

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



Volume 35, Issue 3

May-June 2012

## Hail to the Chief...and the Controller



**L to R:** Wendy Greuel, Gerry Kruger, Elektra Kruger, Bill Eick, Dave DePinto.

At our March meeting, City Controller and former City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel joined us to give special thanks to Elektra and Gerry Kruger for their many years of service to SHPOA, Shadow Hills and neighboring communities. Elektra was president of SHPOA for many years and Gerry served as Treasurer. We presented Elektra and Gerry with a plaque and gavel that was inscribed with the words "Treasures of Shadow Hills."

Shunning the spotlight, Elektra and Gerry performed many good deeds that the community was never aware of such as their weekly "Heaven Retriever" litter clean up on Wentworth Street. They ventured far and wide to perform community service and to fight for Shadow Hills at city council meetings, public hearings and Neighborhood Council meetings. They gave generously of their time and often dipped into their personal savings to support worthwhile projects and causes.

We were thrilled and honored to have Wendy Greuel with us on this occasion which she referred to as a "homecoming." Wendy provided Shadow Hills with great leadership and representation as our Council representative and we will always be thankful. Now, Wendy serves the entire city as our elected City Controller. Her dedication, energy and integrity are serving us well during the city's challenging economic and budget times.

Wendy, her husband and son still reside in the San

Fernando Valley and Wendy is now a candidate for Mayor in Los Angeles. We wish Wendy and her family all the best – you are always welcome in your "Shadow Hills home."

## **SHPOA Special Meeting!**

**Bring your horses and your friends  
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## **SHPOA Saves Stonehurst and Shadow Hills from Redistricting Nightmare**

By Dave DePinto

At the time we went to print, no lawsuits had been filed to cause the City Council's approved redistricting plan from becoming a reality on July 1, 2012. Redistricting happens by law every ten years to adjust for population changes. One undesirable change that we could not reverse was losing representation by Councilman Paul Krekorian, who has represented us well and whose district lines were moved to the south and west.

The single, most important achievement of SHPOA's advocacy on redistricting was to re-unite Shadow Hills in the same council district as La Tuna Canyon, Sunland/Tujunga, Lake View Terrace and Stonehurst. Original plans had the 210 freeway splitting Shadow Hills and Stonehurst from Sunland/Tujunga and Lake View Terrace. We joined with our neighbors to argue that our "community of interest," which is a shared, equestrian and rural environment and lifestyle, belonged in one council district. We won that battle.

However, when the revised maps were released, there were serious mistakes severely impacting Stonehurst. Not only did the plans call for Stonehurst Park to be separated into a different council district than both Shadow Hills and most of Stonehurst, itself, there were three parts of Stonehurst in different council districts. Imagine that... neighbors on opposite sides of the street on Allegheny, on Stonehurst and on Peoria were in different council districts. Again, SHPOA went to work meeting with elected officials and attending public hearings lasting well into the night to fight for our community.

This time, we won the battle and we won the war. We will have a new council representative on July 1. We will no longer be in Paul Krekorian's Council District 2; we will be in Council District 7, represented by Richard Alarcon.

Don't get comfortable though. As the following article reveals, a variety of upcoming elections will further change the political landscape in Shadow Hills.



## **Political Musical Chairs – SHPOA Needed More Than Ever!**

By Dave DePinto

Just when redistricting is coming to a conclusion, guess what? More political change is coming and soon. While we will be in Council District 7 (CD7), represented by Richard Alarcon, he is running for State Assembly and could leave office within a year. Tony Cardenas, councilman in CD 6, is running for Congress and will likely leave office within a year as well. Current Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes is termed out, so there is a race for his seat (Councilman Alarcon is one of the declared candidates) and Fuentes has declared himself a candidate for CD7.

Add to that rumors of local LAUSD school board member Nury Martinez, as well as Board of Public Works Commissioner Andrea Alarcon (Richard Alarcon's daughter), each possibly running for either CD6 or CD7. And, just to make it interesting, our former Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, who is now City Controller, is an announced candidate for Mayor!

