

"Together
we have
clout!"



ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 - 7:15 PM

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

GUEST SPEAKER: LA CITY COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ

SACRAMENTO CONTROL
OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

LAPD: FUNDING, INCREASED
GUN VIOLENCE, GHOST GUNS

Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz will be our principal speaker at our Community Meeting on Wednesday evening, October 20, 2021. The meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. and the Zoom Webinar information is below.

Councilman Koretz has dedicated his life to public service and social justice. He led the effort to incorporate the City of West Hollywood in 1984 and served as a councilmember. In 2000, he was elected to the California State Assembly where he authored bills for LGBTQ equality, protecting workers and reducing gun violence. Currently, as a Los Angeles City Councilmember, he represents Encino and a large portion of West Los Angeles. He knows Sherman Oaks well since he used to be our city council representative.

Councilman Koretz will discuss subjects including the LAPD (Funding, Increased Gun Violence, and Ghost Guns), Homeless Solutions and State control of local zoning.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. LAPD Detective Saul Paredes, who is coordinator of the Major Assault Crimes Table, will explain what our Division – Van Nuys Station is doing concerning domestic violence and what you need to do.

In addition, Assemblyman Richard Bloom will speak briefly at the beginning of the meeting. He represents the area just south of Mulholland Drive. He is one of the few members of the Assembly who had the backbone to oppose Legislative Leadership and vote No on SB 9 and SB 10, the measures that eliminate single-family neighborhoods.

If you have a question for Councilman Koretz, email it to us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com on or before Monday, October 18, 2021.

To attend the virtual Zoom Meeting, the Meeting ID is 859 5625 1292 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.

Do you receive our email updates?

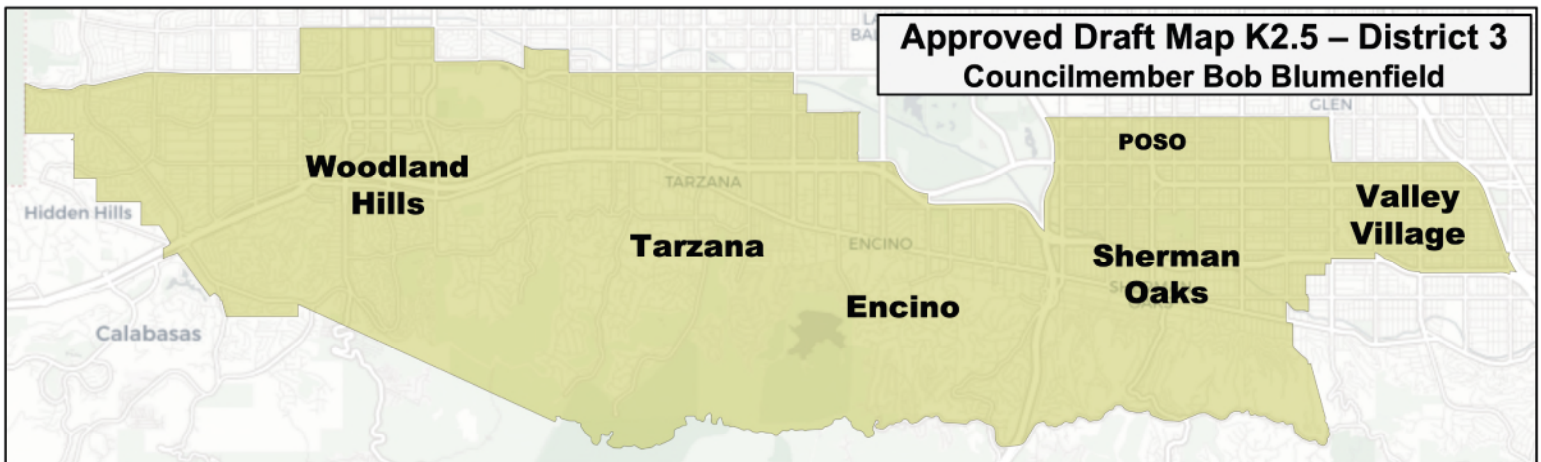
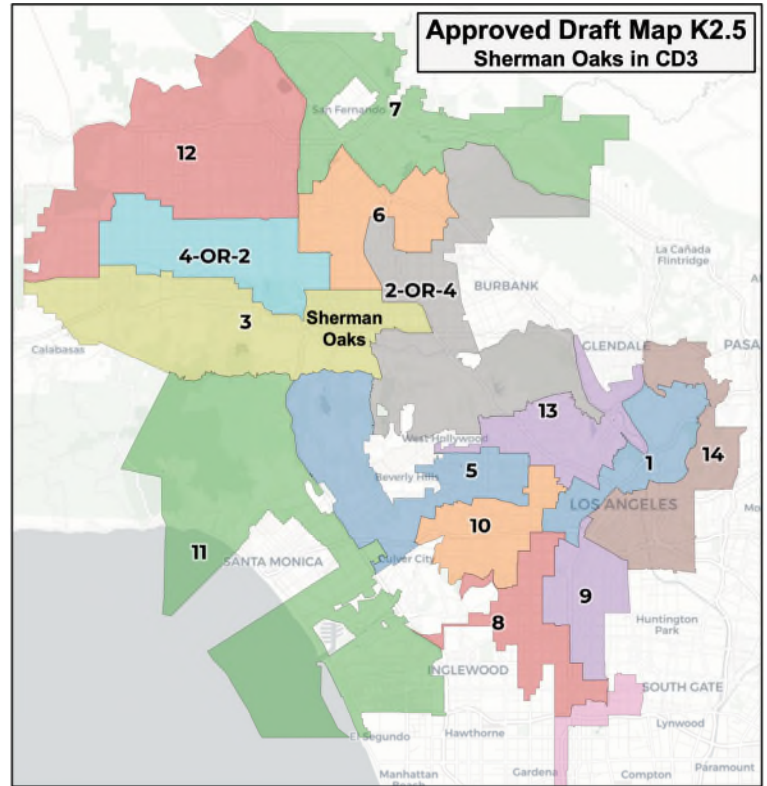
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2020 CENSUS GIVES VALLEY WHOLE NEW LOOK

