

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



Volume 31, Issue 4

July-August 2009

## Do's and Don'ts in Rattlesnake Country

by Elektra Kruger

As many as 45,000 poisonous snake bites occur each year in the United States, most of these from rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes are the only dangerously venomous snakes in California – we have no Coral snakes, Copperheads, or Water Moccasins, which are the only other dangerous snakes in the United States. While only 15 to 20 of these bites are fatal (more people die annually from being struck by golf balls), recovery time is painful and debilitating.



Snakes do not bite people out of an aggressive desire to kill, but in reaction to what their instincts interpret as an attack. Probably 90% of all snakebites could be prevented by following one simple rule: **SEE your feet and hands at all times** when

in rattlesnake country. **DON'T** step over a log or rock if you can't see what might be on the other side. **DO** step on top of rocks and logs and step down far out and over them. **DO** wear high boots and long, loose pants. **DON'T** climb a rocky hillside by reaching beyond sight for your next handhold.

If you join the SHPOA "Heaver Retrievers" on Thursday morning and you retrieve an abandoned tire, kick it cautiously before reaching into the rim to lift it up and haul it curbside. And for the "Macho" guys – **DON'T** play around with rattlesnakes. At least 1/3 of all snakebites occur to those trying to kill it, tease it or catch it. Call in an experienced herpetologist to remove a rattlesnake from an inhabited area and, most important, if the rattler is in the wild, let it go its own way, it is more frightened of you than you are of it (oh yeah?), but stand still and it will get away from you as fast as it can once it recognizes that imminent danger to itself has passed. They are an important part of the natural world and the balance of nature – let them go on to do their job.

## Can you Boil Water in Your Microwave?

from General Electric

Microwaved water and other liquids do not always bubble when they reach the boiling point. They can actually get superheated and not bubble at all. The superheated liquid will bubble up out of the cup when it is moved or when something like a spoon or tea bag is put into it. To prevent this from happening and causing injury, do not heat any liquid for more than two minutes per cup. **After heating, let the cup stand in the microwave for thirty seconds before moving it or adding anything into it.**

\* \* \* **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** \* \* \*

July 12 ~ 8 A.M.-11:30 A.M.

**Don't forget, come enjoy the food, surroundings, and friendship. Needless to say, breakfast is first rate and the price is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids 5 - 12. T-shirts will be available for purchase.**

## Recycling - What you Can Recycle at the Curb

The Bureau of Sanitation issues **blue** containers for recycling. The following are items that can be placed in the recycling container:

### Paper

All Clean dry paper, computer, ledger, wrapping, arts and craft paper, unwanted mail, flyers, telephone books, note cards, newspaper, blueprints, magazines, file folders, paper bags, catalogs, and all envelopes including those with windows.

### All Cardboard Boxes and Chipboard

Cereal, tissue, dry food, frozen food, shoe and detergent boxes; paper and toilet rolls; and corrugated boxes broken down and flattened.

### Metals

All aluminum, tin, metal and bi-metal cans (rinsed if possible); soda, juice, soup, vegetables, and pet food cans; pie tins; clean aluminum foils; empty paint and aerosol cans with plastic caps removed; and wire hangers.

### Glass

All glass bottles and jars (rinsed if possible), soda, wine, beer, spaghetti sauce, pickle jars, broken bottles, etc.

### Plastics

All clean plastics 1 through 7, empty plastic containers (rinsed if possible), soda, juice, detergent, bleach, shampoo, lotion, mouthwash, dishwashing liquid bottles, milk jugs, tubs for margarine and yogurt, plastic planters, food and blister packaging, rigid clamshell packaging, etc. **All plastic bags and all film bags**, grocery bags and dry cleaner bags, and all clean film plastic. **All clean polystyrene (Styrofoam)**, Styrofoam cups, containers, and packaging such as Styrofoam egg shell cartons, Styrofoam block packaging, and Styrofoam clamshell packaging.



Continued on page 4

**2009 SHPOA Board Members**

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 Outreach: Chris Arlington 353-5534  
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**Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC):**  
**www.ftdnc.org**

*West Shadow Hills/Stonehurst:*  
 Kristin Sabo 818-896-4986  
*East Shadow Hills/East LVT:*  
 Dale Gibson 818-968-8670

<b>Emergency Animal Hospitals:</b>	
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(818) 760-3882	Mon-Thurs: 6pm – 8am
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**Shadow Hills Preschool**

Summer fun at **Shadow Hills Presbyterian Preschool** includes a six- week summer session with weekly themes that include "Pirate Adventures", Exploring Space", and "Under the Sea." Our program is a hands-on, fun-filled creative program and our students enjoy the experience!

