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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Founded in
1964

Your City Services

(Road & Sidewalk Repairs, Neighborhood Cleanup, Tree Trimming, Bulky Items)

Your Fire Department

(Paramedic Services, Brush Clearance Requirements, Home Protection)

Speaking: Kevin James, President of Board of Public Works Commission.
Linda M. Cessor, Battalion Chief L A Fire Department for Sherman Oaks.

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

The Public Works Department and the Fire Department provide many of the services that enhance the quality of life in your neighborhood and provide life-saving services. Our April Meeting will focus on these two Departments. Kevin James, President of the Los Angeles City Board of Public Works, will discuss services that you are aware of from the Department (trash pick-up, neighborhood clean-ups, street tree maintenance, etc.) and City services that are available to you that you may not be aware of.

Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief, Linda Cessor, who oversees paramedic and fire protection for Sherman Oaks, will discuss services available and requirements (such as Brush Clearance). She will exhibit some of the life-saving equipment that will arrive if you ever need to call for paramedic help.

In the past, we have had many City Departments explain services available at our meetings. They have been very well attended, and people have learned a lot about services they are not aware of. We have decided this time to focus on two Departments that provide vital day-to-day services to you and your neighbors.

This is also your opportunity to learn about life-saving training that is available to you to better equip you if an emergency arises.

Also speaking at the Meeting will be Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of the Valley Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2011. The Arts Center is located on the California State University Northridge campus. Thor will explain the programs that are being held at the Center, how to receive information about upcoming events and how to become involved in this major venue in the San Fernando Valley.

Jules Feir is happy to announce that Jinky's Cafe will be the Restaurant of the Month.

Jinky's, located at 14120 Ventura Boulevard, has been a 4-star Valley favorite for many years and is known for their amazing selection of more than 100 breakfasts, such as their signature pancakes, crepes, omelets, and other healthy varieties as well as a great lunch menu. They have been so successful that the owner Alan Verma now has expanded Jinky's to five locations.

We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their delicious food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

* * *

As some of you may have noticed, the City has placed Traffic Control Officers at both of the intersections of Coldwater Canyon and Laurel Canyon and Ventura Boulevard to assist with the free flow of traffic during the morning rush hour. The results have been nothing short of spectacular, eliminating the long backup of traffic and the bottlenecks that were there every morning, with the added benefit of reducing the blood pressure of those who have to pass through those intersections on the way to work or other appointments or errands.

In an effort to expand this program to Beverly Glen, Van Nuys and Sepulveda Boulevards where they cross Ventura, Board Member Jay Weitzler has applied to Councilman Ryu's Office for the use of some of his Discretionary Fund Account money to pay for added manpower to place Traffic Officers there as well.

We remain hopeful that Sherman Oaks will begin to receive its fair share of City funds in order to help our increasingly congested neighborhood.

* * *

The future of Valley traffic and transit is coming to your November ballot! The draft of LA Metro's Long-Range Transportation Expenditure Plan was published on March 18th. The draft plan identifies major highway and transit projects for the next 40 years across all of Los Angeles County. And the plan will impact all Valley residents – whether they drive their cars or take rapid transit.

Funding to implement the plan comes from extending the existing one-half-cent sales tax and adding a new one-half-cent sales tax – both until 2057. And your November ballot will include a measure to vote on this sales tax increase to give Metro \$120 billion over 40 years. So, how should you vote?

In the draft plan, the major Valley projects are the East Valley Transit Corridor (north-south from Sylmar to the Orange Line in Van Nuys), a light-rail tunnel under the Sepulveda Pass (from the Orange Line to the Westside), and conversion of the Orange Line from a busway to light rail (North Hollywood to Woodland Hills).

These sound great – but there’s a catch. The East Valley Transit Corridor is not complete until 2027, the Sepulveda Pass tunnel is not complete until 2033, and the Orange Line conversion is not complete until 2057! So, Metro’s draft Expenditure Plan begins to give the Valley its fair share of projects (but not enough), but utterly fails to build these projects on a fair timetable. Metro’s draft plan raises major concerns for Valley voters and is not nearly as wonderful as the LA Times and Daily News articles made it sound.

SOHA cannot support a draft Expenditure Plan with delayed schedules. We submitted five pages of recommendations to Metro, explaining how Valley voters would be very discouraged from voting for increasing the sales tax by the draft plan and what Metro should do about it. We recommended accelerating the three major Valley projects, so they would all begin early, and all be complete by 2028 – 29 years sooner than Metro had planned. That’s something that SOHA and the Valley can support.

We are continuing to work with Metro and elected officials to make sure the Valley gets its fair share – not just the number of Valley projects but also their early completion. We won’t be fooled again!

Marshall Long reports that he has researched the status of the Solley’s shopping center on Van Nuys adjacent to Gelson’s. The new owners of the site have set a deadline for the closing of all businesses for six months while construction of the new spaces is on-going.

After the shopping center reopens they can return after negotiating new leases at a higher rent. Based on discussions with several tenants the only business planning to return is FedEx. They will be relocating their current workforce to other FedEx locations in Encino and Studio City. Solley’s previously closed its doors. According to existing tenants, the new owners are hoping to interest higher end restaurants and stores to the remodeled center.

Councilmember David Ryu announced the hiring of Adeena Bleich as his Deputy Chief of Staff -- managing field operations, constituent services, and community partnerships. She has a unique combination of business management, fundraising, and community outreach experience. Bleich began her career as an educator and administrator at the American Jewish University. She later served as Field Deputy for Council District 5. In this capacity, she focused on helping constituents navigate City services and developed relationships with community and business organizations. She also served under former Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn as a Senior Policy Analyst, in the Office of Management and Budget. Adeena can be reached by emailing adeena.bleich@lacity.org

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps Clean and Green Youth Program is coordinating various street maintenance efforts and services throughout Council District 4 with youth from the area, cleaning and improving the same area in which they live. LA Conservation Corps and its crews, regularly remove overgrown vegetation, garbage, and bulky items. This effort is of special benefit for the residents of Sherman Oaks. To request service in your neighborhood, email Councilmember Ryu’s Office at cd4.issues@lacity.org.

The Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District is pleased to announce the opening of an upscale, casual eatery in the Village, The Sherman. The Sherman is located at 14633 Ventura Boulevard. Chef Jason Francisco (The Tasting Kitchen, Jaime Oliver’s Food Revolution) creates delicious dishes with fresh and sustainable ingredients, and owner Theo Mavro and GM/Partner Phil Felton, who spent years working in high-end hotel bars like the Beverly Hills Hilton, create delicious drinks at the full-service bar, which offers a varied wine collection and an extensive list of specialty cocktails. The Sherman is open for dinner, with plans to launch weekend brunch, and eventually serve lunch. The Attic, the cozy cocktail and whiskey bar above the Sherman, is also open and has already become a popular watering hole.

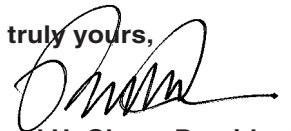
We wish them good luck.

Jeff Kalban wants to invite the community to a very special Sherman Oaks Vision meeting Thursday, May 5, 6:30 pm at the Sherman Oaks Library. It will be a presentation about the History of Sherman Oaks.

The presentation will be led by historian Tom Boulet with special guest Paul Wormser, Director of the Sherman Library & Gardens. Discover the story you may never have known through this interesting, informative and fun evening.

Please visit the Association’s new 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. If you have items that should be linked to the website, email us the information at soha914@gmail.com.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President