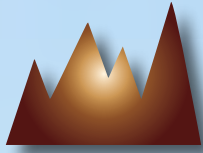
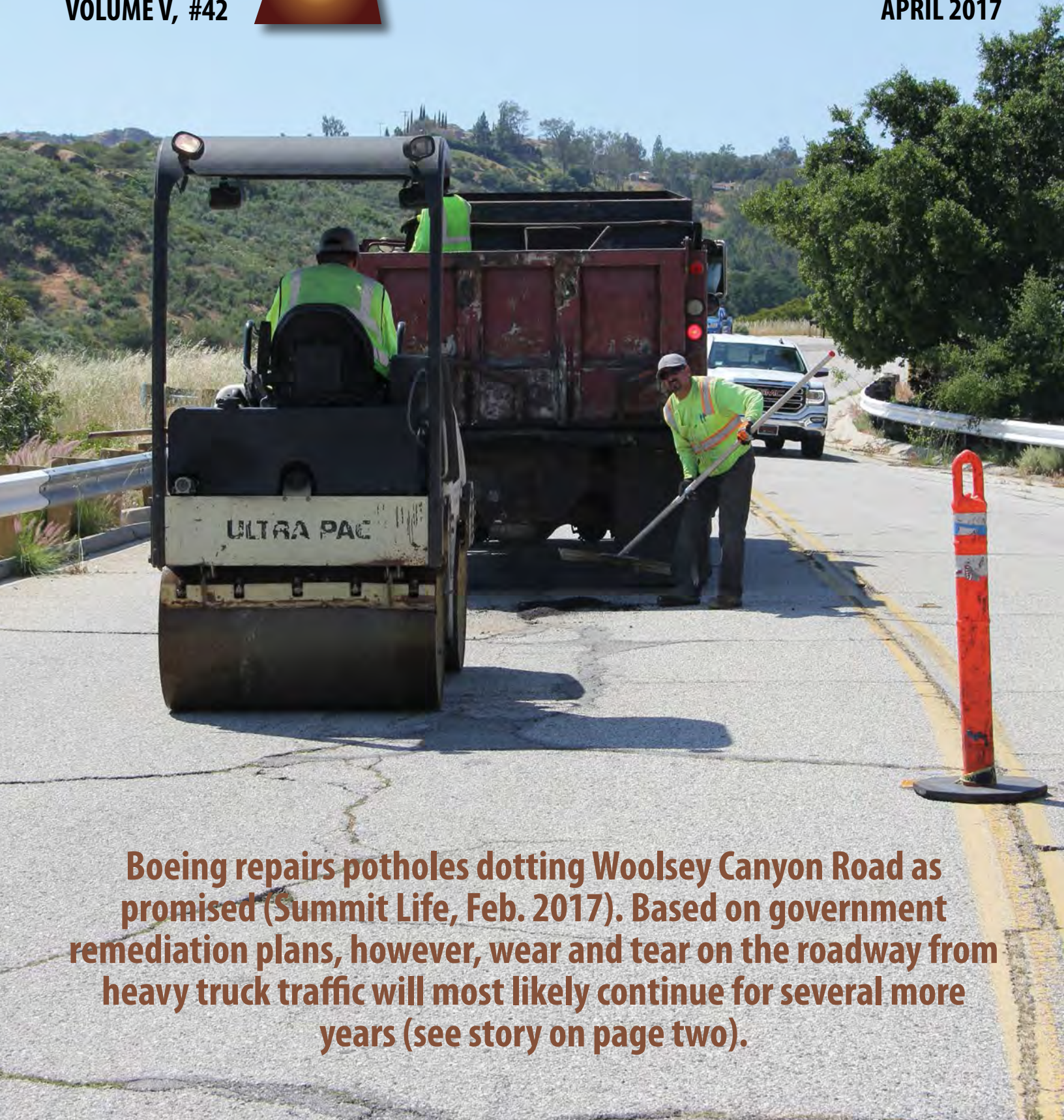


SUMMIT LIFE

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Boeing repairs potholes dotting Woolsey Canyon Road as promised (Summit Life, Feb. 2017). Based on government remediation plans, however, wear and tear on the roadway from heavy truck traffic will most likely continue for several more years (see story on page two).

SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION OPPOSES DOE'S PROPOSED T

organization opts instead for two-year "Conservation Of Natural Resource

Summit residents would most likely need the help of several environmental scientists to decide which of three technically complex Department of Energy remediation alternatives offered up over the past two months would best settle long-standing pollution issues hanging cloud-like over Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory and much of the neighboring West San Fernando Valley including Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Simi Valley and West Hills.

Fortunately, however, the non-profit Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) has already done the heavy lifting, submitting their findings a month ago on the DOE's recently published Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Of the three cleanup options for the 2,800 acre site offered in the EIS, only the least invasive one makes sense, according to the SSMPA, an organization with over 700 members and followers. This alternative would call for approximately 148,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil removal over a 2-year period involving about 18,400 heavy truck round trips up and down Woolsey Canyon Road. Summit Life concurs with SSMPA's insightful analysis. Here in part is their letter response to the DOE:

"The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association ("SSMPA") has reviewed the DEIS for Area IV and parts of the Northern Buffer Zone (January 2017) and offers the following comments.

In formulating our comments, we note the property that is the subject of the EIS is owned by Boeing, who has publicly stated on multiple occasions that this property will be used as open space after the cleanup, with restrictions to ensure open space will be the permanent



Directors of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (shown from left) are Dean Wageman, Darlene Wageman, Board President Teena Takata, Robert "Bob" Dager, Warren Stone, John Luker, Board Vice President Tom Nachtrab, and Wendi Gladstone. Diane Brown/Summit Life photo.

use of the site.

The property is located in the Simi Hills on the west side of the San Fernando Valley. The DOE site, combined with the rest of the Boeing and NASA properties, encompasses approximately 2800 acres and serves as a key portion of a wildlife habitat and migration corridor in the western San Fernando Valley and the eastern Simi Valley. This corridor provides significant access points for animals, as well as plants, to move between the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and the Los Padres National Forest to the north. This site represents one of the largest parcels in the Rim of the Valley study area that is expected to become open space in the future. Long term use of the site will include hiking trails and public use as open space.

All cleanup alternatives ("No Action" Alternative aside) provide for cleaning up soil to suburban residential standards or cleaner (S-12). Suburban residential cleanup standards assume residential use by humans who live on the site for life. Therefore the risk statistics cited in the DEIS (S-38) are considerably higher than would be incurred in occasional recreational use, rather than constant presence on the land. We note cleanups traditionally use risk-based standards such as suburban residential, open space (a lesser level of cleanup), or agricultural (a higher level of cleanup since food is grown on the land), but soil cleanups to background LUT values are extraordinarily uncommon.

The "Cleanup to AOC Look-Up Table Values Alternative" has been

45-YEAR SANTA SUSANA ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP PLAN; The 45-year-old plan's alternative based on Field Lab's commitment to open space

shown through the DOE EIS to place a heavy financial burden on taxpayers, and carries significant negative impacts to nearby residents due to haul truck traffic and related pollution impacts over many, many years.(S-38) We see no rationale for removing background-level chemicals that are not typically tested for, and are not generally viewed as dangerous to humans.

We oppose the "Cleanup to AOC LUT Value Alternatives." It is excessive with severe negative environmental effects for many years as trucks continue to haul soil with inconsequential contamination through local communities to distant dump sites. As the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) shifts to its long term use as open space, it would continue to be impacted by the unresolved absence of "adequate" replacement soil. The removal of additional chemicals under the "AOC LUT Values Alternative" does not serve any useful purpose, and yet entails many years of traffic and related pollution effects.

We feel that minimizing the proposed action to provide cleanup to suburban residential standards is effective and imposes much milder negative effects on surrounding communities. The long term use of the site as open space, combined with the presence of significant native cultural artifacts and native vegetation on the site, including several uncommon and rare native plants, guides us to a risk-based cleanup approach.

