

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



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SHPOA July-Aug 2021

What Makes Shadow Hills So Special?

By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

Have you ever wondered why Shadow Hills is still an animal-friendly, rural, horse-keeping community? Granada Hills and Chatsworth once welcomed the equestrian lifestyle, and Sylmar once had more horses and animals than people. Now they are mostly fond memories. So why is Shadow Hills still a viable horse community? Well, many factors make our community unique. But foremost is the K overlay district, which is an additional zoning designation for horse keeping. In the early 1980s, the city established this bill to offer the few remaining equestrian communities other protections for the keeping of equines.

The K Ordinance allows equine enclosures to be no closer than 35' from habitable quarters. Elsewhere in the city, horses cannot be closer than 75'. At that time, Kay Franklin, a Deputy for the Councilman in our district, took it upon herself and community members to canvas and included every property in Shadow Hills in the K overlay district. As a result, future development was required to acknowledge existing adjacent equestrian properties by not infringing on equine enclosures. The K district (as noted on all zoning maps for Shadow Hills) has been the cornerstone for reminding developers and the city that development must be compatible with the existing community. In keeping with that premise, horse trails were required instead of sidewalks, and growth was encouraged to include horse-keeping facilities.

After the K overlay was adopted, other laws and policies were introduced to protect horse keeping and other animals further. These protections include conditions imposed on new subdivisions which set aside specific horse-keeping areas. These areas cannot be used for other-use structures such as swimming pools and tennis courts. Additional horse-keeping protections include truck and/or trailer driveway access to the horse area on each property of a new subdivision.

(Cont. on page 2 "Shadow Hills")

Join us for our first in-person meeting

At Tierra del Sol (outdoors)

July 13th - 7:00 pm

*** Our guest speakers will be
an Insurance agent for Fire Insurance
and a representative from the Fire
Department**

**Will be promoted also on Daily Fodder, Facebook,
NextDoor, and website www.shpoa.us.**



HOT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE

- The Wisdom We Get from Our Animals!
- Got Grants? Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Does!
- High-value Projects To Bypass The Plum Committee
 - Skateparks to be Available to Other Wheeled Recreational Equipment?
- What Makes Shadow Hills So Special?



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|---|--|
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| Vice President: | Jacqy Gamble |
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| Recording Secretary: | Lynne Toby |
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| Neighborhood Watch: | Vacant |
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| Traffic Safety Coordinator | Carlos George |
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| Newsletter Ad Collection: | vacant |
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| 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: | |
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| <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 |

(“Shadow Hills” *cont’d from p. 1*)
The Community Plan for Shadow Hills has included horse trail easements throughout the community, which then connect to the designated trail system of Hansen Dam.

There may not be as many horses in Shadow Hills as in the past, but the lifestyle has meshed with the interests of those who live in their gardens and enjoy the agricultural challenges of farming their land. The lifestyle has grown to include nature activists and hikers.

The lifestyle has instilled in all of us the love of peace and quiet. And for these reasons, we must continue to remain vigilant in our efforts to protect and preserve this unique lifestyle because it is beneficial to far more than just horses.



**“There are no limits to
what you can accomplish,
except the limits you place
on your on limits”**

Brian Tracy



**Have We Got a Deal for You!
Please Renew Your Membership Today
SHPOA Board**

It’s never to late to renew your SHPOA membership. No time to mail? Send an email to Jo Rich at membership@shpoa.us and SHE WILL COME PICK UP YOUR CHECK! 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 spend the less than 2 minutes it will take to fill out the form (to the right) and write a 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. ***It is easier than ever to renew. Thank you!***



**Greetings and Happy Summer Days To All
of Our Neighbors in Shadow Hills!
By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board**

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association held its Zoom General Meeting on May 11, 2021. The meeting was well attended by residents interested in the presentation by the Department of Water and Power (DWP) on the issue of the methane gas leakage at the Valley Generating Plant.

Starting in 2019, DWP started measuring gas leakage at the site. Before that, the old seals were being replaced ahead of schedule, but the design was flawed. Hence the leakage. The DWP, in consultation with other companies around the United States, came up with new and effective seals which were installed on the existing equipment. These new seals have prevented any detectable leakage of methane gas.

