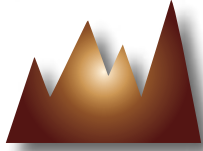


SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME IV, #33



APRIL 2016

NOT SO HAPPY TRAILS: An old wagon road still winds through the rugged Santa Susana foothills not far from a proposed 91-acre, 44 home subdivision that could threaten the area's ecology.

PKM photo via Wikipedia

PROPOSED LUXURY HOME TRACT IN THE SANTA SUSANA RESOURCES AND THREATEN THE AREAS ECOLOGICAL

Almost 2,000 residents in the Santa Susana foothills have petitioned the Los Angeles Planning Commission to keep one of the area's last wildlife corridors near the Summit Mobile Home Park free from being overrun by a proposed 91-acre tract of 44 luxury homes known as the Andora Subdivision. The Subdivision's draft environmental impact report (DEIR) which was released in April is in conflict with California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), according to the petitioners. Instead of protecting the environmental quality of the State per CEQA, the

proposed Subdivision would do the opposite; nearly destroying a vital 1/3 mile wide wildlife corridor between the Santa Susana Pass Historic Park and the Chatsworth Nature Preserve while creating new environmental hazards in the wake of its own construction. In two separate letters to the Commission, Chatsworth Lake Manor community leaders Cherokee-lar O'Dea and Kip Drabeck charged that approval of the Andora Development would be contrary to the best interests of the community and compromise the long standing cooperation between the city and the pioneering founders

of the picturesque rural enclave located a short distance below the Summit at the foot of Valley Circle Boulevard. "Our family has resided in Chatsworth Lake Manor since the early 1950's and has fought to preserve the community lands for generations," wrote Ms. O'Dea. "The sole purpose of being in rural surroundings with abundant nature is to limit the amount of disturbance to the natural terrain, especially historical lands. In the 1960's, Margaret Foreman, my grandmother, helped found Chatsworth Oaks Park and dedicated herself to the ethical



This tract map shows the proposed positioning of the Andora Subdivision located to the northeast of the Summit and Mountain View mobile home parks and the rural community of Chatsworth Lake Manor

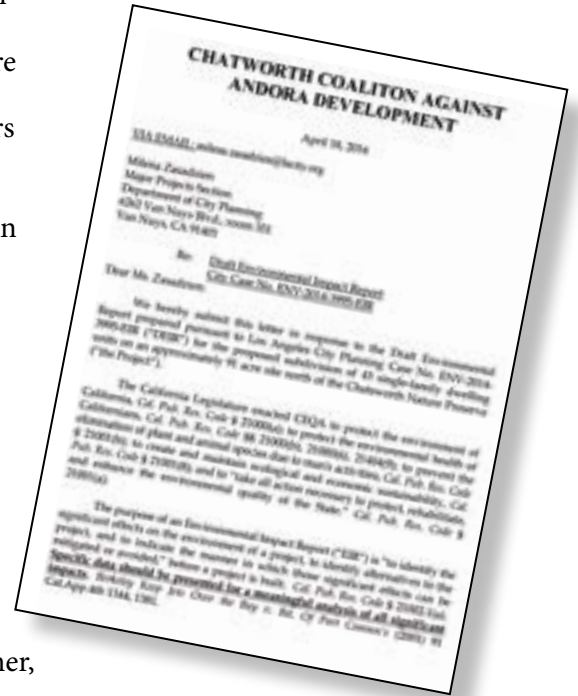
SUSANA FOOTHILLS WOULD STRAIN CIVIC BALANCE, CHATSWORTH RESIDENTS CLAIM

process of keeping land open for wildlife development in accordance with the City's general plan. We beg you, please do not compromise the intent of that 23-year-old Chatsworth Porter Ranch Community Plan for the sole benefit of the Andora Development. Help us save open space for generations to come." In a 16-page rebuttal to the draft environmental report under the title

Naturalists have warned for years that the destruction of wildlife corridors in the Santa Susana foothills would seriously threaten the areas ecological balance.

"The Chatsworth Coalition Against Andora Development," Mr. Drabeck noted as one issue that the Andora Project would be located in a very high hazard Fire Severity Zone and High Wind Velocity Area at a time when the Chatsworth Nature Preserve's Ecology Pond is no longer being filled by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. "Historically, helicopters quickly filled their water tanks with ecology pond water when fighting nearby

wildfires. A new housing tract in the middle of this high hazard area would further strain that fire fighting capability," he said. Naturalists have warned for years that the destruction of wildlife corridors in the Santa Susana foothills would seriously threaten the areas ecological balance. Many animals including foxes, coyote and bobcats are essential in keeping the foothills free from the infestation of a host of critters from mice and rats to rabbits, squirrels and gophers, according to Dr. Duane Tom, the director of animal care for the California Wildlife Center in Calabasas. After several more planning commission hearings this summer, an up or down vote canceling or approving the proposed development will be made by the full City Council late in the year. Those who wish to express their continued support of the wildlife



preserves are asked to contact Mr. Drabeck at: jkdrabeck@gmail.com, or, Ms. O'Dea at: defendclmca@gmail.com. ❖



