Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community



Volume 46, Issue 3

SHPOA July-Aug 2023

Recap of May 9th Meeting By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

At the last SHPOA General meeting on May 9, 2023, the land use issue which brought out a large representation from the community was the proposal for live studio audiences by the Hudson Pacific film studio currently under construction on Peoria St. which is immediately adjacent to residential homes in Shadow Hills. Council District 7 (CD7) representative, Ricardo Flores from Councilwoman Rodriguez's office was in attendance along with a representative from the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) in CD6, Norma Chavez. Their input was very useful and appreciated. The major concerns from the community were the increase of traffic to the local streets of Stonehurst Ave. and Peoria St... the on-going noise, lights and pollution caused by the project and the inability to contact the project managers to discuss these issues. The request by the film studio for live studio audiences to the City of Los Angeles has now provided the opportunity for community input. The SHPOA meeting allowed our neighbors to discuss their specific concerns and complaints in dealing with the project for the past few years. The meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss strategies for going forward in our dealings with the city and the developer. As part of the meeting, SHPOA handed out a copy of our initial letter to the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) in response to the film studio's request for live studio audiences. (See below for the SHPOA letter to SVANC):

SHPOA's Next Meeting Tuesday, July 11th Tierra Del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd. 7 - 9 pm

Our meeting will be outside, under the tree canopy on the west side of the parking area. We will be serving watermelon and other refreshments. The SHPOA agenda includes:

- 1.Guest speakers from the local LA Fire Dept. here to discuss fire brush clearance policies and tips to stay safe during our fire season.
- 2. The proposed live-studio-audience request by the film studio will be a priority on our regular agenda.

See y'all!

(Continued)

April 27, 2023

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council

Re: Proposed Live Audiences at Film Studio

Dear SVANC:

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association is opposed to live audiences at the film studio, as proposed by the applicant. This project is in CD6 and abuts CD7. The houses next to the project are single-family residences, zoned for horse keeping. When this project was originally proposed, the then CD6 council member refused to answer any of our calls or to have any meetings with the community so that she could understand our concerns. The project approval specifically provided the following:

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www.ftdnc.org

President: Kevin Davis

president@ftdnc.org

Shadow Hills Reps: Oma El

omael.ftdnc@gmail.com

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

- 1. It prohibited live audiences. See page C-5 number 15.
- 2. It required a hot line to register complaints. This was not created to the best of our knowledge and if created, was not posted. See page C-5 number 16.
- 3. All lights must be shielded so as not to shine into the neighbors' yards. This has not been accomplished. See page C-6 number B-2.
- 4. " No Right Turn" signs should be posted across the street from the film studio's driveway so that all film studio traffic turns left toward Glenoaks Blvd. See page C-2 number 7.

These broken promises should remedied before any thought is given to reversing the decision to prohibit live audiences.

Unless properly conditioned. audience members will be able to access the property site coming from the east by driving through the Shadow Hills neighborhood of Stonehurst Avenue and Peoria Street. If live audiences are allowed the following minimum conditions must be agreed to:

- The applicant must contact other google maps and mapping services to change the routes so that anyone entering the site, must enter from Glenoaks Blvd onlv.
- 2. All live audience members must park off-site and be bussed to the site.
- 3. Both sides of Peoria Street must be fully paved from Stonehurst Ave. to Glenoaks Blvd. The speed bumps east of the project site must remain as part of re-paving of the street.
 - The applicant must post and (Please see "Recap" on p. 3)

("Recap" cont'd from p. 2)

provide contact information so that members of the community can reach someone with authority to address neighborhood concerns.

- 5. The hours of operation for live audiences must be restricted to meet neighborhood concerns about noise and traffic.
- 6. Cameras with daylight and night vision capability must be installed along Peoria Street to document violations. Such camera shots must be preserved for three months and be available to the public on a live streaming basis. This is in addition to condition 18 on page C-5 which does not extend the full length of Peoria Street and is not accessible to the public.

