

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

Volume 32, Issue 1

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



January-February 2010

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Getting to Know You

We're aware that Shadow Hills is an "eclectic" community, but did you ever wonder just how "unique and interesting" we are? Starting with this issue, we will be running a human interest series entitled "Getting to Know You." If you are acquainted with an interesting Shadow Hills neighbor, we would like to know him/her too. Please submit your stories or bios to article collection at carlington@ca.rr.com. Everyone's got a story and we'd love to listen!



Getting to Know You (Upon Closer Inspection...)

by Sue Mansis

Eric and Ginny Ford knew it was love when, under the chassis of a car, they shared their first kiss. Gifted in math and sciences, both grew up studying engineering, physics and mathematics. Today, Eric runs his own business in optical engineering, consulting and design; and Ginny, an opto-mechanical engineer, is currently the senior opto-mechanical engineer for an internationally collaborative team creating the first 30 meter telescope. With a mirror as wide as one third the length of a football field (about 35 yards wide), it will be the most powerful of its kind in the world.

Marrying while employed at Texas Instruments, both were specializing in infrared technology when Eric accepted a position in California and Ginny was hired at JPL, where she became interested in instruments used for space science and astronomy. Eric eventually began his own optical consulting company, designing highly complex lenses for military, consumer, medical and aerospace technologies. Currently he is working on video viewing glasses that will replace many hand held devices such as PSPs, GameBoys and GPS.

Ginny designed the " housings" for various satellite-borne instruments and cameras used to study global climate science, including tracking changes in aerosols, ozone and clouds. Even the Mars Exploration Rovers each bear a plaque with Ginny's name, as the lead mechanical designer of their 9 cameras.

The Fords moved here one year ago, purchasing property on a hillside where they plan to construct Shadow Hills' first 'subterranean' house. Welcome to the Neighborhood, Eric and Ginny!

FOOD FORWARD

We are proud to announce our recent partnership with FOOD FORWARD, an all-volunteer grassroots group of Los Angelenos who care about reconnecting to our food system and making change around urban hunger and food waste. It is an incredibly simple idea that is win-win all around: several times a month Food Forward volunteers convene at a private property they have been invited to and glean the excess fruit on their trees, donating 100% of it to local food pantries.

They have been featured in The LA Times, on NPR and various web and print publications. In their short time together they have harvested nearly 25 tons of fruit in the LA area. One tree or one hundred trees, no matter, Food Forward supplies the volunteers, equipment and coordination to pull off picks both large and small, creating an atmosphere of community that encourages its volunteers to reconnect and pass along the abundance of food already present in our daily lives.

We greatly encourage you to reach out to Food Forward to volunteer your property to be gleaned, or to be part of a pick. To sign up visit the "Get Involved" page of their website: <http://foodforward.org> or call them at 818-530-4125.

Erica Kenner, Property/Harvesting Coordinator
Food Forward
818.530.4125 msg - 310.913.3900 cell
<http://foodforward.org> - twitter: @foodforwardla
Facebook group: Food Forward

New Year's Resolutions for Pet Parents

By Denise Fleck

To enhance your relationship with your dog or cat and take even better care of them, set realistic goals for 2010 that you can practice for a lifetime.

1. REALLY GET TO KNOW YOUR PET! Knowing what is normal can help you more quickly determine when something is not. Refer to the September/October 2009 issue of the SHPOA Newsletter for details but do a weekly Head-to-Tail Check of your pet. Discovering a problem early and getting prompt medical attention could be a lifesaver.

2. DON'T SKIP ANNUAL VETERINARY VISITS! Unfortunately, our dogs and cats don't live as long as we do, so each calendar year compares to seven years worth

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2010 SHPOA Board Members

Executive Officers

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Vice President:	Dave De Pinto	352-7618
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Executive Secretary:	Kellie Kozonis	
Recording Secretary:	Katherine Dayen	
Treasurer:	Gerhard Kruger	352-6220
Membership:	Roberta Cole	353-4633

Appointed Officers

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Trails:	James and Andrea Gutman	
	353-5974	
Special Projects:	Karen Burdett	(W) 970-1995
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	246-8877

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<i>Sun Valley:</i>	Michelle Rodriguez	634-0755
	31020@lapd.lacity.org	

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

<i>West Shadow Hills/Stonehurst:</i>	Terry Kaiser area5rep1@ftdnc.org
<i>East Shadow Hills/East LVT:</i>	Dale Gibson 818-968-8670

Emergency Animal Hospitals

Animal Specialty Group	www.asgvets.com
4641 Colorado Blvd. (Off 5 Fwy) Los Angeles 90039	
(818) 244-7977	Mon-Fri: 2pm – 8am.
	Weekends: 24 hours

Animal Emergency Centre	www.valleypet911.com
11730 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604	
(818) 760-3882	Mon-Thurs: 6pm – 8am
	Weekends: Fri 6pm – Mon 8am

Meet SHPOA's New Webmaster, Carlos George

Upon leaving his native Cuba at four years old, Carlos came to Southern California by way of Spain and San Francisco. Fluent in Spanish, and with no money to their name, Carlos' family began Saint Francis Imports in Glendale in 1973, a wholesaler and manufacturer of religious goods and gifts sold to retail stores, church gift shops and bridal boutiques. Carlos manages and oversees the corporation's infrastructure.

