

"Together
we have
clout!"



Metro's Orange Line, global clean-energy and women's rights. Before entering politics, he was full-time practicing attorney and coauthored a manual on real estate law.

Senator Hertzberg will discuss the continued action the Legislature is taking to eliminate single-family zoning and neighborhoods. The current proposals, if enacted, would allow apartments to be built in all of Sherman Oaks, including current single-family portions. He will also discuss efforts to reopen schools and the rebuilding of the business communities. This is especially important for reopening Ventura Boulevard restaurants and other retail establishments.

If you have a question for Senator Hertzberg, please email it to us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com on or before Monday, January 18th.

To attend the virtual Zoom Meeting, the Meeting ID is 847 9354 0055 and the Passcode is SOHA914. Please arrive at the waiting room between 7:00 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. The Meeting starts promptly at 7:15 p.m. If you are unfamiliar with how to sign into a Zoom Meeting or need help, please email us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com. We will email you instructions.

This year's virtual Toy Drive collected \$8,130.00. Carla Gonzalez from the LA County Department of Children and Family Services wrote:

"Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2020 Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Toy Drive. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) purchased toys and gift cards for foster youth. Social Workers provided a wish list of items/toys that the foster youth identified and the items/toys were purchased. These gifts were then delivered to the youth.

The children that received them are part of open cases with DCFS due to abuse or/and neglect. Some of the kids are with relatives, foster homes or with their parents but they all receive services from DCFS. Hopefully next year we can resume the Toy Drive at Gelson's."

ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021 - 7:15 PM

JOIN FROM ANYWHERE - VIA COMPUTER, TABLET, SMARTPHONE OR TELEPHONE

GUEST SPEAKER: STATE SENATOR BOB HERTZBERG

SAVING SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS

REOPENING LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

REOPENING OUR ECONOMY

Our State Senator Robert "Bob" Hertzberg will be speaking at the Association's Wednesday, January 20th Meeting. Prior to being elected to the State Senate in 2014, he represented Sherman Oaks in the California State Assembly and served as the 64th Assembly Speaker. Over the span of his political career, he championed for building, repairing and modernizing schools, expanding options for transportation such as the



County Of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

HOW CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING IMPACTS SHERMAN OAKS

On behalf of SOHA, Bob Anderson has been researching what might happen to Sherman Oaks when our Congressional district, California Senate and Assembly districts, and City Council Districts are redistricted in 2021. Redistricting happens every ten years after the census is complete. Bob has been studying what happened in 2001 and 2011 redistricting to help us know what could and should happen in 2021. We've learned that 2011 City Council redistricting was seriously flawed against Sherman Oaks and the Valley. Sherman Oaks was gerrymandered into the wrong district and isolated on the east, west, north, and south from all our neighboring communities. Valley district populations were unfairly balanced to diminish power on the council. We got the short end of the stick 2011 but we won't let it happen again. We have already made a strong recommendation to the 2021 City Council Redistricting Commission and will keep fighting to get our fair share this time around.

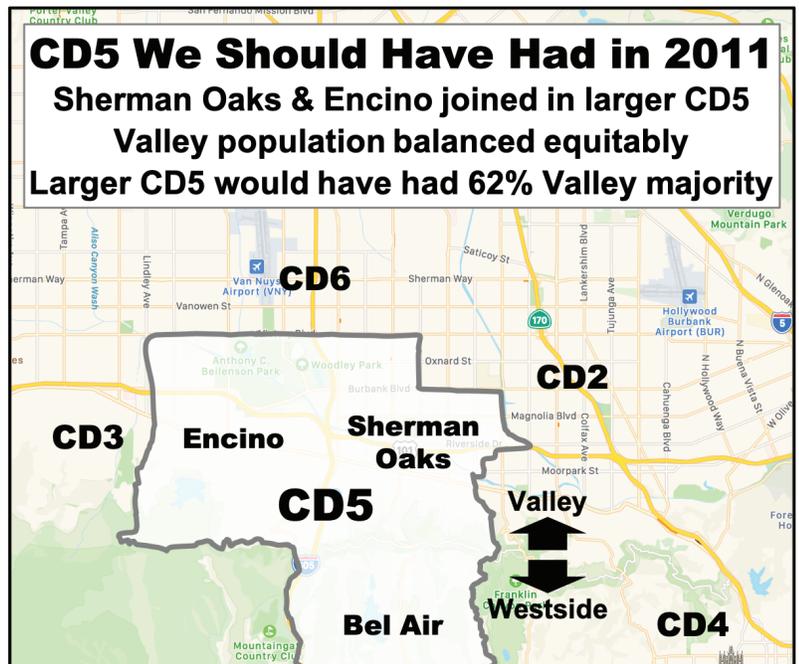
In 2001 redistricting, Sherman Oaks was split between two council districts – Councilmember Krekorian's District 2 (CD2) to the north and Councilmember Koretz's District 5 (CD5) to the south. In 2011 redistricting, our community came together again in Councilmember LaBonge's District 4 (CD4). But we were gerrymandered and isolated from the district with only a tiny connection to a hodge-podge of communities including Toluca Lake, Griffith Park, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake.

