

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 37, Issue 6

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



High Speed Rail: A Real Threat and Not What You Voted For!

By Dave DePinto



Your board has been spending long hours dealing with the high speed rail issue since mid-summer, when we first learned that Supervisor Antonovich had suggested tunneling a route from Palmdale to Burbank, and the High Speed Rail Authority conceived the infamous "Angeles Forest Alternative/Yellow Banana" which could come right over, under or through Shadow Hills and our neighboring communities. Residents from Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sunland/Tujunga and Lake View Terrace have formed a coalition named Save Angeles Forest for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) and you will hear more about S.A.F.E. in upcoming weeks.

One of the most disturbing things I've heard in the past few months was feedback that some residents don't think the threat is real and that it will go away. You should know

#### SOME HOT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE...

High-Speed Rail!—READ!—Update Here, then p.4 NHOER & Johny Carpenter Events!—Page 10 SHPOA's Public Safety Scorecard—Keep your own score—See page 9! that among the alternatives being discussed is tunneling 25+ miles underground from Palmdale to the Big Tujunga Wash and Flood Plain, then coming out of the ground to go over the flood plain and the 210 Freeway on an elevated bridge (imagine the noise and panoramic view of that on a 24/7 basis), and then re-entering the earth on the Shadow Hills side of the Freeway and tunneling all the way to Burbank Airport. And there could be more than one tunnel based on final designs. That's how outrageous and out of control this process is!

(See High Speed Rail, cont'd inside on p.4)

SHPOA Community Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.
Tierra del Sol—9919 Sunland Blvd.

#### ON THE AGENDA:

- · High Speed Rail Update
- Public Safety Scorecard
- Holiday Cheer
- Board of Director Elections
  REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

#### **2014 SHPOA Board Members**

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

West Shadow Hills/ Terry Kaiser

Stonehurst: hdconcerns@ca.rr.com

Robert (Bob) Bell

East Shadow Hills/East LVT: Dale Gibson 968-8670 Mike Carpenter 470-5235

lamikec@yahoo.com

#### Spotting Wildlife is a Good Thing

By Julie Tarnawski

Most of us live here BECAUSE of the wildlife and wide open (kinda & becoming less and less) spaces!

If we are having water shortages, so are the animals and they will roam more openly to find it. Lucky for our wideeyed residents that we no longer have bears consistently roaming through Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon like we used to 35 years ago!

If you don't see mice and rats in your yard or on your street, thank the wild critters. Keep your cats and dogs and small kids in the house from 4-4:30PM on, unless they are on a leash and protected by humans with a flashlight of some kind. Otherwise, they will "disappear" as is nature's way.

Another problem is that due to our wonderful paved streets, we don't see many horses being ridden in late afternoon and early evenings (all should be wearing reflectors and/or reflective tape vests, tail, and leg covers from 4:00PM on) due to the fact that the asphalt is so slippery and there was no room left for a DG horse path. Horses have always been a deterrent for wildlife showing their faces in late afternoon and early evening. So, encourage the riders and their horses by having a bridle path in front of or in the back of your property.

Unfortunately, we also don't see skunk, possum, or raccoons much anymore. And the coyote population is diminishing. These are really not good things and this really makes a statement about our area's "human" overpopulation, in my opinion.

How can you help? Bring in all of your animal food and water dishes/plates in the afternoon or just feed them all in the kitchen area. Any smell of food and water as well as that of small household pets will attract wildlife. And, for heaven's sake, don't put out poison or shoot them as birds of prey, like our wonderful redtail hawks, will eat the carrion or ingest a stray bullet, and there goes a full generation of hawks! How easily we forget that they were here first and that we are co-existing in their territory. But, we can "all get along".

I consider spotting wildlife a GOOD THING!

#### **SHPOA Board Elections**

By Dave DePinto

Each October and November, per its bylaws, SHPOA opens up the nominating process for new members of its volunteer Board of Directors. And each year, we find a couple of brave souls who emerge from obscurity to join the ranks of our volunteer leader group in order to serve EVERYONE in our community. As we again start that process, I'd suggest anyone reading this article give a round of applause to those folks who have gone beyond the call of duty to help this community...so thank you **Board of Directors!** 

SHPOA's next meeting will be at Tierra del Sol on Tuesday, November 18 (a week later due to the Veterans' Day holiday on November 11). Due to the amount of time the Board has spent on high speed rail in recent months, the Board is approaching burnout, so we will keep the agenda for the November meeting light and informative Page 3 SHPOA September-October 2011

and allow the elections and a holiday celebration to take place.