In 2005, Carlos moved to Shadow Hills to shorten his commute, finding here the tranquility of the country life he was leaving behind after 19 years in Castaic. Recently, after he'd seen a sign advertising a SHPOA General Meeting, Carlos wandered in, curious to learn more about Shadow Hills, but knowing nothing about SHPOA. A comment made about the outdated website perked his ears and called him into action and voila! Our new webmaster was born! Running his own business doesn't leave much time for leisure, but Carlos enjoys spending his Sundays with his wife Mercedes, their three children and three dogs. If you haven't yet checked out our new site, please go to www.shpoa.us We are so pleased to welcome Carlos aboard!

Remember Your Permits

by Elektra Kruger

Keep in mind that any construction project on your property, however small, may require a permit. It will always be in your best interest to err on the side of caution and check with the Department of Building and Safety to determine whether or not you need a permit. You can pretty well figure that ANY project requiring the services of a contractor will also require a permit.

It is the primary responsibility of the property owner to obtain needed permits, although any reputable contractor generally will take the time and effort to obtain any needed permits for you and this will be part and parcel of any contract you have signed. The contractor would be far more knowledgeable as to what kind of permit is needed, where to go to obtain it, etc. At the very least, any reputable contractor would make his clients aware of the need for a permit and NO reputable contractor would ever do a job without one.

New Sunland Boulevard Speed Limits?

by Elektra Kruger

In mid-August 2009, the Department of Transportation submitted a recommendation for speed limit revisions for Sunland Boulevard between the Foothill Boulevard/Newhome intersection at the east end and Vineland at the Southwest end to the Board of Transportation Commissioners. The recommendation was actually for a reduction in the speed limit between Tuxford St. and Sunland Park Dr. from 45 to 40 mph and a similar reduction of 45 mph to 40 mph between Nohles Dr. and the Foothill Bl./Newhome Ave. intersection. The recommendations were initiated by the Los Angeles Police Department which requested a speed study to determine the most appropriate speeds along Sunland Boulevard where it passes through Shadow Hills which would ease speed enforcement by use of radar - a procedure they also requested permission to utilize for speed enforcement in the future.

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"Hey Doc do you ever take a day off?" was the frequent call from passing horsemen. "Not if I can help it!" is the reply that accompanied Doc's smile and wave. If you took the time to stop you may have been treated to one of his many wonderful stories.

We used to see Louis "Doc" Larsen out working the trails nearly every day.

Doc would tell us "he would wake up thinking about the work he would accomplish and could hardly wait to get started". He would say that if "he didn't get out to do something he felt like a pent up horse, weaving and pacing the stall".

In San Mateo, the Larsen's lived in an old homestead house on the Burrell Ranch. Willie Tevis owned the nearby Homestead Riding School where Lou, age 9, discovered his love for horses.

While Lou was there, the seeds of the Tevis ride were being planted with Wendell Robbie and Willie Tevis. They would experiment, riding their horse 100 miles in 1 day, around the Bay Meadows Race Track. Lou participated as they formed their ideas and plans that would someday be the now famous Tevis Endurance ride.

In 1951 Doc took a job with Dill Veterinary hospital and settled down and started his family in the San Fernando Valley. Eventually, he saved up and opened his own practice small animal practice in Pacoima, in 1958.

Doc, Sammy and their 3 children, James Louis, Linda Shirley and Sandra Rae, moved to Riverwood Ranch in 1967. To the everlasting delight of local horseman, he began to work on trails and make them safe and scenic. As a family they rode on all the trails and competed in many endurance rides including many completions at Tevis. They have been on many pack trips into the Sierras. Doc has built hundreds of miles of trail.

Doc was one of the foremost trail building experts in the country. He never cared much of seminars and forums. Mostly he felt he was too busy building trails to go to them but he would tell a story about how the forest service sent him to a seminar on how to drive a tractor and use a chain saw. This one was actually useful because he had been using an axe and a mule drawn single blade plow.

Doc was always available to help anyone when building a difficult trail or trail maintenance issues. If you had the chance to work with this wonderful man, you found it to be one of the most uplifting experiences of your life. If you got him talking, he would tell you more of his adventures, which was all the better. He was a gifted story teller.

We trail users are most fortunate to have had this selfless dedicated individual in the forefront of trail building. Doc's legacy will be the trails for our Children to enjoy.

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA Membership Form

Residents in the Shadow Hills area
Join SHPOA for the 2010 calendar year!

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

Membership = \$20

Newsletter only = \$10

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please check one: New ☐ Renewal ☐
 Newsletter Only ☐

Mail check to: SHPOA, P.O. Box 345
Sunland CA 91041-0345

East Valley Animal Shelter

East Valley Animal Shelter is now located at 14409 Vanowen in Van Nuys, 1 block east of Van Nuys Blvd. at the corner of Vanowen and Lennox. Toll free 1-888-452-7381 (menu option 1 then 4 then 5) inside line 1-213-485-8613 or 1-818-756-9323.

2009 Korean BBQ a Huge Success

The 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ & “Spirit of Johnny Carpenter” Awards, held Friday November 20th, 2009, attracted its largest gathering of community guests and church members ever. The crowd was estimated to be approaching 400. Held annually at All Nations Church, the event honors the memory of the late Johnny Carpenter, stuntman, actor and cowboy, whose original Heaven on Earth Ranch stood for almost 25 years on what is now church land.