In 2011, the Sherman Oaks and Encino communities also ended up in two separate districts that both crossed over the Sepulveda Pass – CD4 and CD5. Each community had only minority power in their district. To add insult to injury, inequitable population balancing across the Valley cheated CD4 and CD5 out of about 28,000 residents that they deserved.

What should have happened in 2011 redistricting? Sherman Oaks and Encino should have been in one single, larger over-the-Pass Council District 5. Valley district populations should also have been equitably balanced. The resulting larger CD5 would have had a 62 percent Valley majority population. We might even have elected our own Valley-based councilmember.

What didn't happen in 2011 redistricting must now happen in 2021 redistricting. That's the recommendation that SOHA submitted to the 2021 Redistricting Commission on December 17th. We're already getting lots of support for our recommendation in Sherman Oaks and across the Valley. And we're working on a Valley-wide coalition to support our recommendation to the Redistricting Commission.

Please take a look at SOHA's letter to the Redistricting Commission. Go to our website at www.SOHA914.com and click the "SOHA Redistricting Recommendations" button. Contact Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com to join our coalition.



SOHA - PROTECTING SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS, ENCOURAGING SENSIBLE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Maria Pavlou Kalban: As we enter a new legislative year, SOHA's Legislative Committee hopes to be a voice of reason in the housing debate. Solutions to housing are complicated and often homeowners are vilified for rejecting them. Our committee hopes to protect single-family neighborhoods and also encourage housing solutions that make sense.

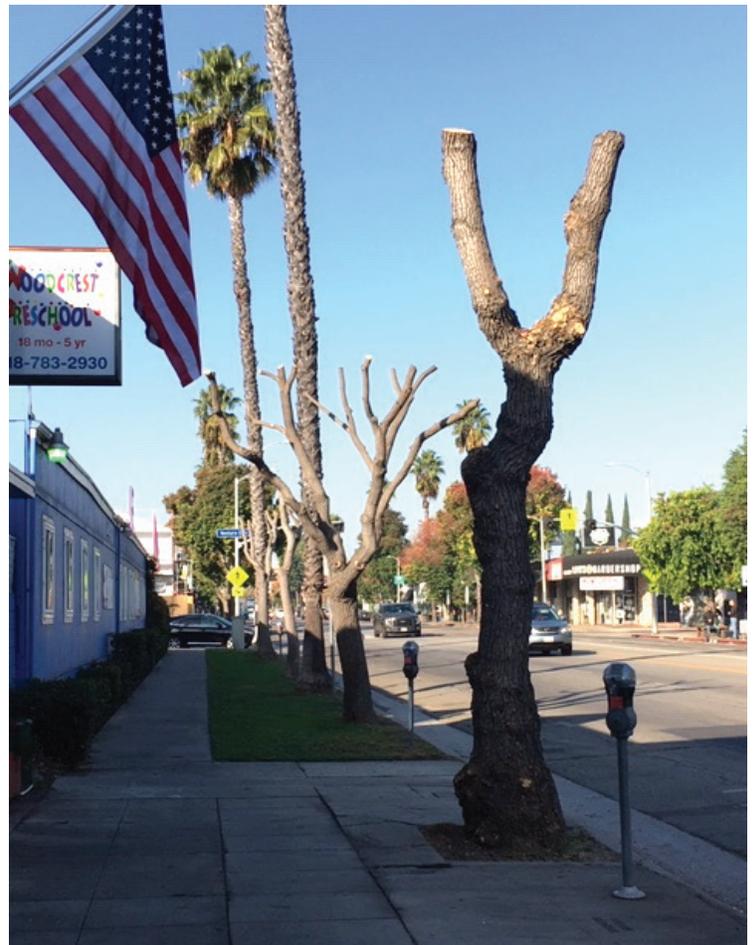
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG. VISIT SOHA914.COM TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every community should provide its fair share of housing. Our Legislative Committee demands legislators follow three simple guidelines to gain our support. First, the state and city should provide verifiable proof that the number of housing units sought are truly needed and justified for each community. Everyone must do their part in solving the problem, but what is being asked must be based on fact. Second, we need to inventory underutilized residential capacity already allowed in our current commercial and multi-family zoning and encourage more growth there before upzoning our single-family neighborhoods. We have areas that still have only one-story buildings and huge parking lots, but are in zones that allow much more density. Third, underlying zoning standards that were imposed on a community must not be waived for new developments. A major problem with California State Legislature bills is that they eliminate local zoning standards that have protected communities to entice and reward private developers.

New 2021 housing bills have already been introduced. We oppose: SB 9 (lot splitting allowed) and SB 10 (10-unit apartments allowed in single-family neighborhoods). These are two of the same bills with different numbers that we opposed last session. We support SB 15 (empty retail shopping centers for workforce housing) and SB 6 (commercial spaces for residential use). We supported them last session as well.

