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Our State Senator Robert Hertzberg:

Issues Of Importance To The San Fernando Valley – Water, Traffic Relief, Real Rapid Transit

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our newly elected State Senator Bob Hertzberg will be our guest speaker on Wednesday evening, February 18, 2015. He previously represented Sherman Oaks in the California State Assembly and also served as Assembly Speaker. Now he has returned from the private sector to represent us in the State Senate. He is Chairman of the Governance and Finance Committee. In addition, he serves on the Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments, Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications, the Committee on the Judiciary and on the Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

Attend our February meeting to find out from him what he can do to improve the quality of life e.g., traffic relief, etc. for Sherman Oaks and the San Fernando Valley.

Jules Feir announces that The Hamburger Hamlet will be our Restaurant of the Month. This iconic restaurant located at 4419 Van Nuys Boulevard is now experiencing a renaissance with the new owners Kevin Michaels and partner Brett Doherty.

Embracing the Hamlets motto: Known for Simply Marvelous Food and Drink, the new owners have brought back many of their signature menu items that fans fell in love with. To return the Hamlet to its hay day, the updated menu includes many favorites such as: #11 their greatest hamburger as well as many other succulent hamburger selections such as the braised short rib burger and a vegetarian burger.

What's old is now new. Return to the tradition of great comfort food at Hamburger Hamlet. Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

Over 250 residents attended our January Meeting. They were there to meet the candidates who are running to represent you on the Los Angeles City Council.

For the Meeting, we prepared the results of a Candidates Questionnaire. This handout compares the answers of the candidates. In preparation for the March 3, 2015 election, if you would like a copy of the candidates' responses, please email us at soha914@gmail.com.

SOHA Board carefully reviewed the pros and cons of the proposed 3-story parking garage and bridge over Coldwater Canyon that Harvard-Westlake School wants to build. In essence, while we value the high quality education the school provides, we question several aspects of their proposal, such as the need of approximately 500 additional parking spaces. If indeed additional parking is needed, could it not be constructed on their current, expansive campus area? The visual blight of a 3-story parking building with rooftop lighting for an athletic field and the bridge across Coldwater Canyon are other concerns. Elke Heitmeyer submitted SOHA's opposition to the appropriate City agencies.

Hillside dwellers are up in arms over commuters who are zipping through our narrow, winding streets, trying to beat the clogged traffic on the cross mountain roads. Elke Heitmeyer, on behalf of SOHA, is working with the City to get more signs installed "No right turn 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m." Those signs are the only ones enforceable, and locals may need to do a little loop during rush hour. The challenge is many neighborhoods are facing this problem and the Department of Transportation (DOT) needs to go through a lot of red tape to install those signs. We intend to push on our City Council Member to obtain results from DOT.

3. Why does the City Attorney's office regularly deny community groups and other CEQA litigants legal administrative records (evidence)?

4. What was the City Attorney's motive in trying to suppress information from the IVT record?

Sherman Oaks and all of Los Angeles County are finally getting a Helicopter Noise Complaint System. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is funding a one-year demonstration of a web-based system, and that is great news. However, due to technical details, the system will probably have no toll-free telephone number and will only accept complaints via the web.

SOHA's Bob Anderson is President of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC). The coalition members are very concerned that many residents who suffer from helicopter noise may find it too demanding to sign into a website every time they want to complain. LAAHNC is pushing the FAA to add a telephone complaint capability and an easy-to-use smartphone app, but chances do not look good. The system should be operating by the end of March, and SOHA will be helping to publicize the system and explain how to use it.

LAAHNC has also been working with the FAA and pilots to develop written, voluntary measures to reduce helicopter noise countywide. Over the last two years, LAAHNC members have held 54 meetings with the FAA and pilots. But, progress has been slow because helicopter pilots and operators are reluctant to change the way they fly to reduce noise on the ground.

We have come to an agreement on only one voluntary measure concerning a specific route in Long Beach, and the FAA has proposed two new offshore routes that might reduce noise along part of the Los Angeles coastline if pilots decide to use the routes. But, we are far from agreeing on meaningful countywide voluntary measures to significantly increase flight altitudes and finally limit hovering times.

Congressional legislation in 2014 required the FAA to make significant progress to reduce helicopter noise in Los Angeles County by January 2015, or start developing helicopter flight regulations that would reduce noise. We are still awaiting the FAA's report to Congress on how much progress they think they have made and what the next steps should be. If Congressional leaders and the FAA request it, LAAHNC is certainly willing to continue further collaboration on voluntary measures, as long as we feel that something significant can be accomplished in the very near future. This problem has been going on for years, and we need real, positive results soon.

Recently, Los Angeles City Council District 4 took part in the 2015 Homeless count for the first time in Sherman Oaks. This work is piggybacking on the work Councilman Tom LaBonge and his staff have committed to the homeless outreach effort here in Sherman Oaks. This count only occurs every two years and the purpose is to determine the size and scope of homelessness throughout Los Angeles County which helps the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to assess how and where homeless individuals can best be served.

At the candidate forum at our January meeting the following question was asked to the candidates running to represent Sherman Oaks on the Los Angeles City Council: "The City Council is drafting rules and restrictions that would close loopholes in the City's anti-mansionization laws. Will you commit to working to add Sherman Oaks to the other communities listed in the proposals?" All candidates answered "Yes."

If you believe that your area of Sherman Oaks should be protected from more "McMansions," please email or write us.

The Buckley School will begin its next phase of construction in the spring. The neighbors have requested a pre-construction meeting led by the head of the school to address neighbors' concerns about the construction process. We hope to have a mutually convenient date set soon.

For nine years, residents on Jadestone Drive have been trying to get the City to repave a portion of the road that had become dangerous and felt like a rollercoaster. Alice Roth, Deputy to Councilman Tom LaBonge, was able to get the City to repave the portion of the road. As the local residents found out, some Deputies take notes at meetings, others take action. Alice Roth is a person who takes action.

Deervale Drive neighbors got together and beautified the corner of Deervale and Beverly Glen, also known as Skyview. All cacti and succulents were donated. When you pass through the area, be sure to slow down and take a look!

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President