# SHICA

**Shadow Hills Property Owners Association**Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 42, Issue 1

SHPOA March-April 2019

#### SHPOA Kicks Off 2019 With a Lively Meeting

#### By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

Our newly elected Board didn't waste any time in getting back to work after the holidays. On Monday, January 7, we held their first Board meeting to conduct business and to formally approve appointed Board positions. Then, on Tuesday, January 8, SHPOA kicked off its first general meeting of 2019. Cindy Bloom, newly elected SHPOA President, introduced the 2019 board members, most of whom were present.

Here is the complete list of your Board members for 2019 (\* denotes new member):

#### **ELECTED:**

President: Cindy Bloom

Recording Secretary: Gerri Summe

Treasurer: Lynne Toby

Membership: Jacqy Gamble (Danielle Fox\* was ap-

pointed as committee member)

#### **APPOINTED:**

Land Use: Elektra Kruger, Bob Renna\*, Lynne Toby Equestrian and Trails: James & Andrea Gutman, Rosey

Payne\*

Neighborhood Watch: Thom Despres\*

Outreach Director (aka Daily Fodder): Susan Wong\*

Special Projects: Cynthia Urias (cleanup/beautification),

Jo Rich\* (events)

Webmaster: Carlos George (backup: Cindy Bloom)

Newsletter Director: Cindy Bloom

(Please see "Kicks Off..." on p.6.)



## The Saga of the Shadow Hills Donkey-November 2018 By Linda Fullerton, Past President, SHPOA

The female donkey that traveled loose thru the Wornom/ Mary Bell hills in Shadow Hills for over four weeks was captured by a group of neighbors late November on Johanna. Simone Simonton driving home from work spotted the donkey entering Johanna Avenue from Shadow Hills Drive, dragging an approximately 20 ft rope that she had previously been lassoed with. Simone gently drove behind the donkey trying not to scare her, but attempting to roll her front tire onto the rope in order to stop her. At the same time, another Shadow Hills neighbor, Arbi Vartanian, driving from the opposite direction, with like mind, attempted and successfully positioned his front tire on the rope, finally stopping the donkey.

(Please see "The Saga of..." on p.4)



#### 22222

#### Save the Dates

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 pm SHPOA General Meeting: Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd. The agenda will be sent out via Daily Fodder (don't get Daily Fodder? Sign up now by texting "SHPOA" to 22828) and will be posted on the website www.shpoa.us a few days prior to the meeting. We've restored Public Comment and Open Forum so come on down and be heard! Our speaker will be Melanie Morita from LA County Public Works to discuss recovery of the Big Tujunga Wash, particularly the mitigation area, after the devastating Creek Fire last year. We'll have some elected official reps on hand to bring us up-to-date on the goings on in our area. Additionally, we'll provide the progress on your 2019 Priorities, including our upcoming Pancake Breakfast (it's baaaack!) Hope to see you there!

**Saturday, May 4, 10 am** Sen. Portantino & SHPOA will cohost N.E. San Fernando Valley Town Hall Meeting: Elks Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave, Tujunga, CA 91042. Other electeds TBD.

#### **2019 SHPOA Board Members**

Contact

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

**Executive Officers** 

President: Cindy Bloom 818-445-5602

board@shpoa.us

Vice President: Vacant

Executive Secretary: Vacant

Recording Secretary: Gerri Summe

Treasurer: Lynne Toby

Membership: Jacqy Gamble, Chair

Danielle Fox

**Appointed Officers** 

Land Use: Elektra Kruger, Chair

Lynne Toby

Bob Renna

Equestrian and Trails: James & Andrea Gutman (Trails)

Rosey Payne (Liaison)

Special Projects: Cynthia Urias (Beautification)

Jo Rich (Events)

Neighborhood Watch: Thomas Despres

Daily Fodder and Susan Wong
Lost/Found Pets Shoog@shoog.us

Lost/Found Pets shpoa@shpoa.us

Webmaster: Carlos George

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Newsletter Design/Layout: Gerardo Barrientos

Hospitality: Katherine Dayen

Lois Dayen

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

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At large rep:

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36373@lapd.lacity.org

Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West Rich Wall 818-634 -0755 30204@lapd.lacity.org

50204@iapu.iacity.org

LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk

818-756-8861

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

. . . . .

