

"Together
we have
clout!"

ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021 - 7:15 PM

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

GUEST SPEAKER: LA CITY COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN

SUPPORT FOR SHERMAN OAKS

HOMELESSNESS

EFFECTS OF REDISTRICTING

Our guest speaker at our Community Meeting on Wednesday evening, November 17, 2021 will be Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nithya Raman. Councilwoman Raman became Sherman Oaks' Councilwoman in December 2020. She immigrated from India to the United States when she was six and grew up in the Boston suburbs. Councilwoman Raman received her undergraduate degree from Harvard and her master's from MIT. She spent years working to improve living and working conditions in India and the United States. She worked in the office of the City Administrative Officer of Los Angeles which serves as the financial advisor to the Mayor and City Council. Councilwoman Raman spent time writing a report about the homelessness and determined that 90% of what was being allocated to homeless was actually spent on jailing individuals instead of services to help them on the path to getting off the streets and living in a stable household. She currently lives in Silver Lake with her husband and five-year-old twins.

The City of Los Angeles is in the process of creating new council districts which takes effect on January 1, 2022. During our Meeting, Councilwoman Raman will discuss the redistricting process and the possibility that she will only serve our district until December 31, 2021. She will also discuss the reopening of Ventura Boulevard businesses and, of course, the important efforts of helping the homeless, especially in the Sherman Oaks area.

What do you think needs to be done in the Sherman Oaks community? This is your opportunity to explain issues that need to be addressed, whether in Sherman Oaks or throughout the City.

If you have a question for Councilwoman Raman, email it to us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com on or before Monday November 15, 2021.

To attend the virtual Zoom Meeting, the Meeting ID is 859 7292 3147 and the Passcode is SOHA914. Please arrive at the waiting room between 7:00 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. The Meeting starts promptly at 7:15 p.m. If you are unfamiliar with how to sign into a Zoom Meeting or need help, please email us at SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com. We will email you instructions.

Do you receive our email updates?

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

REDISTRICTING MAP THAT'S FAIR TO SHERMAN OAKS AND THE VALLEY MAY BE CHANGED...FOR THE WORSE

Bob Anderson reports that the LA City Council Redistricting Commission's approved map has been submitted to the City Council. It has upset some City Councilmembers and looks to be changed. This can happen because LA's elected officials appoint the Redistricting Commissioners. The Commission's map is only a recommendation and the City Council can change it. The State of California and LA County both have fully independent Citizens Redistricting Commissions whose maps are final and not subject to further changes. Maybe it's time for an LA independent commission too.

SOHA participated in the entire redistricting process starting in November 2020, submitted detailed sets of comments, and spoke at eight Commission meetings. Our recommendations were simple. First, keep Sherman Oaks whole in a single district. Second, give the Valley its fair share of districts.

The Commission's final map accomplished both of SOHA's recommendations. Sherman Oaks is whole in Council District 3. The following quote from the Commission's Final Report explains how the Valley gets its fair share of districts:

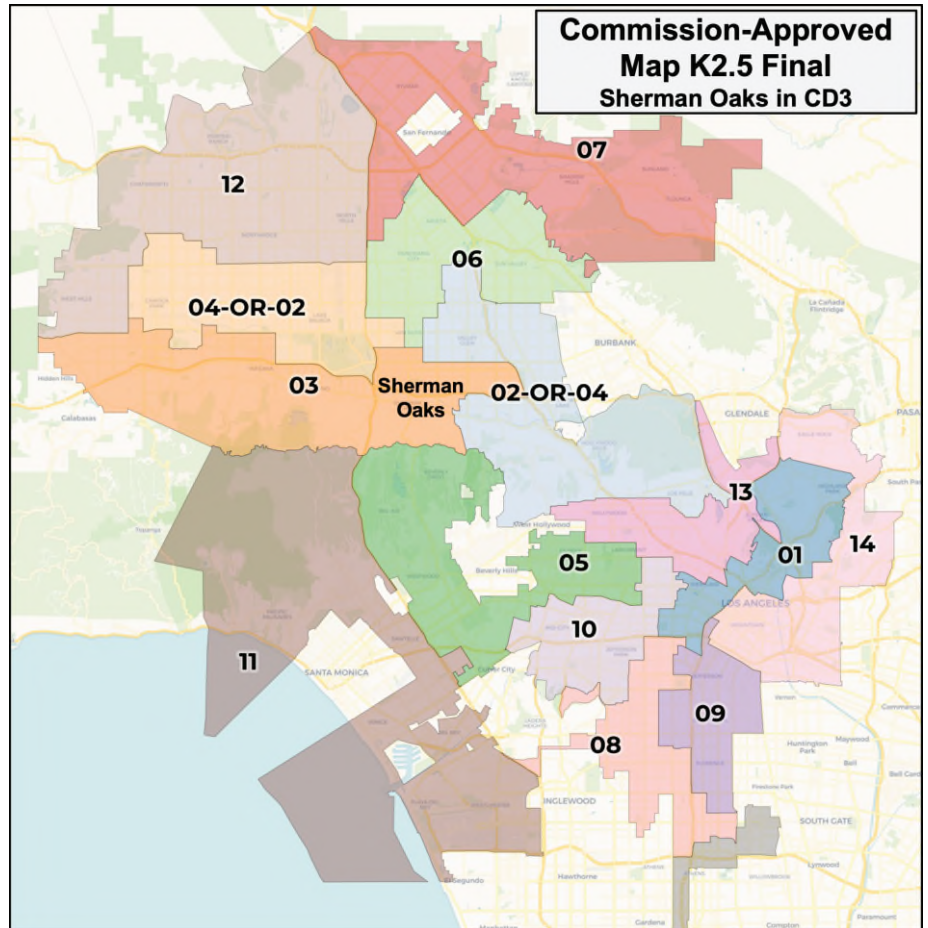
"In recognition of the fact that San Fernando Valley residents now constitute 38% of the City's population, for the first time in the City's history, five Council Districts are situated entirely in the San Fernando Valley, with only one "bridge" district crossing the Santa Monica Mountains, with the majority of its population being within the Valley."

