

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 48, Issue 4

SHPOA July-Aug 2025

Recap And Minutes of SHPOA
General Meeting, 5-13-25
By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

On May 13, 2025 the SHPOA General Meeting at Tierra Del Sol was called to order at 7:06 pm by Tina Eick. There was a big turnout to hear our guest speakers, followed by questions and answers on local Shadow Hills issues. Guests were invited to enjoy pizza and refreshments during the informative programs. Our guest speakers included the Resource Conservation District (RCD) and Arborists Kevin and Sylvia Kramer from Hug A Tree. SHPOA welcomed our local Shadow Hills Deputy, Arthur Javadyan from Councilwoman Rodriguez's office (CD7), along with Brandon Gonzalez from State Senator Menjivar's office. These deputies have been consistently helpful and supportive as our representatives of government at the community level ... and for this, we are grateful.

The first guest speakers Isaac Yelcher and Jim Dryden from Resource Conservation District (RCD) discussed how to better protect our homes in High Fire Severity Zones (HFSV). Their power point presentation included visuals of wildland/urban interface areas on individual properties in order to identify potential risks. The RCD offers a free evaluation of individual homes upon request, for potential fire hazards and makes specific recommendations to the homeowner for vegetation setbacks and home hardening principles which are necessary for better fire protection. For more information or to make an appointment: rcdsmm.org or (818-597-8627 ext. 5)

Our second guest speakers were Shadow Hills neighbors and Arborists Kevin and Sylvia Kramer from Hug A Tree who also made a power point presentation on the basic care of our trees. They emphasized the importance of correct pruning in order to keep trees healthy and strong. Too much pruning and topping can cause trees to weaken and cease to thrive.

The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer period from our neighbors. We want to thank all of our presenters for an

(Continued)

General Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025 - 6:30 pm
Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills

**"Pie A La Mode Night
with Our Local Stars"**

Do you have a talent you would like to share with our community? Are you a Singer? Musician? Dancer? Stand Up Comic? Magician? Storyteller? Mime? Karaoke Singer? We would love to showcase your talent on July 8th, 6:30 pm at Tierra Del Sol, at our July SHPOA General Meeting. Please contact us at shpoa@shpoa.us to get on the program!!

We also need volunteers to bring some pies (ice cream provided by SHPOA). Please email shpoa@shpoa.us to bring a pie.
SEE YOU THERE!

(Continued)

extremely informative evening.

Following our guest speakers our Treasurer and Webmaster, Michael Stein gave the following treasurer's report:

Treasurer Report as of May 31, 2025

Checking Total	
SHPOA	\$11,242.17
Safe	(160.00)
Savings/Trails	6,015.38
Total Cash on Hand	17,257.55
Less Restricted Funds (Savings)	(6,015.38)
Net Unrestricted SHPOA Cash	
Balances	\$11,242.17

Tina Eick gave the current update on land use issues:

1. Fire debris from the Palisades fire is to be routed from the #5 Freeway to local debris basins in the Sun Valley area and/or the Vulcan Pit via Glenoaks Blvd. Dump trucks are not allowed to travel through the residential streets of Shadow Hills. Violators will have their contracts canceled. If you see a dump truck driving through the residential streets of Shadow Hills please take photos

(Please see "Meeting" on p. 2)

2025 SHPOA Board Members

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

Executive Officers

President:	Tina Eick board@shpoa.us
Vice President:	Jacqy Gamble
Executive Secretary:	Susan Wong
Recording Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Michael Stein
Membership:	Gerardo Barrientos

Appointed Officers

Land Use:	Bill Eick
Equestrian and Trails:	Rosey Payne (Liaison)
Neighborhood Watch:	Vacant
Daily Fodder and Lost/Found Pets	Susan Wong shpoa@shpoa.us
Webmaster:	Michael Stein webmaster@shpoa.us
Traffic Safety Coordinator	Carlos George
Newsletter Editor and Article Collection:	Tina Eick board@shpoa.us
Newsletter Advertising	Michael Stein webmaster@shpoa.us
Newsletter Design/Layout:	Cindy Bloom
Hospitality:	Pam Nesmith
Historian:	vacant
SHPOA's Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041
SHPOA's E-mail Address:	shpoa@shpoa.us or board@shpoa.us
Website:	www.shpoa.us

Senior Lead Police Officers:

