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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Scott Schmerelson, LAUSD School Board Member:

***Quality of Sherman Oaks Schools • *Charter Schools –
The Pluses and the Minuses • *Art at School and in Community**

Special Date



COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL • RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Special Date



MEETING DATE CHANGE: Our September Meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month (September 27, 2017) due to the unavailability of Notre Dame High School. The Meeting will feature Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Scott Schmerelson who represents schools in the Sherman Oaks area. Local schools are one of the most important assets of a community. Many people decide where to live and purchase a home based on the quality of the local schools.

School Board Member Schmerelson will discuss what new programs and opportunities exist within local schools. Representatives from Sherman Oaks Elementary School and Dixie Canyon Elementary School will be at the meeting to explain how their schools have made improvements over the years which has helped them become distinguished and highly rated schools. Learn how your property tax dollars are being used to educate local students and fund educational programs. You will also be able to determine what programs are available and how you can volunteer at one of our schools!!

Jules Feir announces that Boneyard Bistro is our Restaurant of the Month. Located at 13359 Ventura Boulevard this most popular Barbeque Restaurant is celebrating 10 years in business and has earned very high ratings from Open Table, Yelp and other review sites. The creative owner/chef Asaron Robins serves up slow cooked meats, in an eclectic bistro and offers a large beer and wine selection all within an upscale setting. It is no wonder that Boneyard Bistro is known as one the best Barbeques in Los Angeles. They will be providing a sampling of their food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

* * *

Marshall Long reports that the City of Los Angeles has announced their desire to revise the City's local Specific Plans by region. This includes the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan in Sherman Oaks. The intention was voted on and passed by the City Council in 2016, but no action had been taken until now. The first step in this process is to gather suggestions on possible changes to the Plan as suggested by individual groups or by a committee.

Obviously this is of great concern to SOHA because it presents a huge temptation by the City to increase density and height and the concomitant traffic associated with denser developments. There are many ways to do this including stacking the Committee with pro-development people or groups.

The Mayor has expressed his opinion that the City needs more housing (read density). SOHA opposes any changes to the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan. We will watch the progress of these events carefully and work with Councilman David Ryu.

* * *

SOHA Board Member Nancy Sogoian provides an update on the Sunkist project: Despite SOHA's continuing efforts to obtain a Traffic Study addendum to include Westfield Mall holiday traffic (in order to reveal the true and complete traffic impacts of the proposed Sunkist project), IMT (the developer) has not yet agreed to prepare the Addendum.

Our community has a right to a full and accurate depiction of all negative impacts in order to best create effective mitigations. The current incomplete traffic study was prepared in late January – after the holiday season. We have sought the action of our Councilmember David Ryu to require--and not merely request--that IMT do a traffic study during the holiday season. Ryu has indicated he supports our efforts and is taking steps to help facilitate a Traffic Study Addendum. While we are still waiting for confirmation of IMT's agreement to do so, we appreciate Councilmember Ryu's efforts in assisting SOHA to help create a development that enhances, and not harms, our neighborhood.

* * *

Jay Weitzler indicates that the City of Los Angeles has proposed to raise the cost of appealing a decision by the Planning Department from the \$89 it now charges to between \$271 and \$13,500. The Mayor's office, apparently forgetting we pay taxes for City services, has suggested a Land Use Appeal Fee of \$13,500 which they contend is the cost to process these appeals and the cost developers have to pay should they want to appeal a decision. So in the event a developer asks the City for a variance to build that huge development next door, and if the City agrees with his request, it will cost you a significant amount of money to appeal that decision. As we know, the appeals process often results in downsizing, but how many of us could afford to pay large costs to fight a bad decision? The City Council has discussed this issue and seems to be supporting an increase to \$271, an almost 300% hike.

The suggested increase appears to be another attempt by developers to put rules in place to restrict the ability of individual citizens and Homeowners groups like this one to prevent close examination of their projects. SOHA is adamantly opposed to raising the Land Use fees by any amount. We are also concerned that the City is going to attempt to place a separate fee on many City services which we feel we already pay for with our taxes

* * *

In preparation of "Back to School" traffic, Councilman David Ryu allocated some of his office's discretionary funds to station white glove officers at the intersections of Sepulveda and Ventura Boulevards as well as Beverly Glenn and Ventura Boulevards in order to keep traffic moving and streets clear.

Last year, he funded a transportation study to examine the severity of traffic in Sherman Oaks and found that these two streets displayed extreme gridlock during peak hours. The white glove officers will be keeping these intersections open until the end of October.

* * *

On Friday, October 13, 2017 Notre Dame High School will host its homecoming game and will commemorate and recognize the Sherman Oaks celebration of its 90th anniversary. A formal introduction to the community will take place on the football field prior to the start of the game at 7:00 p.m. If you enjoy great High School football then come and enjoy the evening along with the festivities. Parking is at a premium so we suggest you park in the Bank of America parking lot across from the school at Riverside Drive and Woodman Avenue.

* * *

On Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be the amazing 27th annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair that takes place on Ventura Blvd. from Van Nuys Boulevard to Kester Avenue. This popular event draws over 100,000 visitors and this year it will be bigger and better than ever. Nine city blocks will be filled with two stages, food and drinks, over 200 vendors and exhibits, carnival rides, a pet expo, classic cars, and more.

The celebration of the 90th anniversary of Sherman Oaks will take place at the event. Past and present elected officials as well as other dignitaries will be acknowledged on stage. SOHA will once again have a staffed booth and we look forward to you coming by to visit.

* * *

Have you heard the rumors about the new public plaza in Sherman Oaks? Wouldn't that be terrific! Rumors abound that Councilman Ryu is working with local groups on a plaza that could span almost an acre between Ventura Boulevard and Dickens Street, just east of Kester Avenue. This plaza is said to have multiple uses, including a boulevard-focused gathering area, a village green area, and an outdoor classroom area near Sherman Oaks Elementary School. Sounds perfect for Sherman Oaks.

But, we are holding our breath because we have heard nothing new for quite a while and hope the plaza isn't stalled in red tape. We are also hoping that an announcement might be imminent, possibly coinciding with this Fall's 90th anniversary of Sherman Oaks. What better way to celebrate than the groundbreaking of our own village green – the Sherman Oaks Plaza!

* * *

The Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District (BID) has announced that La Reina median lighting has been completed by the Bureau of Street Lighting. After dark, our palm trees are dramatically lit in attractive changing colors and there are bright bollard lights amongst the median plants and flowers that provide brightness for safety.

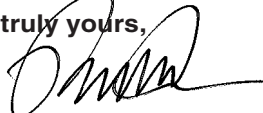
The Village BID has hired Streetplus to provide ambassadors and day porters. The ambassadors are trained to deal with the homeless and get them services and the day porters are a higher level team than we have had in the past.

The Village BID and Councilman Ryu's Office are offering help to other stretches of Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks that would like to set up a Business Improvement District. Interested property owners along Ventura Boulevard can email Leslie Elkan at leslie@villageatshermanoaks.com for more information.

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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.

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. 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

Return Service Requested

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Deliver By September 23

