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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Ron Galperin
City Controller



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- *City Properties In Sherman Oaks Area -Can They Be Used For Parks, etc.?**
- *Parking Tickets In Sherman Oaks -How Much Money And How Is It Spent?**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin will be our guest speaker on Wednesday evening, March 15, 2017. He has served as the Los Angeles City Controller since July 1, 2013. The Los Angeles Times in its endorsement for Galperin for re-election noted “the office of the City Controller is a strange creature, part insider, part watchdog.”

Ron Galperin is also an attorney and has served as a cantor, a religious official of a synagogue. The responsibilities of the City Controller’s office is to be the auditor and general accountant of the City. Since 2013, City Control Galperin has conducted several audits and found inefficiencies and taxpayer waste in the City’s \$8 billion budget. City Controller Galperin has created transparency and his website is noted for the public’s ability to get information on City salaries and spending.

He was just re-elected and will serve an additional 5½ years before he reaches term limits. Find out what he intends to do to create efficiencies so vital City services can be enhanced.

Jules Feir announces that once again Carnival will be our Restaurant of the month.

Located at 4356 Woodman Ave in Sherman Oaks, owners Afif Hakim and Nabeel Halaby have created one of the most popular restaurants in town serving the finest Lebanese and American cuisine. Some of the always popular dishes are Chicken Shawarma, Lamb Kahab, the best Arabic salad and especially the Lentil soup.

The Tuesday Lamb Shank brings in the crowds who enjoy this very special dish.

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

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In December, the City released the West Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan, a pilot project and one of many traffic plans that Councilman Ryu is going to work on with the City Traffic Department for Sherman Oaks. In February, there was a public hearing and public comment period that collected approximately 1,000 comments and ballots from the community regarding the Traffic Plan.

Many people complained that the City Traffic Study was done in August when area schools are not open. The City has agreed to do a new Study shortly while the schools are in session.

* * *

Nancy Blaustein and Marshall Long are organizing a committee to evaluate the proposed Whole Foods Market at the intersection of Tyrone Avenue (Beverly Glen) and Ventura Boulevard between Ventura Boulevard and Moorpark Street. The first meeting was held on February 25, 2017 to discuss the project. Currently, the difficulties include additional street traffic, loading and unloading of large trucks, problems with the entrance and exit to and from the site, and the high volume of traffic on the adjacent streets particularly during rush hour.

At the intersection of Moorpark Street and Tyrone Avenue, double buses travelling northbound on Tyrone Avenue make, or attempt to make, a left turn onto Milbank Street going west. Due to the length of these buses, this left turn has to be made from the far right-hand side of the road in order to get enough clearance not to run into the corner across the street. It is not unusual to find the buses pinned against the northwest corner of the intersection without being able to back up or go forward. This blocks traffic both east and west bound on Moorpark Street as well as south bound on Beverly Glen Boulevard and causes a general stoppage of the traffic in the area. The proposed plans for the market are posted on the SOHA website.

* * *

Los Angeles City Council Deputies Alice Roth and Vicky Tavitian are investigating solutions for the eastbound Valley Vista Boulevard traffic problem at Van Nuys Boulevard. In the morning, cars on Valley Vista Boulevard that want to turn left to go northbound on Van Nuys Boulevard are forced to wait in a long line of cars that want to crossover Van Nuys Boulevard to get to Beverly Glen Boulevard.

Marshall Long has suggested a possible solution. There are parking lanes on both sides of Valley Vista Boulevard which could be converted to turning lanes. This would only require the conversion of these parking lanes for a distance of about fifty yards.

* * *

What can Sherman Oaks expect for new rapid transit since Measure M passed last November? In February, SOHA's Bob Anderson attended Metro's transit update to the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments and learned the following:

➤ The Orange Line Improvements project is "shovel ready" meaning Metro will have initial recommendations this summer and start constructing grade separations in 2018 at five busy Valley intersections – Fulton/Burbank, Woodman/Oxnard, Van Nuys, Sepulveda, and Reseda. Car traffic will remain at street level, with Orange Line buses on overpasses or underpasses. Metro will not complete the five separations until 2024 – six years seems like a long time for a shovel-ready project.

➤ The Bus Rapid Transit Connector from the Orange/Red Lines station in North Hollywood to the Gold Line in Pasadena either travels on streets or the 134 Freeway. Only ten percent of this 18-mile project is in the Valley, and Metro plans to finish it in 2021 – three years before the Orange Line improvements project. Maybe Pasadena has more clout than the Valley?

➤ The North San Fernando Valley Bus Rapid Transit Improvements project provides east-west bus transit across the north Valley. Metro is beginning pre-environmental studies to determine the best routes.

➤ The East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor runs from the Sylmar Metrolink Station along San Fernando Road and Van Nuys Boulevard to the Orange Line. Metro is billing this as a "rail-type" project. SOHA is pushing for light rail, but they still may use only a cheaper streetcar-type tram. Construction starts in 2021 and completes in 2027.

➤ And finally, the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor project. Metro promised a tunnel under the Pass, but rapid transit through the Pass probably starts with Metro adding toll Express Lanes on the I-405 by 2026. This gives them plenty of time to conduct technical feasibility studies on the final route and transit mode. This could be a rail subway from the Orange Line to the Westside Purple Line, but might also be something very different that requires less tunneling and uses more exotic technology. SOHA is watching carefully because Sherman Oaks could be severely impacted if the project is not done right. We will keep you posted.

* * *

SOHA met with two principal owners of IMT to discuss the community's concerns with IMT's current proposal for the Sunkist ICON project, which would require numerous zone changes and amendments to the city general plan. Due to the exemptions IMT is seeking, Sherman Oaks, through SOHA and our Councilman David Ryu, has input into what is actually developed.

The main concerns are a significant increase in traffic, dysfunctional parking, vastly out-of-character density, poor aesthetics and a huge negative impact on our infrastructure i.e., utilities, police, fire, roads etc. While IMT's representatives noted the current plan does incorporate some mitigations to our community concerns (and we acknowledged these changes are appreciated), there are still great concerns that as currently designed this project will NOT be a positive asset to our neighborhood.

Further meetings with IMT's architects and those who will be planning traffic mitigations will be held to determine what can be done. In addition, we stated that the current Draft EIR insufficiently addresses many of the true environmental concerns, in particular the massive increase in traffic that will undoubtedly occur.

We hope IMT will be a good neighbor and address these concerns in good faith, taking action to facilitate an acceptable solution in building a development that benefits, not harms, Sherman Oaks.

* * *

Stanley's Restaurant is scheduled to reopen shortly at their new location on Van Nuys Boulevard south of Ventura Boulevard at the old location of Fab's. We look forward to the return of this Sherman Oaks classic.

* * *

In the wake of recent heavy downpours, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer has highlighted the significant dangers of hiring unlicensed contractors to perform home repairs. City Attorney Feuer announced a recent case in which his office is seeking thousands of dollars in restitution for an elderly couple who sustained significant damage to their home by an unlicensed contractor.

City Attorney Feuer is advising consumers to get multiple bids for contracts, check references, and to watch out for:

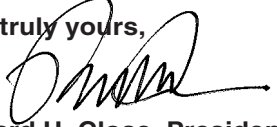
1. individuals without a state contractor's license;
2. unsolicited offers for roof inspection, especially after a storm; and
3. requests for a large down payment or cash only contracts.

Additional tips can be found at LACityAttorney.com.

* * *

Members: Help us grow! As part of our 2017 Membership Drive, bring this Newsletter to a meeting, along with a non-member Sherman Oaks homeowner as your guest, and dinner's on us! Thanks for your support!

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