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**SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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**David Wright****General Manager, L.A. Dept. of Water & Power*****LA's Clean Energy Future*****Putting Customer's First****Board of Directors**

Bob Anderson

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Matt Epstein

Jules Feir

Tom Glick

John Isen

Maria Pavlou Kalban

Marshall Long

Nancy Sogolian

Jay Weitzler

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018 - 7:15 PM

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

David Wright, General Manager of the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will be our guest speaker. Mr. Wright was appointed General Manager of the LADWP in 2016. Prior to joining the LADWP, he worked for the City of Riverside for 25 years as well as the Las Vegas Valley Water District. His work experience spans from Controller/Chief Financial Officer to Deputy of Public Utilities/Deputy General Manager. Mr. Wright is an expert in both water and electric utility operations.

Since taking over as General Manager of LADWP in 2016, he inherited well-known problems with their customer service and other aspects of the Department. Prior to Mr. Wright's hiring, the Los Angeles Times reported that LADWP was ranked dead last in customer satisfaction for the fifth year in a row in a survey of large Western power providers by research group J.D. Power & Associates. The LADWP is the largest municipal utility in the US with over 9,400 employees and is an independent city department.

Mr. Wright will discuss the challenges of running the department and their current goals. In the past, Sherman Oaks has had its fair share of problems with sink holes. This will be your opportunity to hear what major construction projects will benefit and impact Sherman Oaks which includes the status of the replacement of the City trunk line and Benedict Canyon discussed below.

Jules Feir announces that Casa Vega will be our Restaurant of the Month. This family-run restaurant, with daughter Christina Fowler at the helm, is no doubt one of the premier Mexican restaurants in Los Angeles. This successful restaurant has been at the corner of Ventura Boulevard and Fulton Avenue in Sherman Oaks for 50 years.

Zagat reviews it as a classic restaurant with delicious Mexican food in a setting of tufted red leather booths, brick walls, colorful paintings and twinkle lights lining the dining room and is nice and dark, making it perfect for Valley celeb spottings. We look forward to enjoying a sample of their delicious foods during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m. and thank them for their community support.

Good News regarding the Sunkist development from Nancy Sogolian, SOHA Board Member and Sunkist Committee Co-Chair: We are pleased to report that following eighteen months of negotiations with IMT (owner of the Sunkist property), they have agreed in writing to make impactful revisions to their Sunkist Project design plans!

SOHA's priorities for Sunkist are the reduction of negative impacts and ensuring the final development benefits and enhances our community. SOHA's goals are shared by the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, and we were successful in jointly creating a workable "Community Input Project" supported by our Councilman David Ryu and his Senior Planning Deputy, Renee Weitzer.

IMT has agreed to our community input as follows:

Revisions include reducing both the number and the overall square footage of the apartments (now 249, down from 298); a huge increase in open space via the creation of a 45-foot wide publicly-accessible greenspace stretching the length of the property along Hazeltine Avenue; the elimination of one entire apartment building, and the movement of the parking structure to the SW corner at reduced height. Safety revisions include the northern Hazeltine Avenue driveway limited to right turns in and out of the site.

Aesthetic improvements include increased set-backs of 15-feet along Riverside Drive and articulation of Riverside-facing facades to reduce monolithic look and to better fit neighborhood character. Additionally, IMT will provide sufficient on-site parking and permit parking if desired by residents of adjacent streets. In addition the creation of two left-turn lanes into Westfield mall parking from southbound Hazeltine will help prevent traffic backups at high traffic periods.

Our sincere thanks to IMT for their cooperation, to SONC for its contributions, and our thanks and appreciation to Councilman Ryu and Renee Weitzer. We look forward to a future presentation.

Maria Pavlou Kalban reports that our Committee on SB 827 is pleased to inform everyone that the Senate bill has been defeated. This bill would have affected major sections of Sherman Oak's single family residential neighborhoods by allowing 4-5 story apartment houses on our residential streets.