Very truly yours, Tina Eick, SHPOA President





Long shot views of the studio facility in Sun Valley. The property abuts the Stonehurst Area and other surrounding residential properties

(Please see "Recap" on p. 4)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHRA

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- √ 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
- $\sqrt{}$ 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

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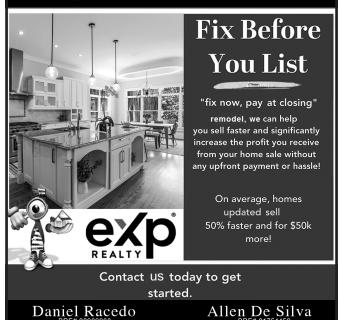
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("Recap" cont'd from p. 3)





Two views of the film studio property as seen from Elinda

4444

Failure To Enforce LA's Protected Tree And Shrub Ordinance

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Los Angeles has taken steps to protect its native trees and shrubs by instituting a Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance whose aim is to establish standards for the preservation of four significant trees and two significant shrubs native to Southern California - the indigenous oak trees, the Southern California Black Walnut, the Western Sycamore, the California Bay, the Toyon and the Mexican Elderberry. Unfortunately, trees are not being adequately protected and

(Please see "Tree" on p. 5)

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

City departments are not working well together to protect them. Trees are being cut before development permits are even applied for, are not being well protected during construction activities and building permits are being issued without the Department of Building and Safety even being aware that Protected Trees are present on the affected properties - all leading to a cumulative net loss of trees, tree canopy and their accompanying ecosystem. November 2017, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mike Bonin co-presented a Motion to City Council asking that the Council instruct the Urban Forestry Division, the City Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety to convene and consult with community stakeholder groups, the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, arborists, environmental groups like TreePeople, the Community Forestry Advisory Committee and the Mayor's biodiversity group to prepare and present recommendations for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance. In early March 2018, the Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee recommended revising and expanding penalty options for violating, and ensuring enforcement of the Protected Tree Ordinance by creating an Urban Forest Task Force or separate policing arm dedicated to overseeing enforcement of the Ordinance. The term "prevents reasonable development" must be clearly defined. This might include a "test" to determine "reasonableness" which would include determination of a percentage of a lot that would not be able to be developed unless a Protected Tree is removed. Policy should be implemented requiring developers to first submit a tree site map identifying all trees on the property to the Department of Building and Safety and the Bureau of Street Services prior to filing for any permits at issue on the property. This





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matter will be further up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.

Letters To the Editor (Pre-Social Media) By Marlene Hitt, Resident

The people have opinions! In Letters to the Editor in the Record Ledger Newspaper, those people speak out, as do the writers and editors.

Sometime in the '70s Klaus Kirchhoff felt strongly about taxes. He wrote in his column, "Did you know that Sunland-Tujunga residents pay annually 10 million dollars in property taxes and have to FIGHT every year City Hall for the use of the VHHS swimming pool? It's absolutely ridiculous! Of the approx. 750,000 dollars proposed for Youth Clubs, Services and Centers under the 1975 Federal Block Grant Program NOT ONE PENNY will come to Sunland-Tujunga?" Aw, Klaus.

Another collection of letters to the editor contains this message: An open letter to two boys found filching rocks on my street bank in Tujunga:"I am sorry boys, that I was so angry when I came on you digging out rocks which I myself had, with hard work gathered from all over my place and built into steps years ago. They had already been somewhat displaced by horses thoughtlessly ridden over them. You may therefore have thought I no longer wanted them. Their repair was to come later, after the fire hazard brush has been cleared. But had you known I built them you might have understood that when I saw you breaking up my steps, my reaction was exactly what yours might be if, some years from now, you find strangers wrecking whatever it is you sought my rocks for."In that same issue, one man wrote: "Did that expert on the radio just now say there are thousands and thousands of atomic

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

bombs and nuclear this and that out in the world? Then this is no time to chase free watermelon. And Russia and the United States, like two children fighting over a candy bar, continue to compete..."

Howard Finn wrote in March, 1978, "The long range plans for the Tujunga Wash called for converting it into a large gravel mine between Oro Vista Avenue and Hansen Dam. There were several obstacles besides the dangers. One of the biggest obstacles was getting the support of the business community. A plan was devised to construct a levee to control" the flood waters, and it looked as though that would free hundreds of acres of land for development. The Chamber of Commerce was enticed with the idea of a nice industrial park. The residents were supposed to get "protection" from the floods. The plan was perfect...then some of the people began looking the aift horse in the mouth."

On that page Ormly Gumfudgen tells story that "hit home with all the rain pouring down.." Warmly, Ormly writes: 'Several years ago, in 1957, during a particularly severe drought, a local farmer was complaining about the lack of rain, and how hard it was to get a crop up. Some of his friends laughingly told him that he wasn't paying the preacher enough. At church the following Sunday, he gave the preacher \$2 and, before he had made it back to the store in Luckenbach, a cloudburst had filled the creek and sent water flooding into the store. As he waded through the ankle deep water he was heard to mutter, 'You know, I believe a dollar would have been enough."