Here are the elected and nominate positions available for anyone to seek this year. Note, that anyone can sign up to be on a Committee without "chairing" the Committee. For example, this year, Anton Bosch did a spectacular job leading the Volunteer Committee, which has had more than 20 participants.

#### **Elected by Members**

- President
- Vice President
- Executive Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Director

#### Appointed by the Board (once someone is nominated)

- Land-Use Chair
- Equestrian and Trails Chair
- Neighborhood Watch Chair
- Outreach Chair (e.g. Daily Fodder)
- Newsletter Director
- Volunteer Director
- Special Projects Director
- Historian

If you have any interest in heading up or assisting on a Committee, please contact Terri Ortiz at shpoa@shpoa. us or Dave DePinto at 7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com or 818-352-7618).

#### Membership for 2015

By Eric Stein

As we go to press, memberships for 2014 have reached 600 members! This is an all-time high for SHPOA and we thank everyone in the community who has supported the all-volunteer efforts of the organization. We are transitioning now such that any new memberships that are paid between now and into next year will count toward 2015. You will receive your membership renewal form enclosed in our January 2015 newsletter.

Thanks again. 🔌



#### Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

## SHIOA Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's time to join SHPOA for the 2014 calendar year!

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

Membership = \$25

Newsletter only = \$10

Donations are always gratefully received.

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_	Email:					
Ī	Check one:		New	□ Ren	ewal	☐ Newsletter Only
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#### Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

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#### Preserve Country Lifestyle

Name

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

## Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

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

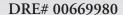
#### Promote Shadow Hills

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

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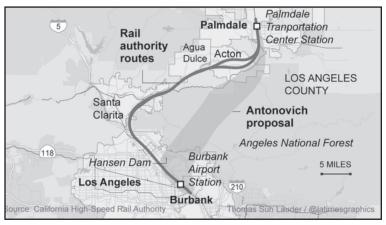
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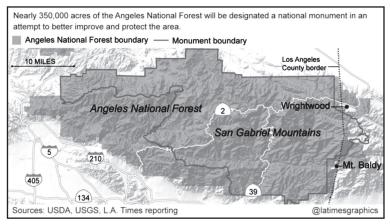
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#### (High-Speed Rail, cont'd from p.1)



The infamous, 400-square-mile high speed rail study area or "yellow banana" (shaded swath noted as "Antonovich proposal") is located within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and Angeles National Forest.



High Speed Rail Authority is studying tunneling through both the National Monument and the National Forest.

Folks, YOUR property values and YOUR community are ALREADY being impacted by this proposal. Rather than your SHPOA Board holding volunteer clean up events, volunteer trail projects and so forth, we are using all of our spare time to learn more about the High Speed Rail proposal, to meet with our electeds, and to organize opposition to this imposing and destructive menace. Rather than your elected officials solving today's problems, some are laying the groundwork for massive future problems as High Speed Rail advances.

SHPOA's position is that the "yellow banana" alternative must be killed now, and that other alignments such as those along the 14/5 Freeway and San Fernando Road need serious revision and improvement. We are advocating that High Speed Rail must go back to work and figure out much better ways of entering densely populated areas such as the San Fernando Valley or abandon the idea of a station in Burbank altogether!

If we don't get the High Speed Rail Authority to abandon the Angeles National Forest/Yellow Banana alternative NOW, we will all suffer through an uncertain 2-4 year Environmental Impact Report process in which we will often need to write letters, attend hearings, meet with electeds, hold special community meetings and more. And then, should that "Yellow Banana" alternative be deemed the best of the options, we'd be subject to years

#### Page 5 SHPOA September-October 2011

of construction and an infinity of having High Speed Rail in the midst of our community. Your property values and our rural, country lifestyle will NEVER recover.

Back in 2008, High Speed Rail was approved by voters. Many of you may have voted for it and many of you may still think it's a great idea. What you don't know is how far the project has strayed from its enabling legislation. how far over-budget it is, how political it is, and how we believe the High Speed Rail Authority is breaking the law by "throwing Shadow Hills under the train."

What follows is a list of questions we've been trying unsuccessfully to have answered by the High Speed Rail Authority and our local elected officials. The only way we will get their response and interest is if we are united. organized and vocal. Stay tuned to Daily Fodder and this newsletter for future updates.

#### Questions for the High Speed Rail Authority and Local Elected Officials

#### 14/5/Existing Transportation and Utility Corridor Alignments

- a. How many years have the 14/5/existing transportation and utility corridor alternatives been
- b. How much taxpayer money has been spent studying the 14/5/existing transportation and utility corridor alternatives?
- c. Has an elevated station, along with massive economic development funding, been proposed to the City of San Fernando and the City of LA?
- d. Where along San Fernando Road will the line be at grade, tunneled and elevated?

