

“Together  
we have  
clout!”

★ LIVE COMMUNITY MEETING – NEW LOCATION ★

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 - 7:15 PM

SHERMAN OAKS EAST VALLEY ADULT CENTER • 5056 VAN NUYS BLVD, 91403

STREAMED VIA ZOOM – VIDEO ALWAYS AVAILABLE DAY AFTER MEETING



## WHERE IS LAUSD HEADING? HOW WILL IT GET THERE?

### SUPERINTENDENT CARVALHO'S PLAN TO MEET ITS MANY BIG CHALLENGES

Alberto Carvalho has served as Superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest school district, since February 2022. He was unanimously selected by the LAUSD Board. During his 14-year tenure as Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, he garnered local, state, national, and international recognition with honors including the 2014 National Superintendent of the Year, the 2016 Harold W. McGraw Prize in Education, the 2018 National Urban Superintendent of the Year, and the 2019 National Association for Bilingual Education Superintendent of the Year – making him the most accomplished superintendent in America's history.

LAUSD has made some terrific accomplishments since Superintendent Carvalho's appointment, yet it still faces a multitude of challenges, including classroom overcrowding, student diversity, low completion rates, funding cuts, poor academic performance, teachers' unions conflicts, and administrative streamlining. The superintendent will detail his accomplishments from the last school year, explain his goals for the upcoming school years through 2026, highlight his plan for engaging with District and local schools, and address what he can do about the challenges that LAUSD faces today and in the future. Come learn what you can do to help return LAUSD to its glory days.

Email your questions for the superintendent to [SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com](mailto:SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com) by Tuesday September 19th. This is a live meeting, and we also stream it. The Zoom ID is 840 0500 5545 with passcode SOHA914. We email the link to our members, and you can always find it on SOHA914.com. Streaming starts at 7:15 pm. The meeting video is always available the day after the meeting on YouTube.com (search for "SOHA Community Meeting").

## RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

### LA FOGATA

by Jules Feir, Community Liaison Chair

We're pleased that La Fogata, one of the oldest restaurants in Sherman Oaks, will be our restaurant of the month. They're located at 5142 Van Nuys Boulevard (one block south of Magnolia) – just across the street from our community meeting location. La Fogata began in 1977 and is a three-generation family owned and managed Mexican restaurant and caterer.

La Fogata (campfire in Spanish) provides quality home-style Mexican food at reasonable prices with friendly service. In addition to indoor dining and take out, one can enjoy La Fogata's newly remodeled patio. We're looking forward to their delicious food during our Social Hour beginning at 6:15.



# HOMELESSNESS AND THE CYCLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

*by Larry Slade, Homelessness Committee Chair*

Over the past year, I have learned a lot about homelessness. What causes it, what exacerbates it, how it can be prevented, and how it can be mitigated. One thing we have all learned is that there is a very clear connection between homelessness and mental illness. Mental illness often causes homelessness to be sure – but homelessness also causes mental illness.

While I was not aware that there was truth in the last statement, when you examine it, it certainly makes sense. To be sure, losing your home can cause people to lose their grip on reality. Living on the street in constant fear for your own safety (and that of your family if you are not alone) has to be very mentally taxing. It seems obvious to me now.

Building affordable housing is a big piece of getting people off the streets. But, for many, the option of having a roof over their heads will do nothing to address their mental and emotional challenges. For those homeless who also suffer from mental illness – their numbers are hard to track and the percentage of homeless who suffer from mental illness is far from clear – they experience special challenges that cannot be fixed with a roof. It's like arguing that the solution to anorexia is food. In these cases, lack of food is not the issue. It's the relationship with food and to eating that presents the challenge.

So too does it go for the homeless who suffer from mental illness. Our road to helping them stabilize and get off the street is much more complex than putting a roof over the heads of the homeless who are in this situation because of financial reasons, domestic violence, or many of the reasons other than mental illness. For these people, who appear to make up the majority of the homeless, access to housing is itself a solution. Not so for those suffering from mental illness.

The level of support that the mentally ill homeless require is well beyond simply offering them a roof over their heads. They need medical treatment, counseling, medication, and individualized attention. The “wrap-around services” they need – that LA endeavors to offer – come from multi-disciplinary teams of professionals trained in a broad swath of services. It's expensive and labor intensive – and most importantly – it's temporal.

We can and do take some of these suffering homeless into involuntary custody to treat them. They receive many services that they need to take them out of an agitated or dangerous state and stabilize them – but only for 72 hours – just long enough for them to appear before a judge presenting themselves as grounded and cogent, and then to be released back into the cauldron of homelessness that quickly challenges and overwhelms their grip on reality.

In these situations, homelessness is the symptom of a much bigger problem. If we cannot help them maintain their grip on reality, we cannot keep a roof over their heads. There is no quick, easy, or inexpensive fix to this problem. Nor do I possess the answers needed to properly address the problem. I am not sure if anybody has the answers, though I know there are many people working on the problem with love in their hearts and faith that a solution will be found. I am somewhat less optimistic, but I am hopeful that I will be proven wrong.

