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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Councilman Tom LaBonge:

- * Upgrade Our Freeway System To Alleviate Congestion**
- * Neighborhood Development**
- * Los Angeles River**

Councilman LaBonge is the Los Angeles Councilman representing Sherman Oaks

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our Councilman Tom LaBonge who represents most of Sherman Oaks will be the guest speaker at our September Meeting. He was first elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2001. As a result of redistricting, Sherman Oaks went from having two Councilmembers to having only one, Councilman LaBonge. He will be termed out on June 30, 2015.

Councilman LaBonge takes pride in the community by getting himself involved in local quality of life issues. He has a truck that drives around Sherman Oaks weekly to cleanup and remove bulky eyessore items.

Councilman LaBonge has invested a large amount of time and effort into rebuilding the Sherman Oaks-Van Nuys Park and assisted with revitalizing the Los Angeles River.

How can Councilman LaBonge help you? This is your opportunity to meet with your Councilman and explain to him what needs you have for your neighborhood.

Jules Feir announces that Vitello's Express is our Restaurant of the Month.

This small quick service eatery located at the corner of Ventura Boulevard and Woodman Avenue has developed a reputation for having some of the area's best Italian food. Co-owner Trace Barnes has developed a menu of delicious Italian dishes that rival other Italian restaurants.

Vitello's Express is known for their pizzas, chicken piccata, delicious meatball sandwich and 50 other menu items that are homemade directly in their kitchen.

They take pride in using the very best and freshest ingredients to ensure the best tasting food. Vitello's Express was the locals choice in 2013. We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

We would like to thank Menchie's in Sherman Oaks for bringing frozen yogurt unexpectedly to our August Meeting and feeding over 200 people (in addition to Maria's Italian Kitchen)!!

Please remember that parking is available in the School's main lot and in additional parking lots on Riverside Drive and Huston Street.

Jeff Kalban reports that the Vision for Sherman Oaks was approved by the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council at their July meeting. The next phase is to engage the public in outreach/input to formulate additional studies into the various Vision categories (parking, traffic, LA River, beautification, etc.). Funding sources and opportunities for implementation will be studied as well.

Helicopter noise is everywhere! For example, choppers sit over the 405/101 interchange in Sherman Oaks to film an accident or tour helicopters getting as close as possible to the Hollywood sign or helicopters that test flights over Torrance where the world's largest civil helicopter manufacturer is located. These problems do not just exist in Sherman Oaks, Hollywood or Torrance, they span over most of the communities of Southern California.

The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC) is working with community groups, helicopter pilots and operators, and the FAA to develop and implement safe and effective voluntary practices that will reduce the impact of helicopter noise on the quality of life and safety of people across Los Angeles County.

The president of LAAHNC is our own Bob Anderson, who is a very active SOHA Board member. Other Board members of LAAHNC include Riviera Homeowners Association in Torrance, the Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association in the Hollywood Hills, the Friends of Griffith Park, the Tarzana Property Owners Association, the Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association in Long Beach, Homeowners of Encino, Rolling Hills Estates homeowners, the City of Lomita, and the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council.

Their goal for 2014 is to implement a written agreement between LAAHNC, pilot/operator groups, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reduce noise. They are working to include adjustments to routes and altitudes that will result in actual noise level reductions, realistic enforcement methods, and strong commitments to continue collaborating on reducing noise even further. The FAA is strongly supporting their efforts, as are a great many elected officials, including Congressman Adam Schiff, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Brad Sherman, Congressman Tony Cardenas, Congressman Henry Waxman, Congresswoman Karen Bass, Congressman Alan Lowenthal, and Congresswoman Janice Hahn. You can visit the LAAHNC website at LAHelicopterNoise.org to learn more. Please report any helicopter noise violations or disturbances to SOHA's Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com.

The Sunkist project is heating up. The developer presented a summary of their current plans. The project as proposed consists of the existing Sunkist building (120,000 square feet of office space) plus 359,795 square feet of additional new construction. This breaks down into 40,000 square feet of retail space, 298 new apartment units, 7,241 square feet of retail/commercial tenants including restaurants, 1,345 parking spaces in a 4-story parking structure.

The proposed buildings are basically lot line to lot line obscuring any significant view of the existing building. In fact, the best view of the Sunkist structure will be from the freeway. For more information from local news sources, go online to <http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20140729/los-angeles-planning-department-to-review-development-plans-for-sunkist-building-in-sherman-oaks>.

Kimberlee Gerston, Chair of SOHA Sunkist Committee, and several Committee Members, met with Board of Director Members Marshall Long and Jay Weitzler to draft a position statement on the project. The final text will not be available until the draft Environmental Impact Report is released. You can access more information on this project at www.shermanoaks914.com. There is also more information on the Homeowners of Encino site <http://homeownersofencino.wordpress.com/>.

Killer Shrimp owner Kevin Michaels and partner Brett Doherty have purchased the Hamburger Hamlet company along with its last remaining location in Sherman Oaks which recently closed. Their plan is to celebrate the history of The Hamburger Hamlet and bring the original quality and passion back to the brand that its founders Harry and Marilyn Lewis instilled in the culture and fabric of Los Angeles. Kevin and Brett indicate that they are embracing the original spirit and traditions of The Hamburger Hamlet, while providing a modern upgrade to the brand. The Hamburger Hamlet in Sherman Oaks should have reopened by the time you receive this Newsletter

Do you want to take an active role in how our community responds to minor crimes? Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer announced the introduction of the Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP), a pre-filing diversion for people who commit certain misdemeanors. Deputy City Attorney Tamar Galatzan indicates that individuals with no prior criminal record who take responsibility for their part in a minor crime will appear before a panel of community members to discuss the crime, the reasons why it was committed, and the negative impacts it caused. NJP is looking for community members to help restore the victim of such crimes back to how they were and rehabilitate the individual who committed the crime by avoiding the criminal justice system and connecting him or her to services. For information on how to get involved, contact Peter Borenstein at (213) 978-8735 or Peter.Borenstein@lacity.org.

Our former City Councilman Paul Koretz initiated a motion to protect wildlife corridors in the hills. The City would require that all hillside properties within the boundaries of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance are reviewed prior to any approval to demonstrate that they would not negatively impact wildlife connectivity and, if impacted, mitigation would be required.

Councilman LaBonge reports that in the City of Los Angeles over 50% of the water used in residential neighborhoods is for outdoor purposes. As water gets more scarce and more expensive, this will likely change. There are two things you can do to help: (1) Swap out your grass front lawns to native California plants and drought tolerant landscaping. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will reimburse you \$3 per square foot of lawn you remove – for the average 1,000 square foot lawn this is \$3,000! Please contact Tommy Newman in Councilman LaBonge's office if you would like to know more. (2) Lookout for broken sprinklers or excessive watering in your neighborhood or other surrounding neighborhoods. If you see this, send an email to waterconservationteam@ladwp.com – the tip will be kept confidential and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will send out an inspector.

The Conor Lynch Foundation will be holding its annual Walk/Run on Sunday, October 26, 2014 starting at the Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Park. This is the 4th annual event honoring Conor Lynch who was 16 years old when he lost his life while cross-country training on Woodman Avenue in Sherman Oaks on October 19, 2010. This fundraiser raises awareness and promotes the safety of pedestrians, runners, cyclists and young drivers. There are awards given for each age group. To register, go to Active.com.

Please add two items to your calendar: (1) Our October meeting will be a special meeting on a special date. The meeting will be held on the 4th Wednesday in October, October 22, 2014. (2) Please note that the Sherman Oaks Street Fair will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will have a booth at the Fair and want to meet with you.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President