#### **Transportation and Utility Corridor**

- a. Why does the legislation require high speed rail to be built in existing transportation and utility corridors?
- b. What advantages does an existing transportation and utility corridor provide for high speed rail?
- Does the legislation allow HSR to study and/ or build in a non-existing transportation and utility corridor?
- d. Are there any circumstances under which HSR may study and/or build in a non-existing transportation and utility corridor?
- e. What would HSR have to do to be able to study and/or build in a non-existing transportation and

(See High-Speed Rail, cont'd on pp.6-7)

## How To Register Your Horse

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- Register online: www.laanimalservices.com/Laws Policies/ Dog License.htm
- Visit in person: East Valley Animal Control located at 14409 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys CA 91405
- For more information call: 888-4LAPET1 or 888-452-7381.

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utility corridor?

- f. Will HSR attempt to include a rail line in a nonexisting transportation corridor in the EIR?
- g. Will HSR attempt to build in a non-existing transportation and utility corridor?

#### 3. Tunneling

- a. How many tunnels are being studied for construction as part of the Angeles Forest/Yellow Banana alternative? What is their diameter?
- b. How much dirt would need to be removed as part of the tunneling process?
- c. Where within the Angeles Forest Alternative/ Yellow Banana would dirt excavated by tunneling be loaded onto trucks for removal and how many truckloads/truck trips and to what locations would that entail?
- d. On what basis, and with that supporting facts, do HSR officials and local elected officials state that tunneling along the Angeles National/Yellow Banana alternative would be less costly than the well-studied 14/5 alignments?

#### 4. National Monument

- a. Does the National Monument designation preclude HSR from studying tunneling within the National Monument?
- b. Does the National Monument designation preclude HSR from constructing and operating a high speed train/rail line within the National Monument?
- c. Are there any circumstances under which HSR will attempt to study and/or construct and operate HSR within the National Monument?

#### 5. National Forest

- a. Does the existence of the Angeles National Forest preclude HSR from studying tunneling within the National Forest?
- b. Does the existence of the Angeles National Forest preclude HSR from constructing and operating a high speed/rail line within the National Forest?
- c. Are there any circumstances under which HSR will attempt to study and/or construct and operate HSR within the National Forest?

#### 6. Flood Plain

- a. Will HSR study tunneling under the Big Tujunga Flood Plain and 210 Freeway?
- b. Will HSR study building elevated rail lines over the Big Tujunga Flood Plain and 210 Freeway?

#### 7. Angeles National Forest/Yellow Banana Special Study Area

- a. What information do you possess and what scenarios are you studying relative to studying and/or constructing and building HSR in the "yellow banana"
- b. Is HSR researching tunneling from Palmdale to the edge of the Big Tujunga Flood Plain, then going above ground over the flood plain and the 210

Freeway and then back underground? Where are the locations where the tunnel would exit the San Gabriel Mountains and where would tunneling resume to Burbank Airport?

- c. When will HSR provide this information to community leaders? To elected officials? To the general public?
- d. How much will HSR spend at this scoping phase to research the Angeles National Forest/Yellow Banana alternative? How much would it cost to study the alternative within the EIR given the other alignments have received many years of study to date?
- e. Does HSR intend to compare less than one year of research of the Angeles National Forest/ Yellow Banana Alternative with 5+ years of research conducted on the 14/5/Existing Transportation and Utility Corridor alternatives? How can the comparison be accurate? How could it be feasible to compare "apples and apples" given how little information there is about the Angeles National Forest/Yellow Banana alternative?

#### 8. Other Alternatives

- a. City of San Fernando Station
  - i. What rail line and station alternatives has HSR studied for the City of San Fernando?
  - ii. What alternatives has HSR made public to the City of San Fernando and neighboring communities?
  - iii. Has an elevated station, along with massive economic development funding, been proposed to the City of San Fernando and the City of LA?
- b. Lopez Canyon
  - i. What alternative routes has HSR studied in the vicinity of Lopez Canyon landfill?
  - ii. What information about those routes has been made public?

## 9. Burbank Station via Angeles National Forest Alternative

- a. Will HSR tunnel under the I-5 freeway in Burbank?
- b. How will HSR cross the I-5 freeway in Burbank?
- c. Will HSR tunnel under the Burbank Western Channel?
- d. How will HSR cross the Burbank Western Channel?
- e. Will the HSR station in Burbank be above ground, below ground or at grade?
- f. Has HSR received approvals from Homeland Security, Federal Aviation Administration, CalTrans and Army Corps of Engineers for tunneling activities affecting the Burbank Western Channel, Interstate 5 and Burbank Airport?
- g. What freeway, school closures and other major public disruptions would each of the HSR alignments cause to the City of Burbank and the I-5, Metrolink and Burbank Airport which so many people rely on





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(High-Speed Rail, cont'd from p.7)

presently for daily transportation?