This is phenomenally good. The bridge district is almost three-quarters Valley. In 2011 redistricting, the Valley should have had a single 60-percent Valley-majority bridge district, but instead got two smaller bridge districts – Sherman Oaks in Council District 4 and Encino in Council District 5. Together, these smaller districts were barely 50 percent in the Valley. We did not get our fair share of districts in 2011. The 2021 Redistricting Commission recognized the prior commission's error and corrected it. We thank the Commission for doing this because it was challenging and required more than "minor adjustments" to the current district map.

But as good as the Commission's map is and as transparent as the Commission's process was, no map can be perfect. No map can please everyone. So, the City Council will redraw portions of the map. SOHA is concerned that some of our hard-fought-for achievements may be undone.

We cannot predict what the City Council will do to the Commission's map. We hope the Council makes only specific local corrections. We dread the Council making drastic changes. It took the Commission almost a year to put their map together. The Council will have about five weeks. Redistricting is hard – like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle. A drastic change in one area can domino across many other areas – and could undo the Valley getting its fair share of districts. The City Council must not let this happen. The Valley truly deserves five all-Valley districts and a single 75 percent Valley-majority bridge district. Please don't let us down again!

Contact SOHA's Bob Anderson at BobHillsideOrdinance@gmail.com for more information.



SINGLE-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS KILLED IN CALIFORNIA - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED SOON -

The State of California decided that ending single family neighborhoods made more sense than encouraging development along the thousands of miles of underutilized commercial corridors that run through all our cities and could be used for housing. These corridors are where we have the economy of scale and infrastructure to produce significant housing for all income groups. SOHA will continue to fight for our single-family neighborhoods while encouraging new housing on these corridors.

When SB 9 and SB 10 go into effect in January, every neighborhood will be in jeopardy of having multi housing units where one house stood. Nothing is protected, not hillsides, high fire zones or neighborhoods with narrow streets. These bills give enormous power to developers to plan our communities without our input. We need more affordable housing and these bills do not produce one affordable unit.

We are running out of time, what can we do now? SB 9 and SB 10 allow some local control if the City of LA enacts an ordinance in order to establish that right. Are our Councilmembers willing to stand up and support an ordinance that protects our communities?

Maria Kalban has submitted a draft Ordinance to several Councilmembers and hopes that they will introduce it to the full City Council for a vote. When the ordinance is filed, we will ask you to call your councilmember and insist they support it. Remember we are not fighting the bill, it is already law. But we want our City to exercise the right they are given to enact some safeguards to help mitigate SB 9 and 10's impact on our communities.

We need to add pressure to Councilmembers Nithya Raman, Nury Martinez, Paul Krekorian and the other Members of our City Council to do the right thing.

On Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. SOHA will host its 23rd Annual Toy Drive in front of Gelson's Market at 4520 Van Nuys Boulevard next to Best Buy. Gelson's will provide delicious snacks as they do each year.

We invite everyone to stop by, bring an unwrapped toy, visit with Santa Claus and speak with many of our local elected and non-elected officials who are confirmed to be in attendance including but not limited to State Senator Robert Hertzberg, State Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian, retired Los Angeles City Councilman and former Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, City Attorney Mike Feuer, City Controller Ron Galperin, Los Angeles City Police Chief Michel Moore, LAPD Commander Captain Alan Hamilton (in charge of the Valley), LAPD Captain Phil Hearn (in charge of Sherman Oaks), Los Angeles City Councilmen Bob Blumenfield and Paul Koretz, LAFD Deputy Chief Valley Operations Trevor Richmond and Greg Spotts, Assistant Director of City Street Services.