Based on the above discussion, our preferred alternative is the "Conservation of Natural Resources Alternative." This provides the fewest truck trips, the least soil removal, and the fewest trips to replace soil and the least cost to taxpayers." ♦

TOM NACHTRAB IS WORRIED THAT ONE DAY IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RECALL WHAT MOUNTAINS OR HILLS LOOKS LIKE

**By Marci Wormser
Staff Writer**

Tom, who is vice president of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, has reason to worry.

On a recent tour of the Santa Susana Mountains with some local schoolchildren, the youngsters were shocked to see the natural habitat.

"Many of the kids here in the Valley have never seen anything other than pavement," relates Tom.

It's for that very reason that Tom says he joined the Association.

SSMPA was formed as an advocacy organization in 1970 in order to preserve and protect the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains and regional open space, along with habitats for plants and animals that are native to the local area.

According to the organization, "We also seek to provide passive recreational and environmental recreational opportunities; support the acquisition of new public parks, open space and conservation easements; expand existing natural parks; and participate in planning of park infrastructure and programs."

"We focus mainly on the Simi Hills, which is where the Summit is located," says Tom, adding that the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains are the last places left in the northwest corner of the San Fernando Valley that have open space.

The group also focuses on the

Simi Hills because the original group members lived in Chatsworth, according to Tom. Carla Bollinger, a former Association board member and current Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition member, used to live at the Summit, and many Association members reside in Chatsworth Lake Manor.

"Development is happening around us. The more contiguous places we can keep free of [development], the better off we'll be," he says.

As an advocacy group, the Association holds educational meetings and writes and circulates petitions pertaining to local development.

To that end, the Association has taken a stand against the contracts entered into by the Department of Energy and NASA regarding the controversial cleanup of the Rocketdyne site.

According to Tom, the SSMPA, which gave an official comment report, supports doing a "reasonable cleanup but not overdoing it."

The DOE and NASA contracts, he says, "would mean severe excavation and run the risk of spreading contamination and raising noxious dust over the nearby communities."

After the site cleanup is complete, the organization is calling on the U.S. National Park Service to arrange acquisition of over 400 acres of land owned by the government and administered by NASA.

Continued on Page 4

Nachtrab/continued from page 3

It's also circulating a petition for the Park Service to preserve the 400 acres as open space and parkland.

The organization has also taken an official stand on the usage of the Chatsworth Reservoir. The reservoir, says Tom, was supposed to be a nature preserve, but it's been sitting in the same state for five decades.

"It should be maintained as a nature preserve and managed by DWP as a nature preserve, not as an excess property," says Tom.

The natural habitat advocate says he's worried that because the reservoir is "worth a lot to developers," it will be sold and built out in the future.

The biggest threat to natural habitat and open space, he says, is residential and commercial development.

He worries that ongoing development will eventually lead to all the local hills and mountains being paved over. That threat, he says, is already coming to fruition.

On the 118 Freeway corridor near Simi Valley, several developments have sprung up in recent years.

"The 101 and 118 Freeways are

big, dangerous places for wildlife right now," he says, adding that three mountain lions have been killed in the last six months on the 118 Freeway, including a mother and her cubs.

The organization is fighting a potential development near Aliso Canyon, which is located near Porter Ranch. The development was put on hold because of the massive natural gas leak in the Aliso Canyon Oil Field that began in October 2015.

Tom says he worries that if the underground storage field gets the go ahead to re-open, the development will resume.

For her part, Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger has told the group that she is trying to block the development by finding a way to acquire the property as public land.

Tom believes one solution to the constant housing developments is "building up," as done in New York City. He believes there should be more building on infills, and developments should be denser.

Tom says he believes that apathy from the community, especially from its youngest members, is also one of

the biggest dangers to natural habitat preservation.

"People are busy and don't want to get involved," he says. "We find it's hard to attract younger people to this preservation."

However, he warns, "If the development keeps going through the hills...you will need to go to Alaska to see nature."

