



Why Should I Join SHPOA ?

What's In It For Me ?

By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

When you join the Shadow Hills Property Owner's Association (SHPOA) you are supporting our volunteer organization in their ongoing, consistent efforts to preserve the unique community of Shadow Hill. These efforts, starting in 1964, have been successful in its endeavors to fight increased density from massive development.

Major Accomplishments:

- There have been no new apartments structures or condominiums approved in the past 60 years - thanks to the hard work of the volunteers of SHPOA.
- We have attended all of the hearings; communicated regularly on a weekly basis with our elected officials; and met with developers to reduce density on each and every case that has been proposed for our community. And we will continue to do so because we believe that the majority of Shadow Hills wants to protect and preserve our very special community.
- Specifically, SHPOA won many of the provisions that we had requested in the City's Letter of Determination regarding Hudson Pacific's Sunset Studios operations, including signage, buffer zones, hours, complaint monitoring and resolutions, off-site parking, and lighting restrictions.
- SHPOA has a close working relationship with our City Council Office to improve Shadow Hills density and traffic control.
- Recent efforts have resulted in removing

(Cont'd next column)

General Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7 pm
Tierra del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd.

Please Mark Your Calendar
And Plan To Attend

****Wildfire Prep by MySafe:LA****
****Teranga Ranch: Living with Mountain Lions and Other Wildlife****

(Continued)

the truck route on Wentworth Street for the Devil's Gate Debris Removal project. Thanks to Councilwoman Rodriguez's deputies Flores and Javadyan and SHPOA, Wentworth Street is now safer for pedestrians and equestrians.

- Vandalized street lights are now on the priority list for repair, again thanks to our close working relationship with Councilwoman Rodriguez's office.
- Recent installation of equestrian signals and guard rails on Wentworth.
- Recent installation of Speed Feedback Signs on Sunland Blvd.
- A successful and massive letter writing campaign during the LA Council Redistricting process to keep Shadow Hills as one community along with the communities of La Tuna Canyon and Lake View Terrace in CD7.

Our Mission/Beliefs

- We believe that our neighbors do not want to end up like a North Hollywood, a Van Nuys, or a Glendale where massive development has resulted in major traffic congestion, increased noise and population.
- We believe that the majority of Shadow

(Please see "SHPOA" on p. 2)

2024 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:

Sunland/Shadow Hills/LVT Wilcer Godoy
36495@lapd.online 818-634-0705

Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West 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

President: Kevin Davis
president@ftdnc.org

Shadow Hills Reps: Cindy Bloom
cindy.bloom@ftdnc.org

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

Hills wants to come home to a tranquil, peaceful setting - where you can listen to the wildlife at night, enjoy rural open space and appreciate the serenity of a small village.

• We also believe that the majority of our neighbors agree with this sentiment. And we need you to show your support by joining SHPOA. We need to be confident that we are representing you in our ongoing efforts to protect Shadow Hills.

So, what does the \$30.00 membership a year get you and your neighbors?

* The SHPOA bimonthly newsletter delivered to all mailboxes in Shadow Hills.

* A daily online email (Daily Fodder) which reports on current issues, lost animals, member's ads and local community events and resources. Signup at www.shpoa.us, click on "Daily Fodder sign-up".

* A SHPOA website for info about our organization: www.shpoa.us

* Bimonthly general membership meetings with guest speakers and land use updates.

* Consistent efforts to keep Sunland Blvd and Wentworth St. safe, clean and reduction of speeds as part of the volunteers of the SHPOA Traffic Safety Committee.

* Organized letter writing and email campaigns to protest higher density developments in our rural enclave. Currently, we are organizing and supporting the CHIP Ordinance June 2024 draft that rezones our commercial corridors while protecting single-family neighborhoods, Historic Districts/HPOZs and Rent Stabilized Units from being rezoned for higher density.

* Publicity on upcoming land use issues and general meetings.

* Current collaborative efforts to restore and maintain hiking and equestrian trails

(Please see "SHPOA" on p. 3)

(“SHPOA” cont’d from p. 2)

that are designated in the Shadow Hills Community Plan.

* Consistent advocacy for Shadow Hills with government agencies, including police and fire departments.

* Provide a meeting room for community input at General meetings.

* Providing opportunities for community members’ articles in the SHPOA bimonthly newsletter.

And why does it cost \$30.00 per year?

- The bimonthly SHPOA Newsletter is not cheap. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise.