Since the bill will probably be reintroduced in some form next year, SOHA's Committee will continue to meet and formulate a presentation for Senator Robert Hertzberg that will explain again our objections to higher density in single family residential areas and the loss of local control over zoning. The Committee will offer suggestions on how the housing crisis can be addressed without adverse effects on single family neighborhoods. SOHA's Committee appreciates the complexity of this issue, but feels the need to explore other means of solving the problem. Outreach to other groups will be on going, as it is always important for SOHA to take an active role in this conversation.

Bob Anderson reports that a Metro representative will be in attendance at our May Meeting and present an update on current and future Metro activities in and around Sherman Oaks.

You will learn what's happening with the largest rapid transit project impacting Sherman Oaks – the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Project. Will it be a subway in a tunnel through the Pass? Will it surface to ground level in Sherman Oaks (we hope not)?

You will receive an update on the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project (from the Sylmar MetroLink station along Van Nuys Boulevard to the Orange Line) and the Orange Line Busway Improvements Project (with its proposed overpasses across Van Nuys and Sepulveda Boulevards). Both projects operate near Sherman Oaks' northern border and will impact our traffic and future access to rapid transit. Let's learn what Metro is planning and doing, and what we can do to ensure that all these projects positively impact our community.

Councilman Ryu's Party House ordinance, which passed in February, is now in effect. The ordinance gives law enforcement more resources to prosecute repeat offenders: professional party throwers who treat quiet residential streets like the Sunset Strip.

Coming to Sherman Oaks are three new solar-powered trash bins on Ventura Boulevard, part of a pilot by Councilman Ryu for cleaner streets. The solar-powered Ecube trash compacting bins not only have eight times the capacity of regular bins, but they can wirelessly communicate with the City Sanitation Department in real time, allowing for more efficient pickups.

Tom Glick reports that the Sherman Oaks Homelessness Committee, in partnership with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, is in the process of working on developing opportunity sites within the Sherman Oaks area for either use as short-term and permanent housing. Once the sites identified are finalized, the Committee will continue to work with the local, state and federal governmental agencies targeted with overseeing this significant public crisis to help the outreach to develop those sites.

New restaurant openings in Sherman Oak include Frida Restaurant (authentic Mexican cuisine) located at 15301 Ventura Boulevard in the Sherman Oaks Galleria, Bluebird Brasserie located at 13730 Ventura Boulevard just west of Woodman – Culinary tastes of Belgium, Bollywood Bites located at 13355 Ventura Boulevard east of Woodman – Chef Sanjay Patel serving Indian food and O' Cado Restaurant, Wine & Beer Garden is opening at 14568 Ventura Boulevard this Memorial Day weekend in the Village at Sherman Oaks. They will be introducing globally inspired plant based dishes and a large selection of wines and craft beers.

On Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 9:00 am to Noon, the Sherman Oaks Beautification Committee will be holding a Big Sunday cleanup of the Library Square neighborhood, led by Emily Rose Newmark. There will be refreshments, tee shirts, community service credit and camaraderie. Volunteers should sign up on the Big Sunday website for Project #35 and meet at the Sherman Oaks Library. Questions should be directed to SOBC Co-Chair, Leslie Elkan, at (818) 326-0273.

From May to November 2018, Benedict Canyon Drive is closed from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM from Mulholland Drive to Hutton Drive, Monday through Friday and some scheduled Saturdays. This work, conducted by LADWP, will be necessary to replace 5,200 feet of pipeline to increase water reliability and fire protection. There will be 9 traffic officers and LADWP security staff on-site for the duration of the project to facilitate traffic flow on surrounding streets, including Beverly Glen.

Recently, Councilman Ryu and the City's Department of Recreation and Parks hosted a public meeting on the proposed synthetic turf field lighting project at the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park. In other community improvements, power washing is underway to clean Ventura Boulevard, and crews have completed Ventura Boulevard from Sepulveda to Beverly Glen. They are expected to reach their final destination, Fulton, in the coming weeks.

Please visit the Association's Website at www.shermanoaks914.com. Obtain information about our next Meeting, read Newsletters, learn about attractions in the area, and find out how to contact elected officials and City Departments for services.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President