We give a big thank you to our Preschool Families for the 2008-2009 school year. Because of their support and enthusiasm, we had a most successful Trike-a-thon Fundraiser. Profits have helped fund the new permanent sign on Sunland Blvd., which identifies and welcomes passersby to Shadow Hills. Be sure to notice as you drive by the corner of Sunland Blvd. and Johanna Ave. We want the community to know that we are here and most proud of our Preschool!

Preschool is currently accepting registration for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. We have lots creative, hands-on lessons and curriculum ideas planned. If you are interested, we invite you to stop by and see what we are all about. Or call for a personal tour, we would love to show you around.



**Your Lake View Terrace Neighbor**

*by Marlene Hitt, Sunland Archivist and Co-Director Bolton Hall*

Shadow Hills people know about Shadow Hills, and we all know about Sunland and Tujunga. How much do you know about Lake View Terrace? Here are some facts:

- Lake View Terrace (LVT) was once part of Rancho Tujunga; it was always a part of Los Angeles, but was never annexed
- Homer Hanson once owned a lot of the land
- it was once called TEjunga Terrace, not Tujunga
- in 1888 the first school district was formed there but not until 1959 did the community have its own post office and its name became official
- the boundaries are the Angeles National Forest, Little Tujunga Canyon, Big Tujunga Canyon, Hansen Dam, Kagel Canyon, and a portion of the Verdugo Mountains
- Lake View Terrace is considered a suburb district in the northeast quadrant of the San Fernando Valley of the City of Los Angeles, adjacent to the towns of San Fernando, Shadow Hills, Sunland, Sun Valley and Pacoima
- the homes range from cabins to stone houses to tract homes to equestrian estates
- Indian ritual ceremonies were held there
- the land was once owned by San Fernando Mission, then Mexico, then the Lopez brothers, then traded and sold again and again
- the original number of people settling there in 1888 was nine
- in addition to the Hansen Dam itself, the LVT area now has a fishing lake, two occasional lakes (Lake Homer and Lake Marie), excellent schools, a state of the art public library, is adjacent to two golf courses, and is accessible to the canyons and beyond

**Lake View Terrace**

*Continued from page 2*

- LVT is one of the entrances to the Angeles National Forest
- at one time Lake View Terrace was the only community in which African American people could own property. It is now considered to be a middle class and ethnically mixed community.
- some of the best horse stables, ranches, training centers and equestrian groups are centered in the LVT area, as are some of the best horses and riders of the southland equestrian community.

**As The Mercury Rises...  
Keep Your Pets Safe!**

*by Denise Fleck, a freelance writer and animal care instructor specializing in teaching the life-saving skills of Pet First-Aid & CPR. Visit her website at [www.sunnydogink.com](http://www.sunnydogink.com).*

Even with windows open, a parked car can quickly reach more than 150 degrees resulting in heat stroke, permanent brain damage or death to your pet. Never leave your dog or cat unattended in the car for even a few minutes.

Pets don't sweat! Panting works like an evaporative cooling system bringing in cool air only if there is any. An air-conditioned house is safest for your pet, but the next best thing is a well-ventilated/insulated doghouse or a shaded porch with a fan or misting system. Provide fresh water all day long making sure that outside bowls remain in the shade even when the sun moves in the late afternoon. Outside food bowls should be placed in a pan containing a few inches of water to keep ants out. Cookouts can result in burned paws and summer-time foods like burgers, franks and fried chicken can cause a canine or feline pancreatitis.

Hot concrete and asphalt can burn precious paws! Walk your pets during the cool parts of the day and stick to the grass. If it's too hot for your bare feet, it's too hot for paws. Dog shoes are great on hot surfaces for short periods of time, but since heat is expelled from the pads of the feet, you dog is likely to overheat if his paws are covered for long.

Avoid coolant spills and use only "Pet & Wildlife Safe" products in your house and yard. Control fleas and ticks and keep your pets well groomed, but don't shave long-haired pets down to the skin as their fur insulates from the heat and prevents sunburn.

All dogs do not know how to swim and thousands die every year from drowning. Beware of fishhooks, fishing line, sharp rocks and dangerous water life. Discourage pets from drinking out of lakes or streams where they can obtain microscopic dangers such as Giardia (read the May/June issue of the SHPOA Newsletter for details).