- Bimonthly meeting venue rental and refreshments which are provided.

- On-line Maintenance fees for the Daily Fodder email and SHPOA website.

- SHPOA provides special notifications and signage through flyers and banners.

- Insurance premiums for general operations and events.

- Pet Chip Reader to help find pets get home safely.

- SHPOA efforts to building community through special events:

1. Last year’s St. Patrick’s Celebration at The Stonehurst was a huge success.

2. July 2024 General Meeting and Ice Cream Social and Arts Exhibition was very well attended and received.

3. MARK YOUR CALENDARS - This Nov. 9th from 2 - 5 pm we are holding a Barn Dance at The Stonehurst with a live Country Western Band featuring square dancing, line dancing and two step. Look for future announcements in the Daily Fodder and SHPOA Newsletter.

There is so much that SHPOA does to continue to work for our community ... and we need you to show your support by joining each year for \$30.00.

(Please see “SHPOA” on p. 4)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association



Membership Form

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

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

Membership only = \$30

Newsletter only = \$10 (non-Shadow Hills area)

Donations are always gratefully received.

Name: _____

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Check one: New Renewal Newsletter Only
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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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("SHPOA" cont'd from p. 3)

Ways to JOIN:

- Pay online through our website: www.shpoa.us. Memberships & Other Payments tab
- Send in your check and SHPOA Membership Form (Can be found in the SHPOA Newsletters p. 3 that are delivered to your physical mailbox.). Mail the \$30 check to SHPOA, P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA. 91040-0345.
- Bring your check to the next SHPOA meeting.



**Best Friends \$150,000 Grant
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

Due to low Staffing rates at Los Angeles Department of Animal Care Service Centers (Shelters), Best Friends Animal Society offered the Department a \$150,000 Grant for the hiring of additional part-time and as-needed staff to perform various life-saving activities at City Shelters such as Animal Care Technicians, Relief Animal Care Workers and Administrative Clerk classifications for a period of 24 months. At its June 6, 2024 meeting, the City Council's Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee moved to accept the \$150,000 Best Friends Grant and its associated requirements and recommended that the full City Council do the same. Public comment submitted provided a number of additional multi-faceted suggestions both long-term and short-term. This included such things as having the City allocate additional funding to existing shelters to improve facilities, hire more staff and provide better care for the animals, budget for medical care, food and enrichment programs. To help alleviate overcrowding in existing shelters and reduce the need for euthanasia due to lack of space, open additional shelters especially in areas where there is high demand for services and limited capacity.

(Please see "Friends" on p. 6)

(*“Friends” cont’d from p. 4*)

If necessary, implement humane euthanizing practices including sedation to reduce suffering. Provide training for shelter staff on proper euthanasia procedures and ensure compliance with humane standards – animals are currently not being sedated in Los Angeles shelters. Strengthen enforcement of spay/neuter laws to reduce the number of unwanted animals entering shelters in the first place. Offer low-cost or free spay/neuter services to all pet owners to increase accessibility and/or enticement for all to seriously consider having their pets spayed/neutered. Ban new breeder licenses to reduce the number of animals “bred for profit” which can contribute to overpopulation in shelters. How much more can be done to encourage shelter adoptions vs breeder purchase I don’t know. We are already hit right and left with “Adopt don’t Purchase” phrases. Remove pet restrictions on rental properties or increase the number of pets allowed per household to prevent pet surrenders due to housing issues. Provide resources and support for landlords to accommodate tenants with pets. Organize monthly adoption events in collaboration with city councilmembers to promote pet adoption and raise awareness about shelter animals. Offer incentives such as reduced adoption fees or free pet supplies to encourage participation.



Recap and Minutes

SHPOA General Meeting, July 9, 2024
 By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

On July 9, 2024, SHPOA held its General Meeting at Tierra Del Sol at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held outside, under the canopy of trees to the west side of the property. This was the first annual SHPOA Ice Cream Social and Art Show highlighting the beautiful works from

(Continued next column)

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 Changes affecting real estate transactions are going to effect this August. Misinformation is abundant and people are looking for trusted information. As we navigate these changes, I would love to be your trusted resource and go to girl. Our Berkshire Hathaway team is working to keep you updated and protected. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any and all of your real estate questions and needs.