In hopes of being heard, SOHA's committee will continue to work with Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian who understands the problems these bills can create and is willing to work with us toward solutions. Stay with us on this journey. We will inform you and explain all the legislative bills as they move forward. Your support is our aim.

SHADE TREES ON VENTURA SEVERLY BUTCHERED - CITY INVESTIGATING SENSELESS DESTRUCTION -



Recently, all the shade trees on the south side of Ventura Boulevard between Ventura Canyon Avenue and Allott Avenue were severely butchered.

This is a sad situation since these beautiful mature shade trees were planted by SOHA with the help of volunteers from the community over 20 years ago as part of the beautification of Sherman Oaks with the planting of almost 3 miles of trees along Ventura Boulevard from Fulton Avenue west to almost Sepulveda Boulevard over a period of 4 years.

The city is investigating the destruction of the city trees and the owners of these properties will be held responsible for replacing and maintaining new large mature ones.

There just is no reason for destroying these or any trees. If trees need to be trimmed, the City Bureau of Street Trees will issue a Permit at no charge to properly trim trees.

OUR “MAIN STREET” IS IN DEEP TROUBLE! WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Leslie Elkan, President, Village At Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District (BID) reports:

Ventura Boulevard is Sherman Oaks’ “Main Street.” The businesses on Ventura Boulevard in the Village At Sherman Oaks BID are in big trouble. The restaurants are only permitted to offer take-out, the hair and nail salons, massage and makeup shops are all closed; prohibited from doing any business,. Retail stores are only permitted to serve 20% of their capacity.

Restaurant owners spent small fortunes installing special tents, umbrellas and party lights when they were told they could serve outside, but not inside. So did hair and nail salon owners. Then, when they were told to cease outdoor operations, those expenditures became a tremendous waste of money for businesses that could ill-afford it.

Despite having no income, the beleaguered business owners still owe rent and suffering landlords are in a bind with their own bills. The Village is a ghost town with few people walking our sidewalks.

A number of our businesses have failed in the last year. Gone are ATT, Baja Fresh, Repair Stop, Hamburger Habit, Fish Dish, Lily Pad Spa, Massage Matters, and Kicks Kartel, with several other businesses saying they will not be renewing their leases when they expire.

What is needed to bring back our “Main Street” is an end to the lockdowns, financial help from the city, and our Sherman Oaks residents to come back and patronize our businesses in a safe manner. The fact is since the lockdowns started, the Covid-19 numbers have gotten worse. Many suspect that it is because the lockdowns have driven more people to congregate privately, where the virus is more likely to spread, than outside on a restaurant patio or al fresco sidewalk or street parklet. We suggest restaurants and salons be given another chance to comply with masking and social distancing outside and then rated with a prominently-posted compliance scale. Those not adhering to the rules should be penalized, but we need the city to allow businesses to reopen and be given the opportunity to operate in compliance.



- OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HELP - PRESERVE AND PROTECT YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year from Nancy Sogoian, Membership Chair, and all SOHA's Board of Directors! As we take time to review 2020 (and put it in our rearview mirrors!), we are reminded of the great importance of community in our lives. As the ONLY member-supported, volunteer-run, non-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the quality of life here in Sherman Oaks, SOHA works hard to obtain the best outcomes for us on major issues like mass transit, housing, development, safety (and more!). But our good work depends entirely on the resources provided by the membership and support of residents like YOU, homeowners and renters alike!

If you're a SOHA member, we thank you, and ask you to encourage friends and neighbors to join! If you are not yet a SOHA member, please join TODAY! Basic membership is just \$30 a year (a small investment yielding big benefits for our community)! Joining at the \$50 Silver or \$100 Gold level provides extra resources to help tackle current challenges. Membership includes our monthly Newsletter filled with info and major issue updates. Please email JoinSOHA@gmail.com for more info and membership application. We are grateful for your support – thank you!

The logo for SOHA, consisting of the lowercase letters 'soha' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**The ONLY member-supported,
volunteer-run, non-profit
community organization
dedicated to preserving and protecting
the quality of life here in Sherman Oaks.**

- NEW YEAR...NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS - NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY INFORMED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Association has a new website address. It is:

www.SOHA914.com

It is not case sensitive. The prior website address www.shermanoaks914.com also can be used. We urge you to explore the website. The front page has information about our upcoming meetings, including a link to the Zoom Meeting and login information for Zoom. It also has information and links to current projects affecting Sherman Oaks.

The website also allows you to explore prior Newsletters, old photos of events and detailed information about ongoing Sherman Oaks related projects.

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 to get instant information from your Association.

You can also follow us on on Instagram 914SOHA.

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

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President

Newsletter Graphic Services
donated by Joel Pomonik

VISIT OUR ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE - WWW.SOHA914.COM - FOR HELPFUL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION!

soha

SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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