President: Kevin Davis president@ftdnc.org

Cindy Bloom

cindy.bloom@ftdnc.org

#### Floating Solar Systems

#### By Elektra Kruger, SHPOA Board

Per State Renewable Standards, utilities are required to procure 50% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Additionally, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency already requires water utilities to cover open-air reservoirs in order to prevent contamination. The DWP is currently meeting this requirement by blanketing our open-air reservoirs with "shade balls" - small black plastic balls. Why not replace these "shade balls" with photovoltaic panels installed onto floating plastic bases - floating solar systems? Large scale floating solar technology is already being used in many countries like China, Japan and the United Kingdom. No large plots of land would be needed to erect solar panels making these floating solar projects a less expensive means of obtaining renewable clean energy. In addition, by covering the surface area of a body of water, the floating solar platforms conserves water by reducing evaporation and prevents algae growth by blocking out sunlight. The Lower Van Norman Reservoir, being adjacent to two high voltage transmission lines and the Sylmar Converter Station. makes it an ideal candidate for a floating solar project making it possible to connect the solar energy directly to the grid. Though all Los Angeles reservoirs should be considered to be blanketed with floating solar systems, given its proximity to structures related to the electrical grid, the Lower Van Norman Reservoir is especially well suited to test out the use of this technology in the City of Los Angeles. In late April 2018, Councilmember Mitch Englander presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the DWP to research and report on the feasibility of a floating solar system program, how much energy such a system could create, the environmental impacts/offsets such a program may have and a review of established floating solar companies and the experiences they have encountered. At its June 29, 2018 Hearing, City Council requested that the DWP prepare and present a report in regard to the feasibility of a floating solar system program along with the next steps of implementation, on the optimal system size including how much energy can be created, the environmental offsets and the economic impact such a program would have on the City. Too check on established floating solar companies and their qualifications and determine a potential re-use of the shade balls currently in use at the Lower Van Norman Reservoir. To date no such report has been forthcoming. As soon as, and if there is, any such report, SHPOA will present all updates in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.



"Just living is not enough, said the butterfly.

One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower."

-Hans Christian Anderson



#### A Work in Progress

#### By Andrea and James Gutman, SHPOA Board

It was 1996 when, after 5 years of extensive negotiations, the Sunland Blvd. Multi-Use Trail was finally realized. It had been a hard fight. Although supported by the residents living along the boulevard, as well as neighboring equestrians, joggers and walkers all yearning for a sense of continuity and rural character to the boulevard, the Department of Building and Safety engineer would not permit the project, his opposition based on the premise that the improvement would encourage more foot traffic along the "dangerous" roadway. Now, some 23 years later, it seems the trail doesn't seem to have had any effect on the number of traffic incidents one way or the other. Admittedly, it does seem to be in need of constant attention. Whether a break in the fence because of a traffic accident or an act of vandalism or just general deterioration, the project keeps the trail's committee volunteers busy. Many volunteer hours have been invested throughout the years in repairing railings and clearing the pathway. Friendships have been made while pounding raking and digging, participants saying they feel a real sense of accomplishment at the end of each project. Oh, and one would not want to forget to mention those 80 Sapphire Dragon Trees. A 3 year commitment, there was a committee established for that too. It had to be a late night affair, starting after 10 P.M. on weekends when traffic would be lightest. At least 3 people were required, one to drive the water truck, one to operate the water tank, and one to orient the hose and ascertain that each tree got 10 gallons. In those days of normal rainfall the trees flourished in spite of the gophers, the winds and the traffic tree "fatalities," and we only got stopped twice by nervous policemen. Unfortunately, due to drought, very few remnants of those specimens remain. But, in spite of many obstacles, the Sunland Blvd. Trail has survived, built on a community spirit shared by Shadow Hills that ensures our community ideals endure. Anyone interested in improving their digging, pounding and raking abilities can always apply with SHPOA now by sending an email to board@shpoa.us. And if you are not interested in the physicality part, you can also volunteer by reporting accidents to 818-353-5974 and taking note of the date, time, license number and police report (obtained from the officer attending the accident).

# Please Make Your 2019 Membership Payment Today!

#### By Jacqy Gamble

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

Thank you.

**Shadow Hills Property Owners Association** 

# SHIOA Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's always time to join SHPOA! We are here for you!

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

Membership only = \$25

Newsletter only = \$10

Donations are always gratefully received.

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#### **Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership**

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#### 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
- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Leading the fight to defeat the high speed train proposals

#### **Promote Shadow Hills**

- √ Market unique lifestyle and real estate properties
- √ Conduct SHPOA membership drives
- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Hold general member meetings with guest speakers, helpful information and entertainment
- √ Bi-monthly newsletter
- √ Daily email outreach and information
- √ Website information



#### ("The Saga of..." cont'd from pg. 1)

In the meantime, Simone had been able to contact Maureen O'Connor, who lived close to the location the donkey was captured. Maureen, with her golf cart which provided the additional link to keep the donkey from escaping, arrived with carrots, hay, ropes and halters. Fortunately, other neighbors also arrived and were able to assist. Jordan Lee haltered the donkey, her father John Lee, Simone, Maureen and Arbi worked in unison to get the jenny into a secured safe bedded pipe corral in Maureen 's yard. Maureen noticed that she was not the energetic donkey observed running free of the last few weeks and was concerned that she was eating poorly and had a depressed demeanor.