Rebecca Rotter and Robert, "Robin," Hild solicit petition signatures to halt development of a 91-acre luxury home tract known as the Andora Subdivision. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

WHERE DO MOBILE HOMES COME FROM? CERTAINLY NOT FROM MOBILE, ALABAMA. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT ELEPHANTS COME FROM TUSCALOOSA

The original mobile home dates as far back as the early 1500's when horse-drawn carriages transported people selling their wares from town to town. From that lifestyle came beautiful hand carved and very elaborate designs like the mobile home wagon shown below once owned by Count Dracula.



Fast forward to a brand new country and new people coming to the U.S. to find a better way of life. The first "movable" homes in the US were on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. When the tide came in, a team of horses would move the mobile vacation homes to a safer location on the beach. The invention of the automobile in the early 1900's led to the development of primitive car homes, which, as shown above, solved the problem of keeping

the entire family intact and comfortable while the traveling salesman father, remained on



the road. By the mid-1940's, trailers that cars could pull averaged 8 feet in width and 20 feet in length. Later that decade, the length went to over 30 feet and included the installation of private bedrooms and bathrooms. Inexpensive housing became a necessity for World War Two veterans heading back to civilian life. As a result, the mobile home industry continued to evolve and flourish. Here are some examples of that double-decker era. In 1976, three years before the Summit



was founded, the US Congress passed the National Mobile Home



Construction and Safety Act (42 U.S.C.) which held the industry to high construction standards. In 1980, Congress changed the name "mobile home" on the bill to "manufactured home," evoking an even a higher construction standard. In reality, mobile homes are built in factories while manufactured homes are

There are over 38,000 mobile home parks in the United States.

constructed to fit the actual site they sit on. There are over 38,000 mobile home parks in the United States ranging from 35 to over 1,000 home sites. Although most parks appeal to meeting basic housing needs, some communities specialize towards certain segments of the market. One subset of mobile home parks, retirement communities, restricts residents to those aged 55 and older. Another subset of mobile parks includes vacation communities and elevated view communities such as the Summit. ❖

Mayo Clinic Health Letter:

The Blues are the Blues No Matter What Season You Choose

“There’s a type of depression – seasonal affective disorder (SAD) – that tends to occur only in certain seasons. It most commonly occurs in the fall and winter months, thus the term “winter blues.” But for a small percentage of people, the onset of spring and summer can bring feelings of depression, agitation and anxiety. You might have trouble sleeping and even lose your appetite.

It’s unclear what causes summer depression. What’s clear is the importance of caring for yourself during this SAD time to avoid worsening symptoms. Maintain your routine with regular sleeping and waking hours, eat healthy food and get regular exercise. Avoid hunkering down at home with the blinds closed. Stick to pleasant, air-conditioned outings when you can – theaters, museums, libraries and a favorite restaurant. If self-care isn’t enough, talk to your doctor. Antidepressants, psychotherapy or a combination can be helpful.

AROUND THE TOWN VALLEY HAPPENINGS, MAY

CIRCUS VARGAS PRESENTS ILUMINOUS

Performance in
San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 05/12/2016 to
05/23/2016
Day(s): Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday Friday
Saturday Sunday
Time(s): visit website for
full schedule
Address: 777 N. Front St.,
Burbank, CA 91502
Phone: 877-468-3861
Cost: starts at \$15

Address: 13454 Ventura Blvd
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Phone: 323-422-7300
Cost: \$25

DO GOOD BUS | MAY COMMUNITY RIDE 2016

Community in Universal City
Date(s): 05/21/2016
Day(s): Saturday
Address: 3953 Lankershim Blvd,
Universal City 91604
Phone: 310-853-8355
Cost: \$45.00

HE HELP GROUP’S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, SHERMAN OAKS

Recreation in
San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 04/04/2016 to
05/27/2016
Day(s): Monday Tuesday
Wednesday Thursday Friday
Time(s): 4pm to 5:15pm
Address: 13164 Burbank Blvd.
Phone: 818-778-7136
Cost: \$200-\$350

TEE FOR TWO @ BLOOMINGDALE’S SHERMAN OAKS

Sporting Events in
San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 05/21/2016
Day(s): Saturday
Time(s): 2:00-6:00PM
Address: 14060 Riverside Dr.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Cost: FREE

LOVEBUG AND ME MUSIC CLASSES

Music in San Fernando Valley
Date(s): 04/10/2016 to
05/29/2016
Day(s): Sunday
Time(s): 11:30am-12:15pm

SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY

Nightlife in Universal City
Date(s): 05/29/2016
Day(s): Sunday
Time(s): 7:00 PM-1:30 AM
Address: 1000 Universal Studios
Blvd. Universal City, 91608
Phone: 818-755-9970
Cost: \$5.00-\$10.00

HOW TO MAKE A DOG DAY AFTERNOON A SAFE ONE FOR YOUR PETS

By Bill Kreke

(Editor's note: Bill Kreke is a Summit resident and the owner and operator of Kahuna Dog Walking LLC., a complete dog care service located in the park. He can be contacted by phone at 818-806 WALK (9255) or by email at www.kahunadogwalking.com.)

Spring is back in swing for us at The Summit. While our trees, flowers, and shrubs are blooming, so is an abundance of annoying weeds and invasive grasses that are harmful to our pets. Before reaching for that pricey bottle of commercial herbicide, consider an Environmentally Safe/Pet Friendly alternative that COSTS LESS than the commercial brands.

University of Purdue research has shown that pets exposed to commercial herbicides such as: 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxypropionic acid (MCPP), and dicamba had an occurrence of bladder cancer four to seven times higher than pets not exposed to herbicides. What's more alarming is our pets may be bringing these chemicals into our homes, contaminating our living surfaces, and exposing us. Even if you don't spray herbicides on your property your pet may be tracking the chemicals back on their paws from neighbors with chemically treated lawns.

On a recent trip to a local Big Box Retailer, I noticed the average cost for 1 gallon of commercial herbicide of between \$14.42 - \$35.27. Plus, every brand available contained one or more of the aforementioned chemical herbicides. Instead of purchasing that expensive "Ortho-U-Know-What" or a gallon of

"Spectra-Weed-Something-or-Another" I suggest this simple alternative, that will produce the same weed killing results, without the harmful chemicals for under \$10. Using a lawn/garden sprayer, mix:

- 1 Gallon of White Vinegar
- 2 Cups of Epsom Salt
- ¼ cup of Liquid Dish

Soap. Apply the Pet Safe/Eco solution

to the weeds in the same manner you would with commercial herbicides taking care to avoid any flowers or grasses you wish to keep.

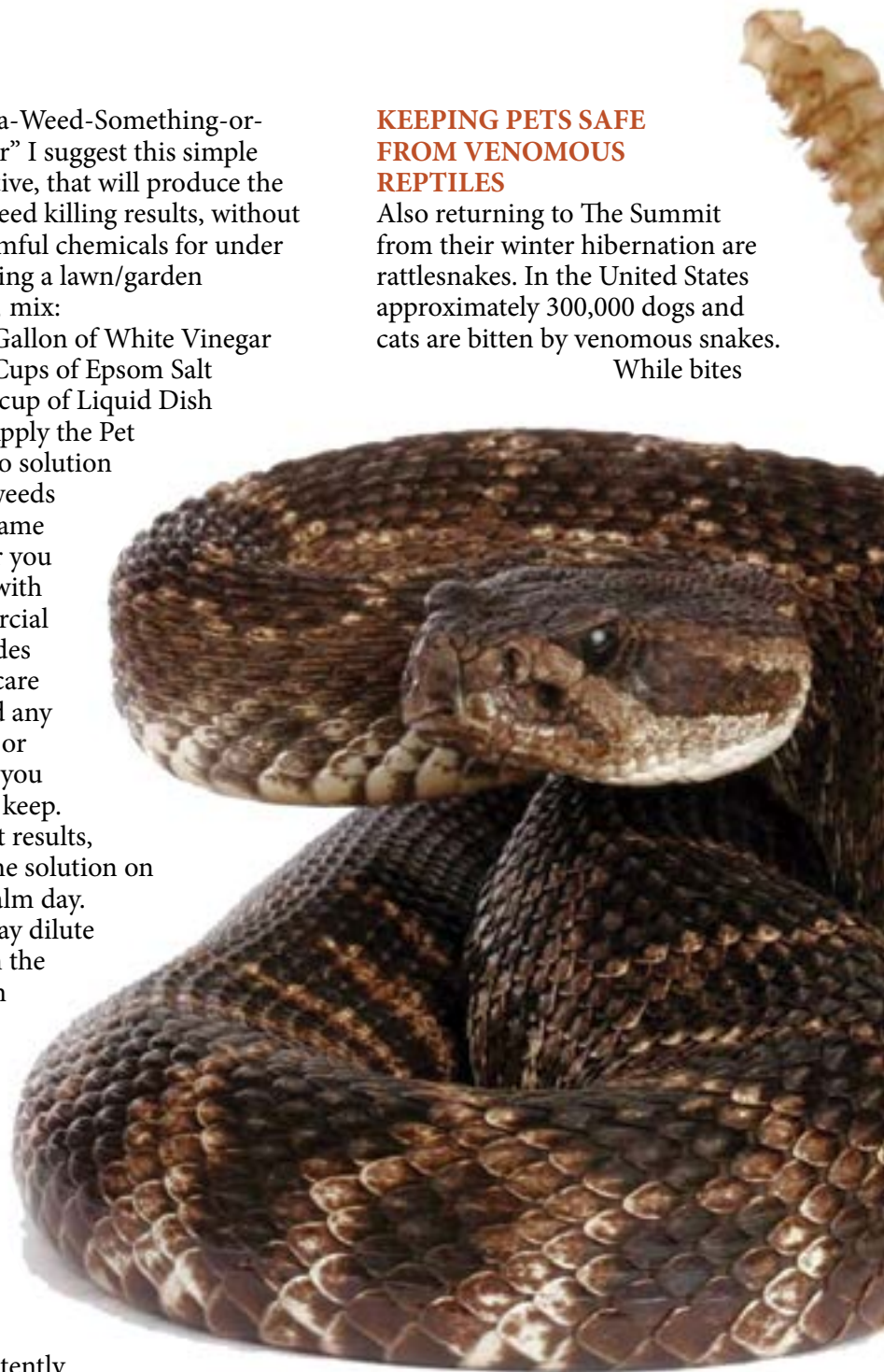
For best results, apply the solution on a dry calm day. Rain may dilute or wash the solution away while