The moral of the story is this: we cannot depend on downtown. We cannot depend on respected elected

## Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

### **Preserve Country Lifestyle**

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

### **Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values**

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

### **Promote Shadow Hills**

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

officials such as Wendy Greuel and Paul Krekorian representing us forever. Change is the new normal. We must depend on ourselves! We must work locally to help each other and to fight for our share of tax dollars and services. The City is too big and lacks the financial resources to provide services fully and equitably. Thus, the communities that are united, vocal and vigilant will be the ones who benefit and survive. The communities that are dysfunctional and not organized will suffer and be lost.

We have over 2,200 households in Shadow Hills but only slightly more than 200 residents are SHPOA members. Your support of SHPOA and your involvement in leading community organizations such as Neighborhood Councils, Neighborhood Watch, local schools and local churches is where political clout and the ability to protect and preserve our neighborhoods will reside in the future. We are proud to represent our members and we hope that more residents get involved and support SHPOA. Please see the membership information included in this newsletter or visit our website ([www.shpoa.us](http://www.shpoa.us)) and join today!

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

## SHPOA Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's time to join SHPOA for the 2012 calendar year!

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## SHPOA Fights Trash War

*By Dave DePinto*

For nearly a decade, SHPOA's land use committee members have fought to reduce the impacts in Stonehurst and Shadow Hills of trash facilities and trucks in neighboring Sun Valley. First, SHPOA was actively involved in efforts to close Bradley Landfill, operated by Waste Management. Then SHPOA participated in years of negotiations that led to extensive environmental protections being imposed on a proposed recycling and waste transfer facility on that same property. That facility has yet to be built.

Most recently, SHPOA has worked closely with Councilman Krekorian's office and neighboring activists to ensure that the proposed Athens waste facility, located between Peoria and Pendleton and Stonehurst and Glenoaks, and much closer to our residential neighborhoods, would be safely constructed and operated. After years of often contentious debate, protest and negotiation, it appears Athens has finally agreed to many of the demands from the community.

It now appears likely that if the Athens project is approved by the City, the yet-to-be-built facility will be fully enclosed, no trash trucks will be allowed on Sunland Boulevard and Wentworth Street, trash trucks will NOT park overnight or be serviced in Sun Valley, and over \$200,000 per year will be paid by Athens to a community fund that will benefit Stonehurst, Shadow Hills, Sun Valley, La Tuna Canyon and other neighborhoods within close proximity to the Athens site. We thank Councilman Krekorian for his unwavering support and hard work. Stay tuned for updates on this project in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

## Neighborhood Watch Updates

*By Sue Mansis*

### Mail Theft

Mail Theft is on the rise and thieves are looking for money and ID in your mailbox. All thefts must be reported in order for Authorities to pay attention to our needs! Report on line at [postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov) - follow links to "Mail Theft" and complete the form. You can also call: 877-876-2455 OR 800-275-8777 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to report. Here are some tips:

- Make every effort to retrieve your mail as soon as possible from your mailbox - do NOT leave it overnight. Ask a neighbor to pick it up if you plan to be out of town, even for the night.
- Purchase a locking mailbox: from about \$100 up.
- Make sure your locking mailbox is securely fastened because there have been reports of people STEALING them for the metal, believe it or not!
- Please report any crime to your Neighborhood Watch after you have reported to authorities. This helps us alert our community so we all stay safer.

### Tagging and Graffiti

An increase in tagging and graffiti has been reported along Stonehurst Street recently. Perpetrators are older teens, ages 16-18. You must be vigilant and quick - call

818-734-2223 (LAPD) to report a tagging and then call Graffiti Busters at 818-767-3133 or 311 to remove. Neighborhood unity and speedy removal of graffiti is key to discouraging tagging! If you see a crime in progress, call 911. After the crime has occurred, call Dispatch at 818-734-2223.

#### Senior Lead Officer

LAPD is officially interviewing applicants for the position of Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for our area, left vacant by Larry Martinez. We anxiously await our new SLO, so watch for updates about who that person will be!