When the donkey did not improve with the special care offered, an emergency veterinary visit was made over the Thanksgiving weekend. She presented with an irregular heartbeat, elevated temperature and was somewhat dehydrated. She was given a complete exam; given antibiotics, pain medication and treated by tubing to flush her system for stomach blockage. The rectal exam determined that she had an enlarged, hard and lumpy kidney. This could have been caused when she was hit by a car, as witnessed on Sunland Blvd, or it is possible she had eaten something poisonous to her system while wandering the hills. This could have been castor beans or oleander bushes, which are both very poisonous to equine.

On the evening of 11/24, the donkey laid down as if to sleep and passed away.

Arrangements were made with Dick Crow's pick-up service for the donkey. Maureen shaved the donkey's neck and recorded the freeze brand that had been placed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). After reporting the death of the donkey to the BLM, research revealed that she was nine years old, that the BLM had put 40 days of ground work into her training, and she was halter broke before she was adopted on October 4, 2016. Her home was registered to an address in Temecula, which is over 100 miles from Shadow Hills. It is very sad that the people who adopted her were not able to take care of her and provide her the happy and safe life that she deserved. The donkey's circumstances are still under investigation by the BLM.

(Please see "The Saga of..." on p. 7)

#### 2222

#### **Preservation of Street Trees - Part 2**

#### Elektra Kruger, SHPOA Board

Many mature parkway street trees are being removed due to private development and new construction. With better design and consideration of these trees during construction, many of these trees could be saved. Current policy allows for street tree removal permits as part of the installation of a driveway, expansion of a driveway or installation of a new curb cut.

## AHEAD With Horses Provides Therapy to Kids Through Equine Activities

#### By Michelle Newman, Executive Director

AHEAD With Horses Inc. is a local non-profit which has been serving our community for over 50 years now. Their mission is to maximize the potential of disabled / disadvantaged / special-needs children providing developmental therapy, education and recreation through horses and the environment, with measurable improvement physically, mentally, socially and/or emotionally resulting in increased self-sufficiency and the ability to lead better and more independent and productive lives capable of contributing to society.

AHEAD With Horses (AWH) serves children, normally 12 and under, with all types of disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, developmental delays, chromosome disorders, spina bifida, sensory processing disorders, hearing and visually impaired, and many more. Using vaulting (gymnastics on a moving horse), two unique aspects of this therapy are the immediacy of response and visibility of its effectiveness across multiple domains (motor, communication, social, emotional, cognitive, self-help, vocational). We have seen children say their first words, take their first steps, and improve their quality of life.

If you would like to be a part of our organization, we are always looking for individuals who would like to volunteer. Volunteers can help in AWH lessons with the children by leading horses or acting as a spotter (walking alongside the horse to help the child and instructor). Volunteers can also help with grooming horses, cleaning tack, landscaping and maintaining the facility, helping with fundraisers, and any other talents or skills they may have.



(Please See "AHEAD With Horses..." on p.10)

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("Preservation of"...cont'd from p. 4)

It oftentimes happens that the presence of a street tree is not noted when someone submits a permit request for a proposed project, the Department of Building and Safety does not verify the accuracy of this misrepresentation and issues the requested permits. It is then too late in the process to take preventative action to protect these trees. New policies could take into account the location of existing parkway trees before approving plans for new garages, driveways and curb cuts. Several speakers during the Public Comment period of a Hearing before the City Council's Public Works Committee in mid-April of 2015 emphasized how new driveway cuts for construction of McMansions have been responsible for the removal of many street trees as well as parkway space as a whole. At this time speakers urged the Committee to recommend placing a moratorium on all new driveway permits until a new street tree preservation program is implemented. Speakers also voiced that it is the responsibility of the City to abide by the CEQA stipulations as they relate to street tree preservation.

(Please See "Preservation of..." on p.8.)

("SHPOA Kicks Off..." cont'd from pg. 1.)