Johnny built an authentic Wild West town and held an annual Thanksgiving dinner and stunt show for the physically and mentally challenged children and young adults he taught to ride horses. The church has brought back the event and created the “Spirit” award to honor those whose actions best represent what Johnny did at the ranch. This year, Royan Herman and Fritz Bronner were honored.

Also recognized were five students from the community who received scholarships from the church. They were Catherine Salinas, Mike Nevarez, Mauricio Jimenez, Merari Morales and Daniel Soto. This year, the church asked community groups to choose candidates. Participating were Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, Community Christian College, LVT Improvement Association & PUC Charter Early Local High School.

Nearly 30 organizations and local stables were represented. Eight elected offices recognized the event and both candidates for the December Council District 2 runoff attended. The “New Heaven on Earth Ranch” Board of Directors was represented as well. They are: Lee Diebold, President; Randy Horton, Vice President; Phyllis Hines, Treasurer; and Katherine Carpenter, Secretary. A silent auction was held to benefit the ranch.

To begin the program, Lake View Terrace’s own, Cile Borman sang the National Anthem and her original song “Lake View Terrace. The evening concluded with a concert performed by members of the church. Participating were baritone Yoseen Kim, pianist Seong Nam, tenor Peter Cheon, the ANC Journey Praise Team, and “His Dream,” the church’s children’s group. Journey Pastor Young Choi delivered an inspirational message.



Fritz Bronner & Royan Herman,
2009 “Spirit of Johnny Carpenter” Award Honoree’s

Update from Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church and Pre-School

Shadow Hills Preschool is moving into the new year! We have a lot planned for the upcoming months. We recently announced the retirement of a long time employee, Carol Gackstetter. Carol worked at the preschool for 20 years. No doubt some of you reading this will remember Mrs. Carol as one of our Pre-Kinder teachers. Through the years she has prepared many students as they made the transition from preschool to kindergarten. Are you one of them? We miss her, and wish her the best.

Now we have introduced Mrs. Tricia Cullen as our newest Pre-K teacher. Tricia has been working as a teacher's assistant and has embraced her new role. She is enthusiastic and eager to be a positive influence for these young students. We are proud to have Mrs. Tricia at Shadow Hills Preschool. She is creative and caring, and we are confident she will make a wonderful teacher.

We want to invite the Shadow Hills Community to our annual Pizza Night at Round Table Pizza in La Canada. The tentative date for this event is Thursday, January 28, 2010 from 5 to 9 pm. Please call the school to confirm the date and join us for some good food and good fun! Preschool benefits in two ways - we enjoy the socializing with preschool families, past and present and the evening serves as a small fundraiser as we receive a percentage of the evening's intake.

We welcome anyone who would like to know more about us to stop by and we will be proud to give you a personal tour of our school located at the corner of Sunland and Johanna. We are open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Reviving a Speed Hump Program?

by Elektra Kruger

Among the many programs cut out of the City's 2009-2010 Budget is the speed hump program. Originally, the City installed speed humps at no cost to adjacent residents if the streets met a series of conditions - but there was an extremely long waiting list and it took up to 2 years to reach the top of that list. Those residents willing to share in the full cost of speed hump installation could find themselves near the top of the list sooner, but that had to be initiated by Motion of a Councilmember for the City to accept funds from those residents.

In 2006, the City Council instructed the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to investigate the feasibility of introducing a 50:50 speed hump program mimicking the 50:50 sidewalk pilot program introduced in 2005. In this 50:50 program, the City carried 50% of the financial burden of installing a sidewalk while the adjacent residents carried the other 50%. The DOT submitted a report to the City Council on April 5, 2007 about the feasibility of expanding this concept to speed hump installations, but the Council never acted on it. Prior to the budget crisis, the BSS staff worked overtime to meet the demand for new speed humps - up to 350 a year were installed on weekends at a cost of \$2,500 per hump. DOT analysis needed to approve or decline installation of speed humps runs about \$2,000.

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S.A.F.E. Collection Center

This hazardous waste collection center accepts paint cans, electronics, out of date medication, cell phones, batteries (small and large), etc. The center is located at 11025 Randall St., Sun Valley, and operates Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 9am - 3pm.

Directions: Go west on Sunland Blvd. toward Sun Valley/ Glenoaks. Turn right on Tuxford, right on the first street, then left on Randall.

Letters to the Editor

Roosters

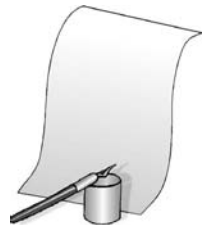
By a Shadow Hills Resident

I disagree with the tone of the article on Roosters in the SHPOA newsletter.

Does someone in Shadow Hills have the "right" to have roosters as pets or as "just the normal everyday thing" when they disturb their neighbors and cause them not to sleep half the night. I say no!

Sound carries across the gullies here. Many of the properties in Shadow Hills, perhaps most of them, do not have the buffer of 3, 4, or 5 acres. Many, many properties are less than an acre. We have had neighbors with roosters that would start at 2:00 a.m. and continue every 90 seconds until 7:00 a.m. (and sometimes well beyond) keeping us and several of our neighbors from sleep. What about our rights to enjoy our property as "just the normal everyday thing"?