### Neighborhood Watch - The Best Defense is a Good Offense

By Sue Mansis

It is with gratitude and pride that we introduce a new block captain to join our Shadow Hills Neighborhood Watch team! Dan Kronstadt volunteered to head up a Watch program for Ditson Street because, like many other streets, they noticed a rise in "activity" on their block and wanted to be proactive. Shadow Hills now has 14 streets participating in its active Watch program. In addition to crime prevention, Neighborhood Watch can assist with Emergency Preparedness. We offer valuable information and help organize neighbors to collectively share supplies, equipment and knowledge in case of disaster.

Beginning a Watch is easy and fun – neighbors on your street become acquainted, connected and acutely aware of the power they hold to ward off crime and help each other, which benefits everyone in the neighborhood! (Safe streets increase property values too). If you want to start a Watch program on your block, please contact Sue Mansis at 818-554-8113 or email [suemansis@shpoa.us](mailto:suemansis@shpoa.us).




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## New City Council Motion Affecting Equestrians

By Deirdre Vierra

City Council Motion 12-0307 deserves your awareness and action. In response to requests from the local equestrian community, Councilman Richard Alarcon, Council District 7, has put a Motion out to the Committee of Arts, Parks, Health and Aging. It concerns the hiking and equestrian trails as well as the horse-keeping industry throughout Los Angeles. If you use these trails in any capacity this motion should be important to you. If you keep horses as a hobby/lifestyle or own an equestrian related business this motion concerns you as well.

In summary this Motion is asking for:

1. A report overviewing all City-owned equestrian areas and the work being done to maintain, improve and promote them.
2. A report on the progress of the policies adopted in the 2001 General Plan Conservation Element - the number of equine areas in the city, where they are located and who maintains them.
3. How can the City better promote the City's horse and hiking trails and equine areas on-line and off-line.

Keep in mind that this Motion puts our trail systems right in front of the City Council and gives us an opportunity to protect and maintain what we have and to show that we are a viable economic group. To view the motion in its entirety, go to this internet address: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm>. In the criteria box type in 12-0307 and then click search. Then click on the "Motion" to read it.

Many residents of Shadow Hills have already voiced their support of the Motion and if you wish to do the same, please send an email supporting this Motion to the City Clerk's office to the attention of: Adam.Lid@lacity.org.

## Introducing SHPOA's New Equestrian and Trails Committee

By Dave DePinto

We have long had a Trails Committee and the committee, led by Andrea and James Gutman, has done wonders to build, maintain and preserve equestrian trails throughout our community. SHPOA's Trails Committee actually watches over and repairs those white horse fencing/railings you see along Sunland Boulevard and Wentworth Street, especially after cars and trucks crash into and damage the railings.

One of the first things SHPOA did this year was strengthen its commitment to the equestrian community by changing the name of the committee to the "Equestrian and Trails Committee" and appointed Deirdre Vierra co-chair of the committee. Deirdre is a very involved equestrian with great knowledge and a strong network within the community. She will provide us with good insights into equestrian issues that are important to all of Shadow Hills and advise us on equestrian matters requiring action.

One of her first responsibilities was to learn more about Councilman Alarcon's motion related to equestrians in the City of LA and to help organize our Equestrian-themed meeting on May 19 at 10 a.m. at Stonehurst Park.

Welcome to the Board, Deirdre, and thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to our community!

## Guess Who's Speeding Through Shadow Hills?

By Sue Mansis

Chances are it's you and me! Our residential speed limits are 25 mph. But a recent visit by a local traffic enforcement officer indicated most of the citations and warnings he issues in our area are to Shadow Hills residents, themselves.

I bore witness to this just the other day. I was walking my dog when I angrily flagged down a speeding car, only to discover it was my NEIGHBOR, who sheepishly muttered "I'm sorry." How many times have we absent-mindedly sped through our Shadow Hills streets on the way home from a busy day at work or hot-dogged a friendly dare on that shiny motorcycle or looked the other way as our adorable teenagers raced their ATV's down our usually quiet streets?

Most of the time, we aren't harming anyone, but have we thought about that "one" time we do? Speeding endangers, intimidates, irritates, infuriates. It puts people and property at risk and creates hostilities among good neighbors. Your Neighborhood Watch gets frequent reports about speeding, especially in the Shadow Hills "flat lands"- Stonehurst, Orcas, Helen and Art Streets.