Newsletter Coordinator and Ad Collection: Linda Graves\* Newsletter Design and Layout: Gerardo Barrientos\*

Hospitality: Katherine Dayen, Lois Dayen

After public comment, it was time for our guest speakers. First, Jim Potts (Potts & Associates) gave an exceptionally informative presentation on "Active Shooter Awareness." He presented a noteworthy history of terrorism and how, on many levels, domestic terrorists are much more prevalent and dangerous than international ones. Most terrorists arise from hate groups, and social media and the internet has given them a ripe platform to thrive. Children are being indoctrinated and parents face the challenge of monitoring their children's internet usage. Contrary to what the media purports, most children who commit mass shootings are not "bullied." Instead, their parents did not pay attention to what they were engaging in online. Did you know that California tops the country in the number of domestic terrorists/hate groups? Law enforcement monitors as best they can the "chatter" to hopefully identify these groups before plots can be carried out. He then segued into how terrorism and hate groups are related to, and may be the foundation for, active shooters (defined as an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, usually by firearms). Victims are chosen at random and the event is unpredictable and evolves quickly. The most dangerous mass shooters are known as "lone wolves," which are usually just 1 or 2 individuals.

So, what do you do if you find yourself in an active shooter or bomb situation? First, do NOT panic! For an explosion/bomb: The usual mode of operation for a bombing is that the perpetrator sets off a small explosive device which results in panicked people running away. However, they may well be running into the main explosion, where the perpetrator has a larger, more deadly device rigged to explode. That is the central location where he plans to maximize injuries and death. Advice: If you are not hurt, stay close to the original explosion. If you are injured, stay there as well so that emergency personnel can locate you quickly. Keep in mind that it takes an average of 12-15 minutes wherein you need to figure out what to do to keep safe before law enforcement arrives. Imagine you're in an office. You hear an explosion outside. You go to the window, then the larger explosion is set off and shards of glass can become deadly projectiles. Advice: Stay away from the window. Imagine you're in an office and you hear gunfire. Turn off the light, close the blinds and the door, and get behind your desk. Those little rubber doorstoppers which are typically used to keep doors open are also extremely effective at keeping doors closed. Keep one in your office or even when you're traveling for your hotel room. With any luck, the shooter will think the office is vacant.

## Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Equestrian Meeting Highlights from January 9, 2019

#### By Rosey Payne, Board Member

- The committee is working on a horse evacuation area at the Vulcan Pit at San Fernando Road and Branford. This area would be able to accommodate 200-250 horses during emergency evacuations. Vulcan is fully on board and but the City is taking a bit longer for implementation.
- The former Summerhawk Ranch property had fenced off part of Hansen Dam which is under the Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction. They are aware of the situation and have walked the property.
- Jarrod DeGonia, the Field Representative from LA County Supervisor Barger's office, was in attendance and stated that they are pursuing a plan wherein the County and City work together for animal evacuation programs. Another related item is to eventually transfer the Trail Master Plan to NE San Fernando Valley.
- Evac-U-Pet representatives made a presentation.
   They created an app to organize the evacuation of pets in an emergency. It is set to launch around March 1st.
- ■The committee is still working on a jurisdictional GPS map. The goal is to direct a trails user (hiker, equestrian, cyclist) to a website or possibly an app that would identify the jurisdiction the person is in, e.g., City, County, Army Corps of Engineers, etc. The person would then be provided the proper phone number so the appropriate agency could be contacted. Kristin Sabo is currently mapping the trails.
- No update on Wornom or All Nation Church Trails.
- The committee is researching possibly having an Equine Health Fair and is looking into date, venue, and vendors.

#### 2 2 2 2 2

#### ("The Saga of..." cont'd from p. 4)

Over the 5 days that she stayed with Maureen who was trying rebuild her strength, the cost of care grew. The special feeds purchased, veterinary care and the final removal of her from the property ran up cost to approximately \$800.00.

ETI Corral 20 put out an appeal to help defray the cost that Maureen had incurred.

Due to the generous donations from the Shadow Hills neighbors, Corral 20 and SHPOA, Corral 20 collected enough to cover the cost of care for the donkey.

Maureen sends her appreciation for the community's kind generosity.

Thank you,

Shadow Hills Neighbor



"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it" -Oscar Wilde

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# BLAST FROM THE PAST – REPRINT FROM THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999 SHPOA NEWSLETTER (just for fun--no action needed)

T-Shirt Design Contest Coordinator

Several years ago, at SHPOA events, we sold t-shirts that depicted our way of life in Shadow Hills. Residents have been asking for updated Shadow Hills t-shirts, but the question was, how to come up with new artwork? So we thought we'd ask our resident artists, or those with artistic flair in the community, to submit artwork in a local t-shirt design contest.