<i>Sunland/Shadow Hills/LVT</i>	Wilcer Godoy 36495@lapd.online	818-634-0705
<i>Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West</i>	Eric Perez 38338@lapd.online	818-634-0755
	LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk 818-756-8861	

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

	www.ftdnc.org
<i>President:</i>	Kevin Davis president@ftdnc.org
<i>Shadow Hills Reps:</i>	Cindy Bloom cindy.bloom@ftdnc.org

("Meeting" cont'd from p. 1)

of their license plate, the side of their cab and the driver (if feasible). Also include the date and time. Please send this information to shpoa@shpoa.us and also to Arthur Javadyan's email arthur.javadyan@lacity.org

2. Additionally, please report any large "18 wheelers" driving on Stonehurst to or from Peoria Street. They are strictly prohibited on residential streets if over 6,000 lbs. Please take photos of their license plate, the side of their cab and the driver (if feasible). Also include the date and time. Please send this information to shpoa@shpoa.us and also to Arthur Javadyan's email arthur.javadyan@lacity.org

3. "Party houses" which are rented out to host loud and obtrusive parties are considered a non-conforming use in a residential neighborhood and as such can be reported to Arthur Javadyan's email arthur.javadyan@lacity.org and to shpoa@shpoa.us

Newsletter Editor, Cindy Bloom reported that the SHPOA Newsletter deadline for articles must be submitted in Word format by August 10, 2025.

With no further Old or New Business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



The Tujunga Wash Serves As A
Frequent Movie Set
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Tujunga Wash was a perfect place to replicate an early Alaskan gold-rush mining camp in the 1942 third re-make of the western classic "The Spoilers". The set was designed with dozens of elaborate buildings and miner's tents scattered across the Wash from the foot of Oro Vista Avenue all the way to the cliffs where the bridge to the Riverwood Ranch now crosses the stream. A false entrance to a goldmine was dug into the cliffs near the bridge. An old steam locomotive and several oar cars were trucked in and set up on the several hundred yards of railroad tracks that were laid out. The track was laid and the locomotive was brought in all to stage a live train wreck. While there was no publicity for the day of the planned train wreck, somehow word about it spread all over Sunland by word of mouth and it seemed as if half the town walked down to the Wash to watch the event. Students cut school to watch the event. The train got a full head of steam, raced down the track, hit a set-up barricade and slowly rolled over on its side with steam hissing from its ruptured boiler.



Amend The State Density Bonus Law In HFSZs

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

According to the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, there are approximately 102,000 people residing in and over 19,000 structures located in and around High Fire Severity Zones (HFSZ). Many hillside communities located within these zones have been subject to wildfires additionally leaving them susceptible to the dangers of landslides all leaving residents subject to evacuation. The topography of many communities in these High Fire Severity Zones often make emergency evacuation difficult because of the high volume of people simultaneously trying to leave their homes with limited egress routes available. Dense residential and mixed-use developments within and immediately outside a High Fire Severity Zone may impede evacuation efforts all the more by having a greater number of people trying to access limited available evacuation routes. The State of California and the City of Los Angeles claim to have a housing crisis that has encouraged denser developments by use of developmental incentives such as the State Density Bonus Law, the City's Transit Oriented option and now the Citywide Housing Incentive Program. Unquestionably hundreds of thousands of additional housing units for people of all income levels are needed to make housing more affordable especially to the rent-burdened, however special consideration should be given to areas within and immediately outside High Fire Severity Zones to ensure that dense developments bringing in additional residents are not an impediment to established evacuation routes. The Density Bonus Law should be amended to require documentation of impacts additional residents of a new development would have on existing evacuation routes to ensure that evacuation routes would not be overwhelmed during a wildfire or other catastrophic emergency. If it were to be found that a proposed development utilizing the Density Bonus Law would create a negative impact on evacuation routes by future residents of the development and existing residents, the development may be required to reduce the residential units of the proposed development to the point of not being able to increase those units beyond the base density. A developer shall be able to utilize incentives and waivers found within the Density Bonus Law with the exception of increased density. In mid-January 2025, Councilmember Traci Park presented a Resolution to the City Council stating that by its adoption, the City of Los Angeles would include in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program, support and/or sponsorship for any legislation that would result in amendments to the State's Density Bonus Law to ensure that evacuation routes within and immediately surrounding High Fire Severity Zones are not overwhelmed by dense development that could impede the safe passage of

(Please see "**Density**" on p. 4)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

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Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

Preserve Country Lifestyle

- ✓ Fight for code enforcement to protect residential zoning
- ✓ Provide legal counsel and referrals
- ✓ Expand trail system, open space and wildlife corridors
- ✓ Support equestrians and equestrian organizations
- ✓ Advocacy with government and law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Assisting families impacted by fires or other natural disasters

Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

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

Promote Shadow Hills

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

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("Density" cont'd from p. 3)

people fleeing life threatening circumstances. The Resolution was referred to the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee for their review and recommendations.