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(Continued from prior column)

our local artists including 2-dimensional paintings, photography, 3-dimensional sculptures and masks, embroidery, fabric art, needlework, quilts, jewelry and wreaths. The meeting was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Tina Eick and Susan Wong served ice cream sundaes and/or root beer floats while the local artists shared their artworks to the neighbors. President Eick dispensed with the usual agenda and instead introduced and directed our membership to talk, on a one-on-one basis, to the Board member who was well versed on a specific issue – updates on the film studio, United Neighbors, Athens Community Trust Funds, High Speed Rail and other land use concerns.

Ricardo Flores and Arthur Javadyan, from Councilwoman Rodriguez’s office were also in attendance to answer any community concerns from our neighbors

(Please see **“Recap”** on p. 6)

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(“Recap” cont’d from p. 5)

... and to enjoy their ice cream sundaes! As usual, they were very knowledgeable and sensitive to our neighborhood concerns. SHPOA is grateful for their consistent support and follow-through with traffic and lighting issues. As an update since the July 9th meeting: truck traffic from the Devil’s Gate haul route has been redirected to Osborne Street (coming and going) in order to protect equestrians and children on Wentworth Street from the dangers associated with truck traffic. Additionally, street lights which have been vandalized for copper wire are now on a priority list for repair, thanks to the hard work and diligence of Councilwoman Rodriguez’s Deputies Flores and Javadyan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.



California Grizzly To Be Memorialized
At Sunland Park
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

When European immigrants arrived in California, it was estimated that there were some 10,000 grizzlies inhabiting the State. However, the California Gold Rush of 1849 would see a change of fate for the grizzlies and within 75 years after the discovery of gold, every grizzly in California had been hunted down and killed. Nevertheless, the California Grizzly still became a symbol of resilience and strength and the California State Flag known as the “Bear Flag” became the oldest unofficial state symbol. In 1911, the California Legislature passed a bill establishing the flag’s basic design feature as a red star, stripe, grizzly bear and wording. The bear became a part of the State Seal in 1849 and in 1953, despite its absence, the California Grizzly was designated the official State Animal. The last known California Grizzly in Southern California resided in the Seventh Council District in the vicinity of Sunland Park. In

(Please see “Grizzly” on p. 7)

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

late July 2024, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Motion to the Los Angeles City Council asking that they instruct the Department of Cultural Affairs with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks to prepare and present a report with recommendations for establishing a permanent memorial of the California Grizzly in Sunland Park, its anticipated costs and recommendations for securing funding from philanthropic donations or grants to support its creation. Councilmember Rodriguez additionally would like to see that the Department of Cultural Affairs along with the Department of Recreational Parks and relevant historical and conservational organizations prepare and present a report on how an educational campaign could also be used to educate the public about the enduring legacy of the California Grizzly at Sunland Park. At their August 7, 2024 meeting, the City Council's Neighborhood and Community Enrichment Committee approved the Motion.



**Establish A Standing Reward Program
For Copper Wire Theft Reports
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

Over the past decade, the City has seen a troubling rise in vandalism of and theft of copper wiring from City streetlights which not only is costly to the City to repair, but creates a public safety issue in areas that lose their public lighting for interim periods. The City's streetlight network includes an estimated 223,000 streetlights. While the Bureau of Street Lighting has been aggressively tackling the backlog of repairs due to damage caused by copper wire theft and streetlight vandalism, it has also invested in preventative measures to protect streetlighting infrastructure. Yet despite these significant investments in repairs

(Continued next column)

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(Continued from prior column)

and prevention by the City, copper wire theft and streetlight vandalism continues to result in extended repair times forcing impacted residents to go weeks without adequate streetlighting while repair crews are responding to outages all

(Please see "Copper" on p. 8)



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

across the City. In the past, the City has established monetary reward programs for information leading to arrests and convictions for a wide variety of crimes that effect the public welfare. While the Council may currently authorize rewards for information leading to arrests for specific incidents of streetlight copper wire theft and/or vandalism on a case-by case basis, in late January 2024, Councilmember Kevin DeLeon suggested that the implementation of a standing reward program would allow law enforcement to more efficiently solicit the public's help in addressing this public safety issue. As part of a new "Standing Reward Program", information could be reported through the Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers and the Police Department could set up a dedicated E-Mail address to receive information from the public. Additionally, the Department should initiate a public service announcement campaign to inform the public of the new Standing Reward Program in order to advertise rewards and better solicit information from the public. Councilmember DeLeon presented a Motion to the City asking that they request the Police Department along with the assistance of the City Attorney and the Bureau of Street Lighting to prepare and present a report with recommendations for procedures on establishing reward offerings for information that might result in the identification, apprehension and conviction for copper wire theft and streetlight vandalism crimes that occur within the City including how the reward program would be administered and the fiscal impacts such a reward program might have. Also that the Police Department be instructed to report with recommendations for the implementation of a service announcement campaign informing the public of the "Standing Reward Offer" program. The City Council submitted the Motion to their Public