Dogs need to be kept quiet, people/workers need to be quiet until 7:00 a.m., why not roosters? Does the desire to maintain a rooster as the embodiment of a rural environment trump everyone else? No sleep because of a pet and a few fertile eggs? We have donkey, goat, sheep, and horse noise around us and it's nice, but it rarely is at 2:00 a.m. and does not go on continuously.



If you want a rooster, then be responsible to your neighbors and keep it quiet, at least until a reasonable hour in the morning. Being responsible and considerate of your neighbor is part of a rural environment too!

To All Horse Riders:

By concerned resident/name withheld

I have lived here in Shadow Hills for over 15 years now. I understand that there are many horse properties here and that is why I moved here. However, if people always complain about dog droppings then I would like to complain about horse droppings. I'm not telling all the people who ride horses to carry "horsey baggies" around with them at all times, but it would be nice if some of them would come back later to pick up after their horses. If they really don't know it happened that's a different story, but I see many riders sometimes stop right near my driveway and watch this happen. After they leave there is a big mess all over my driveway. This happens to me at least 3 times a month. I hope we can come up with a good solution concerning this matter. Thank you.

Note from Editor: in all seriousness, these are two of my "pet peeves" about Shadow Hills also! Thank you for your letters.

Children, Eat Slowly

By Marlene Hitt, Sunland Archivist and Co-Director Bolton Hall Museum

Though the celebrations during the Holiday season have become as diverse as the people in our country, it is a celebration held in much of the world for many centuries. Historically and spiritually the day is important to many. Much of the symbolism has evolved from all over the earth as traditions of many peoples are honored in and around the fall and winter seasons.

As we think about the glitz of today's holiday, we see our culture in its affluence. Yes, many will have a sparser tree, fewer gifts, and, we hope, a free turkey. For some the food banks will be appreciated.

It seems that the basic form of celebrating centers on family, peace, love, gifting, and food. Stories retold from pioneer history give us an idea not only of the importance of the day but the variety of ways to observe it. In times of great privation the Christmas date, it seems, would go unnoticed, but not so with the Donner-Reed party marooned in the deep winter of the Sierras, 1846.

Virginia Reed Murphey's mother determined to have a special treat on that day, so had laid aside a few dried apples, some beans, a bit of tripe, and a small piece of bacon. When the children saw this feast, their "delight showed no bounds". When they sat down to dinner, mother said, "Children, eat slowly, for this one day you can have all you wish."

Other accounts are similar in that the occasion called for some kind of feasting. When eggs and butter are not available, a pork cake is in order. Its made of finely ground fat, flour, saleratus, raisins, sugar, citron and molasses, and seasoned with nutmeg and cloves. It's appropriate to serve it on a table resplendent with doilies (1866).

A Death Valley meal was fashioned when the men killed an ox, cooked it and served the dinner with coffee and a little bread. Of the day it was said, "Nobody knew what untold misery the morrow might bring, so there was no occasion for cheer."

It was 1870, Christmas, when the one man killed and dressed two fat porcupines and boiled the meat four hours. He made a pudding of suet, flour, raisins, a little baking powder, salt and water. He put it in a sack and boiled it for two hours. In all reports, after the feasting the traveler or the pioneer used the free time to remember his or her family back home, the festivities and food. They spoke of the hope of hitting pay dirt the next day.

One group, after the meal, said, "Let's bring out our old letters". The homesick cowboys or homesick prospectors usually had letters from home with a small personal trinket enclosed; a piece of lace, a ribbon, pressed flowers. "Can't someone say grace?" said one of the boys. No one volunteered. "The closing lines in my mother's letter," said a boyish voice, "might do". Heads were bowed around the frugal Christmas board and the young man read. "God bless you my son, and God bless us all. I then looked up and saw tears on the cheeks of the weather beaten faces."

There was the happy time on Christmas, 1882, in Montana, when railroad men gathered for a Swedish celebration. Some in the big crowd of young Swedes lived in a cave the previous winter. They had cut a doorway out of a high bank then had cut out a room about ten by ten. "With the aid of a few powder cans we built a chimney and had as comfortable home as you can imagine."

Resolutions for Pet Parents *continued from page 1*

of physiological changes in us. Have your veterinarian examine your pet and perform tests to ensure organs are functioning properly. If you haven't already...spay or neuter your dog or cat! Doing so will lower the risks of many cancers as well as lower the number of homeless animals.

3. **SOCIALIZE AND TRAIN YOUR PET.** An obedient dog is less likely to get into trouble. He'll be a welcomed family member able to go on outings and be part of gatherings. A well-socialized dog or cat is less likely to bite a person or get into a fight with another animal. Train, socialize and give your pets the love and attention they deserve. Being a Pet Parent is a commitment for life. Make it a great one for you and your four-legged best friend.

4. **READ LABELS AND FEED THE BEST FOOD YOUR BUDGET WILL ALLOW.** Know which human foods are dangerous to cats and dogs, and don't create your own dishes unless you are educated in pet nutrition. Just because it's good for humans, does not make it good or even safe for our pets! Keep your pet at a healthy weight – you should feel the ribs but not see them.

