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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Marcie Edwards

New General Manager of L.A. Dept. of Water and Power:

***Making the DWP More Efficient**

***Are Electric and Water Rates Too High or Too Low?**

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Marcie Edwards, the new General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) will be the guest speaker at our June 18, 2014 Meeting. She is the first woman to lead the nation's largest municipal utility. The DWP has a budget of \$4.3 billion, has nearly 9,000 employees, and provides water and power to 4 million residents of Los Angeles.

Both her father and grandfather worked at the DWP and she started working at the agency at age 19 as a clerk typist. Marcie continued to work for the DWP for 24 years then moved to Anaheim where she was in charge of the Anaheim Public Utilities for 13 years and then appointed as Anaheim City Manager.

Find out if the DWP wants to raise your water and electricity rates. What is being done to trace the \$40 million dollars that was paid by the DWP to a non-profit operated by personnel from the DWP as well as the union for the DWP? Why will the non-profit not disclose how it spent over \$40 million of rate payers money? What information is being hidden? What about the snafu on billing and collection by the DWP? Will rules be imposed because of the statewide drought?

Jules Feir is proud to announce that Jinky's Cafe will be our Restaurant of the Month.

Jinky's is famous for their breakfast and lunch menu and, of course, their pancakes. It was established in 1992. In 1997 the new owner, Alan Verma, expanded it to accommodate the crowds plus, it is now open for dinner with a full menu selection as well. Their business has grown to four busy locations with a large following of loyal patrons.

The menu has added a healthy side with vegetarian, vegan and gluten free items as well.

We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their wonderful foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 pm.

* * *

Marshall Long and Kimberlee Gerston met on May 30th with Greg Erwin, a representative of the Westfield Fashion Square management team, to discuss their plans for an expansion of the Fashion Square shopping complex. The preliminary plans anticipate one additional structure of about 108,000 square feet area located on the south side of the current parking area, which would include restaurants and high-end entertainment venues along with additional shopping areas. They anticipate indoor/outdoor dining with the live entertainment, perhaps a small jazz combo, to increase the participation of the current clientele toward more nighttime activities.

The timing of the project is currently planned to be a preliminary submittal of plans to the City by the end of 2014 and a completion date of January 2016. The proposed square footage is approximately one-third that which was previously proposed in 2008 and subsequently withdrawn. There will also be additional structures to provide for the increased parking needs. Another part of the plan would be to increase the walking traffic and exposure of shops to Riverside Drive on the north side of the center.

Marshall Long will Chair the Committee on the project and nearby resident Kimberlee Gerston has agreed to be a member. Any others who might be interested in participating should contact Marshall Long at (818) 981-8005.

* * *

Bob Anderson reports exciting new progress on our fight against helicopter noise in Sherman Oaks and across Los Angeles County.

Agreements are moving forward for a countywide helicopter noise complaint system. Although the exact methods for funding and administering the system are not yet final, it looks like the system could be in place within the coming months.

The system would allow anyone bothered by helicopter noise to easily file a noise complaint using a toll-free telephone number or a Web-based form. To report, you would answer a few questions, such as your name, address, and time of the noise complaint. The complaint would be logged and plotted on a countywide map. This will allow the identification of "noise hot spots" where efforts can be concentrated to identify the culprits and reduce the noise. It will also help determine if voluntary and/or regulatory noise reduction efforts are working, and how well.

We will keep you posted on progress in our next SOHA Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com.

We are also seeing progress moving forward on "A Vision for Sherman Oaks" – a multi-pronged effort focused on helping to improve Sherman Oaks as a community through beautification efforts, traffic mitigations, transportation improvements, parking improvements, effective integration with the Riverwalk, and other activities.

Starting this month, the Vision committee is beginning a series of presentations to important local officials and agencies to ensure that they understand the Vision and to garner their support for moving forward on the Vision.

The first presentation was to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation staff and concerned traffic mitigation at three notorious traffic "hot spots" in Sherman Oaks. The Vision focuses on some very easy and inexpensive "quick fixes" that can help move traffic more effectively through these hot spots, as well as some more costly longer-term solutions for future implementation.

If you have any questions about the Vision or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com.

Former SOHA Board Member, Nancy Kaleel, reports that she has been assured by Councilman Tom LaBonge's office that the City will put Library Square's speed humps back in. The neighborhood was repaved in April and the speed humps were removed during that process. Field Deputy Tommy Newman spoke with Street Services, and they indicated they are targeting the month of June for replacement. The speed humps were part of the Library Square Traffic Mitigation Plan.

Tommy Newman is now the primary Deputy in Councilman Tom LaBonge's office for Sherman Oaks. Erich King, a recent addition to the office, will also be helping with Sherman Oaks on an as-needed basis. Tommy has covered the northern half of Sherman Oaks for the last year.

Prior to working for Councilman Tom LaBonge, Tommy attended college in Washington, D.C. and worked on Capitol Hill for two years. He then attended law school in San Francisco and was recruited by Councilman Tom LaBonge after law school to come and work at the local level of politics and help make Council District Four's neighborhoods even more special places to live and work.

Tommy can be reached on his cell phone during regular work hours at (818) 356-6507.

On Sunday, June 22, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., there will be the 12th Annual Walkathon and Family Celebration at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park to raise awareness of and funding for a cure for Scleroderma, a chronic, complex and debilitating autoimmune disease similar to lupus that often affects the internal organs with life-threatening consequences. Some 300,000 people are affected by this terrible disease, which mostly affects middle aged women. For more information, including donations, please visit www.scleroderma.org/socal.

SOHA Board Members Elke Heitmeyer, Jules Feir, Matt Epstein and Chuck Betz participated in the S.O. Beautification effort on the Mayor's Day of Service. This was a cooperative community effort by SONC, BID, SOHA and the Chamber of Commerce.

Participants walked the entire length of Ventura Blvd. in Sherman Oaks, identifying points such as sidewalks, curbs, trees or news racks in need of repair or improvement.

The different organizations of our community are working together to improve quality of life in Sherman Oaks.

SOHA contributed to the creation of the Riverwalk Mural by Kevin Carman, depicting the endangered native Steelhead Trout. The organizers, The Village Gardeners, announced that the unveiling will take place on June 21, 9 am at Valleyheart and Fulton.

Need a pothole fixed? Worried about a broken branch dangling from a street tree? If you own a smart phone, there's an easy, and even fun way, to address these routine city issues.

Carolyn Ramsay, former Chief Deputy for Councilman Tom LaBonge suggests, Download the City of Los Angeles FREE smart phone app, MyLA311. The app allows you to snap a photo of the problem, identify the location and send it instantly to city staff for follow-through. It's easy, fun and free. It helps you keep Sherman Oaks the clean and safe community you love. More information about it can be found here: <http://lacity.org/MyLA311/index.htm>.

Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at soha914@gmail.com.

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.

As is normally the case, there will be no July Meeting or Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you on June 18th and, thereafter, at the August 20, 2014 Meeting (the third Wednesday of the month).

Very truly yours,

Richard H. Close, President