion authorized).

**March 28, 2019:** William E. Eick of Shadow Hills wrote a letter to the FRA in support of their plans to de-obligate the nearly \$1 billion in grant funding, citing additional instances of CHSRA material breaches that were unknown by the FRA.

Every person I spoke to who are knowledgeable about the project is convinced that if the FRA is successful in recalling their funds, the project will die.



*"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."*

*~Frank A. Clark*

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— Jose Lopez

**Jose Lopez formerly manager of Villa Terraza  
is now part owner of The Ramp in Burbank.**

**The kitchen is open Mon-Sat 11am to 10pm.  
Bar open until 1am.  
Sunday open from 11am to 9pm. Bar open until 12am.**

## CONGESTION/TRAFFIC TAX—REALLY??

By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

As if sitting in gridlock isn't painful enough, the MTA is now pushing around a strong possibility of charging drivers to sit in those cars. That of course is not the goal, the goal is to reduce congestion/traffic by imposing fees and making it much more expensive to drive, especially at peak hours. Whether or not drivers will opt for public transportation or to just pay more is anyone's guess. Since taxes must be approved by the voters, chances are it will be classified as a "fee" but these terms will be used interchangeably in this article.

There isn't much information right now but MTA will study the feasibility of such a program for up to 2 years and a pilot program could start as early as 2020.

A congestion tax/fee whatever you want to call it went into effect in London in 2003. Motorists who want to bring their vehicles into central London between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. pay roughly \$15. Stockholm and Singapore also imposed similar congestion taxes. Now they are being contemplated in many American cities, including New York and Chicago. While the London fee is considered a success in reducing traffic and air pollution, the huge difference between Los Angeles and London is that Los Angeles is a sprawling metropolitan area and does not have an adequate level of public transportation available for drivers to utilize as a substitute. New York and Chicago also have the benefit of having decent public transportation and a much smaller footprint than Los Angeles.

New York City's (Manhattan) fees will commence in 2021 and although the actual prices have not been set, they will probably range between \$12 - \$14 for cars and \$25 for trucks during peak times. The revenue generated from those fees will be used to fix NY's subway system.

For Los Angeles, there are three scenarios which could be used independently or in conjunction with each other for consideration: (1) a per mile tax; (2) a fee to enter certain congested areas (i.e., downtown Los Angeles, Westside, etc.); and (3) expansion of toll lanes along certain corridors with the cost depending upon the time of day. A surcharge could also be imposed on ride-sharing services such as Uber or Lyft

Originally, the funds would be used for transportation projects for the upcoming 2028 Olympics although that is not the goal now. The goal is to reduce traffic and it's not clear as to where the revenue will be directed.

Proponents say it will reduce traffic congestion and will reduce development costs, as parking lots used during peak hours would not have to be as large. It could encourage employers to offer staggered work/commute hours or work-from-home opportunities. Opponents say it's regressive tax and will hurt low to moderate income workers, could reroute drivers off of freeways and onto neighboring streets, and for those who cannot access public transportation (including not having a station or stop within a reasonable proximity to their home or office), will simply pay more to commute or to sit in traffic.

Any tax or fee reduces discretionary spending that can be used to purchase other goods and services and can hurt the overall economy. The government tends to forget this simple rule of economics.



## Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Annual Rummage Sale

10158 Johanna Ave, Sunland, CA 91040

Saturday, June 15, 2019 - 8am - 3pm

There will be lots of good stuff for sale. We will have costume jewelry, clothes, dolls, various household items to 'perhaps' collectables, and many other items that we do not know about yet. Many families and friends donate items to this fundraiser. Hope to see you there!!!! Questions?? Please leave a message at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church - 818.353.2500



### Stop Signs and Horse Ladies

By Royan Herman, Shadow Hills Resident

A cap left off the toothpaste tube is but a minor irritant. That cap apart from the tube repeatedly can become a Vesuvius at home. Two Shadow Hills, irritants do stir a pot of neighbor antipathy. They follow as I see them. What do you see?

1. There are complaints that many fail to obey local stop signs. Before The Department of Transportation opted, without consulting residents, to erect signs throughout the community there were very few traffic accidents on local streets. Today there are very few accidents on local streets and it's hard to justify stopping at a T-intersection where the street is a cul-de-sac with 3 houses, or on Stonehurst at the Edison lines, where the T Street has about 200 feet of visibility. Such unnecessary interference with driving is an escalating source of irritation at can only result in deteriorating road manners that can follow a driver all the way home.

2. To young women on Shadow Hills roads on horseback, smile! Wave or say thank you when drivers are considerate. Do not proceed like horse and rider are the sole occupants of the road. Drivers begin to believe the horses are rocks of stability and the riders require no driver courtesy. How many times should a driver slow and stay quiet while riders occupy most of the street, before someone decides to blow a horn, proving those rocks are not so stable, after all.

