

LOCAL RESTAURANTS STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Jules Feir updates us on a few more popular local restaurants that are open for either take out or deliveries. Most are open for both lunch and dinner. Here are just a few:

Casa Vega (famous Mexican Sherman Oaks restaurant and SOHA Restaurant of the Month 14 times since 1998)

Maria's Italian Kitchen

The Great Greek

Sweet Butter Café

Mendocino Farms

Bamboo Chinese Cuisine

These neighborhood restaurants will send you home with the same quality food as if you were sitting and eating in their establishments. The menus are the same or in some cases reduced. All restaurants are sanitized throughout the day and all the employees wear masks and gloves to insure maximum protection to their customers.



We continue to urge you to support our local restaurants to help them survive during this very difficult time.

METRO DELAY COULD HINDER INNOVATIVE SEPULVEDA PASS PROJECTS

Bob Anderson reports that a recent Metro decision to delay industry proposals for innovative Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project concepts – such as a monorail above the 405 freeway – could have drastic unintended consequences for Sherman Oaks.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Metro revenues have fallen badly from low ridership and low sales tax receipts. Metro is currently conducting a financial analysis of all planned transit projects. The analysis could end up recommending delays and/or less costly transit options. Metro will present the analysis results at their May or June Board meeting.

Up to four industry consortia are expected to propose various innovative concepts through the Sepulveda Pass, like a 405 monorail. Some of these concepts may significantly reduce project cost and/or schedule – within Metro budgets and in time for the 2028 Olympics.

A couple of months ago, Metro delayed receipt of industry proposals until June 17, 2020. This means that accurate cost and schedule information for innovative Sepulveda Pass concepts will not be available for Metro's financial analysis. The analysis will be done before industry submits their proposals. SOHA fears that inaccurate analysis results could bias Metro Board decisions on the Sepulveda Pass project. This could potentially lead to project delays, elimination of more cost-effective concepts, or the horrid selection of unacceptable Metro concept HRT3 or MRT1 with elevated tracks above Sepulveda Boulevard in Sherman Oaks. Both the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association and the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council vehemently oppose Metro elevated concepts HRT3 and MRT1.

SOHA has expressed our concerns in writing to Metro and is carefully monitoring the situation. We cannot and will not let inaccurate Metro analysis negatively impact concept decisions and schedules for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

STATE LEGISLATURE SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE

Maria Kalban, Chair of SOHA's Legislative Committee, reports that the State Legislature is scheduled to reconvene in early May. Once the legislature reopens, SOHA will again start tracking all the Bills that are of concern; SB 902, AB 725, and AB1279. Our position letters are ready for submittal when these Bills are assigned to the housing committee.

An ad hoc committee has been formed by the President pro tempore of the California Senate, Toni Atkins. They were tasked with studying and formulating ideas for the production of new housing in California. Our SOHA committee has already sent letters to each of the seven committee members with ideas for increasing affordable housing and building housing on commercial corridors while leaving single family neighborhoods intact. The SOHA committee will keep track of the movement of housing bills and the findings of this ad hoc committee to alert you as needed.

Interesting observations have been made by health officials during this pandemic. They report that California might have been spared the devastation that New York has experienced because of the lower density living environments in California and our use of cars rather than public transit. We need to protect and manage our more open environment and not allow our legislature to continue trying to densify our communities beyond what is currently allowed by zoning.

We have always stressed that more housing in the appropriate places is important for our growing population and have often stated that more businesses should be encouraged to settle in less densely populated areas. This would bring jobs to areas where people already live in affordable housing, but are currently forced to commute long distances to their work. This would help California find affordable housing for a growing population without forcing more density on our four major cities. Let's keep California safe for everyone to live in.

AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

Tom Materna reports our aircraft noise update. There has been the final Task Force virtual meeting on May 6, 2020 and recommendations were voted on. Go to <https://hollywoodburbankairport.com/noise-environment/noise-task-force/> to see what they were. Go down the page to May 6 Task Force Member Recommendations – English.

On April 30 at the virtual Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) meeting the staff indicated that LAX passenger counts were down 95%, international airlines starting to file for bankruptcy and recovery being 3 to 5 years down the road. At this meeting, the BOAC approved a 5-year extension for the Customs clearance office at the Van Nuys Airport (VNY). They did not agree to Tom's proposal to move it back to LAX. One of the recommendations that is before the Task Force is to at least shorten the night time hours of operations for that customs office.

