

"Together
we have
clout!"



ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 - 7:15 PM

JOIN FROM ANYWHERE - VIA COMPUTER, TABLET, SMARTPHONE OR TELEPHONE

GUEST SPEAKER LAPD CHIEF MICHEL MOORE

Resources and Crime Picture in Sherman Oaks

Impacts of the Election and City Hall Crisis

Upticks in Antisemitic and Racist Issues

Community Concerns - Homelessness

LAPD Chief Michel Moore is a 41-year member of the department and the 57th Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles. He has implemented effective crime fighting initiatives, institutionalized the Community Safety Partnership model, focused heavily on community engagement,

and ensured ongoing modernization of the department's technology – all while guiding the women and men of this organization through the challenges of a global pandemic. He promotes a community policing style of leadership that stresses intelligent, partnership-oriented strategies involving community stakeholders and various members of the criminal justice system.

With degrees in Business Management and Administration, the Chief is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum, the Senior Management Institute for Police, the Supervisory Leadership Institute, and the West Point Leadership Program, including advanced coursework in emergency management, counterterrorism, and process improvement. His commendations include the LAPD Medal of Valor, Police Medal, Police Star, and Meritorious Service Medal.

Please email your questions to SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com before noon on Tuesday November 15th.

The Zoom ID is 863 3062 3739 with passcode SOHA914. Sign in by 7:10. The meeting starts promptly at 7:15 pm.

SOHA's 24th Annual Toy Drive will be Sunday, December 11 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Gelson's Market, 4520 Van Nuys Blvd in Sherman Oaks.

As always Gelson's is providing delicious refreshments. Last year, our community donated more than \$30,000 worth of toys which the LA County Department of Children and Family Services distributed to children of all ages – the only holiday gifts many of them will receive. Many elected officials, police, and fire personal will be there as well as the popular LA City trash truck and other city vehicles. We look forward to meeting you at the Toy Drive.

BRING YOUR UNWRAPPED TOY - PUT A SMILE ON A CHILD'S FACE!



! You can find our virtual meeting Zoom link on SOHA's website - SOHA914.com

FIXING HOMELESSNESS REQUIRES ALL ROWING IN THE SAME DIRECTION

Larry Slade, SOHA's Unhoused Committee Chair, reports that there has been no shortage of attention paid over the past month to the challenges our Sherman Oaks community faces daily due to the homeless crisis. Fox11 News dedicated several feature blocks to the plight of our Sherman Oaks business owners on their local evening news. Fox News national picked up the story as well and featured Sherman Oaks as one of the epicenters of homeless blight in Los Angeles.

The LA City Council has been working to respond and recently passed an ordinance that makes it illegal to camp out on the street within 500 feet of a school. The measure passed with a clear majority but with opposition from our own Councilmember Nithya Raman. Many members of our community are scratching their heads and wondering why our councilmember could oppose this simple proposition that makes incremental progress towards rebalancing the interests of the community against those of the homeless (and often mentally ill and/or suffering from addiction)? How could it be that our councilmember – who promised to confront these problems – voted against protecting school kids from exposure to those homeless who simply refuse to leave the streets (even when presented with other options)?

Over the coming weeks and months, as our work on this issue progresses, we'll dig deeper into the thinking of CM Raman to determine if in fact we are "all rowing in the same direction" or instead working at odds to address this hot-button issue.

If you have questions, need info, or want to help SOHA on homelessness, contact Larry Slade at SOHA914@gmail.com.

GOOD COMMUNITY PLANNING NEEDS WILLING PARTNERS

Maria Kalban, SOHA's Legislative Committee Chair, wants everyone to know the city is considering plans to add higher density in our single-family neighborhoods using 100% affordable housing "zoning overlays" that would allow six-story apartments next to single-family homes. We find this problematic, to say the least.

We showed the City Planning Department that there is more than enough capacity on Sherman Oaks' commercial corridors to add all the necessary housing at all income levels mandated by the state without adding these overlays in our single-family neighborhoods or our older multi-family zones. They were agreeable to our plan.

We then met with Councilmember Raman to show her our ideas on how to grow our community without the intrusion of apartment buildings in our neighborhoods. In our meeting, the councilmember was not convinced that removing the overlays would lead to the inclusiveness she wants to see in Sherman Oaks. We disagreed with her because our plan opens up areas throughout our community that could provide much needed affordable housing for young people, retirees, and people who work in Sherman Oaks but can't afford to live here. We explained to the councilmember that mixing affordable and market-rate housing throughout the community was better than creating "pockets of affordable housing" through zoning overlays. Unable to convince her to remove these overlays, we agreed that we, along with her staff, would meet with the Planning Department again to see if we could reach consensus.