Hot weather brings out Rattlesnakes. Your best safety device is keeping control of your dog by having him on a leash. Limit the rodent population in your yard by removing ivy and piles of wood since where they are mice, there are snakes to eat them! Should your pet get bitten by a rattlesnake, keep him calm and immediately

*Continued on page 4*

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Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

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**Membership Form**

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 to the preservation of our rural community.

**Membership = \$20**  
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Mail check to: SHPOA, P.O. Box 345  
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### Mercury Rising

*Continued from page 3*

transport him to an animal care center that carries anti-venom.

The weeks before and after the Fourth of July are the busiest of the year at Animal Shelters. Loud booms and flashing fireworks scare animals from the safety of their homes. They become disoriented and end up miles away, and those...are the lucky ones. Many more meet their fate by running frantically into the path of a car, so please keep all pets safely indoors. Close drapes and turn on a radio or television to mask noise and distract the pet's attention from the pops and bangs. Make sure doors, windows and gates are secure, and if your pet is easily agitated, make sure someone stays with him during the festivities.



### Recycling

*Continued from page 1*

#### **Miscellaneous plastics**

Plastic coat hangers, non-electric plastic toys, plastic swimming pools, and plastic laundry baskets.

Do not recycle these items:

#### **Contaminated Paper**

All soiled papers or bags with oils and food waste

#### **Broken Glass**

Window glass, mirror glass, auto glass, light bulbs, fluorescent lights and ceramics

#### **Other Plastics**

Plastic hygienic items, any electric or battery operated toys

#### **Miscellaneous Materials**

Coated milk cartons, electrical cords, cloth/fabric, appliances, mini blinds, kitchen utensils, lawn furniture, garden hoses, rubber tires, construction materials, including asphalt or concrete, wood and wood products

#### **Hazardous Materials**

Syringes, all partially filled aerosol cans and containers for cleaning fluids, automotive fluids, all batteries (including car batteries, household batteries, rechargeable batteries), pesticides, oil based paint, garden chemical, and pool cleaners

## OLD PHOTOS WANTED

We are seeking any old photos of the neighborhood you can contribute to a Shadow Hills history album for display at SHPOA meetings. Also, any suggestions on people, places, events or personal knowledge, memories, stories or contacts for future articles are appreciated. Please call Carol at 353-5534.



## S.A.F.E

by Chris Arlington

S.A.F.E (Solvents, Automotives, Flammables and Electronics) – are items hazardous to the environment, including people and animals, that should not be disposed of in the regular trash and should be delivered to a S.A.F.E. Collection Center or a Mobile Collection Event. City and County residents can utilize any of the City's S.A.F.E. Centers to properly and legally dispose of household hazardous waste. This includes cleaners, paint, oil, TV's, cell phones, and old medications.

It is illegal to dispose of chemicals or hazardous waste down the drain, storm drain, sewers or in the regular trash. It can become very dangerous to the community and bring it full circle right back into our homes.

S.A.F.E. Centers are open every weekend. Our local Center is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday, from 9 am to 3 pm. The Sun Valley S.A.F.E Center is located at 11025 Randall St. (go down Sunland Blvd. towards I5, turn right on Tuxford then right at the first street. Proceed to the end, turn left on Randall and the Center is on your right). I have gone there many times, it is easy and quick. You are not allowed to get out of your vehicle so have the stuff available for easy access.



## The Ocean at Your Doorstep

by Chris Arlington

Water running off your yard, sidewalk or street – along with the pesticides, pet waste, oil and antifreeze, plastic bags, cigarette butts that it carries with it – unlike wastewater from inside a home, flows down gutters, into street side catch basins, into underground storm drain tunnels or open air flood control channels to the ocean. Waste water from inside our homes flows at a steady rate through the City's sewer systems to treatment plants. The storm drain system flows straight to the ocean untreated because it was designed to prevent flooding during heavy rains by quickly diverting billions of gallons of rainwater.

Just one quart of used motor oil dumped into a catch basin can pollute 250,000 gallons of ocean water. Activities such as car washing, yard watering and cleanup still produces tens of millions of gallons of runoff water, even during the driest of Southern California days. For the sake of protecting our scenic beaches from this contaminated flow, we need to keep trash off the streets, out of the catch basins and need to keep runoff water free from pollutants. Every year, over 40 tons of trash washes up on our beaches, 80% of which could have been recycled. Every month 870,000 cigarette butts are carelessly and thoughtlessly tossed out into our streets, enter our storm drain system and land on our beaches and in the ocean. Fish and birds swallow them, mistaking them for food, and they die.