Currently, the Valley Generating Plant is being monitored daily for any gas leakage along the property’s perimeter. This monitoring system will soon be in real-time. Thus far, there have been no further leakages. It should be noted that the DWP has not accepted landfill gas from the Bradley, Sheldon or Arleta dumps since 2004. Therefore, the DWP is not aware if the landfills are currently emitting methane gas.

In the future, the DWP is planning to remove a portion of the older section of the plant, which will then be repurposed for open space or playing fields. The DWP is currently involved in traffic studies to determine the best haul routes before demolition begins.

Ms. Holland will inform the community of the routes and time frame when available. The DWP will retain three units to ensure that there is enough generating capacity in the event alternative energy sources (solar and wind) are insufficient. We would like to thank Christina Holland, Don Treinen, and Norman Cahill for their thorough discussion, including slides, graphs, and topographical maps of the Valley Generating Plant.

Following the DWP presentation, the SHPOA Board members reported on the various issues concerning their committees. These dedicated volunteers have donated their time to the community for many years and are sincerely appreciated. Thank you so much. You are the best!



**“Belive you can
and you are halfway there”**

Theodore Roosevelt

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)
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Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

Preserve Country Lifestyle

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

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann, 1948

Foodware Accessories Upon Request Only? – Part 3
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On April 15, 2021, the City Council’s Environmental and River Committee reviewed the City Attorney’s Draft Ordinance and other supporting documents relative to amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to regulate the use of disposable foodware accessories. The use of single-use disposable plates, cups, and cutlery soared during the Covid-19 pandemic primarily due to guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State Public Health Officials. At the time, it was believed that Covid-19 spread from one individual to another through contact with contaminated surfaces. The CDC and Public Health recommended that restaurants and bars use single-use utensils and cups for dine-in and take-out to minimize the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Unfortunately, this recommendation notably increased the level of plastic pollution. With further data, scientists have realized that Covid-19 is primarily transmitted from close person-to-person contact via respiratory droplets expelled when people breathe, talk, or cough.

There is no evidence supporting the idea that single-use disposable utensils are superior to reusable utensils in preventing the transmission of COVID-19. Actually, to the contrary, it has been shown that the virus remains infectious for a more extended period on plastics than on other surfaces. Single-use foodware accessories harm the environment whether disposed of correctly as trash or improperly as litter. The adequately disposed waste ends up in landfills from which contaminants can be leached into the soil and groundwater. If current plastic usage trends continue, it is estimated that littered trash will result in more plastic litter by weight than fish in the world’s oceans by 2050. In September 2020, during LA County’s Coastal Clean-Up Day, volunteers collected over 40,000 pieces of trash totaling 4,320 pounds, increasing food delivery and take-out items, with foodware accessories being the fourth most common among them and take-out containers the fifth. In the environment, even “bioplastics” or “compostable plastics” do not break down but break into smaller pieces called “microplastics,” which can be mistaken as food by marine life, often poisoning them, starving them, or entangling them in plastic debris.

While theoretically recyclable, single-use plastic foodware accessories such as utensils, straws, lids, stirrers, etc., generally are not. Due to their small size, these items fall through or off processing equipment at automated Material Recovery Facilities (Recycling Centers), which are in Los Angeles.

(Please see “Foodware” on p.5)

(“Foodware” cont’d from p. 4)
In the U.S., billions of unused foodware accessories such as utensils, straws, condiment packets, napkins, etc. sent along with delivery orders or added to take-out orders which frequently go to homes or offices already stocked with reusable foodware accessories are being tossed away annually, the trash that is clogging our landfills, polluting our streets, parks, waterways, oceans and adding to the global glut of non-recyclable plastics.

Considering that these single-use items are rarely used with delivery orders and are already available in our households, in mid-January 2021, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian co-presented a Motion to City Council requesting that the City Attorney be asked to prepare and present a Foodware Accessories Upon Request ordinance requiring restaurants and other foodservice providers to provide disposable foodware accessories only upon request of the customer using the City’s existing Disposable Plastic Drinking Straws ordinance as an enforcement model.

