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See The NEW Sherman Oaks

Architect Jeff Kalban Will Explain And Show You The Plans To Create The NEW Sherman Oaks

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

Do you want to hear about the “NEW” Sherman Oaks? If you do, you should attend our January 15, 2014 Meeting to listen to our featured guest speaker, architect Jeffrey Kalban. Jeff will talk about the changes that could take place in Sherman Oaks. He will explain and show you the proposed Plan to make the Sherman Oaks Community more beautiful and how to encourage a more charming and walkable neighborhood. Jeffrey will specifically speak about changes to Ventura Boulevard, the Los Angeles River, traffic and transportation, a new Sherman Oaks Plaza and increased safety.

Jeffrey and his family have lived in Sherman Oaks since 1972. In 2011, Kalban Architects was named as one of the top 50 architectural firms in the U.S. by ARCHITECT Magazine.

He is also a member of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and has been working with Council LaBonge’s office, land owners, non-profits and other Sherman Oaks community groups. This will be your opportunity to learn about the plan and provide your suggestions. This is not intended to be a “long term” study, but rather intended to be implemented now.

Parking might be limited because Notre Dame has a basketball game the same evening of our Meeting. If you are unable to find parking in their lots, you can park on the street or at the mall across the street from the school.

Once again, Jules Feir announces that Smoke City Market, the authentic Texas style and very popular barbeque restaurant, will be our Restaurant of the Month. They are located in the heart of Sherman Oaks at 5242 Van Nuys Boulevard. Smoke City has received high reviews from Zagat as well as other major restaurant critics for their delicious foods.

They smoke their meats over natural oak and prepare their sides and sauces from scratch. The owner, Michael Gans, is proud to bring the rich traditions of authentic Texas barbeque to Los Angeles. We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their food during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m.

* * *

Recently, the Los Angeles City Council honored Jules Feir, Vice President of the Association for his 25 years of community service to Sherman Oaks. He was presented with a street sign which reads Jules Feir Way. He was honored by Councilmen Tom LaBonge, Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz and other Members of the City Council. In a highly unusual action, both Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Attorney Mike Feuer came to the City Council Chambers to honor Jules. After the event, Jules, family, friends and a large number of Councilmembers went to the City Council special meeting room to celebrate.

It is definitely a fitting tribute for all the work he has done for the Sherman Oaks community. Thank you Jules for all of your hard work, dedication and passion for making Sherman Oaks a terrific place to live!

* * *

SOHA hosted a successful Toy Drive on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at Gelson’s Market. We collected hundreds of toys for a party the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services held for abused and foster children. Many thanks to Jules Feir (Chairman of the Event), Matt Epstein (three fantastic antique cars to house the toys), Chuck Betz, Goodway Printing and, of course, Marshall Long (Santa Claus).

We would also like to thank the following officials for attending the event: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Sheriff Lee Baca, our Councilman Tom LaBonge, former Assembly Speaker (and our Assemblyman) and candidate for State Senate for the Sherman Oaks area Robert Hertzberg, former City Controller Wendy Greuel, Assistant LAPD Chief Michel Moore, LAPD Captain Ivan Minsel in charge of our Van Nuys Division, former Assemblyman and current Los Angeles Planning Commissioner Richard Katz and our Assistant City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutor (and LAUSD Board Member) Tamar Galatzan. Thanks to the candidates who will replace our retiring Councilman (in 2015) Teddy Davis, Joan Pelico and Carolyn Ramsey for attending the event as well.

In addition, we would like to thank the Los Angeles Fire and Police Department personnel for bringing equipment for the children to look at and climb into while attending the event. It was a nice added bonus for them.

Last and especially not least, SOHA wishes to thank Gelson’s corporate and the Sherman Oaks

store manager, William Issa, and his employees for their support and providing food and drinks to the hundreds of people who came to donate toys. Your support for the event made it possible for many foster and abused children to receive a gift during the Holiday Season.

* * *

SOHA's Bob Anderson is working on the NEW Sherman Oaks plan that will be discussed at our Meeting. He is leading the subcommittee on traffic/transportation improvements. This is a very exciting endeavor and we hope that our SOHA Members will provide important input on how we should improve our community. If you have any suggestions for or questions on the Plan for a NEW Sherman Oaks, please contact Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com.

* * *

The future of public transportation on Van Nuys Boulevard has changed. In November, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) updated their planning for the East Valley Transit Corridor to include important comments made by local organizations and officials, including SOHA and our Councilman Tom LaBonge. These comments included (1) assurance of direct connections to the future transit system through the Sepulveda Pass (to the West Side) and also to Amtrak, Metrolink, and future high-speed rail projects in the north Valley, (2) strong preferences for a light rail system versus dedicated bus lanes, (3) evaluation of negative impacts to parking and businesses on Van Nuys Boulevard, and (4) elimination of any light-rail on Van Nuys Boulevard south of the Metro Orange Line. Metro is now looking at additional alternatives such as curb-running bus lanes and median running trams. SOHA will continue to monitor this project to ensure that it fulfills the needs of Sherman Oaks without negatively impacting our community.

* * *

Milt Olin, a well-known entertainment attorney, was hit and killed while bicycling on Mulholland Drive on Sunday, December 8, 2013, by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department patrol car. He was riding his bicycle in the bike lane at the time and was struck from behind. The officer was taken to the hospital. As this Newsletter is being written, the Sheriff's Department has not released any information to the family on the accident. Milt is survived by his widow Louise and their two sons Christopher and Geoffrey Olin. Our thoughts go out to them in this time of sadness. We hope that the Sheriff's Department will do a thorough investigation and release the facts of the incident. We urge that bicycle riders take extra precautions during the holidays.

* * *

Councilman Tom LaBonge has been dedicating City resources for repairing and upgrading streets in Sherman Oaks.

Valley Vista, once a concrete street, was recently resurfaced between Van Nuys Boulevard and Crisp Canyon Road. The City's Bureau of Street Services ground down the top 4 inches of concrete, leaving space for concrete gutters on the sides, and installed a new layer of smooth asphalt.

Also, the concrete drainage dip on the east side of Burbank Boulevard at Sepulveda Boulevard has been reconstructed and now provides for smooth driving as you travel on Burbank Boulevard to and from the 405 on-ramp. Prior to reconstruction, this drainage dip was full of cracks and potholes. Drivers used to have to slow down considerably which affected the flow to and from the 405 on-ramp. Traffic is flowing much smoother now.

* * *

We wish to thank Jules Feir and Bloomingdale's for the recent fundraiser at the Sherman Oaks store. Money raised at the event will be used for beautification of Sherman Oaks. In addition, our participating members received a 15% discount by Bloomingdale's on purchases that day.

* * *

We are pleased to announce that attorney Jay Weitzler has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Association. Jay has been involved with the Association for many years and is an active participant in a number of projects. His legal expertise will also be of great assistance for Commercial Investment Real Estate.

Hopefully you were at the recent meeting in which he questioned Tamar Galatzan, a Member of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education about the effort to fire Superintendent Deasy (instead his contract was extended). There was also a lively discussion about the one billion dollar iPad program in the schools – a necessary or a waste of school funds?

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Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com.

Have you visited our new website? It provides you important information about Sherman Oaks and the services available. Need a special telephone number? Want to access a City service? Our website at www.shermanoaks914.com will provide you with the information you need.

If you missed our last Meeting that featured State Senator Alex Padilla, go to www.youtube.com and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meeting.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President