Artificial Turf – Yes Or No?

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

At their June 28, 2024 meeting, the City Council's Environment Committee reviewed the negative health and environmental impacts of artificial turf with its polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as well as other "forever chemicals" along with Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's

(Continued)

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proposed Motion to instruct the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, the City's Chief Heat Officer and the Climate Emergency Management Office to prepare and present a summary of policies regarding artificial turf in jurisdictions with climate and water supply issues similar to those of Los Angeles and their heat impacts citywide along with recommendations on how to effectuate a transition away from future installation of synthetic grass/artificial turf Citywide toward use of more California drought-friendly landscaping. Some of the recommendations included:

- In coordination with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, create incentives and rebate programs to remove and replace synthetic turf and artificial grass while encouraging a transition to California drought-friendly landscaping.
- In coordination with the City Administrative Officer, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the General Services Department and any other impacted departments report on the budgetary and policy changes needed to ensure that all city agencies adhere to the intent of the proposed policy changes
- In coordination with the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Community College District, all private schools and all commercial properties, provide options and recommendations to incentivize the replacement of synthetic grass or artificial turf on school playgrounds, athletic fields and commercial properties.
- In coordination with the LADWP, end the practice of watering synthetic turf and artificial lawns.
- Instructing the Department of Recreation and Parks to begin a study that will reveal the true maintenance costs related to keeping active recreation fields in good condition including the difference between synthetic fields and natural fields in terms of water consumption, weed and pest abatement and field wear (including consideration for downtime for field repair and replenishment, heat mitigation, etc.)
- Instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to review disparities between synthetic and natural fields with a variety of sports associations, youth sports associations, parent's associations and environmental organizations.
- Instruct the City's Administration Officer, the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Water and Power to identify agencies and funds needed to initiate the recommended studies and initiate recommended incentives and programs.

(Please see "Turf" on p. 5)

("Turf" cont'd from p. 4)

- Instruct the Bureau of Sanitation to report on the environmental and financial impacts associated with processing synthetic grass waste so as not to affect the recharge of groundwater aquifers, soils and biodiversity of the Los Angeles region.



Electric Vehicle Fires By Elektra Kruger, Resident

As electric vehicles (EVs) become more common on our City streets, the Fire Department faces a new challenge responding to fires with these vehicles. EV fires differ from traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle fires due to the properties of their lithium-ion batteries. EV batteries sustain high-temperature fires that are difficult to extinguish being prone to re-ignition sometimes taking hours or even days to completely extinguish. An additional complication is based on the position of and design of EV batteries which are often located underneath its EV and encased in a protective structure making EV batteries difficult to access with conventional firefighting equipment.

EV fires often release toxic gases posing health risks to firefighters requiring the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). As EV usage continues to rise, the LAFD must take steps to better equip and train themselves for dealing with such fires. In early December 2024, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking that they request the Fire Department to prepare and present a report with an assessment of equipment needed to handle EV fires covering what equipment the Department currently has to deal with EV fires, what additional tools or resources they would need to improve the Department's capability to manage EV fires and how training programs would differ from those responding to internal combustion engine vehicle fires.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Safety Committee for their review and recommendations. At their February 5, 2025 meeting, the Committee unanimously approved the Motion as written and forwarded it to the full Council for their review and final vote. At their February 21, 2025 session, the City Council also approved the Motion as written. So, I guess we now await the LAFD's report.