Our local Police and Fire Departments will have vehicles on display (fun to sit in) as well as personnel for you to talk with. There will be a City garbage truck (clean) for children (of all ages) to sit in and explore.

Your gifts will be distributed by the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services to the children under their care. Your donations are probably the only gifts the children will receive for the Holidays. We look forward to seeing you at the Toy Drive on Sunday, December 5, 2021 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



County Of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG!
VISIT SOHA914.COM TO BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association

23rd Annual 2021 Holiday Toy Drive

Meet Santa Claus
Sunday, December 5th
11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Gelson's

Van Nuys Blvd next to Best Buy

Join your friends, family and neighbors at **Gelson's Market** for free coffee and snacks when you drop off a new, unwrapped toy, as we once again put a smile on a child's face.

The Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association is helping the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, by donating toys to some of the over 70,000 needy children in Los Angeles County, so that they may have a better holiday season.

Holiday Gift Suggestion List

Infant to Age 5

Stuffed animals, pull toys and building blocks (Lego, Duplo type)

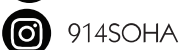
Age 6 to 10

Dolls, trucks, action figures, play dough, puzzles and books

Age 11 to 13

Watch, radio, board and computer games, jewelry, music and books

Follow us on:



All Ages

GIFT CERTIFICATES



THE HONORARY MAYOR OF SHERMAN OAKS

SOHA Volunteer Board Profile: Jules Feir



How does one become the Honorary Mayor of Sherman Oaks? You would have to ask Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) Vice President, Jules Feir.

After being discharged from the military, moving to Los Angeles, and retiring from his career in consumer electronics, Jules decided to join SOHA in 1996, in order to become more involved with beautifying and improving Sherman Oaks. Jules began to feed SOHA members at every monthly meeting, catered by the restaurants in the local community. This tradition has been such a success that it has been continued throughout the years.

In addition to his culinary contributions, he has also lent his talents to the beauty and nature of Sherman Oaks by spearheading a tree-planting initiative that transformed Ventura Boulevard from Coldwater Canyon to Sepulveda Boulevard. This was an effort that required everything from applying for city permits to researching appropriate types of trees and holding fundraiser events. "The Barbecue at Bloomingdales," a fundraising event that has been remembered fondly by many Sherman Oaks residents, featuring food, live music, and even a

Bloomingdale-led fashion show in which elected officials modeled new, trending clothes.

As Jules committed himself to these acts of community service, in 2013 he was appointed Honorary Mayor of Sherman Oaks. "I got a call from the city saying they'd like to invite me to city hall, and they wanted to honor me for my 80th birthday," Jules recalls, "... so we go into the chamber, and lo and behold, in the audience are friends of mine from the community and friends of mine beyond." It turned out that this was a surprise for Jules, and he was about to receive a great honor. "It was truly amazing. I didn't know what to say, I was flabbergasted."

Jules now holds the title of Honorary Mayor of Sherman Oaks, and Vice President of SOHA and continues to advance the quality of life in our community.

THE "CHEERS" BAR OF SHERMAN OAKS

Every sip, bite, and laugh at Pineapple Hill Grill and Saloon comes with a load of history. Back during its time of establishment around 1978, it was the place to be for people in the Valley. Celebrities including Frank Sinatra as well as families and anyone hoping for a way to unwind after a long day at work, came to the Pineapple to play trivia, see friends, or watch the day's sporting event.

While watching sports or enjoying a cocktail or one of the 26 beers on tap, customers enjoy a wide variety of what owner Angela Marsden calls reasonable, good-quality food. "We have an awesome patty melt, blue cheese fries, and other yummy bar food," Marsden mentions, adding that their reuben is "written up a lot."

While "martini lunches" of yesterday have transitioned into happy hour, the local restaurant/bar is still known for connecting friends, setting up relationships, and even "Pineapple babies." Over the years customers have met there for writing groups, drinks, and a myriad of celebrations. "A lot of people come in from the Van Nuys courthouse, along with lawyers, teachers, and nurses," Marsden says. "We do our best to bring people together."

Marsden is proud of her diverse clientele, adding that she hopes her customers can come to the Pineapple and be "heard and accepted for who they are." Since the '70s, the Pineapple has been a place for gathering, connecting, and breaking bread. That is why many locals refer to it as the "Cheers Bar of Sherman Oaks."

And, Marsden, adds, "Dogs are welcome too!"



4454 Van Nuys Boulevard #N, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, Hours: 11:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m. (818) 789-0679

The above article is not an advertisement. SOHA does not accept payment for articles.

NO NEWSLETTER OR MEETING IN DECEMBER

As usual, there will be no Newsletter or Meeting in December. We look forward to "seeing" you at our November 17 Meeting, the Sunday, December 5, 2021 Toy Drive (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) and then at our January 19, 2022 Meeting.

Very truly yours,



Richard H. Close, President

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