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## The Flour Sack

submitted by Rita Curtner

In that long ago time when things were saved,  
When roads were graveled and barrels were  
staved,  
When worn out clothing was used as rags,  
And there were no plastic wrap or bags,  
And the well and the pump were way out back,  
A versatile item was the flour sack.

Pillsbury's best, Mother's and Gold Medal, too  
Stamped their names proudly in purple and blue  
The string sewn on top was pulled and kept;  
The flour emptied and spills were swept.  
The bag was folded and stored in a sack  
That durable, practical flour sack.

The sack could be filled with feather and down,  
For a pillow, or t'would make a sleeping gown.  
It could carry a book and be a school bag,  
Or become a mail sack slung over a nag.  
It made a very convenient pack,  
That adaptable, cotton flour sack.

Bleached and sewn, it was dutifully worn  
As bibs, diapers, or kerchief adorned  
It was made into skirts, blouses and slips  
She made ruffled curtains for the house or shack,  
From that humble but treasured flour sack!

As a strainer for milk or apple juice,  
To wave men in, it was a very good use,  
As a sling for a sprained wrist or a break,  
To help mother roll up a jelly cake,  
As a window shade or to stuff a crack,  
We used a sturdy, common flour sack!

As dish towels, embroidered or not,  
They covered up dough, helped pass pans so hot,  
Tied up dishes for neighbors in need,  
And for men out in the field to seed.  
They dried dishes from pan, not rack  
That absorbent, handy flour sack!

We polished and cleaned stove and table,  
Scoured and scrubbed from cellar to gable,  
We dusted the bureau and oak bed post,  
Made costumes for October (a scary ghost)  
And a parachute for a cat named Jack.  
From that lowly, useful old flour sack!

So now my friends, when they ask you  
as curious youngsters often do,  
"Before plastic wrap, Elmers Glue  
And paper towels, what did you do?"  
Tell them loudly and with pride don't lack,  
"Grandmother had that wonderful flour sack!"



## I Ride

Author unknown

*I Ride.* That seems like such a simple statement. However, as many women who ride know it is really a complicated matter. It has to do with power and empowerment. Being able to do things you might have once considered out of reach or ability. I have considered this as I shovel manure, fill water barrels in the cold rain, wait for the vet/farrier/electrician/hay delivery, change a tire on a horse trailer by the side of the road, or cool a gelding out before getting down to the business of drinking a cold beer after a long ride.

The time, money, effort it takes to ride calls for dedication. At least, I call it dedication. Both my ex-husbands call it "the sickness". It's a sickness I've had since I was a small girl bouncing my model horses and dreaming of the day I would ride a real horse. Most of the women I ride with understand the meaning of "the sickness". It's not a sport or a hobby. It's what we do and, in some ways, who we are as women and human beings.

*I ride.* I hook up my trailer and load my gelding. I haul to some trailhead somewhere, unload, saddle, whistle up my dog and I ride. I breathe in the air, watch the sunlight filter through the trees and savor the movement of my horse. My shoulders relax. A smile rides my sunscreen smeared face. I pull my ball cap down and let the real world fade into the tracks my horse leaves in the dust. Time slows. Flying insects buzz loudly, looking like fairies. My gelding flicks his ears and moves down the trail. I can smell his sweat and it is perfume to my senses. Time slows. The rhythm of the walk and the movement of the leaves become my focus. My saddle creaks and the leather reins in my hand soften with the warmth.

I consider the simple statement; *I ride.* I think of all I do because I ride. Climb granite slabs, wade into freezing lakes, race a friend through the manzanita all the while laughing and feeling my heart in my chest. Other days, just the act of mounting and dismounting can be a real accomplishment. Still I ride, no matter how tired or how much my seat bones or any of the numerous horse related injuries hurt.

*I ride.* And I feel better for doing so. The beauty I've seen because I ride amazes me. I've ridden out to find lakes that remain for the most part, unseen. Caves, dark and cold beside rivers full and rolling are the scenes I see in my dreams. The Granite Stairway at Echo Summit, bald eagles on the wing and bobcat on the prowl add to the empowerment and joy in my heart.

*I ride.* I think of the people, mostly women, I've met. I consider how competent they all are. Not a weenie amongst the bunch. We haul 40 ft. rigs, we back into tight spaces without clipping a tree. We set up camp, tend the horses. We cook and keep safe. We understand and love our companions, the horse. We respect each other and those we encounter on the trail. We know that if you are out there riding, you also shovel, fill, wait and doctor. Your hands are a little rough and you travel without makeup or hair gel. You do without to afford the "sickness" and probably, when you were a small girl, you bounced a model horse while you dreamed of riding a real one.

