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L A County District Attorney Jackie Lacey: My Goals & Your Goals - To Make Our County Safe

COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013 - 7:15 PM
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Los Angeles County District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, August 21, 2013. She became the Los Angeles District Attorney after being sworn in last December. Come hear her speak about how she can help you with your concerns about the community. Remember, the District Attorney's office is the "people's lawyers"!

Ms. Lacey oversees approximately 1,000 lawyers, nearly 300 investigators and about 800 support staff. She was raised in the Crenshaw area of Los Angeles. Ms. Lacey graduated from Dorsey High School and the University of California at Irvine. She furthered her education by graduating from the University of Southern California Law School and joined the District Attorney's office in 1986. She currently lives in the San Fernando Valley and is our neighbor.

Jules Feir announced that Gelson's Market will be the Restaurant of the Month.

Gelson's was founded in 1951 as an extraordinary grocery shopping experience for discerning consumers. They are recognized as one of the nation's premier supermarket chains. They are known for superior produce, the highest quality meats, seafood and deli, an unmatched selection of wine and liquor and exceptional service.

Its President, Rob McDougall, heads up their 16 locations with a new Long Beach store scheduled to open before Thanksgiving.

Gelson's also is the host of our annual Holiday Toy Drive.

We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their delicious food during the Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m. We thank them for their continued community support.

Marshall Long, who oversees our Land Use Committees, reports on Il Villaggio Toscano (IVT) development. The IVT project is just north of the Galleria on the west side of Sepulveda Boulevard. The project violates the City Specific Plan for the area.

In addition, there is no Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that addresses this specific project. Only the 500 unit project was addressed in the original EIR. Therefore, no one knows the full extent of the impacts of traffic, noise and density on the Sherman Oaks community.

There are still serious concerns about the noise impact from the Freeways on the towers, which extend well above the noise barriers designed to block the Freeway noise.

The existing Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is 78 dB according to the initial EIR and 80 dB according to SOHA experts. Both of these numbers are well above the maximum CNEL contour levels at the west end of the Los Angeles airport runways, whose highest level is a CNEL 75.

Currently, our Councilman Tom LaBonge supports the illegal project. He also supports giving the developer, for free, the City roads within the boundaries of the development. He indicates that the project is smaller than the developer first wanted.

We are in discussions with Councilman LaBonge and will update you at our Meeting and in the next Newsletter.

Bob Anderson provides the following updates:

➤ The end is in sight! The I-405 construction project should be complete in Sherman Oaks by the end of 2013. The north half of the new Mulholland Bridge and the south half of the new Skirball Bridge should both be done by late 2013. The new Skirball ramps are now further south on Sepulveda Boulevard. The new southbound I-405 Skirball on-ramp is complete and open, and the southbound I-405 Skirball off-ramp should be complete by late summer 2013. Construction near Valley Vista Boulevard

where the I-405 crosses over Sepulveda Boulevard should be complete by late fall 2013. Traffic on the southbound I-405 will soon be switched to the new Valley Vista Boulevard on-ramp and off-ramp. The southbound I-405 on-ramp at Valley Vista Boulevard will have three lanes which should help morning congestion.

Don't forget that Sherman Oaks lost all the trees on the west side of the I-405 near Sherman Oaks Circle, and there is still no resolution on how many and what types of trees will be replanted.

If you have to use the I-405 near Sunset Boulevard or Wilshire Boulevard be prepared for construction delays well into 2014. Starting in August, the Sunset Boulevard off-ramp from the northbound I-405 will be closed for four months and the eastbound Wilshire Boulevard on-ramp to the northbound I-405 will be closed for three months. Of course, this will severely impact traffic in both directions on Sepulveda Boulevard, so be careful and plan ahead. If you would like daily alerts on construction activity and road closures, go to <http://www.metro.net/projects/I-405/> and click on the email symbol under "Stay Connected."

> June and July were important months for reducing helicopter noise in Los Angeles due to Congressman Adam Schiff's field Hearing at the Autry Museum and meetings in July with elected officials concerning a countywide helicopter noise complaint system. SOHA's Bob Anderson is a founding member and President of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC).

LAAHNC includes members from the Valley, Hollywood, Hollywood Hills, Griffith Park and South Bay, and has been actively pursuing ways to monitor noise complaints and reduce helicopter noise in all parts of Los Angeles. Visit LAHelicopterNoise.org to learn more about LAAHNC's activities. If you have any questions or would like further information on stopping helicopter noise, please contact SOHA's Bob Anderson at BobA@LAHelicopterNoise.org.

Kimberlee Gerston, Chair of the SOHA Committee studying the proposed Sunkist development project, spoke with Jeremy Byk, Vice President of Real Estate Development for IMT, the Sherman Oaks based developer who purchased the Sunkist property on the corner of Riverside Drive and Woodman Avenue. Jeremy stated that IMT has had an architectural study and analysis done and is currently fine tuning their plan.

Once they come to a conclusion about their overall concept, they will reach out to SOHA and the community. Jeremy was hoping to conclude this process several months ago and is frustrated at the length of time it has taken. Scott Johnson of Johnson Fain Architects was hired to preserve the Sunkist building to its class A type, state of the art 1971 condition. Furthermore, they have multiple architectural firms working on the remaining portion of the property. He believes it will be a very exciting and dynamic project.

The Harvard-Westlake school on Coldwater Canyon wants to expand by building an 8 story building an 8 story parking garage with a soccer practice field on the roof on the west side of Coldwater Canyon with a bridge over the street. Residents are concerned that this is a first step in the expansion of the school (physically and the number of students). We will be reviewing the proposal to determine if there any adverse effects from the project on the Sherman Oaks community. If you live in the neighborhood and want to become involved in this project, please contact the Association at SOHA914@gmail.com.

Great news! Ventura Boulevard from Van Nuys Boulevard to Sepulveda Boulevard will undergo a complete facelift, with its streets being resurfaced, its concrete bus pads replaced and its trees trimmed. Please be patient as the work continues. It will be done largely at night and on weekends so as to minimize the impact to businesses and traffic. The portion that will be fixed stretches one mile.

Fire Station News. Recently a new fire station has been proposed for Oxnard Boulevard and Vesper Avenue. This would become Fire Station Number 39. It would serve mainly the Van Nuys community; however, fires occurring in Sherman Oaks might also be handled by this station. Fire stations serve not only fires, but also help in answering 911 calls since they each carry a paramedic who is required for a 911 response.

Recently, Mayor Eric Garcetti held a press conference in front of Notre Dame High School. The press conference announced the kick-off of the program "Operation Blitz." This program created by Nazario Saucedo, who is the Director of Street Services, and the Mayor, helps involve the community in identifying needed street repairs, tree trimming and sidewalk repairs.

This citywide program is starting in Sherman Oaks immediately. More information will be provided in the near future.

On August 6, 2013, the country celebrated National Night Out. Sherman Oaks participated in this event in the parking lot of Bank of America at 14701 Ventura Boulevard. The purpose of the National Night Out event was to meet your neighbors, police and elected officials, and just to have a good time.

For those of you who missed it, this is a national yearly event.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Close, President