Bottom line - even in our generational and politically bifurcated nation today, good manners and reasonable policy often beget good manners and sometimes even good policy.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**We are restoring this section of our newsletter so that our Shadow Hills readers may comment on articles. Please send your comments to: board@shpoa.us. Please include your name and phone number (will not be published), and the article to which you are commenting on; anonymous submissions will not be considered. Letters may be edited, usually for grammar, spelling, clarity, length, and libel. Maximum word count is 150. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.**



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## TEN REASONS WHY THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT SHOULD BE SCRAPPED IMMEDIATELY

**By Bill Eick, SHPOA Past President**

The following summarize why the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) should cancel \$938 million in further grant funding to the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA):

- The reports commissioned by CHSRA from the Mineta Transportation Institute are tainted by conflict of interest.
- The Draft 2017 Geotechnical Report provides a multitude of facts as to why tunneling through the Angeles National Forest was technically infeasible. It was so devastating that it was not posted on the CHSRA website. A Public Records Request was required to obtain the report in 2018.
- CHSRA paid for a study of tunnels. The study, by the Mineta Transportation Institute, was a waste of money because it was completed before the 2017 geotechnical study was completed (or even begun). A geotechnical report is required prior to any tunneling report.
- CHSRA admits that it wasted money because it started construction too early so that it could access other federal grant money. The withholding of funds by the FRA at this time is with interest, about equal to the amount of money CHSRA has admitted wasting.
- The original cost estimate was \$33 billion but has ballooned to at least \$77 billion. There is no source of money on the horizon to complete the train. There is no need to throw good money after bad.
- Because of its failure to be transparent, its hiring of a highly conflicted Mineta Transportation Institute, and its failure to put the 2017 geotechnical report on the website, CHSRA cannot be trusted to create, monitor, and supervise the preparation of environmental documentation (EIR/EIS).
- CHSRA has spent over \$22 million on attorneys fees to lobby or interact with the FRA. That money would have been better spent on actually building the train.
- CHSRA has wasted both time and money as detailed in the California State Audit. They have wasted more than the FRA is withholding.
- CHSRA originally stated that the train needed \$9 billion in private enterprise support to complete the project. To date, NO private support has been forthcoming despite requests. This "project" will never be completed.
- CHSRA funding could better be used on other projects such as water, education, or local transit infrastructure projects.



*"You are more powerful that you know; you are beautiful just as you are."*

*~ Melissa Etheridge*

**PLASTIC UTENSILS UPON REQUEST ONLY?****By Elektra Kruger, SHPOA Board**

I am sure that many of you have been aware of the long-term fight amongst our City representatives and many stakeholder individuals, organizations and businesses regarding prohibiting eating establishments providing disposable plastic drinking straws except on the express request of the customers. Effective April 22, 2019, a Food or Beverage serving facility will be prohibited from providing self-serve disposable plastic drinking straws and employees of either dine-in or take-out food establishments may no longer provide or even offer disposable plastic drinking straws except upon a customer's specific request. They may ask a drive-through customer whether they want a disposable plastic drinking straw, but may no longer provide one except upon that specific request. This all began because disposable straws are generally randomly discarded in our communities subsequently entering storm drains, passing on into waterbodies and eventually finding their way into the ocean where they are a danger to marine life.

To date, technology that strains plastics from our municipal trash for recycling does not pick up straws due to their small size. Many Cities are, as well, extending that Ordinance to include plastic utensils for much the same reasons. In early August 2018, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield presented a Motion to City Council to extend the Straws on Request Ordinance to include plastic utensils as well. That Motion was referred to the City Council's Environmental Justice Committee for their review and recommendation. At a Committee meeting held in mid-October 2018, a representative of the California Restaurant Association stated that they actively support recycling and litter abatement which they must enforce anyway and must train employees to abide by. However, not having to retrain employees not to even offer use of a disposable plastic straw but await a specific request on the part of the customer would be more palatable for the employee and would be less frustrating and upsetting to the customer.

A City stakeholder testified that the family carries a set of utensils with them all the time along with a set of metal straws so they would never need to request a set of disposable plastic utensils or straws. This she does because she has two children one of which is actively involved with a beach clean-up group in San Diego. The kids ask "how can there be so much trash – why is there so much plastic?" There doesn't need to be so much plastic littering our beaches and for the Restaurant Association to have a discussion about the burden it would be to have to retrain employees not to give out straws sans a specific request on the part of the customer, what kind of message are we sending out to people in our community and to future generations.

You don't need a straw to survive, you don't need plastic utensils to survive. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.

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Weekends: Fri 6pm-Mon 8am

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**"Town Hall with Sen. Portantino & Sup. Barger" May 4 - SEE PG. 1**

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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: Council Member  
Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 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](http://www.ftdnc.org)

#### ETI C20

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