#### 10. Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

- a. How many alternatives will the EIR evaluate?
- b. When will HSR begin the EIR?
- c. How long will the EIR process take and what is the expected date of completion?
- d. How much does HSR expect the EIR to cost?

To conclude, the opinions of our elected and appointed officials are very important on this issue. So far, our government officials have not been very outspoken or clear on the issue of High Speed Rail and issues such as the legality of studying/constructing and operating in other than an existing transportation and utility corridor. and/or studying/constructing operating high speed rail in a National Monument/National Forest. We are meeting and talking with these elected and appointed officials on this matter and may be asking you to contact them as well.

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Thomas Tidwell
- U.S.D.A. Forest Service Supervisor, Thomas Contreras
- Congressman Adam Schiff
- Congressman Tony Cardenas
- Congresswoman Judy Chu
- Congressman Buck McKeon
- Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra
- Senator Alex Padilla
- Supervisor Mike Antonovich
- Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
- Candidates Bobby Shriver and Sheila Kuehl
- Councilman Felipe Fuentes
- Councilwoman Nury Martinez
- Mayor Eric Garcetti

Stay tuned for additional information from SHPOA and S.A.F.E. 🖎

#### **Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church** Annual Treasures Sale, Nov. 15, 2014

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church located at 10158 Johanna Ave., Sunland, CA 91040, will host their Annual Treasure Sale, Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, from 8am - 3pm. There will be collectibles, vintage and gently used "good stuff". Back by popular demand, their separate Christmas Boutique will feature homemade gifts and crafts lovingly prepared by the elves of the church. The crafts and gifts make excellent teacher, neighbor and hostess gifts. Get started on your holiday gift list! Show up early (Early Bird Special 7:30am - 8am for \$5) and be the first to buy all these great items. Refreshments including Andy's Famous Hot Dogs will be served. For more information please call the church at: 818-353-2500.

#### **Public Safety Scorecard**

By Sue Mansis

Remember those 'progress charts' in grade school that motivated us to achieve higher because we coveted that shiny star? SHOPA has recently adopted that same strategy, partnering with LAPD in order to strive for those "gold stars" on issues affecting our community. At our September General Meeting, we determined that a few categories have seen some progress, while others continue to stubbornly stay the same.

We feel that this charting process helps LAPD to adopt our areas of community concern and determine where more resources might be needed. Certainly a grave concern for Shadow Hills' residents is speeding. As a result of our outcry the past several years, LAPD dispatches Valley Traffic radar officers almost daily to monitor Sunland Blvd and issue citations for speeding and unsafe driving. Sometimes officers are dispatched to Wentworth Street and occasionally, an officer or two will catch speeders on Stonehurst or Wheatland.

Late night drag racing on Wentworth and dirt bikes on our trails has become a focus lately too; and we can credit reflector straps and blinking light street crossings to safer street night riding for our equestrians. We are pleased to give a gold star of progress in the categories of personal crimes and mail box thefts, as our residents stay vigilant and proactive; recording license plates, calling reports in to LAPD non-emergency; locking car doors, hiding valuables, becoming more aware of their surroundings and suspicious activity.

LAPD is only one facet for keeping score on public safety. Slowly we are learning that although Shadow Hills is still a relatively quiet community, we must be diligent to strive for the gold stars of progress as well! Each general meeting, SHPOA goes over the scorecard below to gauge your feelings about how LAPD and we are doing in the all-important public safety arena. This is a dynamic process and your input is welcome. Please let us know of situations that are both positive and negative so we can stay on top of key issues.

#### Thank you.

SHIR Shadow Hills Property Ow Dedicated to Preserving Ru	SHADOW HILLS PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2014			
ISSUE	NO PROGRESS	SOME PROGRESS	LOT OF PROGRESS	FIXED
Drag Racing on		Х		
Wentworth				
Wentworth Skid		X		
Marks, Donuts,				
Street Graffiti				
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Fireworks		Х		
Exclusive Senior				Х
Lead Officer				
Speeding on		Х		
Sunland Blvd.				
Speeding on		Х		
Surface Streets				
Personal Crimes			х	
(e.g. burglary,				
thefts from cars)				
Mail Box Theft			X	
Recycling Bin	Х			
Scavenging				
Dirt Bikes on	Х			
Streets, Trails				
Drug Dealing		Х		
Night Riding Safety			X	
Wentworth EQ		Х		
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#### NHOER AND JOHNY CARPENTER EVENT **UPDATES**

By Mike Carpenter

The New "Heaven on Earth" Ranch (NHOER) held its 3rd Annual Summer BBQ "Keep the Legacy of Johny Carpenter Alive" on Saturday September 10th, 2014. Bill & Gloria McCurdy hosted at their "ranch spread" in Lake View Terrace. Despite the record heat, 128 attended. Over a dozen groups and elected offices were represented. We also had musical entertainment from the Reel Cowboys. Evans & Rodgers and Nikki Pelley, and the famous BBQ cooked up by Phil Tabbi Senior and Junior. The program ponies were giving all the children rides.