Remember – we are not fighting the idea that Sherman Oaks needs to identify enough zoning to accommodate 9,000+ housing units over the next 8 years. We feel we can add great living environments for all income levels by building great spaces on our many large, underbuilt commercial streets. If properly planned, these would include adding small single-family homes, townhouses, and work/live spaces along with apartments. Planning for inclusion is not an impossible task if done correctly. We want to offer solutions for adding affordable housing, but we need partners in the city, not adversaries, to achieve this.

We will keep you informed as we move forward. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Kalban at mpkalban@gmail.com.

Do you receive our email updates?

_____ If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com.

PLEASE HELP SOHA MAKE METRO HONEST AND FAIR

Last month, SOHA started a fundraiser to fight Metro and get Sherman Oaks its fair share of the Sepulveda Pass Transit Project. Thank you to the many who have already donated, and we hope others will consider giving whatever they can. We'll use initial donations to spread the word about the project because many people still don't know about it and its potentially disastrous impacts to our community. We'll use further donations to hold honest and informative public meetings, set up a site to answer frequently asked questions, and prepare for possible litigation. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide to help protect your community and get the best transit system possible.



NOISY ELEVATED TRAINS ARE UNAFFORDABLE AT 3X METRO BUDGET AND REMOVE TWO TRAFFIC LANES ON SEPULVEDA NEAR VENTURA

THIS IS WHY SOHA IS FIGHTING SO HARD TO MAKE METRO HONEST AND FAIR

- ▶ We need the Sepulveda Pass Transit Project – but Metro has royally screwed it up.
- ▶ Metro never asked or listened to what we wanted – they just told us what they wanted.
- ▶ Metro has 89 rail transit stations in LA County – only TWO of them in the valley.
- ▶ Metro withheld critical project information and publicly lied to us.
- ▶ The Valley could get screwed again with a second-class “Elevated Subway” – we cannot let this happen!
- ▶ SOHA and Keep Bel-Air Beautiful prefer the affordable quickest-to-build no-tunnel monorail.
- ▶ The Valley must fight to get the fair share it deserves – SOHA is leading the fight!

If you would like to donate, go to SOHA914.com and click on “Learn More and Donate to Fundraiser”. If you have any questions, please contact Bob at bobhillsideordinance@gmail.com.

KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE OVER OUR GORGEOUS TREES

Jules Feir, SOHA's Outreach Committee Chair, reports that several weeks ago he had secured approval from the Street Services Department for trimming the street trees on Ventura Blvd between Hazeltine and Fulton. When the scheduled time passed and the trees were not trimmed, his call to Street Services revealed that the trees were removed from the schedule by our Council Office.

Jules reached out to Ryan Ahari, our CD4 Field Representative, and the matter was resolved. Thanks to all that helped expediate this process. Keep an eye out for these gorgeous trees being trimmed.



We're making SOHA more environmentally friendly and want to know your preference for receiving our monthly newsletter. We can deliver it by email, US mail, or both. Contact us at SOHA914@gmail.com or (818) 377-4590 with your full name, mail address, and email – and let us know how you want your newsletter delivered.



SHERMAN OAKS STREET FAIR IS BACK!

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the 30th Annual Street Fair in the Valley took place in Sherman Oaks on Sunday, October 16th along Ventura Blvd between Kester Ave and Van Nuys Blvd. There were more than 150 vendors along with food trucks and local restaurants – and an estimated 100,000 attendees. Local schools performed all day on the community stage. There was a carnival area including a Ferris wheel, mechanical bull, and a rock-climbing wall. There also was a silent disco, wrestling ring, pop-con area, and pet adoptions. The main stage next to the beer garden had bands playing 70s, 80s, and 90s hits. Fun for all!

PIZZA WAGON – A TASTE OF NEW YORK



For New York pizza devotees with a nostalgia for a slice of home, Pizza Wagon at 14522 Ventura Blvd maybe just what they're looking for.

Established in Sherman Oaks in 2019, Pizza Wagon hails from Brooklyn NY, as it boasts on its sign, and stands by what it calls "authentic pizza that most people consider New York-style." The pizzeria itself is authentic New York-style – where ovens and pizza peels take center stage as regulars stop by for a slice to take on the go, folded and into the mouth while walking out the door.

The most popular items are pepperoni and pesto pizza, though owner Anthony Zingaro says, "I really just enjoy a plain slice of cheese pizza because I feel I am a purist at heart."

Friday and Saturday nights are busiest, when you might see the inside tables filled and a few other diners enjoying the street life just outside on the sidewalk. It's become a Sherman Oaks staple since opening two years ago, weathering COVID with its easy to-go fare and indoor-outdoor seating.

"Since opening and surviving the pandemic, our customers keep us going strong every single day," says Zingaro. "We couldn't have chosen a better community to be in and we are extremely grateful."

MATT EPSTEIN'S NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

Fall is in the air as cooler weather is beginning to settle in just in time for the holidays! It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is now just two weeks away, and even though interest rates have risen in recent days there's still much to be grateful for and to celebrate.