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Equestrian Equipment Storage Containers By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Land use regulations governing where horse stables are located within a property are clearly outlined with the creation of “K-Overlay Zones”. The large quantity of equipment associated with horse-keeping has led to different types of storage containers being used in the field despite the fact that City Code does not allow for these types of storage containers on residential properties anywhere in the City. Equestrian property owners have expressed a need to enable this type of storage on their property. Given that K-Overlay Zones with their unique characteristics as horse-keeping areas, are appropriate locations for allowing these containers, in late January 2025 Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Planning Department along with the Department of Building and Safety and the City Attorney to prepare and present a report with recommendations for and a corresponding proposed Ordinance for establishing standards that would enable the use of storage containers in K-Overlay Zones for the purpose of equestrian equipment storage. The Ordinance should include, but not be limited to, the definition of “Equestrian Equipment Storage Container,” set-back requirements, prohibition of stacking containers and standards for where they may be located on a given lot. Public comment was basically in favor of allowing these equestrian equipment storage containers. The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council said storage containers would be superior to typical storage sheds because they are fire-proof, earthquake-proof, wind-proof and vermin-proof. The Neighborhood Council also recommended limits on the size and number of containers being appropriate for the lot size, e.g., not to exceed one 8’ by 20’ storage unit per half acre lot. The City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee reviewed and approved the Motion at their February 25, 2025 meeting. The Motion was then forwarded to the full Council for final review and vote on March 5, 2025. It passed unanimously.



CAN Equine Structures And ADUs Coexist? by Elektra Kruger, Resident

Previous City policies that attempted to balance preservation of equestrian areas have now been impeded by certain State housing laws permitting the structure of and establishing regulations related to the structure of ADUs

(Please see “Structures” on p. 7)

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

on residential properties. The goal of protecting adjacent properties, one wishing to be equine-keeping and one wishing to construct additional housing (ADUs) on their properties requires the establishment of non-conflicting policies. Ministerial approval of ADUs per the Development Standards of the ADU Ordinance requires no more than 4 foot setbacks from side or rear lot lines for ADUs. These minimal setbacks could very well bring a proposed ADU in conflict with the required 75 foot buffer of a neighboring equine structure or the 35 foot setback required from any habitable room of a residential unit on the equine keeping lot. These policies need to be reconciled to allow for the continued ability for an equestrian community to thrive while also prioritizing the construction of much needed housing. State Law prevents making ADU Ordinances any more restrictive than State guidelines which focus merely on increasing the supply of housing stock, however many people have chosen to locate here because of our long-established horse keeping history which does require a resolution enabling equine structures and ADUs to coexist. For this reason, in late January 2025, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to City Council asking them to instruct the Department of City Planning, the Department of Building and Safety, the office of the City Attorney and the Department of Animal Services to prepare a report with recommendations to revise the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 13.05 related to K-Overlay Equine-Keeping District regulations as needed and necessary to address:

- Amending the existing 75-foot buffer to 35 feet. This is supported by a 35-foot health and safety barrier established by the County of Los Angeles.
- Establishing a Conditional Use Permit process for new animal keeping structures on properties unable to comply with distancing requirements where ADUs are present
- Grandfathering equine structures in Equine-Keeping K-Overlay districts.
- Clarifying the enforcement responsibilities of relevant departments.

The Motion was forwarded to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee for their review and recommendations. At their February 25, 2025 meeting, the Committee unanimously approved the Motion as written and forwarded this recommendation to the full City Council for their review and final vote. The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council submitted

(Continued next column)

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(Continued)

a Community Impact Statement supporting Councilmember Rodriguez's Motion stating that laws passed by the State which made ADUs by-right caused a surge in construction of ADUs which placed these dwelling units in conflict with horse-keeping areas and in some cases even causing loss of horse-keeping rights on equestrian-zoned properties. The Motion's

(Please see "Structures" on p.8)



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(**"Structures"** cont'd from p. 7)

proposed changes would be a step in the right direction to preserve horse-keeping rights for equestrian zoned properties.



**The City's Plan For Inspecting And Repairing
Fire Hydrants – Update
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