More recent letters to the editor, 2015, shout subjects such as Increase Residents' Knowledge About the Proposed California High Speed Rail, and Mountains and Concrete Don't Mix in Big T and Keep Cats Safe from Coyote Attacks. Today we check Next-Door for

(Please see "Letters" on p. 8)

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("Letters" cont'd from p. 7)

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Stonehurst and The Big and Little Tujunga Watersheds By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Because of the complex geologic history of the western San Gabriel Mountains and because of the large drainage areas of the Big and Little Tujunga Canyons, a wide variety of rock types are found in the Wash – mainly granitic in origin such as schists, granite, gneiss, anorthosite quartz, quartzite, basalt, sandstone and conglomerate. Occasionally pieces of chert, nodules of titanium ore and placer gold was to be found. There was a small strike of placer gold made in Little Tujunga in the early 1840s. Alluvial materials across the entire area of the alluvial fan of the Wash include tons of rock, all the way from boulder-sized to sand particles. Until the great floods of the early 1890s, the lower end of the Tujunga Valley discharged its outflow into a channel that was a very short distance north and west of where the Stonehurst neighborhood would later be built During the major flash flood of 1910 when the main channel shifted about one mile to the west, the now former southwest corner of the Wash became strewn with boulders and rocks of all sizes and shapes that would eventually become the plentiful and inexpensive building materials for the Stonehurst neighborhood. There are three major biological life zones in the Stonehurst area. Although the general area around Stonehurst has been developed, the area is still largely rural and a large part of the native environment remains - often reduced, but generally intact, especially in the Hansen Dam and Tujunga Valley area which is designated as Los Angeles

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

County Significant Ecology Area #24 and the Tujunga Spreading Grounds Hansen Dam) which (below been designated Los Angeles County Significant Ecology Area #46. The first life zone is an enhanced Desert Scrub which is located mainly in the wash/flood plain itself. The second is a Riparian Woodland community found in the less active parts of the flood plain and along portions of its margins. The third life zone is a mixed Foothill Woodland and Chaparral community found on the elevated margins of the Wash and across the hilly areas surrounding the Wash. In the Wash itself, because of the uneven terrain and ever-changing presence (or absence) of flowing water and seasonal pools of standing water, plant communities are often mixed together with numerous micro-environments. It is not uncommon to find what would normally be considered desert life to be mixed together with riparian vegetation such as sycamores mixed with vuccas. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.

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Please Don't Feed Your Neighbors' Animals by Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

They ARE cute and they LOVE food, but please do NOT offer food, drink or treats to neighbors' pets, including horses. Those big adorable eyes are enticing and hard to resist, but unless you have your neighbors' permission, it is a bad practice and can lead to distress of the animal(s) and their owners.

I recently witnessed a man and his son feed shredded lettuce and otherwise "healthy" and seemingly appropriate food to my neighbor's horses. The horses did not want the food, and it just ended up making a huge mess for my neighbor to clean up. If the horses did eat the food, the

(Please see "Feed" on p. 10)

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SOLD!

("Feed" cont'd from p. 9)

well meaning feeders do not know if the animal has food sensitivities, allergies, and/or is on a special diet. Just like at zoos which prohibit folks from feeding the animals, the same practice should apply to feeding other folks' animals.

If you have permission to give your food to your neighbors' animals, that's fine. For example, a couple that takes regular walks by our house know it's cool to offer our dog treats.

So when in doubt, don't do it!

2222

"Juice-Jacking" Cybertheft By Elektra Kruger, Resident

"Juice-Jacking" is a relatively new cybertheft tactic being used to export personal data and passwords from a smart phone that is plugged into a public phone charging station. Malware can be installed into a smart phone through the USB port which can then either lock the phone or export personal data and passwords from the device directly to the perpetrator. According to the Federal Communications Commission, criminals can then use that information to access on-line accounts from the jacked phone or to sell it to others The Federal Bureau of Investigation has warned the public against using public phone charging stations in order to avoid exposing their devices to malicious software and is advising individuals to carry their own charger and USB cord and to use electrical outlets instead of public charging stations. Given these concerns, mid-April 2023. Councilmember John Lee presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the City's Information Technology Agency to prepare and present a report about the City's public phone charging stations as well as any threats that may exist and what protections could be implemented to protect consumer's phones from "juice-

(Please see "Cybertheft" on p. 11)

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

jacking". Additionally, the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) are to prepare and present a report with an overview of LAWA's public phone charging stations and what measures are being taken and/or could be taken to protect consumer's phones from this cybertheft. The motion was referred to the City Council's Government Operations Committee for their review and recommendations