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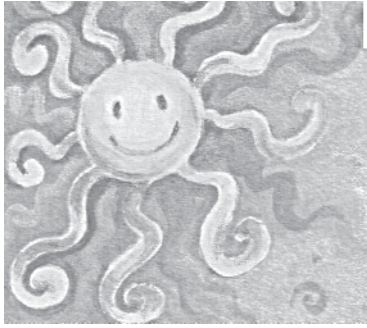
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**Updating the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance?**

by Elektra Kruger

The City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance was originally approved in 1962 to outline rules and regulations for the designation of, and protection of, buildings and sites as Historic-Cultural Monuments. While minor changes have been made over the years, there has never been a truly comprehensive review of the Ordinance to assure that Los Angeles has a first rate historic preservation policy program. In late November 2008, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission recommended that the City Council undertake a comprehensive review of, and significant overhaul of, the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Commission approved a proposed new Ordinance which is expected to come before the City Planning Commission in early 2009.

Some of the changes proposed by the Planning Department's Office of Historic Resources include strengthening demolition review procedures (one of the most important features as many of our precious historic sites are being bulldozed down daily with no thought to the historic values of what is being lost to future generations), clarifying criteria for being designated historically or culturally significant, and creating a complete and concise notification system for private owners who may be in possession of a potentially historic or culturally significant resource to allow for a temporary stay of demolition.

Councilmember Eric Garcetti presented a Motion to City Council in early January 2009 requesting that the Council instruct the Planning Department and City Attorney finalize the newly revised Historic Preservation Ordinance approved by the Cultural Heritage Commission and present it to the Council for their consideration. SHPOA will keep you abreast of the progress of this Motion.



**Shadow Hills Heritage**

by Marlene Hitt, Sunland resident and archivist at Bolton Hall. Reprinted from the Daily News.

With thanks to historians and reporters Lucy Colville, Bob and Maxine Williams, Carol Kay Bierle, Linda Kite, the Foothill Leader and the Daily News, there is historical information in the Bolton Hall archive files about a unique area called Shadow Hills. Once known as Hansen Heights, the Shadow Hills area occupies the western portion of the old Rancho Tujunga. The property was surveyed in 1907 and plotted by Homer A. Hansen who named streets after family members.

In 1943, the mailing address was Roscoe. East of Johanna Ave. was Sunland and west of that was Roscoe. About 1948, after an aborted effort to establish an incorporated Shadow Hills with its own post office, the Sunland postal delivery boundaries were extended to Stonehurst Ave. About that time Roscoe people changed the name of their community to Sun Valley.

The uniqueness of Shadow Hills is due to its low-density housing, its ranches, equestrian emphasis, and the

*Continued on page 9*



**Heritage**

*Continued from page 8*

emphasis of its residents to keep a place where the land and nature take precedence over development. During the years in Shadow Hills specialized businesses have been built. There was the Butterfly Park, where, as early as 1929, for a \$5.00 per year membership, a person was entitled to a dozen mounted butterflies, admission to an enclosure in which thousands of butterflies were raised in their natural state, and admission to its museum. The ad says: "To reach Butterfly Park take road connecting Roscoe and Sunland to Hansen Heights Store, turn south two blocks."

Along Sunland Blvd, Amos and Ardeth Ikenberry owned a large orange grove (across from the Old Vienna Restaurant). That was during the 1940s. The road was then a curvy, two-lane, very dangerous road. As Amos sold oranges from a stand on the road, he came up with the idea of making orange cones and slush drinks. From this came the "Famous Amos" frosty business, which he sold later to Jimmy Deans.

Old Vienna Restaurant carries a story of its own. Old Vienna Gardens was built by August Furst from Nuremberg, Germany. Completed in 1937, the gardens became a popular place to dine and to dance outdoors in the perfect storybook setting. Tudor-style lines set with boulders make up the main structure with lovely stone work around the property. There are complex terraces and canals. It is known now as the Villa Terraza.

Above the restaurant is the Moorish-style residence built by Furst in 1936. Many rumors have been attached to this home. It is said that in it are secret and hidden places. Also, a rumor circulates that German spies once stayed there. Another story is that there was once in the house an infamous Hollywood brothel. Whether these stories are true, it remains that the home and grounds are old and very beautiful and are situated in a scenic part of the country. Of particular interest is that Mr. Furst put his piping under the driveway to take advantage of "solar" heating.

