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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky: The Past – The Future

Zev Yaroslavsky has represented Sherman Oaks for 31 years. First as City Councilman, now as Supervisor. As he leaves office, this meeting will look back at his history and contributions to our community.

Special Date



COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Special Date



Our October 22, 2014 Meeting will be held on a special date (the 4th Wednesday of the month, instead of the 3rd Wednesday of the month). The meeting will feature a special guest, retiring Los Angeles County Board Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. We as residents of Sherman Oaks owe a great deal to Supervisor Yaroslavsky. Due to his hard work as a Councilman and Member of the Board of Supervisors he helped protect our community and, in fact, those protections are still in place today. Specifically, his leadership to enact the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan, assistance in the days and months after the 1994 earthquake (Sherman Oaks was the second most affected area in the City after Northridge) and Proposition U which downzoned commercial areas throughout the City and protected Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks from becoming a high-rise canyon – deserted and sterile at night.

Dave Bryan, Political Reporter from CBS Channels 2 and 9, will review with the Supervisor the changes, challenges and accomplishments of his life in politics. Special guests will be dropping in to tell us about special events, many of which are not known to the public.

We will learn more about his “extraordinary actions” as a student at UCLA and how he infuriated the Soviet Union government in his trip to Russia as a UCLA student.

He has been speaking at Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association Meetings for 31 years. You will learn more about him on October 22nd than any of his prior presentations.

Jules Feir announces that Vitello's Express is the Restaurant of the Month. The name Express and the casual nature of this restaurant is in no way an indication this is just a fast food pizza joint. Co-owner Trace Barnes offers a menu selection of delicious and quality Italian dishes that rivals other Italian restaurants. Hard to believe? Then just check it out and enjoy a delicious lunch or one of their dinners such as chicken picata or linguini and clams or a delicious salmon creation.

And, by the way, they serve a great New York style pizza.

We look forward to enjoying a sample of their delicious food during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m. We thank Vitello's Express for their continued community support.

We would like to remind you about the additional parking in the school's parking lots on Riverside Drive and Huston Street. Also, parking is also available behind the Bank of America on Riverside Drive and Woodman Avenue.

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Bob Anderson reports:

> Are you wondering why you continue to see mansionized houses being built on small lots in our Sherman Oaks neighborhood and elsewhere? It's happening because developers are exploiting several loopholes in the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance.

SOHA's Board of Directors has approved and submitted a letter to the City Council supporting revisions to the Ordinance in order to eliminate these loopholes. One loophole allows a 20 percent floor area bonus if the home is built to Green standards. This sounds wonderful, except there is already a Green Building Ordinance in place, so developers should not receive an extra bonus.

There is also a bonus for providing certain design features that were supposed to make a house look less massive. But, these features are not working and this bonus needs to be eliminated. For small R1 lots, there is an aberration in the ordinance that allows somewhat larger homes on smaller lots. This makes no sense and should be eliminated.

Finally, there are provisions that let developers exempt certain features such as accessory buildings, patios, porches, breezeways and double-height entryways from the floor area of the home. This simply makes the home bigger and these exemptions should be removed from the ordinance. Since May, there has been a motion before the City Council for such revisions to the ordinance, but it is not moving forward. We hope that Councilmembers see the light and stop giving bonuses and exemptions to developers that further plague our neighborhoods with oversized houses.

> Sherman Oaks and all of Los Angeles County are finally getting a Helicopter Noise Complaint System. In September, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that the system is being procured and should be ready in early 2015. There are already a few noise complaint systems in other cities, but the Los Angeles County system will be the most sophisticated. When you have a helicopter noise complaint, you will be able to call a toll-free number and log your complaint by providing your name and address. There will also be a form you can submit through the internet. Once logged, complaints will be mapped to identify noise hot spots.

Our Los Angeles system will go even farther and promises to identify the helicopter causing the complaint. This additional feature will show who was piloting the helicopter and will make enforcement more effective.

SOHA wants to thank the FAA, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, Congressmembers Schiff, Sherman, Cardenas, Waxman, Bass, Lowenthal, and Hahn, the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition, the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association, the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Operators Association, and all others who worked so hard to make this happen. SOHA will keep you posted about when the system will be available.

Please contact SOHA's Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com if you have any questions. (Bob is Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition.)

The Sunkist project is getting attention. The developer has presented a summary of their current plans. The project as proposed consists of the existing Sunkist building (128,674 sq. ft. of office space) plus an additional 359,795 sq. ft. of new construction. This breaks down into 40,000 sq. ft. of retail space, 298 new apartment units, 7,241 sq. ft. of retail/commercial tenants including restaurants, 1,345 parking spaces in a 4 story parking structure.

The proposed buildings are basically lot line to lot line obscuring any significant view of the existing building. In fact the best view of the Sunkist structure will be from the Freeway. For more information from local news sources go online to <http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20140729/los-angeles-planning-department-to-review-development-plans-for-sunkist-building-in-sherman-oaks>.

Kimberlee Gerston, Chair of SOHA Sunkist Committee and several Committee Members met with Board of Director members Marshall Long and Jay Weitzler. Subsequently Kimberlee, Jay, and Marshall walked the site to compare the renderings to the site layout. Jay and Marshall met with Renee Weitzer Planning Director for Councilman LaBonge to discuss design suggestions. The meeting with Renee was encouraging. We share ongoing concerns about traffic and the fact that the existing building will be mostly blocked from view by the surrounding buildings. We are working on developing ways of improving the design and other issues.

You can access more information on this project at www.shermanoaks914.com. There is also more information on the Homeowners of Encino site <http://homeownersofencino.wordpress.com>.

Councilmember LaBonge would like to inform the community that Van Nuys Boulevard will be resurfaced in the near future from Ventura Blvd. to Magnolia Blvd. The project is a big one-- 6 total lane miles of resurfacing, and is one that the office has been fighting for over a year. The street is especially bad under the Freeway, and resurfacing in that area will require 101 Freeway ramp closures.

Vivian Gumbiner reports that the traffic safety problems surrounding the Buckley School remains a concern to the neighbors as the new school year has already brought out dangerous drivers heading to Buckley. A neighbor saw a few cars cut into an opposing traffic lane to hasten their trip to the Buckley School. This endangered walkers and drivers on Stansbury. At a recent neighborhood meeting with school administrators, SOHA was told that the school would perform periodic checks on the traffic near the school. When pressed for a definition of "periodic," the administrator refused to give any time parameters. SOHA then requested that the traffic checks be performed on a regular basis to discourage a repeat of the dangerous driving situations that have occurred for the past several years. The school cites costs as a reason for not providing more traffic checks. Our Committee thinks the cost of neighbor's lives and peace of mind is also pretty high!

SOHA will be participating in the Sherman Oaks 24th Annual Street Fair on Sunday, October 19, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We look forward to you visiting SOHA's booth (Booth 224 near the Bank of America) and to see you walking around the Fair.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Association will be hosting our 16th Annual SOHA Toy Drive. Once again the toy drive will take place in front of Gelson's market on Van Nuys Boulevard at Milbank Street. As always, Gelson's will provide refreshments, many local officials will be attending the event and Santa Claus will be there to greet you and your children. More details in our next Newsletter.

If you would like to see snippets from our past Meetings, go to www.youtube.com and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meeting.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President