At its April 1, 2025 meeting, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee reviewed a Motion presented to City Council by Councilmember Traci Park requesting a comprehensive analysis of the LAFD and LADWP workflow for inspecting and repairing the City's network of fire hydrants and a work plan to repair fire hydrants in need of maintenance. The Committee Approved the Motion instructing the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, the LAFD and the LADWP to prepare and present a report analyzing the LAFD and LADWP workflow for inspecting and repairing the City's network of fire hydrants. The report should not only include the Motion's request for such things as a listing of the number of fire hydrants that are offline due to maintenance, repair or other issues but additionally a listing of inaccessible City fire hydrants and recommendations for making them accessible. The Committee additionally requested that the LADWP prepare and present a work plan to repair any fire hydrants that are found to be in need of repair or further maintenance with work to be completed within 30 days of said needed repair/maintenance being reported. Numerous Neighborhood Councils have submitted Community Impact Statements supporting the Motion which called for a report of the current workflow of hydrant repair and maintenance and future improved work plans. At its April 23, 2025 session, the City Council adopted the Energy and Environmental Committee's recommendations. In May 21, 2025, the Department of Water and Power provided its response to its current fire hydrant network repair/maintenance program and plans for replacing fire hydrant outlets. The current workflow for fire hydrant repairs is for the LAFD to E-Mail the LADWP the fire hydrant repair list in an Excel file on a weekly basis. The list is reviewed for consistency and uploaded into a Geographic Information System (GIS) software application for access by field personnel using mobile devices across all five Districts covering LADWP's entire service area. Field personnel then prioritize and assess each identified fire hydrant, perform the needed repair or

(Please see **"Hydrants"** on p. 9)

("Hydrants" cont'd from p. 8)

replacement and document the work completed. The progress of the repairs is tracked in real time, displayed on a dashboard and reports can be generated on demand and output to an Excel file for sharing with LAFD in addition to providing the Excel repair list for any damaged or inoperable fire hydrant requiring immediate attention, the workflow process is for the LAFD to contact the LADWP Trouble Board. A crew is immediately dispatched to make repairs. Given the many inoperable fire hydrants encountered by the LAFD during the January 2025 fires, one has to wonder whether this "workflow" is truly being followed. Planned improvements to data sharing between the LADWP and LAFD will be discussed in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.



Ember Storms Are Real—Is Your Roof Ready to Fight Back?

By Greg Ayzazians, Resident

Fire season isn't just a summer concern anymore. This past January was a stark reminder that wildfires in California are now a year-round threat. As another record-breaking summer approaches, taking proactive steps to protect your property isn't just a good idea, it's essential.


Most homeowners know about brush clearance and fire-resistant landscaping, but one of the most vulnerable areas of your home often gets overlooked: your roof.

According to Cal Fire, the majority of homes that burn in wildfires don't catch fire from direct flame contact—they ignite from wind-blown embers, or small pieces of burning material that can be carried by wind. These embers can travel over a mile and land on rooftops, lodge in gutters, or slip into attic spaces through open eaves. If your roof is made from combustible materials like wood-shake or has existing damage, your home may be defenseless against these rogue embers.

Every year, thousands of homeowners wait until after the first major wildfire to act—by then, it's often too late. A professional roof inspection can identify cracks in shingles, exposed underlayment, clogged gutters, and other hidden risks that embers love to exploit. These small issues can be the difference between survival and total loss.

Today's roofing technology offers many affordable options to create a powerful defense. Class A fire-rated shingles, fire-resistant eaves, and sealed vents can dramatically improve


(Please see "**Embers**" on p. 10)



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(*"Embers"* cont'd from p. 9)

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House with proper roofing avoided ember-spread wildfire

What You Can Do Right Now

- Schedule a professional inspection to assess your roof's current fire-readiness.
- Clear flammable debris—dry leaves, pine needles, and overhanging branches.
- Upgrade your materials to Class A fire-rated systems.
- Seal attic vents and replace open eaves with enclosed, ember-blocking designs.
- Clean out gutters—they're one of the first places embers will land.

We've seen the devastation wildfires can bring to our communities, and Shadow Hills is constantly reminded of this threat every time we learn of a neighboring fire. Your roof is your first line of defense—make sure it's ready to fight back.



Series: The Importance of Removing Invasive Non-Native Plants

By Terri Mando, Shadow Hills resident and UC ANR Certified California Naturalist

You are probably unaware these plants are invasive species in Southern California's Chaparral, aka our surrounding brush zones. **Please seriously consider removing these invasive plants from**

(Please see *"Plants"* on p. 11)

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("Plants" cont'd from p. 10)

your property—especially before they spread their seeds! They are all fire adapted, threaten native species, grow rapidly and disperse lots of seeds. At the bare minimum remove the seed heads into a trash bag before they disperse. Dispose of the seed heads in the black bin vs. the green bin. Removing these invasives is just good'ol COMMON SENSE!