5. **PLAN FOR THE UNEXPECTED.** Learn Pet First-Aid & CPR before you wish you had, and have at least one Pet First-Aid Kit handy so that you'll have the tools at your fingertips. Know the location of your nearest Animal Emergency Hospital, and develop a Disaster Preparedness Plan for your entire family, including the furry, feathered, finned and scaled members. We've had fires, we're sure to have floods and mudslides not to mention that much overdue earthquake. Don't think it won't happen to you!

Shadow Hills resident Denise Fleck is a Pet First-aid and Animal Care Expert. She has trained Oprah Winfrey's household staff, worked with Homeland Security on their K9 Border Patrol First-aid Program, and appeared on numerous animal and news related television and radio programs. Visit her website at www.sunnydogink.com to learn how you can help your pets.



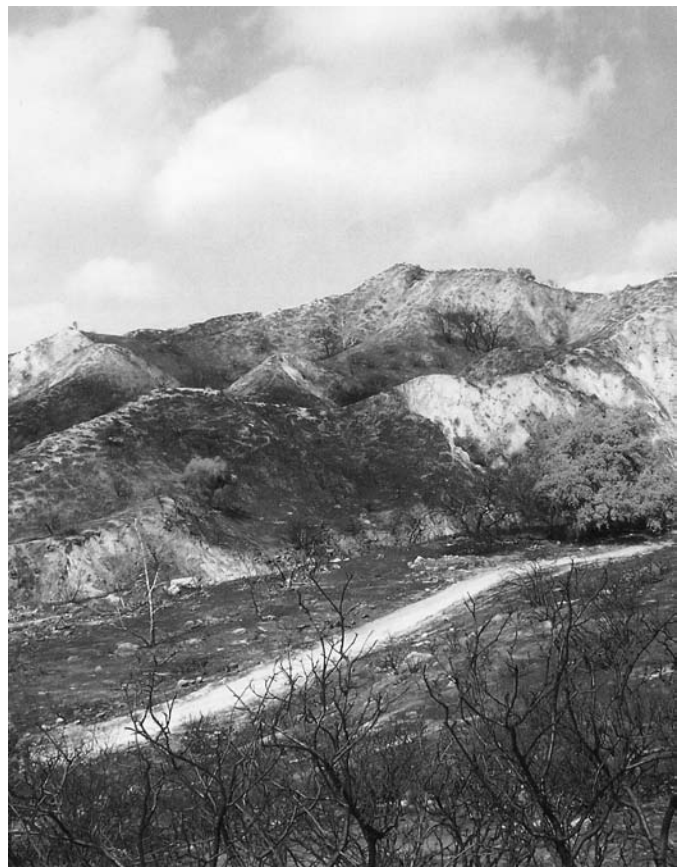
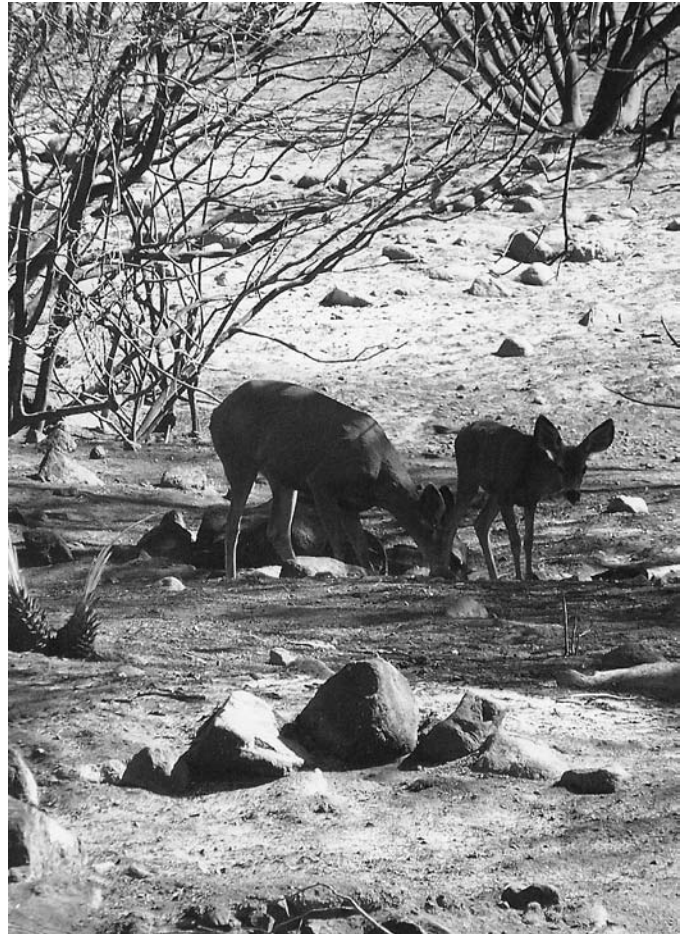
Debris Flow Management?

by Elektra Kruger

In 2009, the San Fernando Valley/Angeles National Forest was hit with numerous and extensive fires - the Marek, the Sayre, the Sesnon and the Station fires burned thousands of acres of hillsides creating a risk for rainfall to trigger debris flows that could seriously impact adjacent parts of the City. Triggered by rainfall, a fast moving debris flow could create a dangerous situation with little or no notice.