(Please see "Copper" on p. 9)

(“Copper” cont’d from p. 8)

Room To Roam Act By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Safety Committee for their review and recommendations. To be up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



Community Benefits Trust Funds By Bill Eick, SHPOA Board

In January 2014 Athens Services received approval for its trash collection and recycling project. It also agreed to contribute \$234,000 annually to a community benefit fund which is to be maintained by the City of Los Angeles. The amount of the yearly contribution is increased yearly by a cost-of-living factor. That trust fund, Athens Services Community Benefit Trust Fund, is distributed equally to Council Districts 2, 6, and 7. The CD 7 funds are for the benefit of Shadow Hills and the Stonehurst area. The purpose of the fund is for the financing of health care, environmental and transportation programs and projects. The council district, in consultation with community members, is responsible for making such allocations. To date, CD 7 has used some of its money to install and maintain the speed notification signs along Sunland Blvd. SHPOA recommends the creation of a community-based advisory committee to participate in the allocation of the Athens Trust Funds for future Shadow Hills projects. The other community benefit funds are directed to CD 6 and CD 7. We have contacted the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council and the Sun Valley District Neighborhood Council to coordinate efforts for the use of said funds.



**Why do cowboys ride horses?
Because they're too heavy to carry.**

On January 22, 2024, State Assemblymember Friedman introduced State Bill AB 1889, the Room to Roam Act, which if approved, would require a City or County to consider as part of its next adoption or revision of one or more elements of the General Plan’s Conservation Element the impacts of development on wildlife, habitat connectivity and natural resources within its jurisdiction on or after January 1, 2028. In late May 2024, Councilmember Nitthya Raman presented a Resolution to the Los Angeles City Council which, if approved, would include in the City of Los Angeles’ State Legislative Program, support for AB 1889. In mid-June 2024, the Los Angeles’ Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) recommended to adopt the Resolution. Existing law requires the conservation element to consider the effect of development within its jurisdiction on natural resources located only on public lands. AB 1889 would additionally require the conservation element to consider the effect of development throughout all its jurisdiction on any and all movement of wildlife and habitat connectivity. The Conservation Element is to up-date and identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability and natural landscape areas within the jurisdiction, identify and analyze existing or planned wildlife passage features and consider the impacts of development and barriers caused by development to wildlife and habitat connectivity. Development and human activities are known to impact wildlife by reducing or eliminating their core habitat, severing connections between habitats and interfering with their behavioral patterns and ability to access food, water, shelter and genetically diverse mates. Climate change is a significant threat to California’s biodiversity. As climate



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

change alters the habitat, ranges and movement patterns of numerous animals and plants, wildlife must have the ability to shift their ranges to effectively adapt to altered climatic conditions and resource availability. Additionally, wildlife must be able to move effectively to respond to extreme weather events including wildfire, drought and floods. Executive Order No. N-82-20 codified by the State Legislature declared that it is the goal of the State to conserve at least 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 to combat the climate and biodiversity crisis. Wildlife connectivity contributes to the preservation and restoration of biodiversity by ensuring that wildlife has the opportunity to move through the landscape to forage, find mates, seek shelter from events such as flooding or wildfires and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The public trust doctrine codified in the Fish and Game Code, among other sections, holds that wildlife is held in trust for the people and that the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife is of utmost public interest. The California Constitution grants cities and counties the power to control and organize development within their boundaries as a means of serving the general welfare. Because cities and counties have the power to control development decisions within their boundaries, they have a responsibility under the public trust doctrine to do so in a manner that protects fish, wildlife and habitat connectivity. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.