Not far away is the lovely property once called "The Frog Jump," home of the Spence family. When the Spences sold, it was to a Catholic school. In later years, the building and grounds became the group home known today as Tierra del Sol. Some of the older businesses include the Sunland Water Gardens, Betsy Young Orchard, the country markets, veterinary supply store, and feed-supply stores.

A few of the famous people from Shadow Hills have been "Tommy Trojan" of USC fame (Richard Saukko) and his horses Traveler I, II, III. "The Spirit of the West Riders" rode the Rose Parade in 1998. There are experts on birds, rescuers of wild birds, people who have fought to save the "Tujung Ponds." There are many others who have and are now contributing to the vital life of Shadow Hills. There is no place more peaceful and amenible to horse lovers, animal lovers and lovers of the country life than the one-and-only Shadow Hills, the country within the city.



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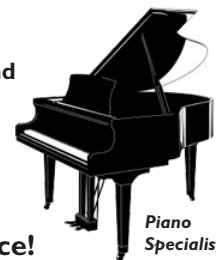
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### Solar Panels?

by Elektra Kruger

We all know what an under-the-table debacle Measure B was, yet I doubt anyone does not believe in the basic concept of introducing solar energy as an alternative power source. While installation costs are high, the long-term savings will far outweigh the initial cost. Not only would money be saved on the electric bill because you would be generating at least a part of the electricity you yourself need, if you should happen to generate more electricity than you yourself need you can sell it to the DWP power grid and earn credit for that amount of electricity.

In 2007, Berkeley, California began an innovative program in which residents could install solar power systems without having to pay the enormous installation costs up-front. The City of Berkeley would finance the initial installation costs for property owners agreeing to pay back the loan in the form of a 20-year property tax assessment. The assessment would include administrative fees and interest, but these would still be lower than if a property owner were to obtain a private loan since the City can secure low-interest bonds.

The panels must be installed by a city-approved company of the property owners choice, but one is not limited to the City's own union workers as would have been required in LA's Measure B, and still by being limited to City approved installers the public would have some level of protection from unqualified installers. Residential Solar Panel Systems may range from between \$15,000 to \$20,000. The solar panels stay with the property even if the property is sold - the new property owner would assume the assessment for the remaining balance.

Actually, currently the DWP does have a support program already. Homeowners get credit for about 1/2 the cost of the purchase and installation of a solar panel system, however the homeowner must front the entire cost and all DWP incentive rebates are provided after installation and, typical of the City, will take time to process. This current system can be too much of a challenge for homeowners who do not have that kind of money to front and limits current DWP energy conservation efforts.

The post-installation assessment approach, otherwise referred to as the Sustainable Energy Financing District as implemented in Berkeley, may address that problem. Councilmember Greig Smith presented a Motion to City Council requesting that the Department of Water and Power, Chief Administrative Officer, and Chief Legislative Analyst report to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee on the feasibility of implementing, in LA, a Sustainable Energy Financing District modeled after that in Berkeley. There was a 50/50 for/against this idea by the public testifying at the Energy and Environment Committee meeting.

At its late March 2009 meeting, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee approved the Motion recommending that the DWP include the Neighborhood Councils and all interested stakeholders in the development of the program and with the help of

*Continued on page 11*

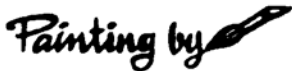
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**Solar Panels**

*Continued from page 10*

the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst include findings on program sustainability and funding and promotion of "green jobs". The LA City Council unanimously passed this Motion at its April 15, 2009 session.



**LA Basin once was Wetlands**

*by Gerry Keesey Hoppe, published in Fedco ad catalogue*

Most Californians presume the natural climate of Los Angeles is dusty and dry, that historically this was a region of few trees and insignificant plant life. Semi-desert conditions have dominated the area's recorded history, but previously—and lasting for thousands of years—Los Angeles Basin was a lush environment.

From the last Ice Age until as late as 1825 AD, coastal lowlands were heavily vegetated. Spaniard Gaspar de Portola's 1769 exploratory expedition encountered a great wetland, with dense shrubbery and large forest trees. They passed through stands of giant sycamore, live oak, ash, cottonwood and alder, and skirted marshes filled with sedges and bulrushes until, on August 2 they camped on the bank of the Los Angeles River, naming it Rio Porciuncula. Thousands of aboriginal Indians lived in this verdant ecosystem. Wolves, bear, antelope and deer roamed the broad flood plain, and the many streams teemed with salmon.