Debris flows are a type of landslide that flows through drainages and canyons carrying with it soil, rock and vegetation. The powerful force of the rushing water, soil and rocks can destroy bridges, roadways and structures as well as result in innumerable injuries and death. After wildfires it would take very little rainfall to generate a debris flow. Councilmember Richard Alarcon, along with many others, felt the need for the City of Los Angeles to establish a Wildfire Hillside Area Debris Flow Management

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Station Fire and Aftermath: Photos by Elaine Brown

Quicksand

Copied From Trails Project Partnership

Just in case we ever get rain again, now is the time to remind you that you may come across quicksand in Hansen Dam. The good news is that quicksand is not the monstrous force portrayed in movies or TV. Sinking out of sight into a bottomless pit may be our nightmare, but that's not the way quicksand works. So forget about the image of the cowboy's head disappearing as his flailing hands reach for the rope that his faithful horse, standing on the bank, has tossed to him.

Quicksand is just sand that has been over-saturated with water, creating a mixture that no longer supports weight. Quicksand won't suck you down and it is rarely more than a few feet deep. However, you can trap yourself, if you don't know how to respond. Thrashing vertical movements will force you deeper. Slow, steady movements are best.

"That's fine for me," you might be thinking. "But what about my horse? Try telling HIM to stay calm!" Well, that is exactly what you need to do. Our horses look to us for leadership. If we remain calm, it increases the likelihood that they will remain calm.

Tips for Navigating Wet Winter Trails

Stay on high ground.

- Use trails that are well traveled and show hoof prints. If others have passed safely (and you can see from their tracks how deep they sank) then you probably can too.
- Avoid places which appear smooth and trackless. Liquefied sand doesn't hold hoofprints or rocks. No rocks, don't go.
- When crossing water, look at BOTH banks- are other hoof prints going into the water and out the other side? How deep are they? Any gouge marks indicating that the rider before you ran into difficulty?
- Pay attention to your horse's body language. They have strong instincts to avoid quicksand and bogs. If your horse does sink into liquefied sand or bog, **DON'T STOP – Keep moving.** Standing still allows your horse's legs to sink deeper into resistant suction. If there is solid ground a few feet in front of you, it may be best to keep moving forward. If not, turn towards the nearest solid ground and **KEEP YOUR HORSE MOVING**, as calmly as possible.
- Dismount if necessary (to reduce weight) but try to keep your horse moving towards higher ground.

Speed Limits

Continued from page 2

For a jurisdiction to legally use radar enforcement, the California Vehicle Code Section 40802b requires that speed limits be re-established every ten years based on data from a speed study - studies which include determining prevailing speeds, collision history and the existence of any dangerous roadway conditions that may not be immediately obvious to a motorist. The extent of this traffic survey ran the length of Sunland Boulevard from Vineland to the Foothill/Newhome intersection. The findings of the survey determined that speed limits of 30 mph between Vineland and Nettleton St. (to remain as currently posted), 40 mph between Nettleton and Sunland Park Dr., 45 mph between Sunland Park Dr. and Nohles Dr. (to remain as currently posted) and 40 mph between Nohles and the Foothill Boulevard/Newhome Ave. intersection are consistent with roadway traffic characteristics and will facilitate safe movement of traffic.

The width of Sunland Bl. between Sunland Park Dr. and Nohles Dr. varies from 60 to 72 feet with two lanes each direction. Development along the frontage of this segment of Sunland Boulevard is mostly residential with a few small businesses by Wheatland Ave. and La Canada Way. There is an off-street equestrian path on the north side of Sunland Boulevard between Stonehurst Ave. and La Canada Way that is separated from the roadway by a fence. Pedestrians use this path when there are no sidewalks. There are also intermittent sidewalks and off-street walking areas with a few places where walking areas are limited due to retaining walls or hillsides protruding almost out to the curb.

However, pedestrian and bicycle volumes are very low and should be able to pass safely without entering a moving traffic lane. The average speed of vehicles using this section of Sunland Boulevard was determined to be 46.9 mph. Thus according to the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices this section's speed limit should be set at 45 mph, therefore the Engineering Department noted in their report that any speed limit reduction below the existing 45 mph would not be justified for this segment of Sunland Boulevard - the main section traversing Shadow Hills. (SHPOA will notify you if and when these speed limits become effective).



Speed Humps

Continued from page 5

So for a total of about \$7,000 to \$9,500, 2 or 3 speed humps could be installed on a given street.

It might be possible for Neighborhood Councils, Homeowner Associations, a Council Office or nearby businesses to contribute to the cost, but the majority of the cost would still have to be borne by the adjacent residents that would benefit the most from speed hump installation. In early November 2009, Councilmember Jose Huizar presented a Motion to City Council asking that the City Council request the BSS & DOT to prepare a report on how the City could once again create a fully-funded speed hump program that would allow the Bureau to accept funds from other City entities as well as a number of outside groups or private citizens to pay for installation.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Transportation Committee for their review and recommendations.

Dumpsters in the Public Right-of-Way

by Elektra Kruger

care

Throughout the City of Los Angeles, the placement of dumpsters, trash containers and roll-off bins contributes to blight, impacts our quality of life, and causes traffic problems. There currently are some regulations regarding the placement of dumpsters, e.g. residents intending to place building debris into a dumpster located in a public right-of-way must first file an application for a permit to do so. However, there really is no overall regulatory program governing the use, placement and restrictions related to dumpsters placed in a public right-of-way.