The LA City Council Redistricting Commission approved a Draft Redistricting Map for all fifteen Council Districts. Called K2.5 and shown at the right, the map makes changes all over the city, but especially BIG changes in the Valley. BIG like a new District and new Councilmember for Sherman Oaks. BIG like five and two-thirds Valley districts – more than we’ve ever had – and exactly what we deserve. BIG like listening to comments from Valley residents and acting on them. How did this happen?

This redistricting commission developed ethical practices, stood by its principles, and listened to communities. They recognized that the 2020 Census showed the Valley with 40% of LA’s total population – and gave us our fair share of districts. Commissioners were not concerned whether incumbent councilmembers liked the newly created districts. They know their Draft Map K2.5 is not perfect and plan to make this consensus-built map even better.

What does this mean to Sherman Oaks? It means Sherman Oaks would join Encino, Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and Valley Village in Council District 3 (CD3) as shown below. And all of Sherman Oaks, including Part of Sherman Oaks (POSO) north of Burbank Boulevard, would be part of CD3. Our new Councilmember would be Bob Blumenfield.



SO FAR, SO GOOD! But this is only the Draft Map. It will change. Maybe a little. Maybe a lot. The Commission has until the end of October to finalize their map. Then it goes to the City Council who will change the Commission’s map. The City Council must approve and finalize the map by the end of the year. New districts go into effect on January 1, 2022. Happy New Year!

We need your help to make sure the draft map isn’t derailed. Squeaky communities with lots of comments get the Commission’s attention. SOHA has been squeaky, with nine recommendation letters since last December. And we’ll be sending more. But Koreatown submitted about 5,000 comments to get what they wanted.

Please comment soon and often. SOHA will be emailing Redistricting Bulletins with more information.

You need to send written comments. You can email comments to redistricting.lacity@lacity.org. You can also go to the Commission’s website at <https://laccrc2021.org>, click on the “Community Engagement” tab in the menu, and submit testimony on a Community of Interest form.

If you have questions, contact SOHA’s Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@gmail.com

SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS STILL IN DANGER

Maria Pavlou Kalban, SOHA's Legislative Chair, reports that Senate Bills 9 and 10 that end single family neighborhoods were signed into law by the Governor, a day after his recall election. However, due to the strength of SOHA's statewide "United Neighbors" coalition (made up of 250 plus community organizations) (which Maria created) we were able to negotiate last minute amendments, watering down the impact of Senate Bills 9 and 10 and other similar bills. These bills are still harmful and end single-family zones in all of California. But, the fight is not over!

SOHA's Legislative Committee will continue to work with Senator Robert Hertzberg and others in the upcoming legislative year to close loopholes in SB 9 that favor developers over homeowners.