**Mayoral Declaration Of The Aqueduct
System Emergency
By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

A portion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023 as a result of flooding brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm

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

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

systems beginning in January 2023. Insofar as this emergency resulted in a demand for immediate expenditure of public funds to safeguard life, health and property, Councilmember Paul Krekorian presented a Resolution to the City Council asking that the competitive bidding restrictions be suspended until the termination of the State of Emergency and that the LADWP is to report to the City Council every two weeks justifying suspension of competitive bidding. The ninth such report was presented on July 26, 2023. At this time runoff flows had reached their peak and were beginning to decrease a bit and were behind us by late August 2023 although runoff did continue to flow at above normal levels. Siphons had been installed at the Tinemaha Dam, the spillway had been elevated at the Long Valley Dam and 99% of the required access roadway had been completed. The LADWP increased the budget for the Construction Services Contract by \$11.5 million to perform additional flood mitigation measures necessary to cover unanticipated costs of increased hauling of material related to the closure of California State Route 136 enforced by the California Department of Transportation from May 31, 2023 to July 14, 2023. The City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct system and Owens Lake sustained minimal damage thanks to the tremendous mitigation efforts performed under the Emergency Declaration. Beginning in early August 2023, the LADWP began focusing on

completing remaining mitigation work and performing cleanup work along the Aqueduct System.



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Prohibit Landlords From Screening Out Pet Owners

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Proposed State AB 2216 would open up many more chances for tenants to find rental units expanding the potential pool of homes by prohibiting landlords from screening out pet owners during the application process. Should this bill pass, not only would no one have to surrender their pets to a shelter in order to move into a rental unit, but many more tenants would be able to adopt an animal from our overcrowded shelters. In late June 2024, LA City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez presented a Resolution to City Council asking that the Council adopt the Resolution, as by its adoption, the City of Los Angeles would include in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2216. The Resolution was forwarded to the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee for its review and recommendations.



Loss and Recovery

By Eva Lund, Resident

During the first seven months of 2024, we at Special Spirit faced the heartbreaking loss of several cherished horses. In the world of horses and other animals, where our bonds run deep, loss is an inevitable part of the journey. Whether it's the passing of a beloved companion or the retirement of a trusted partner, these moments touch us all profoundly. Yet within the sorrow, there is an opportunity for recovery—a chance to honor their memories by moving forward, carrying the lessons they taught us. Together, we'll explore stories of loss, resilience, and the unwavering spirit that guides us through.

Grief is a profound and deeply personal experience, a mix of sadness, emptiness, and longing that arises from the bond shared with a creature who offered unconditional love and companionship. Like any significant loss, this grief can manifest in various ways, including heartache, disbelief, or even guilt. As the pain begins to soften and you start to recognize the joy your animal brought into your life, what often follows is a sense of peace and gratitude. This doesn't mean the sadness disappears entirely, but it becomes intertwined with the warmth of

(Please see "Loss" on p. 13)

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

fond memories.

Losing an animal teaches us to cherish every moment, love unconditionally, and live in the present. It deepens our empathy, reminding us to be compassionate with others who face loss. Ultimately, their passing reminds us of life's natural cycles, encouraging us to embrace each transition with grace and gratitude. As we reflect on the losses we've faced, it's important to honor the memories of the horses who have touched our lives in such profound ways. These animals were more than just members of our ranch; they were teachers, companions, and friends who left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege to know them.

Onyx was a small but mighty rescue pony who joined us in 2018. Her gentle spirit and patient demeanor made her a perfect guide for many of our youngest riders, helping them build confidence in the saddle. She even had the honor of leading riders at the Kiwanis horse show. In her later years, Onyx found joy as a cherished member of our petting zoo and farm animal group, bringing smiles to countless visitors with her warm presence.

Algot, a striking Swedish Warmblood, had a personality as large as his frame and the sweetest curly-tipped ears. His versatility was unmatched—he transitioned through various roles, from dressage horse to hunter-jumper, vaulting horse to adaptive riding partner, and even a member of our equine-assisted learning and psychotherapy team. Algot was more than just a horse; he was a beloved member of the Special Spirit family, whose memory will continue to inspire us.

Pumpkin, an ex-pony horse from the Santa Anita racetrack, found a second home in our adaptive riding program, quickly becoming a favorite among the riders. His later years were spent in peaceful retirement alongside his "girlfriend," Helen, enjoying the simple pleasures of companionship and teaching new volunteers the art of grooming and leading.

Julius, though not officially part of the Special Spirit program, was undeniably a member of our extended family. Rescued by his owner, Julius was known for his sweet nickers and kind face, always eager to greet visitors to the ranch with his gentle voice.