One important aspect of helping the mentally unstable homeless is reporting their challenges to the right resources in a timely manner. To this end, SOHA prepared our Homelessness Resources Directory (see next page) to help you know what to do and how to do it. Please share this with friends and neighbors to help our community deal with homeless individuals as positively as possible.



**It's not easy to know what to do when confronted with unpredictable or erratic behavior from homeless individuals. Check out our Homelessness Resources Directory for help.**



# SOHA Homelessness Resource Directory

## Connecting with Local Support

*The SOHA Homelessness Committee, along with the office of Councilmember Nithya Raman, prepared this directory to help Sherman Oaks residents deal the mentally unstable homeless.*

### **WHAT TO DO if you come upon a homeless individual who appears to be suffering from an emotional disorder but is not threatening or acting in an erratic or dangerous manner:**

1. Send an email detailing the situation and any relevant information about the individual in need.
2. Include the individual's location, observed behavior, and other relevant details to assist in identifying and helping them.
3. Include photos/videos documenting the behavior or conditions, but never put yourself at risk or in danger.
4. Email the following individuals in Councilmember Raman's Office to help them provide support.

Hayes Davenport at [hayes.davenport@lacity.org](mailto:hayes.davenport@lacity.org) Ryan Ahari at [ryan.ahari@lacity.org](mailto:ryan.ahari@lacity.org)  
Josh Scarcella at [josh.scarcella@lacity.org](mailto:josh.scarcella@lacity.org)

### **WHAT TO DO if a homeless individual seems dangerous or unpredictable:**

1. Safety first – If you encounter a threatening situation, call 911 immediately.
2. Contact the appropriate authorities or mental health professionals based on the behavior of the mentally unstable homeless individual.
3. Stay present until the police arrive and inform them if you wish to press charges. If you feel the police response is inadequate, you may consider reporting your concerns through other appropriate channels.

### **WHAT TO DO if a homeless individual is experiencing a psychological breakdown or behaving erratically but not posing a threat to others:**

1. Call Police Non-Emergency Services at 211 or 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273).
  - You may have difficulty reaching the non-emergency number and response times may be slow
2. Alternatively, text or email LAPD Senior Lead Officers and inform them of the situation.
  - Mariana Romo (north of Ventura Blvd) at 818-731-2563 or [40229@lapd.online](mailto:40229@lapd.online)
  - Jose Saldana (south of Ventura Blvd) at 818-731-2565 or [30853@lapd.online](mailto:30853@lapd.online)
3. Call Department of Mental Health (DMH) Hotline at 800-854-7771.
4. Call or text Ryan Ahari in office of Councilmember Nithya Raman at 213-424-2412.
5. Email office of County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath.
  - Mirna Ezquivel at [MEzquivel@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:MEzquivel@bos.lacounty.gov)
  - Karen Dominguez at [KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:KDominguez@bos.lacounty.gov)

It's important for city and county officials to be aware of the situation on our streets. Let's all play a part to help them protect and assist the homeless while maintaining our quality of life.

To further protect your neighborhood, consider setting up a Neighborhood Watch program with assistance from LAPD Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo (818-731-2563 or [40229@lapd.online](mailto:40229@lapd.online)).

Additionally, check out the MyLA311 mobile app to request city services from your smartphone.

# OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS' VOTING RECORDS

*by Tom Glick, Planning Committee Chair*

Our new monthly article will center on letting our readers know exactly how each of our elected representatives have voted on crucial issues related to the health, welfare, and safety of our community. We will focus on our three primary elected representatives: Councilmember Nithya Raman, our elected city representative for the 4th Council District; Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, our elected county representative for the 3rd Supervisorial District; and Assemblymember Laura Friedman, our elected state representative for the 44th Assembly District. It's important in any democracy to ensure that our leaders are held accountable for their actions. Following their voting records will allow our readers to stay informed. Due to space issues this month, we only provided recent highlights.

**Councilmember Nithya Raman** – Voted “NO” on the new \$1.4 billion 2023/24 LAPD budget that City Council approved by a 12-3 vote. Ms. Raman’s was one of three “No” votes and her rationale for voting this way was she felt the city should focus on our other avenues for public safety. With a city seemingly becoming more lawless with daily reports of smash and grab robberies, car thefts, home invasions, etc., many in our community are looking for more police resources and not less.

**Supervisor Lindsey Horvath** – Voted “YES” on steps to raise the minimum wage for hotel and theme park workers to \$25 per hour. Ms. Horvath, who co-authored the motion, stands on her record of pushing for minimum wage increases as she did when she was on the West Hollywood City Council. The motion notes that these are essential service workers for our economy who must be compensated appropriately.

**Assemblymember Laura Friedman** – Introduced Assembly Bill 645 to help prevent vehicle speeding in the state. This bill will create a 5-year speed safety pilot program in California’s most dense cities, including the City of Los Angeles, and enable these cities to install speed cameras that image and ticket cars traveling above the speed limit. According to Ms. Friedman, this legislation could make a difference in accident rates.