However, we need a volunteer to coordinate the effort: planning the contest, devising a method to choose the winning artwork, and lastly being responsible for getting new t-shirts printed that we can offer to residents at our next year's events. If you are interested, please call XXXXX at XXX-XXXX. [NOTE: THIS IS A REPRINT FROM 1999]

#### 22222

#### BREAKING NEWS: Federal Government Announces Plan to "De-Obligate" \$3.5 Billion in Grants for the High Speed Train

By Clndy Bloom, SHPOA Board

As of the writing of this newsletter, the L.A. Times just reported the U.S. Department of Transportation announced plans to cancel \$929 million in grant funds, a move that some viewed as political payback. They also said they were "actively exploring every legal option" to recover an additional \$2.5-billion grant that is being used to finance the construction of 119 miles of rail line in the Central Valley. The two federal grants represent about one-fourth of all the funding for the project to date.

Ronald Batory, chief of the Federal Railroad Administration, laid out in detail why the state was out of compliance with the grant agreement in a 3 page letter to Brian Kelly, the CEO of the California High Speed Rail Authority.

The only certainty is that legal challenges will ensue.

#### 2222

("Preservation of..." cont'd from p. 6)

The Public Works Committee recommended that City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer along with the City's Legislative Analyst, the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division, the Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Engineering and the Community Forest Advisory Committee to recommend new policies to insure consideration of existing parkway trees prior to approving plans for...

(Please see "Preservation of...to p.9)

#### Trash, Trash Everywhere - Part 2

#### By Elektra Kruger, SHPOA Board

In late September 2017, Councilmembers Joe Buscaino and Bob Blumenfield co-presented a Motion to City Council asking that it instruct the City Administrative Officer along with the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Sanitation and the Office of Community Beautification to prepare a report with recommendations for a framework for a pilot program that would employ homeless "transitional" individuals to proactively clean litter from public right-of-ways on a regular on-going basis. The Motion was brought before the City Council's Public Works Committee in early November 2017 at which time two individuals representing their personal opinions testified, one supporting the Motion, one opposing it. The Public Works Committee approved the Motion with the following amendment - "... on a regular on-going basis in coordination and conjunction with the City's Targeted Local Hire Program." The Motion was then referred to the City Council's Environmental Justice Committee for its review and recommendations. In late November 2017, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council praised the proposal as having the opportunity to expand local future employment, however made note that the current framework as proposed would give the pilot program contract outright to an organization known as Chrysalis. The Neighborhood Council would much rather have seen the contract for such an innovative initiative be made public for other organizations to have had the opportunity to bid on and that preference to receive the pilot program contract should be given to non-profits as this would be more cost-effective. They felt that there are a multitude of organizations that would be able to run the pilot as well as or better than Chrysalis. In 2014-2015, the Bureau of Sanitation launched a Clean Streets Los Angeles (CSLA) program to address the increasing need and demand for cleanliness services within the City's public right-of-ways. The Bureau has been unable to keep pace with demand despite the additional resources provided each year since the inception of this program. The Bureau created a "CleanStat Program" to keep a "cleanliness score" for each of the City's 42,389 road segments in order to deploy its resources to areas of greatest need.

To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter



#### ("Preservation of..." cont'd from p. 8)

...new garages, driveways and curb cuts. In addition the City Administrative Officer should work with the Office of the City Attorney to report on recommendations for increased fees and penalties for removing street trees without permits and for the Urban Forestry Division to revise the City's tree replacement policy to require new 15 gallon minimum sized trees to replace any street trees removed due to new driveway cuts. The order to create new policies and fee structures as recommended by the Public Works Committee was approved by the City Council at their September 22, 2015 Hearing. Things lay dormant until 2018. SHPOA will pick this up in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.





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#### ("AHEAD With Horses" cont'd from p.5)

Orientation for new volunteers is normally held every Saturday at 8:45 am. (Closed when raining and most major holidays.) You can call the office at (818) 767 -6373 if you would like more details, or just show up at our facility at 10157 Johanna Ave., Shadow Hills (across from the Presbyterian church on Sunland Blvd.) wearing closed toe shoes, long pants and a shirt with sleeves. Volunteers must be at least 12, and if under 18 a parent must sign a liability release form. This is a great way to get community service requirements for school, get a "horsey-fix," enjoy the outdoors and make a difference.

If you would like to support the work we do, but don't have the ability to volunteer, you can also consider making a monetary donation to AHEAD With Horses. You can also come out and support us on June 8th, 2019 for our 38th Annual Children's Demonstration and Fun Day. The day will include a demonstration by the children, BBQ lunch, Silent Auction, games, arts & crafts, and much more. We look forward to seeing our neighbors come and support us!