Invasive Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Fountain grass may look "pretty" in the landscape, but... it puts your home and neighborhood at increased risk in the event of a wild fire! Removing fountain grass from our neighborhoods helps reduce wildfire spread—it is important to keep seeds from spreading to the brush zone adjacent to our homes—it becomes near impossible to eradicate these grasses once it spreads past groomed yards and landscapes.

Aggressive Growth: Fountain grass thrives in dry, warm conditions and can form dense patches, outcompeting native plants for resources like water and sunlight.

Fire Adaption: It's well-adapted to fire, meaning it can recover quickly after a fire and even increase in density, contributing to increased fire intensity and frequency.

Seed Sprawl: It produces large numbers of seeds that are easily dispersed by wind and water, allowing it to spread rapidly into new areas.

Habitat Alteration: Fountain grass can alter natural ecosystems by changing the fire regime, affecting the composition and diversity of plant and animal communities.

Threat to Native Species: Its aggressive growth and fire adaptation pose a significant threat to vulnerable native plant and animal species.

In California, fountain grass has no natural predators and readily outcompetes other plants. It's listed as an invasive species and is displacing native flora and disrupting bird and amphibian habitat. The

(Continued))

birds do not eat the seeds; it serves no useful purpose for wildlife.

Several species of Mustard: Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), Shortpod Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Asian Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*).



No not native. Black mustard flowers may look pretty, but the plant is highly invasive. Here are the reasons why:

Rapid Growth and Dominance: Black mustard plants can grow very quickly, often reaching heights of 6 feet or more in a single growing season.

This allows them to quickly outgrow and shade out native plants, preventing them from establishing and thriving.

Allelopathy: Black mustard produces chemicals that can inhibit the growth of other plants, including native species. This further reduces the competition for resources and allows black mustard to dominate the landscape.

Increased Fire Risk: As black mustard plants dry out, they become highly flammable. The dense stands of dead mustard can create a significant fuel load for wildfires, making them more likely to start and spread.

Seed Persistence: Black mustard seeds can remain viable in the soil for many years, allowing the plant to quickly re-establish itself even after removal.

Impact on Ecosystems: By dominating the landscape and suppressing native plants, black mustard can significantly alter ecosystems,

(Please see "Plants" on p. 12)

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"FAILING to Plan is Planning TO FAIL!" - Ben Franklin

("Plants" cont'd from p. 11)

reducing biodiversity and impacting native wildlife.

Tree - Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)

No, it is not native either. Here's why tree tobacco is considered invasive:

Rapid Growth and Reproduction:

Tree tobacco is a fast-growing, woody shrub that can reach heights of 10 feet (3 meters). It produces numerous tiny seeds, which are easily dispersed by wind and water, allowing it to spread quickly.



Tobacco Tree

Outcompetes Native Plants: It can thrive in a wide range of habitats, including disturbed areas, roadsides, and along riverbanks. Its fast growth and tolerance for various conditions give it a competitive edge over native species, potentially displacing them.

Toxicity: Tree tobacco contains nicotine and other alkaloids, making it toxic to humans and animals. Ingestion of the plant can cause severe symptoms like nausea, vomiting, and even death.

Ecological Impact: Its dominance in areas can alter the structure and function of ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and potentially harming native wildlife.

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Here's an awful plant that would be better called the Tree from Hell:

Rapid Growth and Spread: Tree of heaven exhibits a very fast growth rate, allowing it to quickly establish and dominate landscapes. It also reproduces readily through seeds and vigorous root sprouts, making it



Tree of Heaven

(Please see "Plants" on p. 13)

("Plants" cont'd from p. 12)

difficult to control.

Outcompeting Native Species: The tree's rapid growth and ability to form dense thickets effectively crowd out native plants, disrupting the natural ecosystem and reducing biodiversity.

Allelopathy: Tree of heaven releases chemicals (allelopathy) into the soil that inhibit the growth of other plants, including native species.

Infrastructure Damage: The tree's extensive root system can cause significant damage to sidewalks, pavement, sewers, and building foundations.

Host for Invasive Insects: Tree of heaven is a preferred host plant for the spotted lanternfly, another invasive insect that can cause considerable damage to agricultural crops and other plants.

Ecological Threat: The tree's ability to thrive in a wide range of conditions, its aggressive nature, and its impact on both native plants and insects make it a major threat to ecosystems.

