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# Who Will Be The New L A County Sheriff? A Debate Among Candidates For Sheriff

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Do you want to know who will be the next Sheriff of Los Angeles County? If you do, you need to attend SOHA's May Meeting. Our Meeting will feature a Debate among the candidates to succeed Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. The election will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Candidates at the Debate will be Sheriff's Lieutenant Patrick Gomez; Assistant Sheriff James Hellmold; Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell; Former Sheriff's Commander Bob Olmsted; Assistant Sheriff Todd Rogers; and retired Undersheriff Paul Tanaka.

Events over the last year and federal criminal indictments make it clear that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department needs to be restructured and reformed. This will be your opportunity to decide which candidate is best suited to be the next Sheriff of Los Angeles County.

Phil Shuman, news reporter/anchor for KTTV Fox Channel 11, will be the Moderator. He is also a columnist for the Studio City, Sherman Oaks News and a local resident. Phil Shuman is extremely knowledgeable in this area and can provide great insight to the differences between the candidates. He will be able to help us decide which person should be in charge of over 18,000 sworn deputies and professional personnel.

Jules Feir is proud to announce that for the 10<sup>th</sup> occasion Casa Vega will be our Restaurant of the Month. This is quite an accomplishment and SOHA is thankful for their support.

The Vega family is celebrating over 50 years in business with daughter Christina Fowler at the helm and she has added much to the business with her creativity. Casa Vega remains one of the most popular and finest Mexican Restaurants in Los Angeles and we are happy to have them here in Sherman Oaks.

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

\* \* \*

**Update on 405 Freeway by Bob Anderson:**

The I-405 Widening Project is winding down and I'm sure all Sherman Oaks residents will be happy when it is complete. The Sepulveda Boulevard undercrossing bridge (near Valley Vista) is complete. The traffic barriers and restoration of Sepulveda Boulevard under the bridge should be complete by the end of June. The Valley Vista on-ramp to the southbound I-405 is operational and should be fully complete by the end of May. Final signal work and reinstatement of the left-turn lane from Sepulveda Boulevard to the on-ramp should be complete by the end of July. The Valley Vista off-ramp from the southbound I-405 is open at full capacity and should be fully configured by the end of July. All roadway work and landscaping in Sherman Oaks should be complete by the end of July. The Mulholland Bridge is complete and all retaining walls near the bridge should be complete before July.

The Skirball Bridge should be complete by the end of June. The Skirball on-ramp and off-ramp from the northbound I-405 are complete. The Skirball on-ramp and off-ramp from the southbound I-405 should be complete by the end of June. Widening, repaving, and resignaling of Sepulveda Boulevard between the Skirball Bridge and Mountaingate should be complete by the end of June.

For those of you who drive over the hill, repaving of Sepulveda Boulevard near Montana should be complete by the end of June, and the Wilshire/Sepulveda intersection should be complete by the end of May. The I-405 northbound HOV lane from the I-10 to the I-101 should be open by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The I-405 southbound HOV lane from the I-101 to the I-10 should be open before July 4<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*

Jeff Kalban of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council has formed a committee comprising members from across Sherman Oaks, including SOHA's Bob Anderson and Joan Pelico, one of the City Councilmember candidates of our own Council District 4. The committee is working with all Sherman Oaks stakeholders, including SOHA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Improvement District, and many other community organizations to develop "A Vision for Sherman Oaks" – a visionary plan for beautification and future development in Sherman Oaks. The plan will serve as a guide to our community leaders, developers, and elected officials to tell them what we want for Sherman Oaks' future.

The "Vision for Sherman Oaks" Committee met on May 1, 2014 to review studies for facilities along the L.A. River and an innovative "gateway" concept for Sherman Oaks. The Committee has initiated actions in many key areas of the plan – traffic mitigation, transportation, beautification, parking, and the Riverwalk. Along with members of Councilman Tom LaBonge's office (who has provided strong support), Committee members met with AT&T's corporate real estate representative to discuss the potential of a plaza on Ventura Boulevard. They also met with Assemblyman Nazarian's office and LAMetro concerning traffic mitigation improvements. The subcommittees are starting a push to implement the plan's short-term goals and are meeting with representatives of federal, state and local elected officials to identify the most appropriate first steps.

Contact Bob Anderson at [bobhillsideordinance@roadrunner.com](mailto:bobhillsideordinance@roadrunner.com) to get involved.

Marshall Long, who Chairs our Land Use Committee, has been approached by Consensus Inc. who worked for the IVT developer on its project (Sepulveda Boulevard just south of the 101 Freeway). They have invited us to meet with their President, Josh Gertler, to discuss proposed expansion at the Fashion Square Shopping Center. Marshall Long and Kimberly Gerston will meet with them during the week of May 26, 2014 to discuss their plans. We look forward to hearing what they have to say especially since there is a massive development project proposed nearby on the Sunkist property.

One of the most common requests Councilman Tom LaBonge's office receives is for speed bumps on residential streets. While the first step is a petitioning process that requires at least 66% of dwelling units on the block to support the installation, the entire speed bump program has been on hold since the City's drastic budget cuts during the recession. Councilman LaBonge has introduced a motion in the City Council to restore the speed bump program. While this does not automatically take care of the issue, it's an important first step.

Councilman LaBonge's Chief of Staff, Carolyn Ramsay, has left the position to focus full-time on her campaign for the council seat. Carolyn started out as a field deputy in the council office nearly 8 years ago and also served as Communications Director. She left the office for a little over a year to serve as the head of the Trust for Public Lands Los Angeles office and then returned in 2011 to serve as Chief of Staff. An announcement will be made soon as to who will replace her as Chief of Staff.

If you see a large bulky trash item on a city street or alley, call the city's 311 service department and the item will be picked up promptly by the City's Sanitation Department. If you see something that has been sitting for a long time or an area that needs some extra attention from the council office's beautification truck, call the council office at (213) 485-3337 and they will send out the truck and take care of the problem.

Jay Weitzler indicates our thank you to the new Ralphs market for immediately becoming a very concerned and generous member of the Sherman Oaks community. They donate a large amount of cakes, breads and similar items daily to the disadvantaged and homeless by giving to the Bagel Brigade, whose volunteers pick up the food and drop it off at a nearby distribution center.

Jay's wife Linda can testify on the amount of donations – as she attempts to fit all the items donated into her Volvo Wagon!!

While we had extensive, and sometimes contentious, negotiations with Ralphs regarding their new building, they are rapidly earning our appreciation for being a good neighbor.

Joan Pelico reports on an important repaving project for Sherman Oaks:  
Beverly Glen Boulevard - Mulholland Drive to Beverly Glenn Place will be repaved. The project is scheduled on two consecutive weekends: (1) Saturday, May 17, 2014 and Sunday, May 18, 2014; and (2) Saturday, May 24, 2014 and Sunday, May 25, 2014. The working hours will be from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the roadway will be open overnight. Crews will start at Beverly Glenn Place and work towards Mulholland Drive. Local residents will be allowed access; however, expect delays. Emergency Response Vehicles will have full access at all times.

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

Have you visited our website lately? 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](http://www.shermanoaks914.com) will provide you with the information you need.

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