#### **Non-Native Palms**

#### By Andrea Gutman, SHPOA Board

In view of the eminent threat of wildfire in California, the City of San Diego is sponsoring with its partners to fund the eradication of non-native palm trees in communities adjacent to wildlands. Considering the devastation that Shadow Hills suffered in December 2017's wildfire assault, perhaps the City of Los Angeles should consider undertaking a similar effort?

In December 2018, conservation groups used helicopters to remove 300 invasive palm trees from canyons in Tierrasanta and moved them to the Sycamore Landfill. The hope is to bolster native trees in the area like coastal live oaks and willows, while also reducing significant wildfire risk posed by the palms. The palm trees have a giant veil of dead palm fronds, and are not maintained in a location like a canyon resulting a tremendous amount of dry fuel on each tree. These unkempt palms in canyons can help wildfires spread, burning like Roman candles. The flaming fronds are easily blown by winds therefore spreading the fire.







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#### ("SHPOA Kicks Off" cont'd from p.2)

Now, let's say you're in a shopping mall and gunfire erupts. Do not run with the pack and leave your belongings behind! The shooter will aim for the middle of the group where he can kill or injure the maximum number of people. Quickly, run into a store as they have exits in the back. Some stores have an emergency procedure to start dropping their gates so try to duck in as soon as possible. If that's not doable, run on the outside of the crowd. In an open space situation, such as a concert, always identify barriers. They can be the side of a car (hide near the dense parts such as the wheels or the engine compartment, a wall, etc. At a restaurant, pick a location near the kitchen (which have exits) and face towards the entryway for a clear line of sight.

According to FEMA and Dept. of Homeland Security: (1) If you see suspicious activity, let an authority know immediately; (2) when you visit a building, identify 2 nearby exits; (3) run—leave your belongings behind, (4) call 911 when you are safe (do NOT call 911 if it will tip off a shooter to your position); (5) Hide: get out of view, stay quiet, silence your phone, lock/block doors, close blinds, turn off lights. (6) Fight: This is a last resort—throw makeshift weapons such as fire extinguishers, scissors, books. (7) When law enforcement arrives: Keep your hands visible and empty. Avoid pointing, yelling, or screaming. Realize their first task is to end the incident and they may have to pass injured persons in the meantime; follow their instructions. Most importantly: DO NOT PANIC! For more info, go to ready gov and search for "active shooter."

Our second speaker, Semee Park from Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, spoke about the upcoming Neighborhood Council elections and encouraged folks to run for office.



At open forum, a lively discussion took place on a variety of topics. It was wonderful to see Shadow Hills folks engaged. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Meanwhile, your Board is working on projects for the upcoming year, including completing the 2019 Priorities set by the community and members at the December 2018 meeting, beautification projects, a round table with other local communities hosted by Senator Portantino's office, a multi-home owner association meeting with the LA DWP Ratepayer's office, and yes, the pancake breakfast will be back!



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## Italian American Cuisine New Management as of December 22.

"I would like to thank everyone for their past support in Shadow Hills and look forward to seeing you at our new restaurant." – Jose Lopez

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

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

#### **WORLD ART DAY 2019 IN SUNLAND-TUJUNGA**

By Rebecca Mate, Sunland-Tujunga Resident

Here is what is happening in the Sunland-Tujunga area for World Art Day this year.

World Art Day, a holiday to promote the arts, was proclaimed by the International Association of Art, a non-governmental entity connected with the United Nations. It falls annually on Leonardo DaVinci's birthday, April 15th.

As usual, to celebrate World Art Day, Becky and Randy Mate will host their free Community Art and Chocolate Party on Monday, April 15, 2019, 3pm to 9pm at 7862 Apperson St, Sunland. Get your taxes filed early so you can celebrate World Art Day on its official day, with an open mic for stories and poems, a Kids Art Table (sponsored by DaSheetsLady.com), a BBQ sponsored by New Castle Remodeling (Lic #978915), and The Great Art Trade (bring your story, painting, poetry book, etc. to trade for another's art). Also, bring a potluck dish and some art to display.

Becky Mate, who has been celebrating an international Art Day since 1998 says, "If you cannot make it to my party on World Art Day, at least look around and notice art. My husband and I did this exercise at the Red Lobster restaurant and were delighted to find we were surrounded by art, from the decor, to the music, to the themed photos and don't forget the culinary arts. If you can make it on April 15th, there is always, serendipity, such as the Shadow Hills writer who gave a humorous talk based on sibling rivalry about the difference between a writer and a mechanic."