Castor Bean (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Castor Bean plants are Considered Invasive for these reasons:

Rapid Growth and Spread: Castor beans can grow quickly and easily colonize new areas, especially in disturbed sites like roadsides, old fields, and rocky slopes.



Castor Plant

Competitive Nature: They can outcompete native plants by rapidly growing and shading out other vegetation, leading to a reduction in biodiversity.

Ecological Impact: Castor bean can displace native plant species in riparian areas and drainages, potentially impacting the overall health and stability of the ecosystem.

Toxicity: The seeds contain ricin, a highly toxic substance that can cause poisoning in animals and humans.

Seed Germination: Castor bean seeds readily germinate after fires or other disturbances, further contributing to their spread.

Allergenic Nature: The plant can cause severe allergies and skin rashes in some individuals.



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Healing the Whole Self: The Power of Nature and Community

By Eva Lund, SHPOA Resident

In today's fast-paced digital world, reconnecting with nature and community isn't just a luxury, it's essential for emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Time spent in nature reduces stress, boosts mood, sparks creativity, and encourages movement. Shared outdoor experiences deepen our sense of connection and belonging, fostering empathy, resilience, and a renewed commitment to caring for ourselves, each other, and our environment.

At Special Spirit, we believe true healing happens when individuals feel grounded, in nature, in community, and within themselves. This spring, we were honored to welcome



Dr. Ken Grey, AP, DOM, a renowned holistic physician and host of the Max Health Rides YouTube series. Dr. Grey visited our ranch to explore the profound connection between horses, healing, and holistic wellness. You can view the feature here: (<https://youtu.be/RH4D260WZBg>)



On April 13, 2025, with generous support from ETI Corral 20, we hosted a Decompression Day for families affected by recent local fires and first responders from Fire Station 77, who brought along their iconic Red Truck! Sixty guests joined

(Please see **"Healing"** on p. 15)

("Healing" cont'd from p. 14)

us for pony rides, farm animal visits, creative kids' art projects, and a peaceful equine meditation session for adults. We wrapped up the day with pizza, lemonade, and shared laughter around our picnic tables. Special thanks to the FTDNC for their continued support, which will help us host even more healing days after the summer months.



There's always something new on the ranch! Rascal, one of our milking goats, recently gave birth to healthy twins, a boy and a girl, who are already growing up too fast. One of our rescued Eaton Fire chickens, who had been patiently sitting on an infertile egg, got a little help from the farmer and woke up one morning to find herself the proud mom of a couple of chicks from Tractor Supply. She's been happily doting on them ever since.

Our farm wouldn't thrive without the dedication of our incredible farmers, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from ETTA and Tierra Del Sol, led by the caring and capable Shenae and Suzy. These hardworking individuals bring joy, love, and purpose to every corner of the ranch.

- Moses lights up when he's near the horses, especially his favorite, Apple.
- Tanner takes pride in keeping the animal pens clean and shares a special bond with Rascal, the mama goat.
- Theresa adores all the animals but is especially fond of the horses and goats—Sunny is her favorite.
- John has a big heart for the animals and a soft spot for Glitter the donkey.
- Keegan loves animals, enjoys the flexibility of shorter shifts, and is never shy about how much he loves the great food!

Their spirit, dedication, and deep connection to the land make our ranch a truly special place. We're incredibly lucky to have them as part of our farm family.



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Next SHPOA Meeting: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 6:30 pm

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Key Community Locations & Contact Info

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace
Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)
Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,
Lake View Terrace
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd.
intersection); Pastor Doug Nason (818-353-2500)
Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills
(818-767-0314)
Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley
(818-767-8014)
Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)
Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley
(818-767-8282)
City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council
Member Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 7747 Foothill Blvd.,
Tujunga, CA 91042, (818-352-3287)

Community Calendar

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

- 4th Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Via Zoom (see www.ftdnc.org calendar)

FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting

- 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Via Zoom (see www.ftdnc.org calendar)

FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting

- 2nd Tuesday, Every Month 6 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

LAPD Community Coffee Time

- 1st Thursday, Every Month 9:00 a.m.
- SVANC Office, 8720 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Hansen Dam Horse Park Club

ETI C20

- 1st Monday, Every Month
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SHPOA ADVERTISING DEADLINE For Sep-Oct 2025 Newsletter: Aug. 13th

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