Delivery apps such as GrubHub offer a “no silverware” option or provide a delivery comments section in which one may request “no silverware needed,” yet often, regardless of how many times these options are requested, the single-use items just keep coming. This “upon request” ordinance will hopefully change the default mindset of Angelenos on this issue and become a normalized behavior in Los Angeles. Online ordering platforms should automatically default to providing no single-use accessories for orders unless they specifically request them. Reusable LA strongly supports this ordinance, a coalition of organizations working to reduce plastic pollution in Los Angeles to safeguard our public health, communities, and environment.

Reusable LA pictures a culture of reuse in Los Angeles, a reduction in waste from single-use plastic products and packaging. Reusable LA member organizations include Heal the Bay, Sierra Club, The Last Plastic Straw, Habits of Waste, Climate Reality Project Los Angeles, etc.

At its March 4, 2021 meeting, the City Council’s Environmental Justice and River Committee recommended that the City Attorney’s Office prepare and present a draft of a Foodware Accessories Upon Request ordinance within 30 days with the assistance of the Bureau of Sanitation to provide components needed for its implementation such as definitions, applicability, exemptions, timing, enforcement, and any environmental notice requirements.

Up-Dates will be provided in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.





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The Wisdom We Get from Our Animals! By Special Spirit Team

Living in Shadow Hills, I think most of us know the value of being around animals. It is proven that animals decrease stress, reduce feelings of loneliness, boost our mood, and make us feel happier. We keep animals as emotional support; compassion knows no bounds with animals. This also teaches us to be compassionate with others and look beyond our own needs and care for others. They teach us to be in the "NOW" and to have patience. We as humans sometimes believe that our intelligence and ability to feel emotions are superior to animals, but research has found that this is not true. Many animals and primates, such as dolphins, apes, and elephants, use the same tools to comfort and communicate with each other as we humans do. In the wild, the young rely on the older generations for survival. This is something we have forgotten. Learning from the wisdom of the past is essential for us humans, especially in an age where technology and social media are taking over our lives.

A few days ago, The Special Spirit team was reminded of all the essential things animals can teach us from our turkey Silvia. A few weeks ago, we thought Silvia was lost until Milton found her laying eggs in one of the horse's feed bins. We knew that Silvia's eggs were not fertile with no male turkey around, but a few chicken eggs were in the same nest. Yesterday, Silvia emerged with two little chicks. Silvia has no idea that the chicks are not turkey chicks; she treats them like her own. Silvia does not discriminate; she has accepted these little chicks to be her babies. She takes full responsibility for them, and she is a wonderful mother. We wish Silvia and her chicks a bright future.

We had to say goodbye, for now, to Sherri Rubendall; Sherri and Dan just started a new chapter in their life by moving to Big Bear. Sherri was not only the manager of Danny's Farm; she was our part-time instructor for our adaptive riding lessons and the equine specialist in many of our equine therapy sessions.

(Please see "Wisdom" on p.7)

("Wisdom" cont'd from p. 6)

McCoy and King adjusted well to their new digs and love trail rides among the wild donkeys. Trout (the dog) is now the captain of Big Bear Lake!

Welcome to Hercules, a 7-year-old bay quarter horse owned by Ulrika and Charles. Swedish-born Ulrika Vingsbo-Dennis has been an equestrian from the age of ten. Coming from a finance background, she became a film producer four years ago when she met her husband, writer-director Charles Dennis. They produced the movie BARKING MAD and their new film, DEADLY DRAW, will use the ranch as a location. "I fell in love with the ranch the moment I saw it," says Dennis, "and knew I had to incorporate it in my new movie." Blippi, an educational video for children, came back to film additional footage for an episode of the famous children's show.

Adeline, from Sunset Farm, was thrilled to meet Blippi! "I was so excited to meet the real Blippi and couldn't believe he was on my street! He likes horses, just like me!" said Adeline. Unless you have young children, you may not know who Blippi is, just saying! Regarding Covid-19, Dr. McDeavitt, a professor at Baylor College of Medicine, writes:

I'm optimistic that the worst is behind us, and we are close to getting back to relatively everyday life.

So, maybe we can follow the advice from the very wise Winnie the Pooh:

"I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I have been."