strong winds may inadvertently spray the solution on plants you wish to keep. You will actually see results in a few hours plus your pets and pocketbook will thank you.

KEEPING PETS SAFE FROM VENOMOUS REPTILES

Also returning to The Summit from their winter hibernation are rattlesnakes. In the United States approximately 300,000 dogs and cats are bitten by venomous snakes.

While bites



can occur year round, rattlesnakes are most commonly encountered by humans and pets between April through September. Rattlesnakes

typically seek shade on sunny days and prey upon small rodents during dusk when temperatures are cooler and their prey is most active.

Here are a few tips to keep people and pets safe here at The Summit:

ENCOUNTERING A SNAKE: If you encounter a snake remain calm and back away avoiding sudden movements. Do not attempt to catch or provoke the snake.

A rattlesnake can strike at up to two-thirds of their total body length. Most often the snake will try to escape but if you are too close making sudden movements you or your pet may provoke a

concrete foundation are the best for keeping snakes out but they can still get under gates and wooden fences. Hardware Cloth, a metal mesh screen purchased from any hardware store, is great for filling in gaps that snakes could use to enter. Best option is to make your yard not as attractive to snakes and their prey. Do not allow piles of: debris, rocks, or logs to collect in your yard. These are attractive places for mice and other rodents and with them snakes. Birdfeeders are also known culprits for attracting unwanted visitors. Spilled birdseed will attract rodents to your yard. Under our homes may also be attractive places for rodents and snakes. Keep hatches to crawlspaces closed and screen in ventilation ports with Hardware Cloth.

and do not allow your dogs to sniff or dig up holes. In the evening and at night walk with a flashlight.

RATTLESNAKE VACCINE: Rattlesnake Vaccine has been on the market for a few years now. While it will not make your dog immune to rattlesnake venom it will produce antibodies to help protect your dog against rattlesnake venom. Studies have shown that dogs vaccinated experience: less pain, less swelling, less tissue damage, and recover faster when bitten by a rattlesnake than dogs that are not vaccinated. However, even a vaccinated pet will still require emergence attention if bitten.

RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING: There are professional trainers who will teach your dog through negative stimulations to avoid rattlesnakes. Training usually involves a combination of live snakes that have been defanged and wearing shock collars. It is important to choose a trainer with a good reputation.

VET'S CONTACT INFO: Keep your vet's contact information in your phone, plus the number of a 24-hour pet hospital as a backup. Not all vet offices may have anti-venom in stock.

If a snake bites your pet, call your vet first to notify them. This will alleviate rushing to another office if they do not have anti-venom on hand and help your vet prepare for your arrival. Following these tips will help reduce Human/Pet encounters with these venomous animals that are a needed and natural part of our environment. ❖

strike. Leave the area and notify animal control.

INSPECT AND GROOM YOUR YARD: A fenced in yard helps to keep our pets in but that may not be enough to keep snakes out. Block walls with a

ON THE WALK: Keep your dog on their leash! Most pet snakebites occur when owners have their dogs off the leash or on a flexi-leash or retractor. Walk your dog on a 4 or 6-foot leash and keep them at your side. Avoid areas of dense foliage

Image: ©Rojal, pngall.com





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(818) 888-8555

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Real estate at the Summit is subject to
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and its amendments.

Please visit us at
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