Penny, another non-program horse, was equally adored. Her beautiful paint markings and affectionate nature made her a favorite among the children and visitors, who were

(Please see "Loss" on p. 14)

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(*“Loss” cont’d from p. 13*)

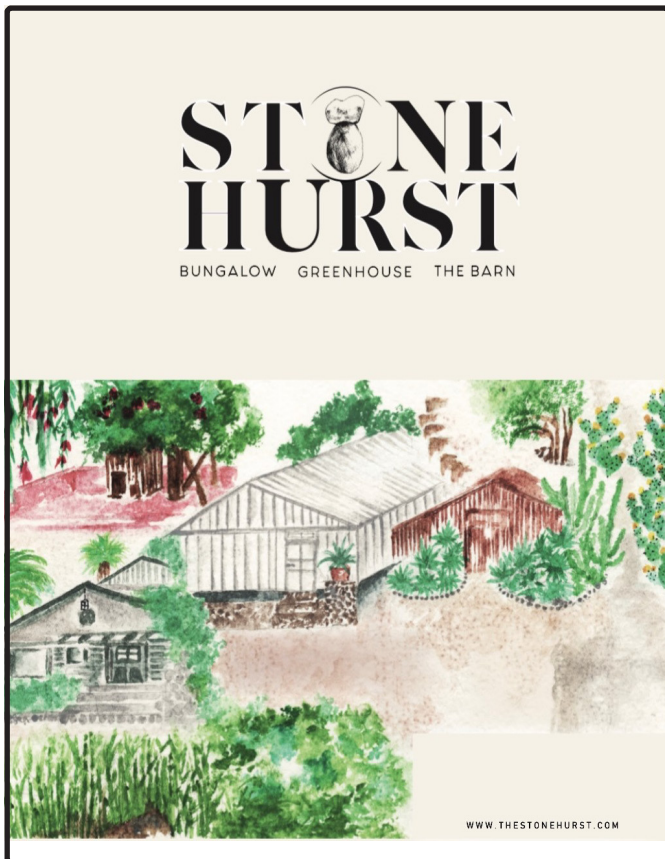
drawn to her gentle, welcoming presence.

Working on a ranch, we are constantly reminded of the delicate balance between life and death—a truth that, though painful, also brings with it a deep appreciation for the time we share with these incredible creatures. For many of the young participants in our programs, these experiences mark their first encounters with loss. It’s been heartening to witness how these children, through their connections with the horses, learn to navigate grief by celebrating the lives of their equine friends.



Pumpkin & Gavin

One participant recently sought out Stanley, our resident barn cat, with a special request. When asked why, the child explained that they wanted to talk to Stanley about The Doctor, our beloved black-and-white cat who passed away last year after offering his own brand of feline therapy to all who needed it. This simple, yet profound moment captures the essence of what we aim to impart: that the memories of those we love live on through the stories we share and the connections we continue to nurture.



Onyx & Friends

(Please see *“Loss”* on p. 15)

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

The pain of loss is undeniable, but it's through our shared experiences, stories, and cherished memories that we find healing and resilience. As we remember our animal friends no longer with us, we celebrate the lessons they taught us: to cherish each moment, to love unconditionally, and to embrace the beauty of life's transitions with grace and gratitude.

Algot (right) is ready for his close-up



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Next SHPOA General Meeting: Tues, Sept 10th @ 7 pm at Tierra del Soljj

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Aluminum Door & Screen 11	Let Cynthia Help 10
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Auto Trinity..... 15	Marconi Radio 14
Backdoor Bakery 7	Pampered Pets 6
Blue Shadows..... 4	Pet Medical Center 10
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Complete Compounding	Rodeo Cleaners..... 8
Pharmacy 6	Sally Hall, Realtor 15
Crescenta Valley Tree 10	Sierra Signs 11
David Robertson, DVM..... 7	SoilDirect.com 8
East Valley Feed & Tack 7	Syairah Shaharuddin 6
Eick & Freeborn, Attorneys 8	The Stonehurst 14
Ellingford Brush Clearance 13	Tony Margulies 6
Grocery Outlet 11	TransAction..... 6
James Sanchez, Realtor .. 12	Trish Ramsey, Realtor 8
LA Law Center 13	Vivan Yuenchi Pan..... 11

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.
 - 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 Wednesday, 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
 - Nikki Ahten, 818-489-6527
 - ETINational.com

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, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042,
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