22222

Don't Mess With My Catalytic Converter By Elektra Kruger, Resident

A catalytic converter is an exhaust emission control device that converts toxic gases and pollutants from internal combustion engines into less toxic pollutants. Because of the easy access to vehicle catalytic converters and the use of valuable precious metals in their construction such as rhodium, palladium and platinum, thefts of converter devices are on the rise nationwide. As of March 2022, rhodium was valued at \$17,4000 per ounce, palladium was valued at \$2,720 per ounce and platinum was valued at about \$1,072 per ounce. Thieves sell stolen catalytic converters for anywhere between \$300 to \$1,200 depending on the amount of metals in each one, but the cost to a vehicle owner can be thousands of dollars in parts and repair costs plus expenses due to missed time from work or arranging for alternate transportation. In the City of Los Angeles, 972 catalytic converter thefts were reported in 2018, 1,198 in 2019, 3,131 in 2020 and 5, 880 inn 2021. The State of California has recently introduced several pieces of legislation aimed at stemming thefts of catalytic converters such as requiring the devices to be marked with vehicle identification numbers and tightening procedures for their sale and increasing fines for stealing them. Various Cities across Southern California have passed local Ordinances

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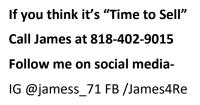
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(Please see "Mess" on p. 12)

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

making it illegal to posses a catalytic converter without proof of ownership. In early April 2022, Councilmember John Lee presented a Motion to City Council asking that they request the City Attorney to prepare and present a Draft Ordinance prohibiting the unlawful possession of catalytic converters in the City of Los Angeles. On April 11, 2023 the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 187818 prohibiting the unlawful possession of catalytic converters, approved by Mayor Karen Bass on April 24, 2023 and is to become effective June 5, 2023. Per the Ordinance, documentation or other proof of lawful possession of catalytic converters means written documents clearly identifying the vehicle from which the catalytic converter originated including but not limited to:

- 1. A bill of sale from the original owner with photographs
- Documentation from an autobody shop proving that the owner relinquished the catalytic converter to the auto-body shop
- 3. Verifiable electronic communication from the previous owner to the possessor relinquishing ownership of the catalytic converter
- 4. Photographs of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter originated
- 5. Vehicle registration associated with the catalytic converter containing an etched associated license plate number or vehicle identification number
- 6. It shall be unlawful for any person other than a recycler as defined in the California Business and Professions Code Section 21610 to possess any catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle unless the possessor has valid documentation or other proof to verify that they are in

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

lawful possession of the catalytic converter.

44444

Mayoral Declaration Of L.A. Aqueduct System Emergency By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On January 13, 2023, Mayor Karen Bass declared a State of Emergency as a result of the significant impacts substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems that began on January 9, 2023. Precipitation in the Inyo and Mono Counties during January through March of 2023 far exceeded any since the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power began keeping records. On March 1, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to support disaster response and relief in thirteen counties as a result of these severe winter storms. A portion of the wall of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023 as a result of flooding from the extreme runoff in the Olancha area endangering public property, infrastructure and the environment and will continue to impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct system, its water gathering facilities and its water delivery facilities within the Mono, Inyo, Kern and Los Angeles Counties and the City of Los Angeles. The precipitation is

(Cont'd next column))

(Continued)

rapidly filling reservoirs, lakes, rivers and streams throughout the Eastern Sierra region causing them to reach capacity resulting in potential widespread flooding. This precipitation has created a snowpack equal to 225% of the April 1 average and is continuing to grow with additional precipitation events expected through April 2023. The Los Angeles Aqueduct system is now transporting an exceptionally large volume of water. There are four potential locations for delivery of excess water in the Los Angeles Aqueduct:

- The lands and water bodies of the Owens Valley
- The natural terminus of the Owens River and Owens Lake
- The City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles River
- The State Water Project

The DWP is taking extraordinary measures to conserve water in the Owens Valley and throughout the vicinity of the Los Angeles Aqueduct by maximizing the amount of water delivered to Los Angeles, recharging groundwater basins and attempting to bring all surface storage reservoirs to full capacity. Per this Declaration, the Mayor has directed that all City Departments impacted by this event and its ongoing effects conduct damage assessments and collect cost estimates for the purpose of seeking