We have had over 40 sponsors, including those who donated great items for the silent auction, these past three BBQ's. This includes Councilman Felipe Fuentes, Congressman Adam Schiff, Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra, Cary Iaccino, Gaspar Insurance, Vulcan Industries, Mission Valley Bank. Courtship Ranch, Gibson Ranch, Valley Village, McCurdy Body Works, Kagel Canyon Civic Association, Sunland Tujunga Rotary Club, Sunland Tujunga Lions, David DePinto, "Special Spirit", SF Rangers & Sidekicks, ETI Corral 20, Teri Williams, East Valley, Back Door Bakery, Mi Casita's, Joselito's, Ranch Side Café, Bob's Big Boy, Acapulco, Jeevan Gihatenekar DDS, Tim & Donna Lauber, Rise n' Shine Café, Foothill Saddlery, Valencia Saddlery, Broken Horn, Wild Cowgirl, Roberta Cole, Katherine Carpenter, Robert Taylor, Kitty Brown, Rebecca Rinot, Classy Jewelry, Gator Corp., Los Angeles Equestrian Center, Halper Fine Arts, etc. The list goes on.

We also, for the first time, had the community choose the 2014 "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Honoree's. A list of 12 finalists was voted on by the BBQ attendees. The two receiving the most votes were Phil Tabbi Sr. and Katherine Carpenter. They will be recognized for their selfless efforts at the upcoming "Spirit" Awards.

The 12th Annual "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards (Which has become a Foothills tradition) and the 2nd Annual Community Food Drive, to benefit "Winds of Hope," will be held together on Saturday November 22nd, 2014, 10025 ½ Foothill Blvd. Lake View Terrace, 91342, at the McCurdy's Ranch. Admission is free. The food drive will have a drop off station (For non perishables) on Esko Ave just off Foothill Blvd. beginning at 10 a.m. The riding program ponies will be giving free rides and the "Spirit" Awards presentation ceremony takes place that afternoon. We are bringing back Johny Carpenter's original tradition of having something the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Go to our website and facebook page for more details.

If you would like to support NHOER, the "Randy Horton" riding program, the 12th Annual "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards on Saturday November 22nd and the 2nd Annual Community Food Drive, please call 818 470-5235, email: lamikec@yahoo.com. Visit us on our website: www. NHOER.org or go to Facebook New Heaven on Earth Ranch and like us.

NHOER is a CA based 501 c (3) public charity located in Lake View Terrace. CA. All donations are tax deductible. ID# 27-2613489. 9845 Foothill Place, Lake View Terrace, CA 91342. 818 470-5235. www.NHOER.org. Like us on Facebook under New Heaven on Earth Ranch.

#### "Day of the Horse"-October 22, 2014



The theme for the 2014 Day of the Horse was "Youth Riders of the Future." There were 17 youth equestrian groups, with over 100 attendees for the event, who filled one whole side of seating in the LA City Council Chambers. The focus was to demonstrate what a diverse group of youth riders we have, of every ethnic background and ability. Councilman Tom LaBonge presented ETI Corral 20 along with numerous other equestrian organizations proclamations for Day of the Horse. SHPOA member, Nikki Ahten and her daughters Natalie, Alia, and Annie represented Corral 20 and accepted the certificate of appreciation.

For further photos of this event, please visit the EAC website at: http://www.laeac.us

#### Update on Former Ralphs and New Dollar Tree Store

By Dave DePinto

Many remember well over a year ago that we learned we were losing our Ralphs grocery shopping option at the corner of Glenoaks and Sunland. We had a big community meeting and have had ongoing communication with the new property owner to inform him of the needs and interests of our residents. Things have not gone as well as many of us desired. There is no new grocery store (plus Ralphs still has not remodeled their store up on Foothill) and there is no Trader Joes, which was universally desired.

At the same time, we know the owner tried his best to locate stores that made sense for the larger community, and he's transformed the location into an aesthetically appealing site with new design and landscaping. Unfortunately, we don't sit in the board rooms of the various retail tenants out there, many of whom found the industrial Sun Valley location and the corner tire store to be undesirable for them to make major investments.