The VNY Citizens Advisory Council meetings were again cancelled for May. Hopefully they will resume in June. Tom will provide an update in the next Newsletter.

LOS ANGELES PREPARING "COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATES"

Tom Glick of SOHA's Comprehensive Planning Committee reports that Los Angeles is preparing "Community Plan Updates" for each area of Los Angeles in an attempt to plan the growth of communities over the next twenty years.

The Vision Committee of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, chaired by Jeff Kalban and includes Board Members of SOHA Maria Pavlou Kalban, Bob Anderson, and Tom Glick, have been actively studying for three years all facets of Sherman Oaks' life to do a stakeholder-based Community Plan Update. The Vision committee will present their Community Plan Update in a town hall meeting.

Since zoning is an important part of the Community Plan Update, it is important to remember that zoning originated as a means for increasing people's access to daylight and fresh air in urban environments, and for separating incompatible uses. Fundamentally, zoning was about human health and well-being. The State legislature is perverting zoning by revising the codes to enhance developer's ability to increase density by up zoning our single-family neighborhoods.

The Vision Committee has shown in the Community Plan where future development can occur in Sherman Oaks, to meet the needs of more housing, while protecting our single-family neighborhoods and enhancing the livability of our neighborhoods.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO LAPD SENIOR LEAD OFFICER TRENT BERRY



After 30 years of dedicated L.A.P.D. service to the Los Angeles community, Senior Lead Officer Trent Berry announced his retirement, effective in early May. For the past twenty years, he admirably served as a Senior Lead Officer for our Sherman Oaks (and also the Van Nuys) community. He attended our SOHA meetings with a big smile, always ready to help and serve our community's needs.

Officer Berry states, "I am very grateful for having the opportunity to work with such caring, supportive and dedicated community members along the way. I will definitely cherish the friendships I made over the past years. It was always my goal to retire upon reaching 30 years with this great City & Department, and I reached that goal this January. Thank you again to everyone."

SOHA recognizes, appreciates and thanks Officer Berry for his significant contribution and excellent service to SOHA and the community. We wish him well and will miss him tremendously.

SOHA MOURNS THE LOSS OF RON ZIFF

Ron Ziff, one of Sherman Oak's biggest advocates, has died from complications of COVID 19, leaving all of us that knew and worked with him greatly saddened.

Ron was the immediate past President of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and past Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee. After his recent retirement from these posts, he continued to advocate on behalf of the community on many governmental issues. Most recently, he was involved in the get-out-and-vote campaign in hopes of getting more people engaged in their community's future.

Ron was a long time resident of Sherman Oaks, where he and his wife, Ethel raised their two sons. His grandfather started Westward Ho Markets, one of California's most prestigious Food and Beverage businesses. Ron started as a bag boy, working himself up to buyer, marketing manager, operator and eventually owner of his own market.

He was responsible for opening the Westward Ho in Sherman Oaks (currently Whole Foods on Sepulveda) in the 60's. Ron learned his political savvy first hand as he purchased land and processed construction approvals for new Westwood Ho stores in the Greater Los Angeles Area. His frequent trips to Sacramento, lobbying on behalf of the Food and Beverage Industry, brought real world experience to solving issues in our community.

He was a kind, sweet and much too modest man, who, in his anecdotal manner, mentored all who interacted with him. Whether he was directly involved or offering his advice, Ron would begin with a story about a personal experience that would nail the point with a unique clarity of resolution. It was his uncanny knowledge of the political world that helped guide the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, always one of the City's better NC's, to maturity. His commitment to Sherman Oaks has enriched the lives of all the stakeholders, those that live, work or visit here. Those of us that worked with Ron, and the entire community of Sherman Oaks, owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. His guidance, honesty, and sparkling optimistic presence will be missed.



Do you receive our email updates?

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

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

We need your support to HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG! As a non-profit, 100% member-supported organization, SOHA is as strong as the support we receive from our community. Share this newsletter with neighbors, and invite them to a meeting (as soon as it's safe to have one) where they'll get updates on major issues affecting Sherman Oaks, are able to speak one-on-one with important speakers and enjoy delicious food from a different local restaurant every month!

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President

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VISIT OUR ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE - WWW.SHERMANOAKS914.COM - FOR HELPFUL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION!

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