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Riverwood Ranch Oro Vista Ave. Access By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Riverwood Ranch consisting of 35 parcels was established in 1910. The community is accessed from Sunland-Tujunga via a paved "Arizona-Style" road through the Tujunga Wash, a low-water culvert crossing the Wash wherein the road dips across a normally dry creek bed. The road goes by the name of Oro Vista Avenue. Residents become isolated and emergency services are limited in their ability to access the Riverwood Ranch community in times of flooding during wet weather seasons and times when the upstream Big Tujunga Dam must release water. The Big Tujunga Wash comes with a unique set of issues in that multiple jurisdictions have ownership along various segments of the Wash. It is therefore important to bring together all partners to work out solutions to better manage flooding and maintain passable access during times of high water levels. Seeing the importance of bringing such a joint effort to fruition, in late February 2023, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to the City Council asking that they ask the Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services and the Los Angeles Fire Department to prepare and present a report with solutions for addressing the flooding and access issues of Oro Vista Avenue beginning at its intersection with the Big Tujunga Canyon Road to the hillside approaching Riverwood Ranch and recommend improvements that will prevent future access closures. Additionally, that the Bureau of Engineering with the assistance of the Office of the City's Administrative Officer prepare and present a report on any available funding options for these needed improvements and any and all continued maintenance costs that will be associated with them. The Motion was adopted by City Council on March 17, 2023.

Discovery Cube is Seeking Approval For Conceptual Interactive Outdoor Exhibits By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The proposed Project that the Discovery Cube has in mind for interactive outdoor activities include:

Exhibit 1:

 The installation of a water fountain featuring a 30 foot Discovery Cube sculpture with water and dynamic lighting effects. The fountain will also generate power via solar panels

Exhibit 2:

- The installation of a Junior Fire Ranger Training Ground exhibit that is to include a play area featuring a fire truck, splash pads and an interactive model helicopter Exhibit 3:
- The installation of a carousel of protected and endangered species that are to be powered by solar panels

Exhibit 4:

- The installation of an interactive water table resembling the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers
- The installation of a decorative water retention basin to properly capture and retain water for slow release into the drainage channel

Exhibit 5:

 The installation of a permanent outdoor stage that is to include a large wall surrounded by audio and visual technology and bench seating and shading for an audience

Exhibit 6:

 Open-air space to serve a variety of functions such as summer camps and birthday parties.

Exhibit 7:

 An expansion of the Courtyard Gardens that is to feature local wildlife and dinosaur exhibitions as well as pollinator-friendly and drought tolerant plants

Upon approval of this proposed Project, the Discovery Cube can commence with the development of the detailed working drawings, specifications and final plans to initiate the design, fabrication and installation of the proposed Project.

Riverwood Ranch Oro Vista Ave. Access By Elektra Kruger, Resident

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Emergency Animal Hospitals & Services

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

Shadow Hills Chip Reader: Jacqy Gamble (818) 426-5226

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Needs Blankets, Towels, Toys And Treats For Cats And Dogs 14409 Vanowen St, Van Nuys, CA 91405 (888) 452–7381 laanimalservices.com

Visit www.shpoa.us

Next SHPOA General Meeting: Tues, July 11th @ 7 pm at Tierra del Sol

Advertiser's Index ndyman9 Linda Knu

Aurian vargas Handyman9	Linua Knuison Realtor
Armstrong Insurance4	Marconi Radio14
Backdoor Bakery7	MedX Pharmacies9
Complete Compounding Pharmacy12	Mission Valley Bank11
Crescenta Valley Tree9	Pampered Pets5
Crystal Clear Pool9	Patricia Harrington Realtor12
Dr. Beau Stocking7	Richard's R&R Plumbing7
David Robertson, DVM7	Rodeo Cleaners5
East Valley Feed & Tack8	Sally Hall, Realtor10
Eick & Freeborn, Attorneys8	Seward Financial7
Ellingford Brush Clearance 11	Sierra Signs14
ExpRealty-Racedo/DeSilva4	SoilDirect.com8
Grocery Outlet13	Syairah Shaharuddin5
Hungry Gardens6	The Stonehurst
James Sanchez Realtor12	Trans Action 5
LA Law Center10	TransAction5

Key Community Locations & Contact Info

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace

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

Lake View Terrace
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd.

intersection); Pastor Arlo Tysinger (818-353-2500)

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

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

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

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

City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 209, Pacoima, CA 91331 (Tujunga location being renovated) same phone number: (818-352-3287)

Community Calendar

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

- 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Location TBD

FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting

- 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Location TBD

FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting

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

LAPD Community Coffee Time

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

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

ETI C20

- 1st Monday, Every Month
- Nikki Ahten, 818-489-6527
- ETI National.com

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IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS