



THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY JUN 17, 2022

SUNLAND STRONG - TUJUNGA TOUGHER!
A tribute to our local businesses that are re-opening.

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 12



Capt. Hollis made every one welcome at this fund raiser for a great program.

Tip-A-Cop Event at Joselito's

Law Enforcement give a whole new meaning to "protect and serve" at the Tip-A-Cop fundraiser at Joselito's on June 2nd for the Special Olympics - Southern California. Officers serve as celebrity waiters at restaurants, and they donate all the tips they receive to Special Olympics. Tip-A-Cop has been a favorite way for officers to raise money, and the public loves to have the officers wait on them hand and foot.

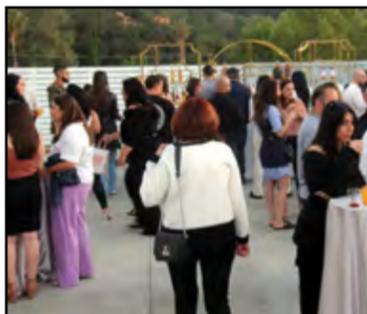
Some officers have decided to go even further in their fundraising efforts and are raising money for a local Tip-A-Cop and Special Olympics athletes online!

LAPD Captain Jeffrey Hollis greeted everybody with a great smile and explained how every dollar raised through this event will help fund Special Olympics programs here in the Sunland-Tujunga community. Special Olympics Southern California enriches the lives of athletes with intellectual disabilities and their communities through sports, education, and athlete health.

In April of 2022 Capt. Hollis was promoted to the rank of captain I and assigned as the Commanding Officer of Foothill Patrol Division. As he has throughout his career, he remains committed to serving the communities of Los Angeles and supporting the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department.■



Pacific Medical Pharmacy Opens in Tujunga, CA



The Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Pacific Medical Pharmacy to Tujunga with a grand opening that would rival any Hollywood event. With an incredible array of fine foods catered by Nova Catering of Glendale, there was something for everyone.

With over 100 people in attendance, the music and food combined to be one GALA OCCASION for Tujunga.■



Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Guest Editorial - Laura Snyder

This Father's Day, like every other Father's Day, my thoughts go careening back to the time I was a mouthy teenager. My father was often upset with me for some smart-aleck comment I would make. I guess, even then, I was in training to be a humor col-

umnist, but with remarkable hindsight, I can see now that practicing my sassiness on my Dad wasn't the smartest thing I could've done.

He was proud of me when I stuck up for myself with other people, however, with him, he probably wished I would shut my trap before he needed to ground me again.

My Dad was a man who valued moments of solitude that are rare in a family of six. There was nothing he liked to do better than sit in a forest glade for hours, waiting for a deer to appear. He must've hated to shoot it to supplement our family's grocery bill. Otherwise, sitting out in the woods for hours would've seemed like a waste of time. At least, that's what I liked to think.

He was conflicted like that a lot. The vacations we took were always fishing trips. He would've loved to go fishing out in a boat on a quiet lake all by himself, but being of a practical nature, almost to a fault, he had to concede that more fish could be caught if all six of us were in that boat with lines in the water.

So there we were: Four, loud, life-jacketed children and two adults trying to keep up with the hook-baiting. We'd sing songs, softly. Dad said if we sang too loud we'd "scare the fish away." I used to wonder how we would scare them away because I never saw a single

of Lucky Strikes and wearing his favorite fishing hat, would calmly steer the boat, bait hooks and bail out the boat when water accumulated. The bailing bucket was also a visible, silent threat. We knew that if anyone had to go to the bathroom while we were out, they had

before they exploded. Now that I am a parent I can say that perhaps "done" was the moment just before Dad gave in to the urge to throw us all in the lake and make us swim back to the cabin.

My father tried to teach us many rules to live by: Don't talk back. Get good grades. Don't pass gas at the kitchen table. Eat your vegetables. Don't Smoke. Don't drink. Don't pass in a no-passing zone. Don't cheat on your spouse. Don't divorce.

But no matter what he'd taught his kids, my father lived by his own set of rules. He was the King of "Do As I Say, Not As I Do." For those of us who chose to listen to him, life turned out pretty good. For those of us who chose to emulate him, life is still a struggle.

So, I guess you could say that my father always knew what the right thing to do was, but many times he chose not to do it. Dad lived his life on his own terms... and died the same way, on September 9, 1985 - before we were done needing him.

Laura Snyder ■

My Dad was a man who valued moments of solitude that are rare in a family of six. There was nothing he liked to do better than sit in a forest glade for hours, waiting for a deer to appear.

fish that had ears. Now that I'm a parent, I know that the soft singing was to ensure my parent's sanity.

We'd invent poems to lure the fish to our lines. Poems like: "Fishy, fishy in the brook, won't you come and bite my hook."

Throughout these childish shenanigans, my Dad, chain-smoking his way through his second pack

to use the bucket, because my Dad warned, "We're not going back until we're done fishing!" Thanks to Dad, we are all blessed with gigantic bladders now.

We were never sure what the barometer for "done" was, though. Was it measured in hours, in the number of fish caught, or was it measured by the shade of red my parents' faces were

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PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM THE SHOOTERS

Most federal career politicians end up very wealthy. They make good salaries. They have great health insurance and very nice retirement packages. They typically develop political action committees that cover expenses the government doesn't pay. When they retire, they can donate campaign funds they have accumulated throughout the years to their own non-profits and administer the funds.

Most Americans know how lucrative a lifetime of "public service" can become and few really care. Most of us have more to worry about than the jet setting life styles of our rich and famous U.S. Senators and Representatives. What torches many of us

is their inability and often refusal to do anything. Too many of them are spineless wimps who are terrified of casting a vote that might hinder their reelection.

Most Americans know how lucrative a lifetime of "public service" can become and few really care

You've probably noticed that most and often all of the Republicans vote the "party line" and all the Democrats do the same. How does this help us?

I'm tired of the red vs the blue and

vice-versa. Doesn't anybody have an opinion that differs from their grand ol' party?

It's obvious that Americans are torn into shreds over the gun issue. There is no perfect answer. However, doing nothing isn't working to save the next group of children begging for help in 911 calls.

The least our leaders can do is raise the age to 21 to own any kind of labeled assault weapon. Personally, I would push for 25 but honestly there is no golden number. Old people can go crazy with assault style weapons as easy as eighteen-year-olds. We've seen more school shootings from those under 21 which makes it a reasonable place to start.

Please see **Guest Editorial - Dr. Glenn Mollette**

on Page 3

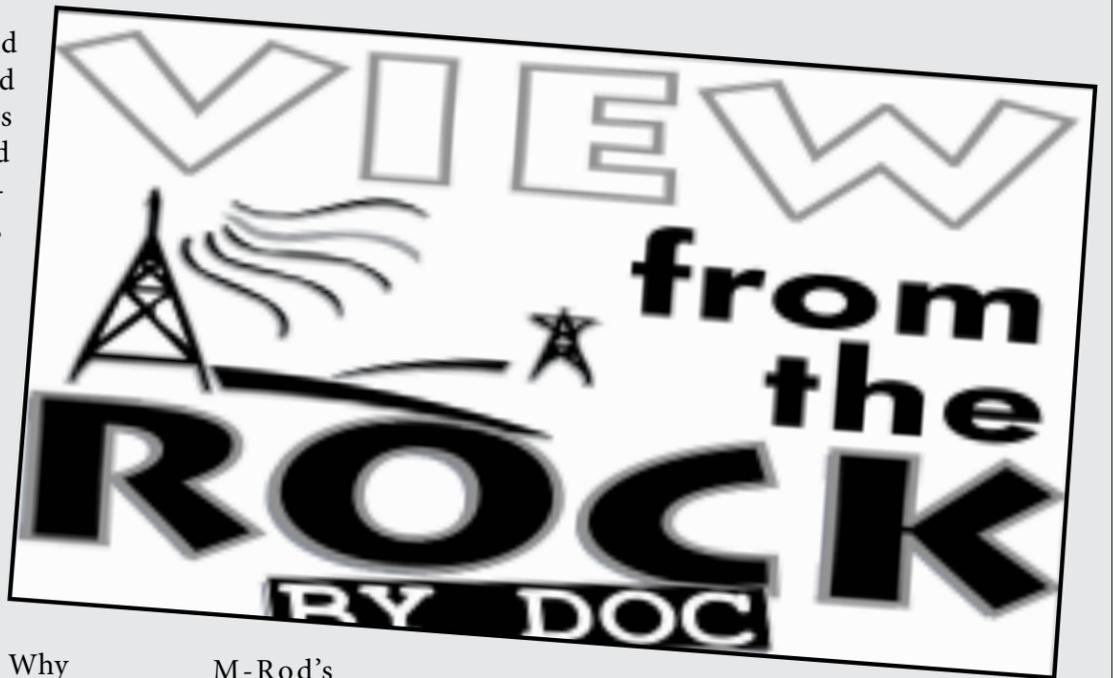
You know, every time I think I have a handle on what's going on here in Sunland-Tujunga, something (maybe fate) makes a liar of me. These past two weeks have been a real whirlwind of events happening here. 3 brush fires, one structure fire, an armed robbery and of course, the inevitable vehicle crash-roll overs.

But on the other side of the coin, we're really opening up our town to new businesses that mean convenience and jobs for our neighbors. There are three new eateries waiting to open (not including Arnie's Bakery that everyone has been watching) We've gotten 4 more meat shops opened just in time for summer BBQs.

Everything is working out. Our Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce has been holding grand opening parties this past month. And that's the way it's supposed to be. Where ever you go in the world, if you need information about local businesses, you call the "Chamber." And that my friends is something great.

Look around you. We survived the pandemic! Yes we're wounded and we will never recover our losses, but the community is coming back together. Our local houseless person - Patrick, is laying low. Von's finally got a restraining order against him and he has to stay 500' away from the Von's property. Why did it take so long? Well, maybe because people don't want to get involved until it really hits them in their pockets. Just across the street, Elen's bakery sidewalk is clean of Patrick's trash. I saw people inside the building working, maybe it's coming back to life.

Did you know that we had 109 degree heat last week? That on top of the fires, made for unhealthy living for our seniors.



M-Rod's green bicycle "Right Hand Turn" zones look great and for the most part, are working.

We are on the advent of fire season and people are out cutting down the brush around their homes, that's a good start. But no matter how safe you feel, if you don't prepare your house and your family for a fire storm, you're going to end up being just one more statistic. And yes, it could happen to you.

This looks like it's the start of a great new beginning for us. M-Rod won the last election with a large margin. But you really have to give it to her opponent, she got out and got the votes. We'll see if our councilwoman is going to let the STNC back in the building. In any event, what ever happens will be better than what the pandemic did to us. And no, you can't say IT'S THE WATER!■

Broken Water Valve Could Cost Hundreds



A water feature in your bathroom is not something that you'd look for. In an incident on Tujunga Canyon that the LAFD responded to Saturday, a rusted out water line going to the toilet broke. No problem! But then the apartment owner found that the valve was rusted open and could not be turned off.

Within 30 minutes, more than 200 gallons of water filled the apartment and began draining into a parking structure. LAFD Stn-74 personnel were able to turn off the water main to the building and started vacuuming out the water.

Mold-preventive chemicals were sprays to stop any further damage. If this had happened

while the owner was away from home, water could have flowed into the surrounding apartments.

For your own safety and peace of mind, check to see that all the valves under your sinks and toilets are operational. A \$3 part could cause hundreds of dollars in damage if it stops working.

See video at www.Facebook.com/thefoothillspaper■

Guest Editorial - Dr. Glenn Mollette

continued from page 2

Establishing a six-month waiting period to buy an assault style weapon will not hurt anyone.

Background checks are vital but again will not be a cure-all because often the shooters have unblemished backgrounds.

All schools must pay for a couple of armed guards to patrol and protect their students. Even then a surprise attack by two or three people with assault style weapons and body armor could easily overpower guards carrying semi-automatic weapons. Yet, the presence of armed security is better than leaving our children defenseless.

One local county I know fairly well has several schools spread out over the county. They have one sheriff and he has two underpaid deputies. By the time he and the deputies could ever possibly even show up, dozens if not a multitude of children would be dead. This sheriff's department is very underfunded and would have to wait for state police to arrive. The local state police post is one hour away. It is unimaginable how many children could be killed. Such school systems have no choice but to come up with armed security guards to protect the children.

Who ever dreamed you would read something like this in your local paper? I never dreamed of a country where it would need to be written.■



Don't Get Blindsided by Closing Costs

by Ed Castellanos

Have you ever decided to buy something, only to find out about additional costs at the end? The last thing you want is to be surprised by unexpected fees – especially at your closing. You've made your financial calculations. Extra charges at the eleventh hour could make all your plans go bust. But you can't just skip the closing – that's when the legal ownership is transferred.

Want to avoid being blindsided at your closing? Here's how to plan ahead for closing fees:

What's the deal with closing costs? Closing costs typically run about 2% to 5% of the purchase price and are paid to lenders, attorneys and other third parties. Buyers often have more closing costs than sellers because most fees are related to the new mortgage loan.

Common closing costs for buyers: • Loan processing fees • Home appraisal and inspection fees • Property taxes.

Common closing costs for sellers: • Mortgage payoff fees • Title transfer fees • Attorney fees for

handling the closing.

How can you lower the costs? After applying for a mortgage, you'll receive a Loan Estimate from the lender. It summarizes the loan terms, such as the loan amount, interest rate and all closing costs. Comparing Loan Estimates from different lenders is important.

Page 2 of the Loan Estimate also details the services you can shop around for, such as surveys, appraisals and title searches.

Are closing costs ever negotiable? Yes. A seller or buyer sometimes agrees to pay part or all of the other party's closing costs. This is something we can negotiate into the purchase agreement. As for paying the closing costs? Some lenders will allow you to roll the cost into your mortgage. However, you'll pay interest on it for the life of the loan. Paying cash upfront is a smarter option if you have the funds available.

Have more questions about closing on a home? Or are you ready to get your home search started? Reach out today. ■

Behavioral Problems on the Rise

Let's face it, the difference between a dog being a pleasure to have around or an absolute pain to live with, is all down to how we deal with dog behavior problems.

Most dogs will show some kind of behavior problems at one stage or another, whether that is chewing holes in the cushions during teething, barking non-stop at the postman or jumping up at your visitors.

How we react to their bad behavior is crucial because, if we get it wrong we could not only make the problem worse but set ourselves off on a downward spiral that ends in a one-way trip to the dog.

If you can work out what lies behind your dogs bad behavior, you're half way there, as rather than dealing with the behavior problem itself you can deal with the root of the problem and the behavior should change quite naturally.

Often behavior problems are symptom of something else that is wrong and is the dog's way of trying to cope with situations. A good example of this is separation anxiety in dogs, which can lie behind a whole range of behavior issues from urinating in the house, to chewing the furniture.

Sometimes dog behavior problems are learnt responses to situations. Ag-



gression is a good example of this, such as where a dog has learnt to react aggressively to someone raising their hand in order to defend themselves (especially where a dog has been mistreated), yet will carry on reacting like this even when the situation has changed and the dog has been rehomed.

For instance, when Trixie and Speed are barking at a potential threat to their safety is simply a dog acting on their instincts. However, if they bark manically at every potential threat (person) that rings on the doorbell, it can be considered a behavior problem by those of us who have to put up with it!

Please see **Behavioral Problems** on Page 7



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DROP-OFF HOURS M-F AFTER 2:30PM

ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



Copper Wire and power theft



This was a timely announcement as our local houseless have become more sophisticated in their attempts to steal copper wiring from city conduits. Here we see a copper theft and process operation in our area.

CRIME MAPPING

BURGLARY 221609381
7300 BLOCK VALAHO DR
6/11/2022 @ 7:00 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609100
7300 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
6/3/2022 @ 8:30 PM

BURGLARY 221609366
10100 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV
6/10/2022 @ 4:20 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 221609096
10800 BLOCK MT GLEASON AV
6/3/2022 @ 4:05 PM

THEFT - PETTY 221609358
11100 BLOCK PLAINVIEW AV
6/4/2022 @ 6:30 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609101
7300 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
6/3/2022 @ 3:30 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 221609167
11100 BLOCK ORO VISTA AV
6/5/2022 @ 7:25 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609021
10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL
6/1/2022 @ 9:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE -221600677
7100 BLOCK HIGHCLIFF TR
6/4/2022 @ 9:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609022
10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL
6/1/2022 @ 8:45 PM

BURGLARY 221609174
7800 BLOCK RIM CANYON RD
6/4/2022 @ 7:00 AM

THEFT - PETTY 221608925
10300 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL
5/31/2022 @ 12:50 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609128
10600 BLOCK SHERMAN GROVE AV
6/4/2022 @ 4:25 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608870
6100 BLOCK SISTER ELSIE DR
5/30/2022 @ 6:10 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221609127
8600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
6/3/2022 @ 9:00 PM

BURGLARY 221608878
6600 BLOCK GREELEY ST
5/27/2022 @ 7:00 AM

Copper wire and power theft (CWPT) is a challenge that has impacted many neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles and the Seventh Council District has been one of the hardest hit areas.

To get our lights back on, I secured overtime funding so the Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) could repair, replace and harden the pull boxes to restore lighting in our neighborhoods. Despite staffing shortages and an increase in CWPT, this funding is enabling BSL to address locations as quickly as possible.

I'm proud to share the following update on the work completed throughout the district in the neighborhoods of Pacoima, Sylmar, Mission Hills, North Hills, and Sunland-Tujunga.

- 22 circuits were completely restored
- 6 of the 22 circuits were fortified to prevent future vandalism
- 307 street lights were restored
- 129 of these were fortified to prevent future vandalism
- 154 hand hole doors were welded shut to prevent future vandalism
- 137 pull boxes were fortified to

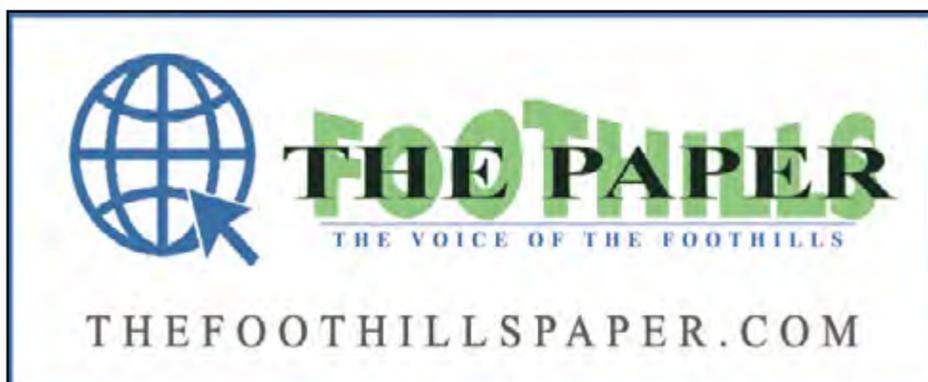
prevent future vandalism

- 43 spans of wire were pulled

As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, I made continuing these repairs a priority. It's why I advocated for the 2022-2023 budget to include \$12.84 million to combat copper wire theft and repairs to our street lighting infrastructure.

We need your support to continue to protect our street lighting infrastructure. If you observe work being done on street lights in your neighborhood, make sure the work is being conducted by city employees by checking that the truck has a proper city seal, exempt plates and that the crew is wearing City of Los Angeles attire. Report suspicious activity near street lights by calling 9-1-1 immediately. Also, you can contact LAPD's Foothill Division at (818) 756-8861 or Mission Division at (818) 838-9800.

My office is also available to help you connect with LAPD, contact my Pacoima office at (818) 485-0600, Sylmar office at (818) 756-8409, or Sunland-Tujunga office at (818) 352-3287. Together we can combat copper wire and power theft. We are ONE LA. ■



"I wonder why it takes so much money to be a public servant," said Tony Jolly, a houseless person.

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ASK RUSTY

By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

I'm A Widower With 3 Minor Children - What About Social Security?

an appointment at your local SS field office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator). The funeral home which handled your wife's arrangements will send a copy of her death certificate to Social Security, but SS will probably require you to provide each child's Social Security number and birth certificate, and you may also need to provide your wife's death certificate if they ask for it. As each child becomes age-ineligible for minor child benefits, the benefit for each remaining minor child will automatically increase, up to their maximum 75% of your wife's PIA.



Dear Rusty: My wife passed away a few days ago and I have three children - ages 15, 11, and 10. Is there anything I need to do? **Signed: Suddenly Widowed**

Dear Suddenly Widowed: We are so sorry to hear of your wife's passing; please accept our condolences for your loss. Here's what you need to know about Social Security:

- Your wife's minor children will all be eligible for a survivor benefit, which will be based upon the Social Security benefit amount your wife had earned up to the month she died. The children can collect their survivor benefit until they are 18 years old (or 19 if they are still in high school).
- The standard minor child benefit amount is 75% of your wife's "primary insurance amount" (or PIA, which is the benefit she had earned until she died) but, since there will be three children collecting, the Family Maximum will apply. The Family Maximum limits total survivor benefits to between 150% and 180% of your wife's PIA. Typically, with 3 survivors, the Family Maximum should come out to about 175% of your wife's PIA. Social Security will determine these numbers when you apply for benefits for the children, which you should do by calling 1.800.772.1213, or making

- Because your children are minors, you will need to act as their Representative Payee. Social Security will guide you through that when you contact them to apply for benefits for the children, but it essentially means that their benefits will be paid directly to you and you will be obligated to use that money on behalf of the children. You can review Social Security's Representative Payee rules at this link: www.ssa.gov/payee/.
- Regardless of your age, as your wife's surviving spouse with minor children you could be eligible for a "child in care" surviving spouse benefit until the youngest child is 16, but you should be aware of the following:

- If you are working full time, you probably will be ineligible for child-in-care spouse benefits because of your earnings. Social Security imposes an earnings limit for those collecting early spousal or survivor benefits.
- If you are eligible for child-in-care benefits and collect the same, it would

de-tract from the benefit amount each of your children will get because of the Family Maximum discussed above. In other words, the Family Maximum amount (which Social Security will determine based on your wife's PIA) is the total amount that can be paid out on your wife's record, regardless of how many survivors are collecting.

As your wife's spouse, you will also be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255, which you can request when you speak with Social Security. Once again, please accept our condolences on the loss of your wife. I hope the above information is helpful at this difficult time.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Behavioral Problems *continued from page 4*

Finding out what triggers your dog's barking and why, is the best place to start. Some dog owners find that they can't even leave their dog alone in a room without their dogs becoming hysterical and barking the place down, while other dogs can react badly to all sorts of gadgets in the house like the Hoover or washing machine, or go crazy at the slightest noise outside the house. Do they run the boundary of the garden barking at everything that moves outside it?

Leadership issues could be at the root of this problem. If your dog has assumed that they are leader of the pack, and thus responsible for the rest of the pack's safety (yours), the could be using their barking as a way of warning off anything they consider a threat. Now as dogs don't understand a lot of our world (like accepting that the postman is not the enemy), it means they can - and will, bark almost anything!

Any major change in a dog's life can be the starting point for behavior problems too, as they struggle to adjust to new surroundings, new territory, new people in the house, or perhaps another dog. Changes to a dog's health can also create problems as a dog can feel more vulnerable or be in pain.

The best way to do this is to remove the responsibility for the pack from the dog by showing it that the owners are the pack leaders and the ones to be trusted. This will help with both the anxiety and leadership issues discussed above.

Whichever way you approach the problem, you'll need patience, persistence and a consistent response every time they use the behavior you want to change. That way you give yourself the best chance of success! ■

Nature Preserve Remains Neglected



The secluded opening to Tujunga Pond.

By David DeMulle'

The Tujunga Nature Preserve has fallen into disrepair and abuse, but this natural heaven can be brought back to its former glory

The Tujunga Ponds Nature Preserve has miles of winding paths that offer a sense of peaceful existence with nature. Herons, crawdads, even minnows that can be seen skirting around the rocks and sunken tree branches

Given to the L.A. Department of Parks & Recreation by CalTrans to replace the areas taken for the building of the 210 freeway, it has since been passed to L.A. County Fish & Game, and then the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. But neither agency had the funds budgeted, and the preserve began to go into disrepair. It is the ideal place for horsemen and hikers to spend the day because of the large areas shaded by trees and the rippling flow of water.

Sadly, it has also become an area for honey-oil producers to set up their stills for the production of THC by-products.

In the past years, there have been recurrent fires created by illegal

operations as well as homeless people creating remote camps near the stream. A couple of years ago, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) discovered Robert Downs and two friends in their handmade hut while patrolling the Preserve. Down's living structure, which he built using tools from a home improvement store, had tables, shelves and four built-in bunk beds. Outside the home, was a rock patio, complete with a barbecue grill and tables. Deputies noted that the home even had fire extinguishers. It was completely camouflaged using military surplus items and paint.

Downs lived there for more than a year in what could be considered an urban paradise.

Unfortunately for Downs, it was also discovered that he was growing marijuana.

With the city in financial trouble, prospects for cleaning up the preserve and maintaining the trails are nil. "Every time the fence or gates are repaired", said Bill Shannon of Sundland, "they are torn down".

It is estimated that it would take between \$40,000 to \$50,000 to maintain and patrol the preserve.



On behalf of the Lopa Family, we want to thank every single person who came out to honor our beloved Diane on Friday.

It was a beautiful service. It was special and so many people showed up for her and it meant the world to us.

We laughed, we cried and we DANCED. Our family's hope is that we keep telling stories of Diane and keep her memory alive.

There's so much we all learned from her and can take into our everyday life in her remem-

brance. Be kind to everyone, be generous with what you have, don't judge others and more importantly always be yourself, no matter what. Diane would love that.

Saying that we will miss her is genuinely an understatement. This town is a little less

bright without Diane Lopa and always will be. Until we see her again, we hope she's riding her horse, free, on the other side of the rainbow.

Our most sincere thank you,
The Lopa Family



109 degrees in the shade, - we're starting summer with a bang!

JUNE 22, 2022
6 pm - 9 pm
at **The Crow's Nest**
Evans & Rogers




Located at
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