Again, THANK YOU to our mystery apple and carrot donor. Our horses love you!
www.specialspirit.org



Silvia and
 her two
 chicks

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TRACKING VEHICULAR/EQUESTRIAN COLLISIONS
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The North San Fernando Valley is home to many equestrians that frequently ride City streets which sadly has resulted in vehicular/equestrian collisions with injury or even fatality to horses and/or riders. California Vehicle Code section 21050 states that any rider on a roadway is afforded all the same rights as a vehicle and just as well is subject to all the same duties of any other vehicle on the roadway. California Vehicle Code section 21759 also mandates that the driver of a vehicle approaching a horse, horse-drawn carriage, any ridden animal, or livestock shall reduce their speed. And, if necessary, come to a complete stop before passing the animal not to scare the animal and put it or its rider in danger.

Recognizing the co-existence of horses and vehicles in our communities, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez believed that effective tracking and analysis of causes and prevention of crashes using the Department of Transportation's Vision Zero Program's goal of making streets safe for all for pedestrians, for cyclists, for equestrians she, in late November 2019 presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Los Angeles Police Department along with the Department of Transportation to prepare and present a report on the current method of tracking vehicular and equestrian collisions, current methods of improving the safety of equestrian road users and to minimize the number of crashes.

While Statewide Traffic Records distinguish between crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists, equestrian collisions are lumped into a catch-all category that includes accidents involving trains and buildings. There is no separate category to track accidents involving equestrians. An important part of the effort to improve equestrian safety will begin with tracking equestrian/vehicle collisions, analyzing the causes of those accidents, and finding solutions to preventing such accidents in the future. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendations.

The Committee approved the Motion as written and forwarded this recommendation to the Full Council for its final approval. The Motion was not heard before the full Council until their May 5, 2021 session, at which time they called to have a report prepared and presented relevant to current tracking methods. Before this Motion once again collects dust on someone's desk, we need a deluge of letters/e-mails/phone calls to Councilmember Rodriguez's office so she will take her Motion seriously. Ph.: (213)-473-7007, e-mail: councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org



Got Grants? Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Does!
By Cindy Bloom, Resident and FTDNC Treasurer

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) awarded over \$22,000 in Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) during this current and soon-to-be last fiscal year (runs June through July). We would like to congratulate the awardees:

- ▣ Ahead With Horses
- ▣ Special Spirit, Inc.
- ▣ Fond Park
- ▣ Saffyre Sanctuary
- ▣ Tierra del Sol

If you're a 501(c)(3) non-profit and are within the FTDNC boundaries (La Tuna Canyon, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace), and have a need for materials/supplies that will enhance or benefit the community, then you can apply for an NPG. It's a fairly straightforward process. You need to fill out a simple 2-page application, attach some backup (i.e., materials estimate), and your IRS Tax Exempt determination letter. You will then need to present a proposal to the Budget & Finance Committee (first Monday of the month) for consideration. Most applicants make a short presentation about their organization and how they help our community.

If recommended by the committee, the proposal will be forwarded to FTDNC Board (which meets the 3rd Thursday of the month). If approved, the Treasurer submits the request to the City Clerk. Once reviewed and approved by the City Clerk, the requestor will be mailed a check. Once the project has been completed, a follow-up document must be completed and submitted to the committee to ensure the funds were spent according to your approved application.

We urge you to check out our website, www.ftdnc.org to learn more about what we do for our community and how you can engage. To learn more specifically about the NPG process go to little lines at the top left side, click on committees, then on budget and finance. We do not yet know our budget for the upcoming 2021-22 year and we hope that we can set aside a sufficient amount to award for next year.

(Please see "Got Grants?" on p.11)



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It Does"**

William James

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SOLD!