As a result, the property was empty for many months and is still not fully leased. A new Dollar Tree store opened in mid-October, along with the existing Bud's Donuts and Quiznos. We've heard from the owner that a new Papa John's tenant will open shortly and there are several additional tenant/lease contracts that may be concluded before the end of the year.

I visited the Dollar Tree store recently and did not have the greatest experience. I found the merchandise very limited (more plastic and novelty items than I could use in a lifetime), very limited food choices and long lines at the cashier (with two cashier locations closed). I would have to say, however, that the \$7.51 I spent on candy and a gift card were inexpensively priced. So, we'll have to see what other tenants come into the location before closing the books. Hopefully, we'll see more value and choice, as well as low pricing, in future tenants.



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#### WHAT'S HAPPENING...(OR ABOUT TO)

#### **New Support Group Meetings**

By Judy Dye

Every Monday evening, Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church will be the site of a new support group meeting for people whose lives, families and friends are being affected by someone with alcohol problems. This is different from Alcoholics Anonymous.

The meetings are held each Monday evening from 7-8:15 p.m. at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church.

(Also posted on Community Calendar, p. 16.)

#### Ho-Ho Christmas Ride, Saturday, December 6th Sponsored by Corral 20

This annual holiday caroling event, sponsored by Corral 20, will take place on Saturday, December 6th, 10:30 a.m. at Stonehurst Park, 9901 Dronfield, Shadow Hills Park on Wicks near corral.

Dress for the festive season and decorate your horse! **\$10 TOY DONATION per adult.** 

We will carol through Shadow Hills, having a jolly good time, ending with light refreshments at the park. There will be a hay wagon for all the non-riders!

#### LOTS OF MUSIC!

RSVP by November 28th please, or for ride info call Becky at 352-3634 or Linda at 352-3693.

#### 222222

## Discovery Center Los Angeles (Former Children's Museum) To Open:

by Vanessa May

I won't bore you with the somewhat sordid and drawn out saga that has brought us to this promising point. If you don't mind, I'll just focus on the impending momentous occasion and the fortuitous future opportunities on the way coinciding with the Discovery Science Center - Los Angeles' scheduled opening on November 13, 2014.

The Discovery Science Center - LA will have exhibits like the Discovery Market, a 70-seat Discovery 4D Theater, the "Race to Zero Waste" game, a Planetary Research Station and an Eco-Inspector Training Course.

Taken as a whole the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Osborne St., notorious as the location where Rodney King was beaten, has been transformed into a hub of family friendly activity. In addition to the public library, with its very nice children's section, the all access Children's Playground, the Aquatic Center and Skate Park, Discovery Center Los Angeles will enrich this area by adding another family-oriented educational and recreational asset to the northeast San Fernando Valley.

Hopefully, the family fun will extend to the very walkable corridor along Foothill Blvd. to Pierce St. The long neglected Lake View Terrace Shopping Center may be granted a new lease on life as a place families can visit for a nice sit down meal, a cup of coffee or tea, and/or maybe a swirl of frozen yogurt. (cont'd next col. →)

#### Page 13 SHPOA September-October 2011

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council and the Lake View Terrace Improvement Association have been working with law enforcement, local government and social service organizations to revitalize the corridor so as to provide a complementary and mutually supportive environment.

Moreover, the civic organizations are nominating the corridor for inclusion in Mayor Eric Garrcetti's Great Streets Initiative. The Great Streets Initiative focuses on improvements to defined corridors throughout Los Angeles

From a tortured past to a transformative future, the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Osborne St. and the corridor to Pierce St. is becoming the place for family friendly fun.



#### **Volunteer Committee Update**

By Anton Bosch

Things have been a bit quiet on the volunteer front of late because of the heat of summer. And then just when summer was coming to an end and we thought it would be good to get back to work again, the High Speed Train hit us, with many volunteers very involved in getting informed and active in opposing the rail line that could hit Shadow Hills and surrounding communities. We felt that we would rather have everyone focus on writing letters, attending meetings and doing all of the many things that need doing to stop the train. This fight is not going to just go away and we need to be committed to it for the long haul and so we don't want to over-extend the few volunteers we have. So if you feel you want to volunteer and have been under-utilized please let Dave De Pinto know you are available to help with the train.

But we do also want to tackle a couple of practical projects before the holidays arrive and all free time is consumed by family and celebrations. So if you have a worthy project in mind, please let me know so we can get moving again (email me at anton@ifcb.net). There are many areas that need cleaning but we don't want to just become a cleanup crew so if you have a good idea of a different kind of project, please drop me a line.