Another issue is there are no dedicated City personnel that may remove illegally placed dumpsters - the City uses outside contractors to pick up illegally placed dumpsters incurring the costs for doing so. Why are these costs not redirected to the violator along with a fine for having illegally placed the dumpster in the first place?

In early September 2009, Councilmember Cardenas presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Sanitation be directed to prepare and present to the City Council an analysis of programs that other cities have undertaken to ensure that dumpsters in their cities are fully permitted and legally placed as well as how illegal dumpsters are dealt with. The analysis is to include recommendations for establishing a functional and feasible program for the City of Los Angeles that would allow it to effectively deal with illegal dumpsters. Further, the Motion asks that the Bureau of Street Services implement standards to help avoid accidents in areas where storage bins are located, such as using reflective decals.

The Motion also asks that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an Ordinance to the City Council that would amend the Municipal Code to help implement a dumpster enforcement program that would monitor and remove illegal dumpsters from the City's public rights-of-way. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review and recommendation. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this issue.

Update: This Motion was scheduled to be heard in City Council November 18, 2009

Update: This Motion was continued to be heard in City Council on November 24, 2009

Demands of an Urban Forest - Part 3

by Elektra Kruger

The Bureau of Street Services submitted a report to the Department of Public Works based on the request of Councilmember Jan Perry that the City revisit its Street Tree Policy to help meet the changing needs and challenges of dealing with an increased Urban Forest Population. Underfunding and inadequate manpower to service the Urban Forest tree population has resulted in a deterioration of the existing Urban Forest Health which may become all the worse in the long run if Policy does not meet the needs of the Million Tree Initiative as well as dealing with the existing service request backlog.

Currently, the City is spending approximately \$17-\$18/tree in tree maintenance service. Mid-range nationwide runs about \$25. City Council has noted three items that they see as needing immediate attention: 1.) updating deferred tree maintenance city-wide and especially on the grounds of City owned facilities which have suffered from long-term deferred maintenance; 2.) be able to respond to increased requests by LAPD for service in high crime areas and 3.) be prepared for the increased and long-term requests that will come with the Million Tree Initiative. Deferred maintenance has resulted in a 120% increase in liability claims against the City since 2000. Would the residents of Los Angeles not be better served if increased funding could improve maintenance service such that tree and limb failures resulting from long-term deferred maintenance could reduce the financial responsibility on the City for liability claims filed based on these failures? The Bureau of Street Services report offered recommendations to the City Council for increased funding that would improve the maintenance cycle period, would increase manpower to deal specifically with LAPD requests for maintenance in high-crime areas and to develop policy to deal with the increased tree population associated with the Million Tree Initiative.

In early March 2007, these recommendations were forwarded to both the City Council's Public Works Committee and Budget and Finance Committee for review and response. There was, however, one missing element in the long and detailed report submitted by the Bureau of Street Services and that was the need to deal most specifically with issues resulting from overgrown Ficus trees which are becoming a major hazard for City residents as they are outgrowing their tree wells and their root systems are pushing up sidewalks. The Ficus is a very hardy tree and can withstand root pruning, however current Urban Forest Policy provides this service only as part of a sidewalk repair package.

Illegal Street Tree Pruning

by Elektra Kruger

There has always been a serious problem with illegal street tree removal in LA. Over the years, the Board of Public Works and the City Council have considered various ways to strengthen enforcement of those who illegally cut down street trees without permits including a current proposal to make this an administrative process with significant fines attached. In addition to the problem of total street tree removal, there is a significant problem with street trees being pruned and trimmed without required permits and without regard to the health of the tree and/or the urban need for retaining full and lush tree canopies. This is something that becomes especially onerous when done for commercial interests such as billboard companies who trim trees without permits to enhance billboard visibility without regard for the overall appearance that grossly and improperly trimmed trees imparts to a neighborhood. In the interest of asserting real consequences to those who intentionally prune street trees illegally, especially for commercial gain, Councilmember Paul Koretz submitted a Motion to City Council in October 2009, asking that the Council in conjunction with the Office of the City Attorney, direct the Board of Public Works to develop a proposal to increase the penalty for illegal tree pruning. The proposal would consider using the same administrative process being considered for illegal tree removal - and for this proposal to be presented to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review and recommendations.

Councilmember Koretz also recommended that the Board of Public Works seek public input through, among other means, the Neighborhood Council system and in so doing making the general public aware of the resulting policy. It is not the intention of the City to lay penalties on the general public unfamiliar with the City's many permitting requirements. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion in future issues.

Legalizing Accessory Dwellings?

by Elektra Kruger

True or not, we constantly hear that there is a great housing shortage in the City of Los Angeles. To meet this envisioned demand for increased housing the City has been investigating an increase in the number of living units, as well as a wider range of housing "types".

California Assembly Bill AB 1866 became effective in January 2003 and mandated the MINISTERIAL (i.e. over-the-counter by-right) consideration of the creation of second units on a single property by local accessory unit ordinances. Currently, the Los Angeles Planning Department is conducting a study which will lead to a recommendation for Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations to be adopted into the LAMC to bring Los Angeles into compliance with AB 1866. Included in this study would be incorporation of legalization of here-to-fore illegal and non-permitted converted units.

In late October 2009, Council members Paul Koretz, Bill Rosendahl and Eric Garcetti co-sponsored a Motion submitted to City Council requesting that the City Council instruct the City Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to conduct a study and submit a report to the Council regarding the legalization of previously non-permitted converted units in conjunction with development of new regulations relating to Accessory Dwelling Units that still consider the character and scale of the City of Los Angeles while being in compliance with AB 1866.

