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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Our Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian:

- *The State Of The State**
- *New State Legislation That Helps You**
- *What Action Should Your Assemblyman Take?**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our State Assemblyman, Adrin Nazarian, will be our guest speaker at our Meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. He is a new member of the Assembly and was sworn into office in December of last year. Previously, he was the Chief of Staff for Councilman Paul Krekorian and represented the northern half of Sherman Oaks prior to redistricting. As former Chief of Staff, Assemblyman Nazarian is well aware of the issues of importance to our community.

Assemblyman Nazarian will give an update on the State's economy and discuss new legislation that will affect Sherman Oaks. He will also update you on his goals and objectives in the State Legislature.

This will be your opportunity to hear firsthand what is happening in Sacramento and discuss with Assemblyman Nazarian what important actions he should be taking to increase the quality of life in Sherman Oaks.

Jules Feir announces that Mendocino Farms will be the Restaurant of the Month. This is our newest restaurant in Sherman Oaks. It opened October 10th and is located at 14141 Ventura Boulevard. The co-founders of Mendocino Farms, Mario Del Pero and Ellen Chen, are residents of Sherman Oaks and have always aimed to bring their beloved concept to their backyard. This is Mario and Ellen's opportunity to provide Sherman Oaks residents a chance to enjoy fresh and homegrown ingredients to this new, exciting and attractive restaurant. The menu includes items such as Mendo's Turkey Meatball Hoagie with housemade turkey meatballs, Carved Steak Pretzel Melt, Southwest Chicken Salad and so much more delicious and health-conscious menu items.

We thank Mendocino Farms for their community support and look forward to enjoying a sampling of their delicious food during the Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m.

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At the request of our Councilman Tom LaBonge, the City Council approved the Il Villaggio Toscano (IVT) Project. There will be 325 apartments, a large commercial development and buildings will be 82 feet high. IVT will be located on Sepulveda Boulevard just south of the Ventura Freeway.

The Project will generate, according to the City's Report, 4,650 additional cars per day (1.7 million per year). The Sepulveda - Ventura Boulevards intersection already has the City's worst rating for traffic and now the situation will get even worse.

Thanks Councilman LaBonge – worse traffic and an illegal project!!

Residents have raised a number of questions concerning Councilman Tom LaBonge's support of the Project:

- Why would LaBonge support an illegal project in violation of the Specific Plan?
- Why did LaBonge give the developer, for free, the City roads within the development?
- Why didn't LaBonge require meaningful traffic mitigation before approving the illegal project?
- Why wasn't the developer required to mitigate the current traffic conditions?
- Why wasn't the developer required to mitigate the amount of new and increased traffic that the project will generate?

We asked the Councilman these questions and did not get an answer that made any sense.

The next time you are caught in traffic at Sepulveda and Ventura Boulevards, remember that Councilman Tom LaBonge who represents Sherman Oaks supported making the traffic conditions worse.

* * *

The entertainment industry is very important to Sherman Oaks. However, filming in our community can cause problems for neighborhoods especially on streets such as Stansbury and Greenleaf. In the past, we have seen an extraordinary amount of filming that has caused disruptions to Sherman Oaks.

Film LA is the municipal organization that is responsible for overseeing movie shoots in Los Angeles. They have a Community Outreach Liaison who can help if you are having extensive problems in your neighborhood.

If you would like more information, please email us at soha914@gmail.com. We will provide you additional information and a contact person.

* * *

Every year at holiday time, there are backups of traffic on Woodman at the Ventura Freeway. The problem is caused by shoppers leaving the Fashion Square and trying to get on the Freeway westbound.

Jules Feir has been working with Steven Butcher from Assemblyman Nazarian's office. They were able to convince CalTrans to turn off the traffic light on the entry ramp for the Thanksgiving weekend and the last couple weeks of December.

This solution should eliminate the traffic jams on Woodman Avenue.

* * *

Once again SOHA has a booth at the 23rd Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair between Van Nuys Boulevard and Kester Avenue on Ventura Boulevard on Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Fair attracts enormous crowds and is one of the San Fernando Valley's best community street festivals. Drop by and say Hello at our booth.

* * *

One mile of Ventura Boulevard was repaved from the 405 Freeway to Van Nuys Boulevard. New concrete bus pads were installed at bus stops to extend the life of the street. A total of 219 trees have been trimmed on Ventura Boulevard and 35 new trees were planted. Finally, the street represents and looks and feels like the "main street" of Sherman Oaks.

* * *

Do you see a problem in Sherman Oaks? Do know if a traffic light is not operating properly? Do you see graffiti or a pot hole? If you do, we can put you in contact with "the problem solver." Alice Roth is Councilman LaBonge's Deputy who solves these types of issues. Please give Alice a call on her cell at (213) 359-0032 or at her office at (818) 755-7630 and she will solve your problem.

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Have you visited our website recently? If not, go to www.shermanoaks914.com. Our website will provide you with information about our next Meeting, you will be able to read earlier issues of our Newsletters, obtain current traffic conditions, find out interesting events in the community and request services directly from City Agencies.

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The race for City Council has begun. We will elect a new City Councilmember in 2015. Our current City Councilman cannot run for reelection due to term limits.

Sherman Oaks represents 47% of the District. Therefore, our community will be an important factor in this race.

We have invited the City Council candidates to attend our Meetings. You can speak with them during our Social Hour. They will introduce themselves at the beginning of each meeting.

This is the time to start evaluating each candidate to determine who you want to be your next City Councilmember. That person could be your Councilmember until 2027!!

* * *

Councilman Tom LaBonge has formed a working group to discuss the issue of homelessness in Sherman Oaks. The group, with representatives from Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District, and community members, has met three times.

The first two meetings worked to define the homeless problem and come up with possible steps to take to respond to this problem. The third meeting focused on crafting a message to communicate with business owners as to how to disincentivize homeless activity, such as developing alternatives to giving handouts to panhandlers. Future meetings and efforts are planned. If you see a problem, please call Alice Roth at (818) 755-7630.

* * *

Mark your calendar!! On Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. SOHA will host its 15th Annual Toy Drive in front of Gelson's Market at Van Nuys Boulevard and Milbank Street. Your donated toys (unwrapped) will be distributed by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to over 70,000 needy children.

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If you missed our last Meeting that featured Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, go to www.youtube.com and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meeting.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President