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SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5223  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413  
Information: (818) 377-4590  
www.shermanoaks914.com

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Mayor Eric Garcetti

# Back to Basics: Creating Jobs and Improving the Quality of Life in L. A.

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Mayor Eric Garcetti will be the guest speaker at our Wednesday, February 19, 2014 Meeting. Although he has been a featured speaker a number of times in the past, this will be your opportunity to meet with him for the first time as our Mayor. As you may know, Mayor Garcetti was President of the Los Angeles City Council from 2006 to 2012. He was raised in Encino and earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics. Mayor Garcetti is an avid jazz pianist and photographer (as is his father former Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti).

During his campaign, and since being elected as Mayor, he has focused on increasing the quality of life in Los Angeles and generating job and economic growth within the City. This will be your opportunity to discuss with him your ideas for making Sherman Oaks and the Los Angeles area, an even better place to live. As taxpayers we need to ask the tough questions! What Departments need to be "reorganized?" What areas should he focus on to help our city? What changes should be made at City Hall? And, many more. Please join us on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> to hear what Mayor Garcetti has to say.

Make sure to arrive early since we expect a large turnout and seating will be limited.

Remember there are two additional parking lots on the Notre Dame campus. One is on Riverside Drive and the other is on Huston Street. You can also park on the street or at the Bank of America parking lot on the southwest corner of Woodman and Riverside Drive and then take the short walk to Notre Dame.

Jules Feir is proud to announce that once again Carnival Restaurant will be our Restaurant of the Month. It has been a supporter of SOHA since 1997.

Carnival was established in 1984 and is a family owned and operated restaurant that has been serving authentic Lebanese food, to the delight of families, in the San Fernando Valley and beyond. Even patrons with the most discriminating palate will have little difficulty finding the perfect menu choice.

Owners Nabil Halaby and Afif Hakim are privileged to always provide the very best cuisine to their customers and the crowds that patronize Carnival will certainly attest to that.

We look forward to enjoying a sampling of their food during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 p.m.

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Bob Anderson reports that completion of the I-405 widening project is delayed – once again! All project work in Sherman Oaks was supposed to be completed by the end of 2013. However, LAMetro has now announced new, later completion dates.

We can only hope that these new dates are not delayed yet again. Completion of the I-405 freeway lanes and retaining walls in Sherman Oaks is now "anticipated" by the end of July 2014.

Completion of the bridge over Sepulveda Boulevard near Valley Vista Boulevard and Fiume Street is also anticipated by the end of July 2014. Completion of the Valley Vista Boulevard on-ramp to the southbound I-405 is anticipated by the end of March 2014.

Completion of the traffic signals and left-turn lane for entering this on-ramp is anticipated by the end of July 2014. Completion of the Valley Vista Boulevard off-ramp from the southbound I-405 is anticipated by the end of July 2014. The Mulholland Bridge is complete, but there is some continuing work near the bridge. Completion of the Skirball Bridge is anticipated by the end of June 2014.

And, be prepared for partial and full closures of Sepulveda Boulevard for repaving starting in late February. This will include four full weekend closures in March and April.

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Bob Anderson indicates that January saw an important breakthrough on the fight against helicopter noise in Los Angeles. The Appropriations Bill approved by Congress and signed by President Obama included a rider provision that requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to begin developing specific regulations limiting helicopter noise in Los Angeles County by the end of this year, if voluntary measures between communities and pilots do not result in effective improvements.

Of course, we hope that ongoing voluntary actions will succeed. However, many communities, including Sherman Oaks, are concerned that voluntary measures will be very slow in coming, and that specific regulations will be required. SOHA's Bob Anderson is deeply involved in this effort. If you have any questions, please contact him at [BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com](mailto:BobHillsideOrdinance@roadrunner.com).

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Marshall Long, who oversees development projects in Sherman Oaks, reports that Buckley School has applied for changes to their existing CUP covering the construction of several buildings. The main request is an unlimited extension in the time to complete the construction work. Our Buckley Committee Chair, Vivian Gumbiner, has prepared a list of requests to be added to the CUP including: a limit of an additional 5 years on the construction; repair of existing run down fencing along their property; limits on Sunday athletic practices; limits on nighttime activities; limits on enrollment until the current buildings are completed; and additional traffic controls. We are hopeful that the City will impose our requests.

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The "Plan for a New Sherman Oaks" as presented by architect, Jeff Kalban, at SOHA's January Meeting is gaining great momentum. The plan encompasses parking, landscaping, traffic, transportation improvements, L.A. River enhancements, a new Sherman Oaks plaza, community outreach, and much more. All these improvements are designed to make Sherman Oaks a stronger and more vibrant community.

SOHA's Bob Anderson, Joan Pelico and many other dedicated volunteers participated in a recent Saturday retreat where progress on each aspect of the plan was discussed. We are all now working to integrate all our ideas so that they can be easily presented to elected officials and decision-making organizations.

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Councilman Tom LaBonge is opening Council District 4's new Sherman Oaks District Office. The new office will be open Monday through Friday. It will be open by early March and a neighborhood open house will be announced soon.

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The Association is a Member of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations. The Federation is involved in hillside issues from Sunset Boulevard to Ventura Boulevard from Griffith Park to the far west Valley.

Elke Heitmeyer represents the Association at the Federation's meetings. If you have questions about the work or issues of the Federation, please speak to Elke at our next Meeting.

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In light of the recent 20-year Anniversary of Northridge Earthquake, remember to have a Family Safety Plan in place. Emergency Preparedness is vital! If you are interested in becoming CERT certified, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program continues to offer a 17½ hour disaster preparedness course designed for business and community organizations in the City of Los Angeles. For more information on how to enroll, contact the Los Angeles Fire Department, Disaster Preparedness Unit at (818) 756-9674 or [lafdcert@lafd.lacity.org](mailto:lafdcert@lafd.lacity.org) and mention the "CERT Program" in your correspondence or when you call.

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If you know of an area that deserves special attention in your neighborhood, please reach out to either Alice Roth at [alice.roth@lacity.org](mailto:alice.roth@lacity.org) or Tommy Newman at [tommy.newman@lacity.org](mailto:tommy.newman@lacity.org) in Councilman Tom LaBonge's office.

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We have a very important question for you – What is the number one problem in Sherman Oaks that you believe our Councilman should focus on? Please send your problem to [soha914@gmail.com](mailto:soha914@gmail.com)

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Have you visited our website lately? Learn what is happening in the community. Find out who to contact in the City to solve problems. Get links to important websites. Find information about our next Meeting. Go to [www.ShermanOaks914.com](http://www.ShermanOaks914.com).

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If you missed any of our Meetings, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search officialSOHAvideo to see portions of the Meetings.

Very truly yours,  


Richard H. Close, President