## REZONED MAPS JUST THE BEGINNING

*by Maria Pavlou Kalban, Legislative Committee Chair*

The dark-shaded areas on the map to the right show you how Sherman Oaks will be rezoned in the next few months unless we convince city officials to change their minds and their maps now.

Shaded areas in existing single-family neighborhoods will allow apartment building developments and shaded areas in older multi-family neighborhoods will allow newer, bigger, more expensive apartments.

**Look closely - this will impact many of us in Sherman Oaks.**

And it's not necessary! We have shown the city and Councilmember Raman that there is plenty of room on our commercial corridors to accommodate the required housing, conform to state laws, and actually produce the more-affordable housing that we need.

**Homeowners and renters need to fight this together - or we all lose. We'll need your help soon so please watch for our action plans.**



# NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

*by Matt Epstein, President*

Recently, our community and the global stage were struck by a profound tragedy, as Laura Ann Carlton, the proprietor of Mag.Pi in Studio City, was shot and lost her life while proudly displaying a Pride Flag at her Mag.Pi store in Lake Arrowhead. This heart-wrenching incident prompts us to reflect on the prevalence of hatred and the alarming accessibility of firearms in our society. Laura exemplified courage by standing up for love and acceptance, only to meet an unimaginable fate. The weight of this loss is felt by all of us, and our hearts go out to her surviving family – her husband and nine children. As we grieve her passing, we are confronted with the fracture within our current society that allowed such a terrible event to unfold.

Shifting our attention to local matters, the Sherman Oaks Antique Mall, a staple on Ventura Boulevard across from Ralphs at Hazeltine for over four decades, is set to close its doors. A hub for vintage enthusiasts, the mall has been a treasure trove of dealers offering vintage decor, furniture, jewelry, and collectibles since 1982. The closure marks the end of an era, leaving a void in our community and a sense of nostalgia for the rare and captivating vintage finds it housed.



Amid the somber backdrop, new blooms of hope emerge in Sherman Oaks in the form of vibrant floral boutiques. While Mark's Garden has long been a local favorite, two newcomers are adding a fresh twist to the floral scene. Purple Mood Flowers, an innovative boutique artisan flower shop near SOTO on Ventura Boulevard, offers a creative selection for weddings, events, or

those days that need a touch of beauty. On the north side of Ventura, Friends and Roses extends its unique custom arrangements for various occasions, providing a much-needed burst of color. Both shops offer the convenience of same-day delivery, promising to brighten even the gloomiest days.

Turning to culinary delights, Sherman Oaks welcomes novel dining experiences. Karma Sushi bar, situated on Ventura Boulevard at Cedros, bridges modern upscale dining with traditional Japanese hospitality. The menu and ambiance reflect this harmonious fusion. Twinty Cafe, an enticing addition near Sunnyslope, caters to breakfast lovers with a selection of favorites ranging from pancakes and waffles to smoothies and coffees, accompanied by paninis and salads. Opening its doors at 7:30 am and closing at 4 pm, Twinty Cafe promises a casual and flavorful local option.

Steering toward sips and bites, Studio City bids farewell to Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, making way for Alfreds Coffee on Ventura Boulevard near Coldwater. Alfreds Coffee, renowned for its quality, beckons coffee enthusiasts to indulge in its offerings. Additionally, Prince Street Pizza has finally debuted, a slice I personally relished during my visit to New York in June. Located near Joans on Third on Ventura, the long-awaited Prince Street Pizza promises a delectable experience worth the wait.

For those seeking an active respite, the recently launched CycleBar at La Reina Plaza introduces invigorating 30- to 45-minute group cycle sessions set to music. This rhythmic cycling experience accommodates all skill levels, encouraging participants to tap into their inner strength and determination while grooving to the beat.

In the midst of change and loss, our community perseveres, finding solace in new beginnings and embracing the tapestry of experiences that color our lives in our wonderful community.

## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR SOHA MEMBERSHIP NOW

*by Nancy Sogioian, Membership Committee Chair*

Please become a SOHA member to help protect your community. And please share this newsletter with neighbors. Go to [SOHA914.com](http://SOHA914.com) and click on JOIN SOHA. It's only \$45 per year and members enjoy our monthly newsletters, community meetings, and more. Select your membership level and click on Pay via PayPal to use a credit card. You can also join by mailing a check to SOHA MEMBERSHIP at PO Box 5223, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-5223.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG!**  
**VISIT [SOHA914.COM](http://SOHA914.COM) TO BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

# SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The **ONLY** member-supported,  
volunteer-run, non-profit  
community organization  
dedicated to preserving and protecting  
the quality of life here in Sherman Oaks.

★ **BECOME A MEMBER** — 💡 **STAY INFORMED** — ❤️ **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO [www.SOHA914.com](http://www.SOHA914.com) AND CLICK "JOIN SOHA"



**SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

POST OFFICE BOX 5223  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413-5223

[www.SOHA914.com](http://www.SOHA914.com)  
[SOHA914@gmail.com](mailto:SOHA914@gmail.com)  
(818) 377-4590

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