The Motion was forwarded to the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management Committee for their review and recommendations.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings
East Valley Municipal Bldg.
7 p.m.
3rd Tuesday, Every month

Debris Flow Management

Continued from page 8

Plan that would be a multi-agency cooperative effort to investigate potential debris flow patterns in burned areas, to develop methods needed to determine potential debris flow locations, to develop methods to determine the probability of occurrence, to develop methods to determine the size of a potential destructive debris flow, to develop an emergency response plan, and to develop a plan for post-flow recovery both individual and community-wide. In recognition of this need, in early October 2009, Councilmember Alarcon submitted a Motion to City Council requesting that the Council instruct the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Management Department to:

- Identify the multi-agency partners that should be called upon to investigate the risk of debris flows in burned areas
- Develop methods to determine the location of, probability of and size of potentially destructive debris flows
- Report to the full Council a risk rating for the Marek, Sayre, Sesnon, and Station Fire burn areas

Councilmember Paul Koretz amended the Motion asking that the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department to prepare a one-page public information sheet on the Management Plan for distribution to the public in designated wildfire hillside debris flow area.

Causing a Splash at Big T!

From County of LA Dept. Public Works

The American bullfrog, whose scientific name is *Rana catesbeiana*, is an unwelcome animal in the Big T Ponds and in Haines Canyon Creek. This is the largest true frog in North America, and it is an invasive species in California. An invasive species is a plant or animal that comes from a distant location and whose predators or natural enemies are absent in its new home.

While in its new home, the invasive species can have super power like abilities. Their populations can grow very quickly. They often change their surrounding in negative ways, and often carry diseases that harm other animals.

The American bullfrog comes from the eastern United States and the Midwest. In these areas, they are not invasive, but in western states, such as California, the American bullfrog is a big problem. The invading bullfrogs are known for their large appetite. They will eat almost anything that will fit in their mouth. This is not good for other animals that live in fresh water. In lakes and streams, bullfrogs eat amphibians, reptiles, bugs and fish. On land, they will eat small mammals and even birds!

Here's another fact that might surprise you. The female bullfrog can lay up to 20,000 eggs! Each egg can grow into a large tadpole. Fish and other aquatic animals don't like to eat the tadpoles. This means that bullfrog populations can grow very rapidly. County staff at Big T is working hard to remove the American bullfrog. You can do your part to protect the native plants and animals at Big T:

PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE YOUR PETS AT BIG T!



Permit Fee-Waivers for Drought-Resistant Landscaping - Up-Date

by Elektra Kruger

In early November 2009, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee reviewed the Motion submitted by Councilmember Greg Smith to evaluate the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for landscaping projects in which lawns and parkways would be replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf. A representative from Councilmember Greg Smith's Office as well as from the City's Planning Department and the LADWP spoke at the Hearing, upon which the Committee approved recommendation that the City Planning Department, Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Water and Power be directed to report to City Council on fees that are currently being assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are being replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf and on the feasibility of waiving those permitting fees in the interest of encouraging such projects. SHPOA will update you on this Motion.

SHPOA General Meeting
Tuesday • January 12
7 pm • Tierra Del Sol

**EAST VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER NEEDS
BLANKETS/TOWELS/TOYS/TREATS
FOR CATS AND DOGS
PLEASE BRING TO EAST VALLEY FEED/TACK**

Mark your calendar . . .

SHPOA General Meeting - January 12 • 7 pm • Tierra Del Sol

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Key Community Locations & Contact Information

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace

Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, 352-3420

Lakeview Terrace Rec. Ctr.: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,
Lakeview Terrace

Shadow Hills Church: Johanna at Sunland, Shadow Hills,
Pastor Janet Winslow.353-3500

Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Sun Valley, 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 Municipal Building/CD 2 Field Office:
7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

Community Calendar

Ongoing Sundays and Tuesdays through March 2010

Bolton Hall - "Rains Day Games" - 1 pm – 4 pm

Tuesday, January 12, Tierra del Sol - 7pm

SHPOA General meeting

Thursday, January 28

Shadow Hills Church annual Pizza night at Round Table,
See article

Friday, January 15

SHPOA Newsletter deadline for March/April articles and ads

2nd Tuesday, Every Month

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Land-Use Committee
9749 Wheatland, 7 pm

3rd Tuesday Every Month

Neighborhood Watch 7 pm, East Valley Municipal Building

3rd Thursday Every Month

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Meeting - 7 pm
Location variable (check website for location www.ftdnc.org) - 7 pm

Memory trick is FAST

from The Daily News

It's a myth that strokes only hit the elderly: 25% occur in people younger than 65. If you think you or someone you're with might be having a stroke, use this checklist, FAST!

Face, is it numb? Does the smile suddenly sag or droop on one side?

ARM, is one arm weak? Can both be raised easily?

SPEECH, is a simple sentence like, "the sky is blue," slurred or jumbled?

TIME, call 911 even if there's an improvement in condition.

Important City Numbers

Dial 311 for Information on all City Services
Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power: (800) 342-5397
Street Service: (800) 996-2489
Large Item Pickup (800) 773-2489
Abandoned Car: (800) 222-6366