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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5223

SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413

Information: (818) 377-4590

www.shermanoaks914.com

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Vince Bertoni

Planning Director of the City of Los Angeles

***Effective City Planning in Neighborhoods and Citywide**

***Balancing Economic Prosperity and Neighborhood Preservation**

***Community Plans - Is Consensus Possible?**

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

Our June Meeting will feature Vince Bertoni, the Planning Director for the City of Los Angeles. He was appointed in February by Mayor Eric Garcetti in the hopes to change the Planning Department.

The Planning Director has one of the most important jobs in the City. This position includes protecting our quality of life in Sherman Oaks from inappropriate development, area traffic congestion and providing sufficient parking on our streets.

Planning Director Bertoni is the person who can stop the bad projects before they go to the Planning Commission for approval. He can establish rules and procedures that require mitigation by developers. He can make sure that the Community Plans are applied without granting numerous Exemptions.

Planning Director Bertoni wants to know what you think should be done to protect our Community. See you on Wednesday, June 15.

Jules Feir is happy to announce that California Chicken Cafe is the Restaurant of the Month.

California Chicken Cafe has been serving great rotisserie chicken, salads, and wraps since 1991 when its first restaurant opened on Melrose Avenue. Two college friends, Andre and Dave, started California Chicken Cafe with the vision of a quick service restaurant with great value and food.

Currently, California Chicken Cafe has 8 locations including Encino, a few blocks west of Sepulveda Boulevard, and others located throughout the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles area.

Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

How will you vote on the rapid transit November Ballot Measure that will increase LA County's sales tax by ½% to 9.5%? This is a tremendously important question. The Valley certainly didn't get our fair share of rapid transit from Ballot Measure R's one-half-cent sales tax increase in 2008 – unless you consider the two Valley Metro stations (Universal Studios and North Hollywood) a fair share of the 87 stations now open countywide.

So, what must Metro do to convince Valley voters that we will get our fair share this time around? Obviously, the most important Metro action is proving their commitment to the Valley and all voters in the County. How does Metro do that? Easy, they simply incorporate legally binding commitments to projects into the measure that we will see on the November ballot. Metro should want to do that, shouldn't they? But, what happens when problems occur and plans need to be changed. That's easy too – simply also incorporate a legally binding change process into the ballot measure – a process that ensures the public is legally involved in decisions on future changes. So, we all know that we have a continuing voice on what rapid transit gets built. That sounds fair!

Another very important question is how people get to Metro stations and that question should also be addressed in Metro's planning and ballot measure. If Metro wants our tax dollars to pay for rapid transit, we should be able to easily get to stations.

Sure, we can walk if a station is five minutes from our house. But, most stations are not that close, and many of us don't ride a bike. So, guess what, we drive our cars and want to park at the stations.

Sadly, most stations have no dedicated parking, and those that do don't have enough. In fact, way back in 2008, when Metro was pursuing Ballot Measure R for the initial one-half-cent sales tax increase to fund transit, Metro's then CEO spoke at a SOHA meeting and was asked about parking at Metro stations.

He answered that Metro's job is not parking, but instead planning, constructing, and operating transit systems.

SOHA doesn't think so, and neither should Metro. Today, Metro has about 19,100 dedicated parking spaces at their 87 stations. However, most of the spaces are filled by early morning and then what do you do? How can you plan to take Metro when you have to drive 20 minutes to a station that probably has no parking space for you?

What do people do in other large cities? Washington DC has a light-rail system with 88 stations, very close to the 87 Metro stations in LA County. Washington DC's system had more than 58,000 parking spaces at its stations in 2008, and is building more all the time. They understand that about one-third of their riders drive to stations, which is why they're planning to add more than 40,000 more parking spaces for a total of 100,000 spaces – five times more than LA Metro has at our stations. So, let's also get a Metro requirement for adequate parking.

That's part of our fair share and we won't be fooled again!

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Marshall Long reports that the proposed AngelFest music and art festival, originally scheduled for the Sepulveda Basin in October 2016 has been postponed until October 2017. The general scope of the plans has not changed. They are still projecting 65,000 attendees on each of the three days, along with a 16 day setup and an 8 day knockdown period. Thus the park will not be available for normal activities for about a month. The Army Corps of Engineers, along with their hired consultant, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, which found that there would be No Significant Environments Impact. Yet, Dr. Long reviewed the EA and found significant flaws in its analysis that was submitted to the Corps. What a surprise!!

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The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association is now on Facebook. Find out what is happening locally. Learn about upcoming events, the history of Sherman Oaks and see throwback Thursdays. Visit our Official Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/soha914. To get the latest information in your Newsfeed be sure to press the "Like" button at the top of the Page!

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In past Newsletters, we have discussed the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative being circulated for signatures. The Initiative would put a two year moratorium on "spot zoning." Spot zoning is a situation where a developer or property owner with special connections receives permission from the City to build a project larger than the City zoning or rules allow. The Initiative would also require the Community Plans to be updated based on current conditions. The Community Plan for Sherman Oaks is over 30 years old!

Initially, the Initiative was going to be on the November 2016 ballot. However, the sponsors of the Initiative decided that the March 2017 municipal ballot would be better. At that time, Mayor Garcetti, at least eight City Council seats, the City Attorney and the City Controller will be up for election.

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Councilman David Ryu announced the Sherman Oaks Interim Control Ordinance analysis has been released on Friday May 27, 2016. The 20-day circulation period will begin on Thursday June 2, 2016 when the analysis is officially published. A final vote on the Interim Control Ordinance will come before the City Council sometime in mid to late June. Please direct any questions or comments to Julia Duncan, Council District 4 Planning Deputy. She can be reached via email at julia.duncan@lacity.org.

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The Village at Sherman Oaks BID announces the opening of three new businesses. Family-owned NW Rugs at 14564 Ventura Boulevard offers a wide variety of hand tufted and machine made rugs.

Family-owned Nadeau, Furniture With a Soul, at 14548 Ventura Boulevard offers handcrafted, unique and affordable items.

Last, but not least, Mr. Furley's Bar at 14649 Ventura Boulevard is a nighttime only spot meant for late night drinkers. The menu has late night breakfast options like pancakes and porridge.

We wish them all tremendous success and hope you will stop by and say "Hello".

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Home safety should be a priority for everyone and your Los Angeles Fire Department is committed to ensuring your safety. There are 3 things you can do immediately to reduce fire risk for you and your family. First, ensure you have properly installed and working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Second, develop and practice an escape plan, which should be known to everyone in the home. Third, eliminate fire hazards around the home. For more information on home safety, please visit www.mysafela.org/firesmartla/.

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The City has a new website where you can learn about city street construction, i.e. road blockages and traffic jams. The website alerts residents to current roadway construction as well as planned closures and the length of the street closures or restrictions.

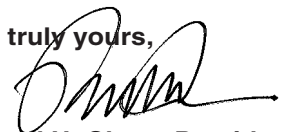
The website is called Street Wize. Search at www.streetwize.lacity.org

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As is normally the case, there will be no July Meeting or Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on June 15 and, thereafter, at the August 17, 2016 Meeting (the third Wednesday of the month).

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