Through it all flowed the Los Angeles River, measuring in places several miles across, its banks thick and green. Its stream waters originated in the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountain ranges. Flowing unimpeded, they converged at a point near present day Elysian Park and spilled onto the plain.


Only after heavy winter rains did waterways acquire sufficient volume to course all the way to the sea. When this happened, the river flowed west to Ballona Creek and emptied into Santa Monica Bay, at present day Marina del Rey.

All this changed in 1825, when a great deluge from the San Gabriel Mountains caused the Los Angeles River to change course to a new, southerly direction. The river roared down to the sea, emptying not in Santa Monica Bay but at San Pedro through present day Wilmington.




We know the deluge must have come from Big Tujunga Canyon because mustard plants indigenous to the area apparently washed down with the water. After the 1825 flood, mustard seeds sprouted throughout the Los Angeles Basin.

The river thereafter remained confined to its new bed as it coursed direct to the ocean. A few isolated wetlands remained—at Venice, Bixby Slough and Bolsa Chica—but for the most part the coastal plain went dry.

In subsequent years winter deluges remained common, yet only after the influx of numerous settlers on the plain did people consider floods an altogether bad thing. According to common wisdom, flooding replenishes the soil—and after a deluge, flush agricultural years surely follow.



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## Excess Gas Flow Safety Device - Up-Date

by Elektra Kruger

Every year, the LAFD or DWP responds to numerous calls associated with natural gas or propane gas leaks. Uncontrolled leaks could be deadly for utility workers, firefighters and families as well as be responsible for severe property damage in the event of fire or explosion. The Los Angeles Municipal Code currently requires the installation of a Seismic Gas Shut-Off Valve (Section 94.1219.0) that would be activated in a 5.4 or higher Richter Scale seismic event, however there may be any number of other reasons that might initiate a gas leak to which this valve would not respond.

This prompted Councilmember Dennis Zine to present a Motion to City Council in mid-September 2006 asking that the Council instruct the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance that would amend Section 94.1219.0 of the Municipal Code to include installation of Excess Flow Shut Off Valves - valves that would reduce gas flow to non-hazardous levels when gas flow, FOR WHATEVER REASON, were to exceed specified limits. The City Attorney submitted a Draft Ordinance to the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Committee, while not amending the Code to require Excess Gas Flow Shut Off Valves, did draft an amendment that would permit the installation of Excess Flow Shut Off Valves as an acceptable option to the Seismic Shut Off Valve. The LA City Council unanimously passed this ordinance at its April 22, 2009 session.



## Update on Green Alleys/Streets - Part 3

by Elektra Kruger

As the heavy rains come, our streets and alleyways show signs of surface distress such as severe cracking and formation of pot-holes. Councilmember Tom LaBonge asked that the City look into the feasibility of introducing the use of alternative street-surfacing materials that are more environmentally friendly such as permeable concrete and porous asphalt that would allow rainwater to percolate through the surface, be filtered through a stone-bed layer below, and ultimately end up recharging the underground water-table rather than becoming polluted run-off entering our rivers and streams.

The issue came before City Council in early December 2008. Subject to vote were such things as directing the Planning Department to incorporate Green Street policy and concepts into the General Plan, Community Plan Updates and new Community Plans; and directing the Green Streets Committee to work with the City's Chief Legislative Analyst and Chief Administrative Officer to look into the feasibility of developing a fee on all new construction projects to be dedicated to funding a general Green Street Construction and Maintenance Fund - along the same line as the Quimby Fees used for Park Construction and Maintenance.

The Committee might also be asked to develop a list of projects that would have permeable components and/or green street designs to be forwarded to both the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the City Attorneys Office

*Continued on page 13*

**Green Alley - Part 3**

*Continued from page 13*

for potential funding through their mitigation programs. Also subject to vote was instructing the Bureau of Safety to prepare a Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan infiltration guideline booklet which would present a number of bio-filtration best management practice concepts to submit to the Public Works Committee for their review; and to direct a number of City Departments to approve pilot projects containing Green Street elements as part of a testing and evaluation process.

The water crisis in southern California will require the City to rely more heavily on local water resources rather than imported water to meet our needs. Stormwater is a valuable water resource that can be captured and stored for long-term future use especially in an ultra-urban area like Los Angeles where more than half of the City is currently covered with impermeable surfaces.