**Skateparks to be Available to Other Wheeled Recreational Equipment?
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) restricts the use of skate parks under the Department of Recreation and Parks (R&P) control to skateboarders only. Believing that eliminating this restriction would increase the value that skateparks could bring to the communities they serve, in mid-November 2018, Councilmember Joe Buscaino presented a Motion to City Council asking that they request the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks, to prepare and present an Ordinance revising LAMC 63.44 to allow the use of bikes, scooters, inline skates, and other wheeled recreational equipment at skate parks under the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

At its January 22, 2019 session, the City Council approved the Motion clearing to have the City Attorney’s Office prepare a Draft Ordinance to that effect. At the Council session, someone gave Public Testimony supporting the revision, but saying signs must be posted that children must be under parental supervision as the younger those utilizing the skate park are, the more likely they are to “hang out in the middle of the wrong place” and might very likely get hit accidentally by others. In late November 2019, the City Attorney’s Office prepared and transmitted a Draft Ordinance to the City Council’s Parks Committee for their review and recommendations, which would amend Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow the riding of non-motorized bicycles, scooters, in-line skates, roller skates or wheelchairs in skate parks that are under the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

(Continued next column)

(“Skateparks” cont.)

Included in the Draft Ordinance was requirements that “no person shall ride a skateboard or other wheeled recreational vehicle unless that person is wearing a helmet, elbow pads, and knee pads,” that “no person shall ride anything other than a skateboard or other non-motorized wheeled recreational devices in the skating area” and that skateparks shall be open from noon to sunset Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to sunset on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays with the exception that they shall be closed during periods of wet weather or anytime when conditions such as vandalism make it unsafe to skate.

Signs are to be posted as to hours of operation and requirements for protective gear to be worn, and any person in violation of these items will be subject to citation. The Draft Ordinance collected dust on the shelves of the Park’s Committee until mid-January 2021. At that point, it has been under review at least five times until mid-May and remains for further consideration. To be updated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



Blippi and Adeline from page 7

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**High-value Projects To Bypass The Plum Committee?
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

The City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee has significant power over land-use decisions in the City, including the ability to overturn prior decisions made by lower-status agencies such as the Planning Department and Planning Commission, as well as having the authority to agendasize hearing a project application at will which can impact a developer’s timelines/ deadlines whether to the positive or the negative.

Because a granting of entitlements for high-value projects can be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, developers of these projects hire teams of consultants and lobbyists who often have been known to target members of the PLUM Committee. Given this, in mid-August 2020, Councilmember Nury Martinez, our current Council President, presented a Motion to City Council suggesting that high-value projects bypass the PLUM Committee and go directly to the full City Council to be voted on – except, as I see it, consultants and lobbyists can just as easily target our Councilmembers.

And I can see this eventually affecting all applications, including applications in our semi-rural areas such as Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace and La Tuna Canyon, thus endangering the equestrian lifestyle these communities hope to retain.

The Motion calls for the City Planning Department and the City’s Chief Legislative Analyst to prepare a report developing criteria for amending the planning process to divert high-value projects from PLUM and have them go directly to the City Council. The Motion was referred to both the City Council’s PLUM Committee and Rules Committee for their review and recommendations. In late September 2020, the Motion was heard in the City Council’s Rules Committee where the Motion was approved as written with the addition that the report include deadlines of when high-value projects should be scheduled to be heard in City Council.

(Continued next column)

“All your dreams can come true
if you have the
COURAGE
to pursue them.”
Walt Disney

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(“High-value” cont.)


AND that projects not considered to be “high-value projects” to be given deadlines for when they need to be planned in the PLUM Committee. Numerous Community Impact Statements submitted by local Neighborhood Councils opposed this Motion assuming that “high-value projects” implies projects of significant size and impact on local communities and as such deserve full vetting at the City Planning Commission level, an objective PLUM review and, if they’re approved, review by the full City Council.

If the proposed project is of “high value,” sufficient time is needed for evaluating its full potential impact. The shortcuts suggested in Councilmember Martinez’s Motion will limit any chance for public participation in the approval process.

The entire planning process should reflect the Planning’s Core Objective, to work with local communities to enhance and preserve the existing environment for future generations.

To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.

Trout & Sherri in Big Bear from page 6



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Rugged Individuals Need A Place Of Rest
By Marlene Hitt, Resident

To describe the Tujunga Valley (sic), the canyons, towns of Tujunga, Sunland, Lakeview Terrace, and Shadow Hills would offer reports from different perspectives. Some settlers came to improve health, to enjoy their last days in sunshine and warmth, to find a place of their own, or to get a second chance at life. Others saw an opportunity, as the land was open to homestead or to purchase with low, low prices. Encouraged by advertising, they came in great numbers when the railroads stretched west, clear to Roscoe station in Sun Valley.