Our communities are thriving again and there are some new places to check out that I'd like to share with you. In Sherman Oaks there is a new lavish banquet hall-wedding venue called Republic. This unique hall is an extremely opulent setting for private events. They offer a lavishly designed interior, gourmet cuisine, outstanding service, and live entertainment. Republic also offers offsite catering. The newly built building is located at 14241 Ventura Blvd.

If you're just looking for something delicious there is a new place at 15030 Ventura Blvd called Borekas! Now you might be wondering ... what is a Boreka? Borekas are a popular baked pastry in Sephardic Jewish cuisine. They are typically made with either puff pastry or filo dough. At Borekas, they offer Spinach and Cheese, Fungi, Onion and Truffle, Potato and Brown Butter, or Cultured Cheese and Zaatar. Just four choices and they usually sell out by 2 pm. They are supposedly so delicious that people are lining up every day to get their Borekas! I went over the other day to try one and they were already sold out and closed. You can order them in advance if you don't want to chance it. Good Luck! I can't wait to try one – they look amazing!

There are a couple of interesting new stores in Studio City. The first one that I'd like to turn you on to is Boisson which has six locations in NYC and is now opening in California. The entire store is devoted to non-alcoholic beverages. They sell non-alcoholic spirits, wine, beer, and ciders. There are several celebrities getting into this alcohol-free space. Taylor Swift has a product out there – an alcohol-free vodka called Big Machine which is made with high quality grains and pure Tennessee limestone water. Katy Perry has De Soi which is a non-alcoholic aperitif, and then there's Blake Lively's brain-child ... Betty Buzz. This product line is non-alcoholic sparkling mixers crafted to pair with your favorite spirit but can be

enjoyed on its own. Brad Pitt's got a rosé, Travis Scott has a spiked seltzer brand, and Kendall Jenner has a tequila label. More and more celebs are launching non-alcoholic products. In fact, there are at least 17 celebs currently involved in the non-alcoholic beverage industry. Boisson offers an extremely wide variety of products and is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in checking out these special drinks!

As you can see, most of my article is related to bread and wine – the staff of life, ancient staples. This brings me to an amazing new bakery in Studio City ... Breadblok ... which is an organic, gluten-free, wheat-free, soy-free, gum-free, refined-sugar-free bakery! They can make these phenomenal artisan breads and pastries using only the best ingredients while not sacrificing taste. Their breads have a French Provencal influence because the family that started this company began their exploration into bread making on their farm in Provence. They refused to settle for subpar breads and were inspired to create their own using wholesome ingredients. They've tapped into the wealth of natural ingredients available to make these amazing breads and pastries. Breadblok now has five SoCal locations, including one opening soon at 12184 Ventura Blvd.



A couple of weeks ago I received an email from one of our readers letting me know of a new bakery-cafe in Sherman Oaks called Schatzi's. It's located on Ventura Blvd where Rive Gauche used to be and therefore offers a beautiful outdoor patio area. They also specialize in delicious handmade breads and pastries. This hidden spot will make you feel like you're on vacation in Tuscany or at a stopover in France. They also feature Italian coffees and espressos.

I have been tipped off to another new opening in Studio City that I find very exciting. This new venue will be opening in the old location of Oil Can Harrys. I can't say much about it, but it will be a new music venue featuring blues and other live music.

If you know of anything opening soon, please drop me a note at somatt@aol.com so I can include it.

I want to thank everyone who chimed in after last month's article about longtime residents in the area. So far nobody has beat Marsh Hunts 76 years living in the same home in Sherman Oaks.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS AND WISH YOU AND YOURS A HAPPY AND BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!

At Thanksgiving, we take a moment to appreciate the things and people which bless our lives. Those who give of themselves in order to make a difference, whether it's the mail carrier trudging through the rain, the ER doctors and nurses, those sworn to protect us, or those who simply give a helping hand. As the ONLY member-supported, volunteer-run non-profit organization, SOHA advocates for our community. SOHA's Board of Directors thanks YOU, our members, whose membership and commitment allow us to advocate for better outcomes for our collective benefit.

Since 1964, SOHA has been dedicated to preserving and improving our community on a variety of major issues – and because we are completely member-supported, we can do so free of city or county influence. Whether it's working to protect our neighborhoods with appropriate housing and zoning, working to obtain the best mass transit solutions for Sherman Oaks, or working to improve major real estate developments to reduce negative impacts, SOHA IS YOUR BEST ADVOCATE for Sherman Oaks.

But we can't do it without a strong membership base, so PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER with your neighbors and encourage them to join. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so! And if you are not already a member, please JOIN NOW. Just go to SOHA's website at SOHA914.com and click on "JOIN SOHA" to join by check, credit card, or PayPal. Please contact Nancy Sogoian, SOHA Board Member and Membership Chair at JoinSOHA@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you and bless you!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG. VISIT SOHA914.COM TO 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 AND CLICK "JOIN SOHA"



SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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