(Please see WORLD ART DAY...on p. 13)

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#### (WORLD ART DAY... cont'd from pg. 12)

On display will be Mail Art from around the world based on the theme "Artistic Innovation." Feel free to submit your own Mail Art. See ArtistsForABetterWorld. org for info. To find out more about the local World Art Day celebration, email artday@earthlink.net or go to ArtistsForABetterWorld.org



#### 2222

## **Co-existing with Coyotes During their Mating Season and Beyond**

#### By Susan Wong, SHPOA Board

Anyone who has lived in Shadow Hills for even a short time has met their coyote neighbors. We live in their territory. We see them while hiking or even around our homes. We hear their high pitched yodel-like howling and yipping at night or when they join the siren song of a fire engine or ambulance rushing down Sunland Blvd. One of the pleasures of living in Shadow Hills is the opportunity to observe coyotes and other wildlife. Most of us have learned the etiquette we must follow for polite co-existence between coyotes, humans, and pets.

Humans are the coyotes' main cause of death. However, coyotes are an important part of our ecosystem and helpful to the residents of Shadow Hills in that most of their main food sources are destructive, vegetation eating rodents, and invasive insects. They will scavenge in garbage and hunt small pets, so we must make both garbage and small pets difficult for them to obtain in Shadow Hills. We also want to avoid close encounters between coyotes and humans and their pets; so, ideally we want coyotes to learn to avoid us and our homes.

#### Coyote etiquette basics include:

- DO NOT feed coyotes.
- 2. DO NOT approach or try to pet coyotes.
- 3. Do NOT leave pet food outside (feed your pets indoors).
- **4. DO NOT** leave open crawl spaces under sheds or decks that could be attractive to coyotes for nesting or even just resting.
- **5.DO NOT** leave fruit rotting on fruit trees or the ground.

(Please see "Co-existing with..." on pg. 14)

## Gov. Newsom and the High Speed Train: Confusion is in the Mind of the Beholder?

#### By Cindy Bloom

Governor Newsom gave his first State of the State address on February 12, 2019 and spoke about the \$77 billion high speed train. After digesting what he said, his announcement confused both critics and supporters, triggering his administration to clarify that prioritizing the Central Valley segment does not equate to abandoning the entire project. His critics had a field day.

So, what was he supposed to say? What would happen if he terminated the train in its entirety right now?

- 1. California would have to repay \$3.5 billion in federal grants (see "Breaking News" on p. 8);
- 2.Abandonment would breach Prop 1A, and \$2.6 billion of currently issued Prop 1A bonds would likely have to be called; and
- 3.The Central Valley would be left with a disarray of semibuilt, disjointed artifacts of bridges, berms, and other monstrosities.

He said that he would "pursue" federal and private funding but what are the chances of either of these funding sources becoming reality? Federal grants usually come with strings attached, including the common requirement of matching funds. Based on the California High Speed Rail Authority's (CHSRA) unprecedented mismanagement and abject failure on this project, why would any federal legislator regardless of political party give California a second chance? Private investors invest for turning a profit and this project will never be profitable. Only two of the high speed rail systems in the world are profitable and a third line merely breaks even.

**Prop 1A Bond Funds**. \$2.6 of the \$9.95 billion has been issued and \$1.7 billion has been spent. If the project were officially ditched, Prop 1A's requirements are breached, and likely \$2.6 billion would have to be repaid to bondholders immediately.

**Federal Grants.** California has received \$3.5 billion from the feds for Central Valley. The state has already spent \$2.6 billion, satisfying only 1 of the 3 requirements.

- •Spend the \$2.6 billion in stimulus funds by September 2017. This requirement has been met.
- •Complete environmental reviews on the entire San Francisco to Anaheim route (Phase 1) by December 2022. The stretch from Merced to downtown Bakersfield is complete and work is underway for the rest of the state.
- •Complete construction on the segment from Madera to the outskirts of Bakersfield by December 2022. Work is underway.

Note that the 2 remaining requirements are what Newsom identified as his short-term plan. By not abandoning the entire project and "keeping the door open," Newsom is (1) avoiding breaching Prop 1A; (2) avoiding repaying \$3.5 billion to the federal government, and (3) completing a segment that would otherwise be left in total chaos.

Did Newsom kill the train? No. Is he letting it die? Eh, sounds like it. Under the circumstances, he was left with only one viable albeit unpleasant option.

