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Carolyn Ramsay



David Ryu

**Debate:  
Which Candidate Will Represent You  
On The Los Angeles City Council?**

On May 19, Carolyn Ramsay or David Ryu will be elected as your new Council Member. This person will serve for up to 12 years. Decide who is the best person to protect your neighborhood. Phil Shuman of Fox News Channel 11 will be the Moderator.

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

The May 19, 2015 election is fast approaching. This will be an important election for you since on that date a new Council Member will be selected for Sherman Oaks. This person could serve for the next 12 years. At our Wednesday, April 15, 2015 meeting there will be a Debate between the two candidates on the ballot, Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu.

Phil Shuman, Newscaster at Channel 11 Fox News, will be the Moderator. Most of the meeting will consist of questions from Phil Shuman and yourself. This will be your opportunity to directly ask the candidates your questions.

The new Council Member will be the person that determines what is built in Sherman Oaks and your immediate neighborhood. That person will determine if traffic problems get better or worse. Will the parking problems in our commercial areas be solved? Will we get adequate city resources to protect and enhance our community?

At the Debate for the primary, we reached capacity for the meeting early. More than 75 people were turned away. Although the Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m., we recommend you come early during the Social Hour which starts at 6:15. Parking is available in the main lot on Woodman Avenue as well as parking lots on Riverside Drive and Huston Street.

After the Debate, you will have an opportunity to speak with the candidates one on one. Do not rely solely on campaign literature. Find out their background and what promises they make at the live Debate.

Jules Feir welcomes Costco as the Restaurant of the Month. We thank Manager Dennis Davenport and Costco for their support of SOHA and the Sherman Oaks community.

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

\* \* \*

SOHA recently received Notice of a Public Hearing on a proposed expansion of the Sportsman Lodge. The project will include the removal of the existing Event Center and the addition of a 97,807 sq. ft. (approximately 2.5 acres) mixed use shopping center with 24,251 sq. ft. of new restaurants (5), 37,518 sq. ft. of retail, and a 30,000 sq. ft. health club. A public hearing (the first and last, barring appeals) by the South Valley Planning Commission was held on March 25, 2015. About 150 people appeared and most of the people were opposed to the project.

The major issues were traffic and parking. The project will generate 3,300 additional daily trips to the already overloaded local streets. Six of the intersections adjacent to the project will be in a Level of Service (LOS) F, which is above capacity. Approximately 10% of the traffic will be southbound on Coldwater and 15% northbound on Coldwater.

The parking at the existing site is 567 parking sites. The zoning code requires 702 spaces for the proposed uses. The developer is proposing to provide 619 parking spaces on completion of the project with the deficit being made up through a sharing of spaces due to an offset in the hours of demand. Opponents argue that this relies on a valet parking system, which is impractical.

The Planning Commission approved the project.

\* \* \*

At our last Meeting, the Los Angeles City Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas discussed a new App that allows you to learn about medical and fire emergencies in our community. The App is PulsePoint and is available for iPhone and Android phones. Go to the respective App store and type in PulsePoint. Set it for the City of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

If you hear fire engines, an Ambulance or a Fire Department helicopter, you can go to the App and it will give you the location and nature of the emergency.

\* \* \*

Bob Anderson reports that Sherman Oaks residents can now file official helicopter noise complaints on the Federal Aviation Administration's new countywide helicopter noise complaint system. After working for more than two years, the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC, LAHelicopterNoise.org), headed by SOHA's Bob Anderson, helped convince the FAA to develop and implement this complaint system. Sherman Oaks has more than its fair share of helicopter noise from Carmageddon I to noisy news helicopters hovering over accidents on the I-405 and I-101 freeways. Now, we can do something about it, and know that each complaint will be logged and used to help reduce noise. You can even view a map to see how many complaints are being filed across various parts of Los Angeles County.

You can file a general complaint by telephoning (424) 348-4354 and answering a few simple questions. Try it – it's really easy! And, you can do this from your home phone or your mobile phone. You can also go online at <http://www.heli-noise-la.com> to file a complaint. You can fill out a simple online general complaint form. Or, even better, to ensure that the FAA knows exactly when and where the helicopter was flying and causing the disturbance, you can also file a specific complaint against a specific helicopter by identifying its flight path on an online map. There are instructions on the website to help you use it.

SOHA will be sending out more information on how to use the helicopter noise complaint system. Please give it a try the next time one of those noisy helicopters hovers over your house, vibrates your windows, or bothers you where you work. If everyone across Los Angeles County complains every time a helicopter bothers them, it won't take long for pilots to understand that they better start flying higher and have more respect for our communities.

If you have any challenges using either the telephone or online system, please contact SOHA's Bob Anderson at [BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com](mailto:BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com). Bob has direct contacts at the FAA and the complaint system operator, and can help get any glitches fixed.

In an example of unanimity in the community, a committee of members from SOHA, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the BID met with Councilman Tom LaBonge recently to discuss the proposed Sherman Oaks Plaza.

The Councilman LaBonge was presented with the concept for the Plaza and the status of the ongoing discussions with AT&T the current owners of the property. Councilman LaBonge was impressed with the concept, understanding the community benefits and opportunities. The Councilman directed his planning deputy Jonathan Brand to work with AT&T to move the discussions further to obtain the property.

Acting on another suggestion by Councilman LaBonge, Jeff Kalban, Chair of the Sherman Oaks Vision Committee and Jonathan Brand met with Barri Worth of Senator Bob Hertzberg's office at the site to discuss ways to bring state funding to the project. Councilman LaBonge would like to move the Plaza forward before he leaves office on July 1, 2015.

In response to last month's Newsletter, there was an outpouring of support for an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to stop McMansions in Sherman Oaks. John Isen will be forming a committee to discuss how to obtain changes to the City rules for development of homes in Sherman Oaks to discourage McMansions. If you would like to serve on the committee, please email the Association at [soha914@gmail.com](mailto:soha914@gmail.com).

You can also discuss this matter with John Isen at our Meeting on Wednesday evening, April 15, 2015.

Pedro Manrique, President of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce, invites everyone to the Spring Into Wellness Health Expo that will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Westfield Fashion Square in Sherman Oaks.

The Expo will be kicked off by weSPARK Cancer Support Center's STEP Into Wellness. This is a 3K Mall walk. weSPARK is a non-profit based in Sherman Oaks dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for cancer patients. The STEP Into Wellness walk will be led by celebrity fitness expert Billy Blanks Jr. and Sharon Catherine Blanks. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. at Westfield Fashion Square, and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m. Sign-ups are also available at [weSPARK.org/STEP](http://weSPARK.org/STEP).

The Expo will have over 40 vendors, health experts and others. There will be free health and safety services at the Expo. Providence Blood Donor Center will be hosting a blood drive from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free exercise classes and healthy cooking demonstrations will be featured throughout the day. For more information, contact the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce at (818) 906-1951.

Do you receive our email updates (once or twice a month as needed)? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at [soha914@gmail.com](mailto:soha914@gmail.com). If you would like to see snippets from our past Meetings, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meeting.

Very truly yours,  
  
Richard H. Close, President