Real estate speculators, banks and big tech are spending millions of dollars sponsoring Sacramento's bills that end single-family neighborhoods. SOHA along with multiple cities and organizations have been successfully fighting these bills for years.

To offer some context into why single-family neighborhoods are being opened up for multi-family housing, we need to understand that housing has become a huge investment vehicle for global investment firms. Billions of dollars are being spent by multi-national speculators to buy or build single family homes for rent. Alarmed by this development, countries throughout the world are passing laws to limit institutional ownership of millions of homes. But our state legislature passes laws that make it easier for speculators to buy and build freely. Homeowners now compete with deep pocketed institutions and developers for homes.

There is plenty of land available in California's underdeveloped commercial corridors to add all the required housing. But our legislators choose to give developers the right to split lots and build four houses on each and every lot in every single-family neighborhood throughout the State with no input from communities, requiring no infrastructure upgrades by developers and no requirements for low and moderate income housing.

United Neighbors has in a short period of time made an impact in Sacramento. We will become even more impactful this coming year. Right now we are working with a Voter Initiative that has been filed with the Attorney General to amend the State Constitution to make zoning and land use local affairs. This Initiative would void any land use laws passed by the State (SB 9 and SB 10) that overrides local control. Signature gathering will start sometime at the end of October and, if successful, will make this a ballot measure for the November 7, 2022 election. We will keep you informed on how you can get involved and how to add your signature to this very important Initiative. Donate now by going to their website: www.communitiesforchoice.org

We are also supporting a lawsuit filed by the AIDS Health Foundation against SB 10 claiming it is unconstitutional for City Councils to override voter approved land use initiatives. We will follow its progress and report back to you.

SOHA's Legislative Committee will continue to fight for homeowners and renters. Stay with us.

OUR TOWN

by SOHA Vice President Matt Epstein - Realtor and co-owner of Vitello's restaurant

Years ago I was talking to folks over the hill and the subject of where I lived came up. The reaction to Sherman Oaks and the Valley was never met with great enthusiasm. People from Brentwood and Santa Monica and Beverly Hills were always a bit snobbish that where they lived was better than the Valley.



Well we've come a long way and the Sherman Oaks/Studio City area has now become the Brentwood of the Valley and I might say even better. For one we've got a lot less traffic and the quality of life here is good. The pandemic has hit our area quite hard as it has every other area in the country and, like most areas, we are recovering. Although we've lost numerous businesses and our boulevards are changing, there are new things around the bend.

For one, I'm sure you've driven by the Sportsmen's Lodge and have noticed that Erewhon and Equinox will both be located right there in the new complex. On Coldwater Canyon and Riverside Drive is the new automated Whole Foods Market

THE SHOPS AT

SPORTSMEN'S

LODGE

where you'll be able to walk in with your Prime account on your phone and everything that you put into your wagon will automatically be tabulated. There will be no cashiers. Yet there will be an aisle for self-check-out for those that want to pay in cash. I believe that is only the 2nd store of its kind and since our community can financially support this new business, Amazon has come to Sherman Oaks.

There are some new restaurants as well. There's Taisho, which is a contemporary Japanese dining experience on Ventura Boulevard. In its few short months of being open, it's not easy to get a table since it has become very popular. Next door to Mistral, which is one of my favorite restaurants, Home State will be opening. Home State is a fantastic place to grab a taco or a few. I stopped by the Home State near where my daughter lives and we had a fantastic assortment of tacos!

These new businesses that have or will be opening here in our area are coming because of our rich demographic. It used to be that those folks that wanted to buy a nice spacious home for less than it would cost over the hill are now finding the prices in Studio City and Sherman Oaks and Encino to be moving up the ladder. Of course a great house here in the Valley is less than it would be over the hill. But our home prices have gone up. Houses in Sherman Oaks start at \$945,000 and go up to close to 7 million and those in Studio City start at \$1.2 million and go up to close to 8 million dollars. So it's no wonder that Equinox, Amazon and other higher end companies are investing in our area.

I was never ashamed to say that I was raised in Sherman Oaks and stayed here to raise my family. It's a great place to live and having new businesses coming into our neighborhood is a good thing. Hopefully we will, in the coming year, see more vibrant businesses return to Ventura Boulevard. I believe this will happen and, hopefully, it will revitalize our wonderful Boulevard.

A LIFE OF PURPOSE

SOHA Volunteer Board Profile: Bob Anderson

Some people can pinpoint the moment they realized what they wanted to do with their lives. For SOHA Transportation Chair and Redistricting Chair Bob Anderson, it was in the third grade when he built a robot and immediately knew he wanted to be an engineer.