We all have an obligation to live peacefully and lawfully. Won't you please obey speed limits and keep the racing for a track, NOT our streets? In this rural and beautiful equestrian hub, we fancy our roads safe and secure from the aggressiveness of the world beyond. Let's make every effort to slow down and enjoy the ride.

**"One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives."**

—Mark Twain

## Brown-Headed Cowbird Trapping

*Reprinted from the Big T Washline*

The brown-headed cowbird is a nest parasite that evolved its behavior due to its nomadic life style. Flocks long ago followed bison populations, since insects (cowbird food!) abound with the bison. Cowbirds evolved a strategy to lay eggs in a host nest, freeing them to follow bison. Removing cowbirds from Big T directly benefits our native birds from becoming a host parent.

Brown-headed cowbird trapping has commenced at Big T, so during your hike or jog or ride you may encounter one or more of the cowbird traps. They are green wood and wire. Keep in mind that it is very important that the trap not be disturbed for several reasons.

First, cowbirds must be enticed to enter the traps. Decoy cowbirds (males and females) and food and water are used to attract more cowbirds. If a cowbird senses danger, it will forego entering the trap in spite of a free meal or a potential mate, so please do not disturb the traps.

Second, trapped birds perceive humans as a threat, so approaching a trap is very stressful to the birds. It's important to keep clear of the trap, especially since native birds may also be present. Each day all cowbird traps are checked and stocked with clean water and food and if native birds are also present they are released without harm. Thanks for your cooperation.



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## Why the Fountain Grass Must Go

By Roger Klemm

**Editor's Note:** *This article is longer than the norm, however the length is needed to tell the whole story. Last Fall, SHPOA's guest speaker was Lisa Novick, an educational specialist from nearby Theodore Payne Foundation in the nearby Sun Valley/La Tuna Canyon hills. For more information, visit their website [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org).)*

**Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)** is a bunchgrass from Africa that is widely planted as an ornamental plant in portions of the United States with warm winters. It is a tough, vigorous plant that will tolerate adverse conditions of heat and drought. It does not appear to suffer from any pests or diseases, and many people appreciate its graceful seed heads produced in profusion over the spring and summer months.

The downside is that in California, Fountain Grass has no natural enemies and readily out-competes other plants. It is invasive, and if you plant it in your yard, you will soon have seedlings of Fountain Grass popping up wherever there is bare soil. Its seeds are carried long distances in the wind, so if your neighbor has it in their yard, it will eventually end up in yours. If you are in a fire hazard area, it is especially dangerous, as it dries out early in the summer and becomes extremely flammable.

Fountain Grass readily moves in to wild areas and displaces the native plants that would otherwise provide habitat for the birds, butterflies, lizards, and multitude of other creatures that make their homes in this wonderful place we call California. It is more flammable than the native vegetation, and over a longer period of the year, so contributes to more frequent wildfires. When fires occur too frequently, areas of chaparral and coastal sage scrub get converted to weed fields as the native plants don't have enough time to recover between fires.

The City of Los Angeles renovated the Sunland/Tujunga/Shadow Hills entry garden at Sunland Boulevard and Fenwick Street about a decade ago. As specified in the plans, the landscaping was sensible - Oak and Sycamore trees, some flowers around the sign, and some wildflowers in the background. Somewhere along the way, Fountain Grass was substituted for the wildflowers. This invasive exotic plant has taken over where the flowers were planted near the sign, and now obstructs the view of the sign from the street. It has also moved in to the next door neighbor's yard, and it is only a matter of time before it reaches your yard.



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Ricky Grubb and I have obtained permission from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Fond Land Preservation Foundation to collect seeds and cuttings from plants in nearby wild areas, and I now have several hundred plants growing in pots in my yard (they've taken over the front porch and back patio, and will soon be taking over part of the driveway!).

We are in the process of adopting this spot from the City, and with help from councilman Krekorian's office, the Theodore Payne Foundation, and FormLA Landscaping, we plan to remove the Fountain Grass and replace it with truly local native plants in the fall (the best time of the year to plant native plants due to cooler temperatures). Some of the plants to look forward to in the garden include Ceanothus, Manzanita, Bush Poppy, California Fuchsia, and Woolly Blue Curls. Once the plants get established, the butterflies and hummingbirds will join in to bring the garden alive.