He urges members of the community to "work locally" to preserve and protect the surrounding hills and open space, to keep up-to-date on all environmental issues and to support environmental-friendly legislation.

"Think about your children and their children, your grandkids," he urges.

SSMPA holds meetings on the third Monday of every month – excluding summer and the month of December – at 7 p.m. at the Rockpointe Clubhouse, 22300 Devonshire Street in Chatsworth.

For a list of meeting topics or for more information about the Association, visit www.ssmpa.com. ❖

A BOEING CLEANUP WITHIN A CLEANUP: SAGE RANCH HIKING TRAIL FILLED WITH LEAD SHOT

The Boeing Company has conducted numerous interim cleanup activities at its Santa Susana Field Laboratory while awaiting regulatory approval for the final cleanup plan. But the company has now turned its attention to a cleanup within a cleanup, removing visible lead shot and clay target fragments from a portion of the Sage Ranch Park hiking trail once used for Trap and Skeet shooting.

Rocketdyne, the Lab's previous owner, formed a non-profit employees club that operated the Sage Ranch shooting range from the 1970's to 1990. This activity resulted in lead



shot being dispersed into the rock outcrops, according to Boeing. After rain storms, these very small pellets leached out of the rock outcrops and to this day are occasionally visible along portions of the trail.

Since 1990, when the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the Sage Ranch property, both Rocketdyne and Boeing worked with the MRCA to help clean-up the target area.

Recently, with oversight by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and concurrence from MRCA, Boeing performed soil sampling in the areas around the trail.

Sampling results have indicated that some lead at levels that should be cleaned up has leached from the pellets into the soil along a small 1,200 foot section of the 2.6 mile trail. The need for cleanup is based on health-based screening levels that use

extremely protective assumptions, the company said. Based on these results, Boeing decided - and the MRCA agreed - that it made sense to close off this short section of the trail until the area is remediated. To ensure that hikers still have access to the beauty of Sage Ranch, the company is working with MRCA to establish an alternate trail route away from the cleanup area. ❖

WHAT BIG BOX PET STORES WON'T TELL YOU ABOUT CARING FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND: IT STARTS WITH BETTER NUTRITION

Only about one in fifty employees at big box pet stores really know what they're doing, according to Lisa Schmitt, co-owner of Canoga Park's 4 Paws Resort and Spa. The product training of most big box employees is limited to the brands the store wants to promote, she charges.

"If these big chains were really concerned about pet health, they wouldn't sell the low cost pet equivalent of human fast foods. Nutritionists on site would be available to help choose the best foods instead of those sixty pound bags of dry food most likely contaminated in the batch process with the manufacturers other low cost brands."

Lisa has been involved in animal rescue for 17 years and has co-owned 4 Paws for the past five years. She is passionate about her business, researching her food products and their ingredients. Her top of the line pet foods are Fromm and Grandma Lucy, a local producer. She prefers to sell dried pet food incorporating meat, fish and lamb. Stay away from a filet mignon diet, she warns. You want your pet to have the best, but meat alone is not enough. And forget vegetarian diets altogether.

4Paws offers their customers everything from nutrition advice, grooming, bathing, boarding and



Dog mannequins allow CPR students at 4 Paws to approach and save pets in such cases as electric shock, heat stroke, bee stings and snake bites. Larry LaCom/Summit Life photo.

animal training to doggie day care, teeth cleaning and CPR. Canine and Feline mannequins are used at 4 Paws to teach rescue breathing as well as how to approach and find the pulse of animals injured by electric shock, frostbite, heart stroke, poisoning,

seizures, snake bites and bee stings. For more information contact 4 Paws at 818-584-7661, or reach them on-line at 4paw@4pawsresortandspa.com. ❖





EARTH DAY FESTIVITIES

Thousands of area residents celebrate Earth Day at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, the only natural preserve in the City of Los Angeles. The open house was jointly sponsored by the L.A. Department of Water and Power and the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. Festivities included a guided tour of the Chatsworth Ecology Pond, now revitalized by heavy winter rains. Diane Brown/Summit Life photos.



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