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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Your Councilman David Ryu

- * Restoring Trust In Our Local Government
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COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Councilman David Ryu will be our featured speaker at the November Meeting. As you may know, Councilman Ryu is the first Korean-American to hold a Los Angeles City Council seat. He graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and earned his Masters of Public Policy and Administration from Rutgers University. Since taking office, he has brought motions before the City Council concerning Mansionization, document retention for outgoing city council members and non-individual political contributions. While the Mansionization and document retention motions passed, the non-individual political contributions had to be reintroduced and is still pending in committee.

Councilman Ryu will provide updates on the Sunkist development project, the proposed Whole Foods at the northeast corner of Ventura and Beverly Glen Boulevards and discuss his goals for helping our community.

This will be your opportunity to find out what is being done to mitigate the traffic congestion and problems that Waze is causing our residential communities and to discuss with Councilman Ryu directly what issues need to be addressed to make our communities and quality of life better.

Don't miss out on your chance to speak directly with Councilman Ryu!

Also speaking at the meeting will be Sidonia Lax, a SOHA Member who attends all of our meetings and is a Holocaust survivor. She will discuss the Holocaust as a sixteen year old girl and how her life was influenced by her personal survival during that time period. The events of her life in the 1940s and, currently, have been discussed at length in various publications. As Sidonia says, she currently "survives and thrives". As the number of Holocaust survivors grow smaller each year, this is a unique opportunity to hear first-hand the events and the current relevance.

Jules Feir is happy to announce that Maria's Italian Kitchen will be our Restaurant of the Month.

They have been supporting SOHA since 1997 with delicious selections of Italian food during our social hours. We thank Madalyn Alfano for her continued support. In addition, Whole Foods Market is the proud sponsor of the desserts at this meeting.

Enjoy a sampling of their food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

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Sherman Oaks experiences some of the worst rush-hour traffic in Los Angeles because so many Valley and North County residents travel through our community to reach the Westside. With more cars on the road every day and the impacts of Waze, the traffic has only become worse and often unsafe, especially in our hillside and hillside-bordering communities.

Bob Anderson reports that more than a year ago, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) began working with residents to see how hillside traffic in west Sherman Oaks might be mitigated and made safer. After holding many meetings, gathering significant data, analyzing morning traffic, conducting safety studies, proposing initial concepts, conducting a local vote, and collecting more than a thousand comments, LADOT has proposed their west Sherman Oaks Hills Neighborhood Livability Project.

The Livability Project would restrict morning traffic entering and leaving the west Sherman Oaks Hills community bounded by Valley Vista Boulevard, Scadlock Lane, Longbow Lane, Mulholland Drive, Woodcliff Road, and Cody Road. The Project is finishing a public comment period, after which it will be updated by LADOT, reviewed by the City Council office, and implemented – possibly in early 2018. This is a first tiny step to help our city's horrific traffic problems. Only time will tell if or how well it works and what any unintended consequences it might create.

In the meantime, LADOT will be starting to work on fixes for other Valley neighborhoods. We all know that it is impossible to fix traffic problems without reducing the number of cars on our streets. And, the only real way to take cars off the roads is giving people alternate, viable, and safe options, such as improved freeway traffic flows and rapid transit. We all know that such fixes are a long way off – and may never be effective enough.

* * *

Marshall Long reports that the SOHA Whole Foods Committee has concluded its review of the project and issued a report for the City Council office and the applicant. We are reiterating our concerns and suggesting feasible remedies including noise control for the nighttime loading and unloading trucks, various traffic mitigation measures, restrictions on left turns out of the parking area, strict limitations on outdoor music and entertainment at the outdoor eating areas and limits on hours of operation. We are also hoping to persuade the LADOT to restrict left turns across Ventura Boulevard and Moorpark Street into the parking area, which we feel is dangerous due to the cross-traffic conflicts. The applicant has agreed to a number of our suggestions including signal lights and their timing, signage and the shielding of the restaurant noise at the nearest neighbor. We are still discussing methods of controlling noise from refrigeration units on the large trucks.

* * *

Nancy Sogioian chairs our Committee reviewing the Sunkist project at Riverside Drive and Hazeltine Avenue. She reports that Sunkist project's DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) was flawed in its failure to reveal the project's true traffic impacts. SOHA submitted several well-researched documents which verified the validity of our request that IMT undertake a Traffic Study Addendum to include mall holiday traffic (and the added future impacts of Chase Knolls and the new Whole Foods). In early September, we finally obtained the support of our Councilman, David Ryu, in requiring IMT to reveal the project's true impacts via the Traffic Addendum. While we appreciated our Councilman's unequivocally clear statement of support, as this letter is going to print, we are uncertain of his position. Further meetings are scheduled and SOHA remains hopeful our Councilman follows through in supporting our community's best interests over that of the developer.

Councilman Ryu indicates that over the past two years he and his staff have attended 25 different discussions regarding the proposed Sunkist Development. At different times, these meetings included Planning Staff, Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Working Group, Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, and other community stakeholders and neighbors. One of Councilman Ryu's top campaign commitments was the preservation of the iconic Sunkist building and the inclusion of community input. The current proposal incorporates the Sunkist building into the proposed project and the LA Conservancy has been involved. The Councilman and the SOHA Working Group have won concessions that are being incorporated into the current proposal including a reduced unit count, architectural reconfiguration, and site plan changes. Yet, the work to make this the best project possible is not done. Councilman Ryu stated that he will continue to work with SOHA Working Group to achieve the best possible results for Sherman Oaks.

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Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian will be hosting his annual Open House at the Van Nuys State Building located at 6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 300, on December 7, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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The Sherman Oaks BID welcomes two new beauty service businesses to the Village. The Beauty Nail Bar, 14524 Ventura Boulevard, (818) 788-8889, delivers elite customer service in a luxurious setting.

Headbetter Salon, 14545 1/2 Ventura Boulevard is a boutique collective of hairstylists who specialize in Balayage highlights, extensions, haircutting and red carpet styling.

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On Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. SOHA will have hosting its 19th annual Toy Drive in the parking lot of Gelson's Market at 4520 Van Nuys Boulevard next to Best Buy. Gelson's will provide delicious snacks and desserts as they do each year.

We invite everyone to stop by, bring an unwrapped toy, visit with Santa Claus and speak with many of our local officials who will be in attendance. Our local Police and Fire Departments will have some of their vehicles on display. There will be a City garbage truck for children to sit in and explore.

Last year according to Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services, you donated toys with a value of \$45,000. The toys collected will be distributed only to children that are in the care of the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services. These toys are probably the only gifts they receive for the holidays.

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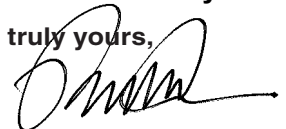
There will be no Newsletter or Meeting in December. We look forward to seeing you at our November 15, 2017 Meeting, the Sunday, December 10, 2017 Toy Drive (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) and then at our January 17, 2018 Meeting.

Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com.

Please visit the Association's Website at www.shermanoaks914.com. Obtain information about our next Meeting, read Newsletters, learn about attractions in the area, and find out how to contact elected officials and City Departments for services. If you have items that should be linked to the website, email us the information at soha914@gmail.com.

Do you have a Facebook account? If you do, please "like" the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association page. Our Facebook page provides updates on local news and information about events happening in Sherman Oaks. Go to www.facebook.com/soha914 and get instant information from your Association.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President