In the meantime the tree watering project between McBroom and Wentworth has been continuing right through the summer. Under the dedicated direction of James and Andrea Gutman a number of volunteers have watered the trees at least once a month. This has been a very satisfying project because of how well the trees have responded to the TLC. The ones that have survived are looking sprightly and healthy and should be well on their way to becoming big healthy trees.

Thank you to those who have faithfully labored at caring for the trees:

James & Andrea Gutman

Annie and Stewart Sloke

Debbie Madder

Jim Jurgensmeier

Anton Bosch

Our thanks also go to Gerry and Elektra Kruger for faithfully collecting the trash along Wentworth.



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## Johnny Higginson Honored as Fernando Finalist

By Mike Carpenter

Johnny Higginson was one of the finalists for the 56th Annual Fernando Awards, held Saturday October 19th, 2014 at the Globe Theater, Universal Studios. The award is given to those from the San Fernando Valley whose volunteer work makes this a better community. Johnny is the owner of the Rockin' W Ranch in Shadow Hills. His Shadow Hills Riding Club has worked with those with disabilities using equine therapy and participated with "Saddles for Soldiers" to offer veterans the same. He has also worked with the Help Group, for teens with autism, Phoenix House for at risk children and the Wounded Warriors Project, for post 9 - 11 veterans.

Johnny was nominated by New "Heaven on Earth" Ranch (NHOER). Another local 501 c(3) public charity, located in Lake View Terrace. NHOER became a non profit member of the Fernando Foundation in 2013. This was their first year being able to nominate someone. Johnny was chosen one of the finalists. A rare honor to have a first time nominator see their choice get to the finals. Johnny's message was on his presentation video before the gathered guests at a packed house. The business and political community of the San Fernando Valley heard first-hand his commitment to those in need.

We also had Mel Wilson, nominated by the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, from Pacoima, as a finalist. The eventual honoree was Martin Cooper, nominated by the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley and New Horizons. The winner is determined from the votes of Fernando Foundation members.

We hope having someone from the equine community will lead to more opportunities to involve the greater San Fernando Valley to participate and support what Johnny Higginson, NHOER and all the rest of our peers do here in the foothills .

## Increasing Water Supplies in the San Fernando Valley by Elektra Kruger

In an effort to carry the City of Los Angeles forward to a state of 100% self-sustainability for its drinking water supplies, a Project was designed and tested to produce purified recycled drinking water from the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. During a 16 month period of rigorous testing, thousands of water samples were collected and analyzed for more than 300 chemical compounds which exceeded all State and Federal drinking water standards.

Despite the visionary solution such a program might offer, one, however, has to ask will the benefit warrant the potential cost of such an extensive and elaborate program? Over the long term, it is anticipated that the Groundwater Replenishment Project will cost less than the cost of purchasing imported water from the Metropolitan Water District. As of 2013 cost estimates for the Project ran between \$379 million and \$415 million with anticipated annual operation and maintenance costs running between \$17 and \$18 million.

I sincerely hope that the need for active, regular maintenance is taken seriously so that the aquifer does not become contaminated with unpurified waters and the associated pipelines do not reach the ripe old age of 100 as do our current citywide water distribution pipelines. We see what happens to them on a daily basis - and yes, it is on a daily basis even though every break does not make the evening news. There is an average of six breaks/day citywide.

The Groundwater Replenishment Project plans to meet a goal of providing 30,000 acre feet per year of purified water to the San Fernando Basin Aquifer by 2035. A draft and final Environmental Impact Report is expected to be completed in the next two years during which time it is claimed that

there will be continued active stakeholder outreach with participation from Neighborhood Councils and environmental organizations.

In addition to the Groundwater Replenishment Project, there is a program afoot referred to as the San Fernando Basin Groundwater Remediation Initiative intended to deal with the often contaminated waters of the Aquifer. The eastern portion of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin is contaminated primarily due to improper disposal of solvents since the 1940s which has reduced the DWP's ability to pump its adjudicated allowance of 87,000 acre feet per year of water - many DWP wells have been sealed due to unacceptable contamination levels of their waters. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.

#### **Update on Yellow Alert System**

by Elektra Kruger

If passed, the Yellow Alert System would authorize law enforcement agencies to issue a "Yellow Alert" if a person has been seriously injured or killed in a hit-and-run accident and there is a reliable description of the vehicle involved available. As the bill has been going through various committees in the state legislature, it has undergone a number of amendments. The only opposition to the Bill on record has been submitted by the Department of Finance stating that the cost is unjustified for the marginal benefit one can expect. At the Los Angeles City level, the City's Chief Legislative Analyst recommended adoption of a Resolution submitted by Councilmember Joe Buscaino for the City of Los Angeles to officially support the State's Yellow Alert Bill initially presented to the State Assembly by Assemblymember Gatto.