Even though this is a small slice of landscaping, it says a lot about how our community cares about preservation, what a few people can do and how important it is to restore our public spaces. We look forward to creating the Sunland Welcome Nature Garden in the coming months, and we hope you'll join us in transforming this space from a weed patch into a vibrant showcase of the best of our amazing local flora. Stay tuned for more information!

If you have questions, comments, or would like to know more, please send me email at [treehuggers@ca.rr.com](mailto:treehuggers@ca.rr.com).



### Local Authors and Perspectives for our Newsletter

SHPOA encourages residents to contribute articles for the newsletter. Thanks to several new contributors this month for their unique perspectives and thoughts. Your articles add to our variety and our local orientation. We look forward to more local stories from you, our readers. Just email your article to [shpoa@shpoa.us](mailto:shpoa@shpoa.us) or Dave DePinto, editor, at [7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com](mailto:7daviddepinto@ca.rr.com).



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## “JOHNY CARPENTER” ARENA ONE YEAR LATER

The New “Heaven on Earth” Ranch (NHOER) took the first steps towards its intention to announce the beginning of the construction phrase for the “Johnny Carpenter” Arena on Foothill Place in Lake View Terrace on April 30th, 2011. It has been a year since this passed and results have been mixed. NHOER, thanks to recent fundraising, is close to its initial goal of \$25,000 for the arena. There have been challenges though.

Despite being unable to secure complete funding from FTDNC for the arena due to city funding restrictions (though \$9,000 was approved), along with the untimely passing of Vice President Randy Horton earlier this year, and slow negotiations with All Nations Church regarding the lease, our determination has not been dampened.

The banner announcing the “future location” of the arena is displayed on Foothill Place. This is the same historic site of the original Heaven on Earth Ranch, where Johnny Carpenter built an authentic western town and taught physically and mentally challenged children and young adults how to ride a horse. All Nations Church purchased the land and upon learning about Johnny and the ranch wanted to “bring it back.” The arena was added to the church’s 2005 conditional use permit with NHOER listed as the organization to maintain it.

The land where the arena will sit was dedicated in a public ceremony by the church on September 12th, 2004. The Johnny Carpenter working group recommended to honor Johnny and to create an independent 501 c(3) organization to build the “Johnny Carpenter” Arena. The Arena would be open to the public (like the adjacent recreation trail/rest area) and would offer the “Johnny Carpenter” riding program, free of charge. NHOER is now a California-based 501 c(3) public charity and has its LA City Business Tax Registration Certificate.

The arena will be open 7 days a week, daylight hours. Monday-Saturday, you will be able to park horse trailers in a staging area next to the arena. Local groups, with proof of liability insurance, will be able to “reserve” half the arena space. A bulletin board will be on site with rules and be available for community postings. The dimensions are 125' x 250' with 3 gates.



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**For more news about NHOER and the "Johnny Carpenter" Arena, please call 818-470-5235, email: lamikec@yahoo.com, visit the website : www.NHOER.org , be a friend on Facebook: New Heaven on Earth Ranch or come by the board of directors meeting, last Thursday of each month (Through October) at Cocos Restaurant on Sunland Blvd in Sunland, 7:00p.m.**



## **Sniffing Etiquette for Dogs**

*By Carol Ann Heinis*

*Certified Dog Trainer and Behavior Specialist  
(myhomebuddies.com/Burbank)*

As the weather heats up, people naturally flock to the outdoors. Of course, we want our pups to enjoy the nice weather too, so we tend to go on more walks with them. We greet people on our walks with a verbal "Hi" but dogs meet other dogs much differently. Dogs typically greet in an arcing fashion with their nose to the other dog's backside. We should be thankful we don't greet like our dogs! In their world, greeting an unfamiliar dog head-on can be seen as rude, and this can cause tension.

Even though our dog may be the friendliest dog on the planet, we should always think about their safety and the fact that we do not know the other dog. It is important to keep meetings with other dogs brief, make sure they meet on a loose leash, and do not approach the other dog head-on. Both dogs should have a relaxed posture and tail. They should only meet for about 3 seconds; this is plenty of time for the dogs to get to know each other.