NOTE: The above is the opinion of the author and not the SHPOA Board







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"Co-existing with..." cont'd from pg. 13)

- 6. DO NOT leave garbage or garbage bags available to coyotes (put all garbage and garbage bags in trash cans with tight lids.
- 7. DO NOT let your dogs off-leash except in your own fenced yard or designated fenced dog parks. Pets should not be wandering our wilderness trails, where they could harass the native coyotes of the area and provoke a coyote attack by chasing them or wandering too close to a den. Coyote family members will come to help the coyote being chased and may (and do) injure the dog. Your dog may try to protect you when the situation is simply that the coyote is trying to get you and your dog to leave their territory. Even if you think your dog has perfect recall, do not allow dogs to be off-leash in Shadow Hills wilderness areas and trails.
- 8. DO NOT leave small pets and children outside alone.
- **9.** If you have an unspayed female or intact male dog. understand that coyotes may be attracted to them, both on your property and off. Unneutered pets should never be off-leash outside of your property. Consider spaying and neutering your pets.
- 10. If you encounter a coyote, it is most often when you see it moving away from you. If that is the case, enjoy the opportunity to observe the local wildlife.
- 11. If the coyote does not move away or is approaching you, pick up any small pets (less than 20 lb.) or a small children and carry them. Keep larger pets on a leash right next to you, and keep older children right next to you.
- A. DO NOT turn and run, which will trigger the coyotes prey instinct and they WILL chase you.
- **B.** Stand up as tall as you can.
- **C**. Make yourself as big as you can (e.g., open your coat
- **D.** Maintain eye contact with the coyote.
- **E.** Back away slowly and smoothly from the coyote.
- F. Don't be alarmed if the coyotes follows you at a safe distance; they do this to make sure you are leaving their territory.
- 12.If this doesn't seem to be working, and the animal is not obviously sick or injured\*, and it is not mating or pupping season (see below), you may haze the coyote. The idea is to scare them, not injure them, and "train them" to avoid humans. You may haze them with these behaviors:
- **A.** Wave your arms.
- B. Yell or carry and use a noise maker (whistle, shake coins in a can, etc.)
- **C.** If at home, squirt the coyote with water from your hose.
- **D.** If these techniques don't work, throw rocks toward the coyote, but not actually at the coyote. Again, the idea is to scare them, not injure them.
- 13. California Coyotes mate between the months of late January and March. Male coyotes become more aggressive if encountered and may also attempt to mate with dogs. Pregnancy lasts about 2 months...

(Please see "Co-existing with..." on pg. 15)



"Co-existing with..." cont'd from pg. 14)

...Then the first few months after birth coyote moms are protective of their young and the dens. So, from January thorough July, coyotes may be less likely to leave an area when hazed if they are actively seeking mates or protecting their young. During these months:

**A.** Be aware of possible den areas and avoid them. Walk well away from thick clumps of brush where dens may be located.

**B.** If encountering a coyote between Jan. and July, make eye contact, make yourself look big, and back away from coyotes. *Do not haze them.* 

Consistent hazing by everyone in a neighborhood during the months of August through September is the most reliable way to train coyotes who are not afraid of humans to be uncomfortable around them and make efforts to avoid humans and human encounters. This allows peaceful coexistence among the human and canine species.

\* If you see an animal that is sick or injured, back away and get out of their territory and then call LA Animal Services at 888-452-7381.

#### SOURCES:

1. "Living with California Coyotes"

https://www.nativeanimalrescue.org/ coyote-lore-living-with-california-coyotes/

- 2. "Coyote Mating Season January through March Be Aware of Small Pets" by Kamala February 14, 2018, Everything South City, South San Francisco, CA February 14, 2018 https://everythingsouthcity.com/2018/02/coyote-mating-season-january-through-march-be-aware-of-small-pets/
- 3. Urban Coyote Initiative, https://urbancoyoteinitiative.com



#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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## General Meeting, Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at Tierra del Sol

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Classy Jewelers9	Mission Valley Bank10
Corsica Deli6	Pampered Pets6
Crystal Clear Pool & Spa11	The Ramp12
David Robertson, DVM10	Richard's R&R Plumbing6
Eagle Plumbing8	Sally Hall, Realtor7
East Valley Feed & Tack5	Sharon Yoho, Realtor5
Eick & Freeborn, Attorneys11	Sicari Plumbing11
Ellingford Brush Clearance7	So Cal Turf & Tractor12
Grocery Outlet15	SoilDirect.com11
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Keller Willliams Realty9	TransAction8
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#### **Key Community Locations & Contact Information**

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420) Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,

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

**Lake View Terrace** 

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

Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8014)

Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)

Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)

City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland (818-352-3287)

#### Community Calendar

**Alcoholic Family/Friends Support Group** 

- Every Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church 10158 Johanna Ave. @ Sunland Blvd. For Info: (818) 353-2500

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting 1st Tuesday, Every Month

- 7 p.m.
- 9747 Wheatland Ave.

Neighborhood Watch

3rd Tuesday, Every Month

- 6:30 p.m.
- East Valley Municipal Bldg.

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board LAST Tuesday, Every Month

- 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council 3rd Thursday, Every Month

- 7 p.m
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

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