The Resolution was adopted by City Council on August 26, 2014, the Mayor signed off on the Resolution Aug 28, 2014 and the bill became law at the State level Sept. 4, 2014.

## Turning Dead Grass Back into the Good Green Stuff! by Elektra Kruger

Up to 60% of an average residential customer's water usage is on outdoor irrigation. In an effort to encourage City residents to replace their water guzzling lawns with either drought tolerant landscaping or decorative hardscape using DG, aggregate and stepping stones, the Metropolitan Water District and the Department of Water and Power have initiated a "Cash-In-Your-Lawn" Program that currently offers residential customers \$3 for every square foot of green lawn removed and replaced. But to qualify for the Program's rebate, customers must show that they did have green lawns that were replaced.

However, given the long-term drought we have already faced, many people may have ceased to water their lawns leaving them to die. Under current Program guidelines, these customers are no longer eligible to take advantage of the rebate Program especially if the irrigation system is still in place. One intention of the Program is to reduce outside water usage even when drought conditions improve.

Those who have lost their lawns because they currently are not watering their lawns may return to watering them and regrowing them once drought conditions improve or properties may change ownership and the new owners may choose to replace a dead lawn with new turf instead of converting to drought tolerant landscape or decorative hardscape.

How do we provide incentives to these individuals to go with a reduced irrigation option? For the City's water conservation objectives to be met, Councilmembers Felipe Fuentes and Mike Bonin believe the "Cash-In-Your-Lawn" Program should target all lawns with irrigation systems, be they green or not. In mid-October 2014, the Councilmembers submitted a Motion

to City Council asking that they call upon the Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District to review the feasibility of modifying the Cash-In-Your-Lawn eligibility requirements to allow customers with dead or dying lawns to also be able to qualify for the turf removal/modification rebate program.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee for their review and recommendations. SHPOA will keep their ears open as to where this option is going.

#### **Update on Possible Mandatory DAS Reports by Vets**

by Elektra Kruger

One of the budget recommendations adopted as part of the Mayor's 2014-2015 Budget was to give more study to the ramifications of requiring veterinarians to notify the Department when he/she has treated an unlicensed dog. The Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, a professional association for veterinarians in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, expressed concern as to unintended consequences requirements of this nature may have, not the least of which would be that pet owners may lose trust in their veterinarians whom they will perceive as policing on behalf of the Department of Animal Services. This may lead to a loss of business in the veterinary community in the City of Los Angeles as pet owners seek veterinary care in neighboring cities or fail to seek veterinary care at all.

Fewer spay/neuters, fewer rabies vaccinations - what ramifications would this have? And what about veterinarians in Cities other than Los Angeles e.g. La Crescenta treating pets whose home address is in Los Angeles. Will those veterinarians also be required to inform the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services when dogs receive care in their practices? There is also a conflict between veterinary privacy laws enforced by the Veterinary Medical Board that precludes veterinarians from releasing information about a pet without the authority of the client the only exemption being the requirement to notify the Department of Animal Services when a dog has been vaccinated for rabies.

Personally I would think that they would also be required to report suspected cases of animal abuse. This would bring up the question of whether a veterinarian who does release information about having treated an unlicensed dog which is in violation of the veterinary practice act would run the risk of losing their license for violating the act or fail to provide the information and run the risk of violating and serving the consequences of violating City Ordinance? The President of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association offered to meet with the Animal Welfare Committee to discuss possible alternatives that would not require veterinarians to compromise the relationship they have developed with the pet-owning community that would include the voucher system and office sale of dog licenses that is part of the budget recommendation.

On August 19, 2014 the City Council's Animal Welfare Committee moved to note and file the report submitted by the Department of Animal Services that states that veterinarians should be encouraged to sell dog licenses, that dogs being vaccinated for rabies are essentially already being reported to the City because veterinarians must notify the City when a dog has been vaccinated and encouraging veterinarians to participate in the Department's spay/neuter program. On August 27, 2014 the City Council noted and filed the Department of Animal Service's report which stated that they will be sending letters to veterinarians practicing in the City of Los Angeles encouraging them to actively sell dog licenses to their clients and to participate in the Department's spay/neuter program.

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#### **Key Community Locations & Contact Information**

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)

Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd. intersection); Pastor Rebecca Prichard (818-353-2500)

Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)

Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley

Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley

City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office CD7 Councilmember Felipe Fuentes; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

#### 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
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