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## Develop Street Smarts - Avoid Being Robbed

by Elektra Kruger

1. Avoid walking at night or, at least, use well-lit, well-traveled routes.
2. Avoid walking alone.
3. Travel "light". Wearing a lot of jewelry, carrying a large shoulder bag, etc., can make you a target.
4. Avoid using short cuts such as parks or alley ways.
5. Walk with an air of confidence. Head up, sure step and without appearing intimidated by your surroundings. A person appearing unsure of themselves tends to be more attractive to robbers.
6. Avoid loiterers and people just standing around as a group - this is suggestive of trouble. Circumvent these by crossing the street or taking another route.
7. Walk in the middle of the sidewalk, especially at night. Robbers may be hiding in storefront doorways or alleys.
8. If you sense that you are being followed walk into anyplace with people - a restaurant or store.
9. If heading for an unfamiliar destination, study your maps well in advance and stop only at a public place for directions or to read a map.



## Demands of an Urban Forest - Part 1

LA contains one of the largest Urban Forests in the world - as of 2007, 700,000+ street trees, 850,000+ City-Park trees and 40,000+ trees on City-Owned facilities and over 10 million trees on privately held properties. Continual growth of our Urban Forest is beginning to bring with it a possible need to revisit the City's street tree maintenance policy, esp. as it relates to the Ficus Tree. First planted in the 1950's, with the majority planted during the 1960's, the Ficus is known for it's large dark green canopy. Unfortunately, at the time of their planting, little did the City know that these lovely trees would grow out of their tree wells and push up sidewalks far-and-wide, thus becoming a great hazard now for LA pedestrians. The first time the issue of the need to revisit the City's street tree policy arose with a Motion presented to City Council in mid-Oct. 2006 by Councilmember Jan Perry. She listed a number of issues that needed to be addressed. 1.) The issue of deferred maintenance. While an ideal maintenance trim cycle lies somewhere betw. 3 to 7 yrs, it was funded as a 12 yr cycle prior to 2004 but did improve to a 9 yr cycle in 2005. Better, but not "ideal". 2.)

Responding to increased Police Dept requests for tree-trimming services in high-crime areas where the field of view of surveillance cameras needs to be kept clear and blockage of light streams from City Street lights needs to be reduced. 3.) There has been further deferred maintenance of trees on Municipal sites such as libraries, police and fire stations and municipal office bldgs. - this used to be the responsibility of the Dept of Recreation and Parks but that has lapsed and no one City Agency is

*Continued on page 15*



**Urban Forest**

*Continued from page 14*

responsible for their maintenance making it impossible to monitor and enforce their maintenance. 4.) And now we have our Million-Tree Initiative. On the surface, it sounds like a wonderful idea and many of us have been out there joining one group or another blindly planting trees throughout our City. They look great now and will in the near future, but what unthinking headache have we possibly created for ourselves? I'm not knocking the Million-Tree Initiative - we needed it. We just also need to be ready to service the trees once they are planted. Digging a hole, stuffing in a tree, having a big post-planting party and patting ourselves on the back for the great deed we have done is not the whole banana. To deal with these issues Councilmember Jan Perry asked that the "Department of Public Works be directed to report on a revision of the City's street tree policy in order to have that policy more closely conform to the City's changing street tree needs and challenges".



**Transfer of CD2 Funds**

*by Elektra Kruger*

Among the variety of budget accounts allotted each Council District annually, there is an Office Budget and there is a Council District Community Service Account. Because Councilmember Wendy Greuel will be vacating her position to take on her newly elected duties as City Controller prior to the tenure of her position as Councilmember for CD2, there will be unused funds in the CD2 Office Budget that will no longer be needed. As such, Councilmember Greuel presented a Motion to City Council asking that \$1,338 of the Office Budget Fund be transferred to the CD2 Community Services Fund to further support community programs and groups in CD2. Subject to reconsideration, the City Council approved the Motion at it's May 29, 2009 session.

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**Tuesday, July 14**

SHPOA General meeting  
Tierra del Sol - 7pm

**Wednesday, July 22**

Newsletter deadline for ads and articles

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ETI Corral 20 Harvest Moon Barnyard Dinner Dance  
Becky 818-352-3634

**Tuesdays and Sundays**

Little Landers Historical Society presents an exhibit "Work of Hands"  
- Needlework/knitting, crochet, and pillows  
Bolton Hall Museum - 1pm to 4pm

**2nd Tuesday every month**

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting  
9749 Wheatland - 7pm

**3rd Tuesday every month**

Neighborhood Watch meeting  
East Valley Municipal Bldg. - 7pm

**3rd Thursday every month**

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

**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 Presbyterian Church:** Johanna at Sunland, Shadow Hills;  
Pastor Janet Winslow 353-3500

**Stonehurst Park:** 9901 Dronefield, 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:** 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

**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