It is our job to make sure our dogs are safe when we have control of the leash. The more enjoyable greetings your dog has with other dogs, the more pleasant and enjoyable your walks will be. Plus, there is no better way for you and your dog to meet new friends in the neighborhood.



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## The Truth In Gold (Part 2)

by Eric Stein

(*"The Truth in Gold" Part 1 was on page 9 of the March-April SHPOA Newsletter*)

For the past two months (since the last newsletter publication) the price of Gold has been holding steady. Sometimes it dips down for a week or two, and then it rises back up. When you look at the overall reason for the dramatic rise in Gold, it's risen because of the turmoil of the Euro Dollar (investors need a safe haven for their savings), the rising demand for computer chips (Gold is a key component in the product), and the new popularity of luxury jewelry for China (huge demand from the largest populated country).

How can we cash in from the price of gold? Have a gold party – bring your closest friends together and meet at one persons' house. You will need a digital scale and separate Ziploc bags. Weigh the jewelry in grams and separate the precious metals when possible. You will want to remove any precious gemstones when possible too. The gemstones can be sold separately. Then find a jeweler in the area who will buy from the general public. Each jeweler may have a different buying price. Shopping around for a couple of quotes could be worth your while!

*A horse doesn't care how much  
you know, until he knows  
how much you care.*

## Gardening Collaboration

By Steve Crouch

Lots of people in our area have gardens. We're located in one of the few Los Angeles neighborhoods that are blessed with large lots to grow vegetables and fruit trees. There's no shortage of opportunities to grow things here. So why aren't YOU growing all your own food?

Maybe it's the time, or the work. There are also lots of neighbors who don't have space for a garden and would love to put in the work in exchange for freshly grown, organic food. I've been researching the urban agriculture phenomenon and came across a fantastic tool that connects people with "space" to people who want to grow.

If I can interest enough people I would start a web site to make this happen specifically for the Shadow Hills/ La Tuna Canyon/Lakeview Terrace/Sunland/Tujunga region. To see an example of what I'm talking about, check out <http://yardsharing.org/> in Portland. The folks who developed the mapping technology are from Victoria Canada <http://www.sharingbackyards.com/about.sby>.

This kind of activity needs a local leader, and I'm excited to put in the time to get this going. I'm thinking of calling it the Tujunga Watershed Garden Exchange. Let me know your thoughts and interest level at [STCrouch@ca.rr.com](mailto:STCrouch@ca.rr.com) or call me at 818-259-1202.

## Valley Traffic - East AND West?

by Elektra Kruger

Currently LAPD has four Traffic Divisions - Central, South, West and Valley. The Valley Division currently covers approximately 250 square miles serving seven Police Stations - North Hollywood, Van Nuys, West Valley, Devonshire, Topanga, Mission and our own Foothill. Councilmember Tom LaBonge believes that it might be beneficial to add a second Traffic Division to the Valley splitting responsibilities East and West.

Given that, the Councilmember presented a Motion to City Council in early March 2012 to take this into consideration. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendation. SHPOA will keep you updated on any progress on this issue.

## Transfer Street Cleaning to BOS?

by Elektra Kruger

The Bureau of Street Services is currently responsible for maintaining our City streets while the Department of Sanitation is responsible for maintaining urban run-off water quality in the City's storm drain system. Many feel synergies exist between street cleaning as a water quality activity and the City's storm water programs. And, taking into account the current City's budget crisis, Councilmember Tom LaBonge feels it might behoove the City to take a closer look at the possibility of achieving greater financial efficiency by transferring street sweeping responsibilities from the Bureau of Street Services to the Department of Sanitation. This recommendation is currently being reviewed by the City Council's Public Works Committee. SHPOA will update you on any progress related to this issue.

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## The State of our City's Streets and Sidewalks

by Elektra Kruger

A 2008 survey of LA's streets found 59% of them to be classed as grade "C" or lower, of which 23% were classed as grade "F". Grade "C" implies major or unsafe cracking, grade "F" implies full base failure. And that was three years ago. Where do we stand today?