Some hated the dry, dangerous place. Many from cities missed the cultural activities. To them, this was a dusty, critter-ridden pit of danger.

Others saw a challenge and found ways to meet the challenge. They were a tough, hard-working, inventive, innovative group who often died young of disease not cured, from accidents, some from overused bodies resulting from war and deprivation - just like in any place, 1800 and on.

I remember small, quiet cemeteries in my travels that seemed serene, peaceful, even delightful. As a third-generation child of my mother's Saskatchewan family (six brothers and five sisters), I admit to having a nostalgic feel for the family. Each time I visited the Canadian farm, I was given my ride to see my great-grandmother's grave.

I could be taken there by my uncle's guide because no one there would suspect. In the corner of an unmarked field, tucked between two sides of an overgrown fence, was a small lilac bush, not in bloom. It was there that my mother's grandmother was put to rest, alone, on a vast prairie in an unknown grave.

Since then, the cemetery has been converted into a real one, kept up by families. To know why she was interred in that place was to understand the religious community. If I remember this correctly, there was a Catholic cemetery, one for the Ukrainian congregation, maybe another, but none for Anglicans. The Lutherans, however, had a space for her.

Many graveyards are on the property of the single churches as one sees in mission burial grounds, town plots with most having died of disease, all different ages, all in a few days of each other. Of great interest is the history of Los Angeles cemeteries which show, blatantly, our homogeneous notions.

(Please see "Rugged Individuals" on p.15)



"Rugged Individuals" cont'd from p. 15)

We see so much death and dying now with too many bodies waiting for a grave, which may be housed in a refrigerated truck. Funerals consisting of groups of people were prohibited during the quarantine from Covid-19. The whole world is reeling from death and destruction.

This was not so in the 1920s. This well-known health oasis that we live in now, the valleys of the San Gabriels, were dotted with sanitariums and private homes dedicated to helping people back to health, especially tubercular patients. The many places of worship were already in place. The one funeral home of note, called the Bramble House, was in operation.

In 1922, the pioneers became sure of their place of rest in the land they loved. Hartranft, the landowner, had donated land for a cemetery at the request of Parson Wornom. Once the site was ready, the person died and was buried in the new cemetery with the whole town in attendance (see the Little Landers Historical Society news, The Cornerstone, this next month for that story).

Built by hand, the place was platted out for four acres of gravesites. It was an open cemetery until the seventies when California State closed it forever for burials. On-site was a modest mausoleum. The poor, sweet place went through the pains of pounding heat, torrents of rain, vandals, unfair tenants, and worse. Breakage and destruction have kept up even until the present time, though a few on the City Council and dedicated citizens have tried to keep it up.

Much will be written during this next year about the cemetery here above the Tujunga neighborhoods on Parson's Trail. One of the Little Landers volunteers has taken it upon himself to clear, repair, and beautify the four-acre memorial with a more than willing crew. We, in this valley, won't let those who made the first taming of our home place be forgotten.

(Continued next column)



Verdugo Hills Cemetery in Tujunga, CA.



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("Rugged Individuals" cont.)

Those Civil War soldiers who fought for their territory, now at peace (we hope), lived their last days in the sunshine. Fabulous renovations are now being ready for the 100th anniversary of the Verdugo Hills Cemetery, to be held on April 23, 2022. Under the leadership of Craig Durst, history hunter and volunteers, the Hills of Peace/Verdugo Hills Cemetery will be celebrated as the sacred place it is, recovered, refurbished, and ready.

See also: www.FriendsOfVerdugoHillsCemetery.org and the Crescenta Valley Weekly, May 6, 2021, for a good article. On May 31, 2021, at 11 a.m. The Friends also held a Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery, 7000 Parsons Trail, Tujunga, CA, for the community



**"You don't always need a plan.
Some times
you just need to breathe.
Trust, let it go,
and see what hapens."**

Mandy Hale

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**Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep
your balance, you must keep moving**

Albert Einstein

Next SHPOA General Mtg: **Tuesday, July 13th @ 7:00 pm.at Tierra del Sol**

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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)

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
- Becky Borquez, 818-262-7764
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