After this discovery, he worked on cars, and electronics and as a kid, he even "made extra money repairing parent's friend's old television sets." Years later, he was able to pursue his passion at UC Berkeley where he graduated with a dual major in physics and engineering with a Master's Degree in nuclear engineering.

But Anderson's life of purpose extended past engineering, reaching multiple different projects and fields that defined his career. After working with the International Space Station, Anderson began to work in Maryland on Cancer research. He worked alongside many scientists as they made significant strides in disease eradication and looking back he says that he "was very lucky," and "it was a very fun, collegial environment," where he could learn from his colleagues and continue a life dedicated to his work.



Even after retirement, Anderson carries this commitment into helping his community. When moving back to California, after years of traveling, Anderson quickly became an integral part of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association and joined the Board as the chair of both the Transportation and Redistricting Committees. Anderson uses his engineering expertise and motivated mindset to fight the Metro system and says that he "saw that Metro is always giving Sherman Oaks and the Valley the short end of the stick and we need to fix that."

ELEVATED BARBECUE IN THE HEART OF SHERMAN OAKS

Since he was 12 years old growing up in Encino, Aaron Robins' hobby was barbecuing. However, it wasn't until he went to culinary school in San Francisco, studied under James Beard award winner Charlie Trotter in Chicago, and worked at restaurants in Nashville, that he innovated the genre.

Now as head chef and owner of the Boneyard Bistro in Sherman Oaks, Robins says he "turned the game around on paper plate-down-and-dirty dining" into high-quality, elevated meals. Customers are often surprised, he says, at the sophistication of the menu, and the idea that "barbecue can be a fine dining experience."

Similar to many restaurants, Boneyard Bistro was hit hard by COVID 19, but Robins says he made the conscious decision to not compromise quality. It's one of the reasons why he chose Sherman Oaks as a location for his restaurant, and when suppliers started to give their buyers a choice – buy inferior quality or pay more – he chose the latter.

"I grew up with my clientele, I'm familiar with them and I understand them," he says. "They appreciate and enjoy quality and I know they expect nothing less from us. It's why we've been here for so long and been so successful."

It's also because he's made a point of giving back to the Sherman Oaks community – engaging with SOHA, being involved with the Chamber of Commerce, and helping out local schools. "We try to be helpful whenever we can be," he says, adding that he's very appreciative of his many loyal customers who ordered in take-out when the restaurant was shut down because of COVID 19. "We still need your support," he adds. "And we need your patience and understanding. Restaurants have been extremely affected by the pandemic, not just the supply chain, but the labor market. Every element that contributes to getting the food onto the plate in front of you costs more."

You'd never know, however, looking at the revitalized menu and enhanced space. Duck and barbecued ramen will come back on the menu with new cocktails, whiskeys, and beers. Old favorites such as the Boneyard's signature chili donuts bacon dogs, calamari, and their fried chicken have never left and are famously delicious, for only being served on Mondays.

"We can't wait to get back to a sense of normalcy and seeing everyone's smiling faces."

Boneyard Bistro, 13539 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Phone: (818) 906-7427

The above article is not an advertisement. SOHA does not accept payment for articles.

MEMBERSHIP IN SOHA IS CRITICAL TO MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE!

From Board Member Nancy Sogoian: There continue to be many challenges to preserving what we love about Sherman Oaks, including the ongoing fight to preserve our single family neighborhoods, City Council redistricting efforts (to strengthen Sherman Oaks' position), and ongoing efforts to obtain the best Sepulveda Pass transit options for our community. SOHA's tireless work to achieve the best outcomes for Sherman Oaks began over 50 years ago and we continue that critical work today. But those efforts are contingent on your support and that of the community via membership in SOHA.

SOHA is the ONLY non-profit, volunteer-run and 100% member-supported community organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the quality of life in Sherman Oaks. We thank our members for their support and ask that they also TELL A FRIEND about SOHA's important work. Please share this newsletter with neighbors and encourage them to join! If YOU are not a member, join NOW. Whether you are a homeowner or renter, the small annual membership is a huge investment in keeping Sherman Oaks a wonderful place to live.

It's easy to join online! Go to SOHA914.com, click on Join SOHA, and become a member via PayPal or credit card (Note: To pay via credit card, select PayPal, then select Checkout as Guest). Thanks for your support!



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

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Very truly yours,



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POST OFFICE BOX 5223
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413

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