In late October 2011, Councilmember Englander presented a Motion to City Council asking that they direct the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to update the status of LA's streets and to submit a report estimating the cost of making all necessary repairs to City streets and sidewalks over a ten-year period and thereafter to maintain them at a grade "B" level or higher in perpetuity. He further asked that they direct the City's Administrative Officer, Chief Legislative Analyst, City Clerk and City Attorney to work with BSS to develop an LA 30-10 Plan. Such a Plan would have a Citizen's Oversight Committee comprised of City stakeholders and Neighborhood Council members and be placed on the November 2012 General Election ballot.

The LA 30-10 Plan would be a 30-year bond providing money up-front to repair streets and sidewalks over a ten year period and the Bond would be repaid with interest over the next thirty years. The Motion by-passed any committee review and was referred straight to Council for a vote. As of mid-April 2012 there has been no Council action on this matter. SHPOA will keep you abreast of any further action on this item if and when it occurs.

## Who's Gonna Fix those Sidewalks?

by Elektra Kruger

In 2005, the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) received a budget to replace a mere 52 of the City's then existing 6,500 mi of sidewalks. Call in a "damaged sidewalk report" today and it would be 83 years before workers would show up at your place. In recognition of this, in early September 2005, Councilmember Bernard Parks presented a Motion to City Council asking that a "point-of-sale" policy be reviewed - a policy which would require a homeowner to repair any damaged sidewalks fronting his/her property as a condition-of-sale.

Many realtors, homeowners and Neighborhood Councils have expressed intense opposition to this policy. The realtors' opinion is that a point-of-sale policy would be the least efficient, most expensive and most "risky" solution for addressing the daunting task of repairing the City's damaged sidewalks. The BSS estimates that indeed it just about doubles the cost of repairing property frontage one property at a time, thus, Realtors claim that any purported benefit achieved by a point-of-sale policy would be significantly reduced by the increase in unit repair costs.

Many homeowners submitted letters stating that "through neither the fault nor complicity of property owners, the City of LA is attempting to shift burden, responsibility and liability" onto the homeowners of the City. And several Neighborhood Councils in the City filed Community Impact Statements opposing the point-of-sale option, but each was with a misunderstanding of existing Code.



Unfortunately, people are generally unaware that in 1911 California enacted the "Improvement Act" mandating that property owners bear the responsibility for sidewalk repair. From time to time through the years, the City has taken on the burden of some level of sidewalk repair but that has always been on a limited budget which is where the "rotation cycle" originates. But that 1911 California statute is still in effect and no Ordinance holding the City responsible for sidewalk repairs exists. Thus, the homeowner is responsible for sidewalk repair per the State's "Improvement Act" which is currently in effect. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.

## A Short History of the Horse

By James Michener

Why did this animal that had prospered so in the Colorado Desert leave his amiable homeland for Siberia? There is no answer. We know that when the horse negotiated the land bridge...he found on the other end an opportunity for varied development that is one of the bright aspects of animal history. He wandered into France and became the mighty Percheron, and into Arabia, where he developed into a lovely poem of a horse, and into Africa where he became the brilliant zebra, and into Scotland, where he bred selectively to form the massive Clydesdale. He would also journey into Spain, where his very name would become the designation for gentleman, a caballero, a man of the horse. There he would flourish mightily and serve the armies that would conquer much of the known world.



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Keller Williams, R. D'Egidio..13	WRD.....6
Kim Villalobos - Realtor.....12	Wild Flowers Florist.....3
LA LAW Center.....11	Wright Color Graphics.....13
Louise - Pet Sitting.....5	

### 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 Janet Winslow (818-353-2500)

Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Sun Valley (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 CD2  
Councilmember Paul Krekorian; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

### Community Calendar

#### LAPD Communittee Coffee

1st Tuesday, Every Month

- 8 a.m.-10 a.m.
- Albertson's/Starbucks, 6240 Foothill Blvd.

#### 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.

#### "Prime Timers 60+"

3rd Wednesday, Every Month

- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
- Call church 818-352-2500

#### 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

4th Wednesday, Every Month

- Call Becky Borquez, 818.352.3634

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
**Jul/Aug Newsletter: June 8**

### IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

Dial 311 - Info on all City Services

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

Street Service..... (800) 996-2489

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

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