

"Together we have clout!"

★ **LIVE COMMUNITY MEETING – NEW LOCATION** ★

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 - 7:15 PM  
SHERMAN OAKS EAST VALLEY ADULT CENTER • 5056 VAN NUYS BLVD, 91403  
ALSO STREAMED ON ZOOM



## MEET SHERMAN OAKS' NEW SUPERVISOR, LINDSEY HORVATH

SHE'S ALSO OUR NEW METRO BOARD MEMBER

INNOVATIVE HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

WILDFIRE PROTECTION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

INVESTING IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and assumed office on December 5, 2022, after serving as a City Councilmember and the longest consecutively serving mayor for the City of West Hollywood. Her career has been defined by tackling the hardest problems, building diverse coalitions, and delivering results for her community. She made history as the youngest woman to ever be elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors. She is the first millennial and currently the only renter to serve on the board, bringing a much-needed perspective to county leadership.

Supervisor Horvath worked on many transportation and mobility issues, from her service as a Transportation Commissioner to championing Metro transit projects in West Hollywood. She spearheaded policies to make West Hollywood an "Age-Friendly Community" and created the first-ever West Hollywood Community Response Team to Domestic Violence.

Email your questions for Supervisor Horvath to [SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com](mailto:SOHAZoomMtg@gmail.com) by noon Tuesday February 14th.

This is a **live meeting**, but we will also stream it via Zoom. We will email the link to our members, and you can always find it on our website at [SOHA914.com](http://SOHA914.com). The Zoom ID is 899 0856 0424 with passcode SOHA914. The streaming starts at 7:15 pm.

RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH

**COSTCO**

Jules Feir is happy to announce that once again Costco will be SOHA's Restaurant of the Month.

In past years they have supported our monthly meetings with a delicious assortment of sandwiches and desserts. Once again, we thank them for their community support.

We look forward to enjoying a special taste of their delicious food during our Social Hour starting at 6:15 pm.



## THE DANGEROUSLY HOMELESS

We have heard a lot of talk about the “criminalization of homelessness” and how it is not ethical to throw people in jail just for being homeless. It’s easy to agree with this proposition and most of us do. But, agreeing that being homeless is not a crime in and of itself does not change the reality that homeless people commit crimes too. Being homeless does not exempt people from having to follow our laws. If a throng of teenagers were blocking the entrance to a local business while drinking alcohol and harassing and accosting customers ... you better believe the police would remove them. Of course, the teenagers have somewhere to go. The homeless don’t. Hence, the problem.

There can be no question that new housing is desperately needed in LA. And it certainly appears that our elected officials are focused on addressing the problem. Seeing it and being willing to do something about it are indispensable prerequisites for fixing it.

**But what about the homeless that refuse to move into housing?** The ones that for various reasons prefer to be on the street? A recent study by the Rand Corporation cited in a January 26, 2023 LA Times article reported that 80% of homeless people, when asked if they would accept housing, replied “yes”. This means that 20% of the homeless would refuse housing. Building more housing will not address their problem.

If there are approximately 70,000 homeless in Los Angeles (see LAHSA 2022 homeless count) and 20% of them will refuse to “go inside” this amounts to 14,000 homeless individuals who chose to live on the street. Addressing this problem, fixing this issue, needs to be a top priority.

Over the past several years, the City of Los Angeles has become one of the poster children representing the homelessness crisis in America. To a lesser extent, Sherman Oaks has become the first stop sign at the three-way intersection of tragedy that is played out on our streets: 1) a mental health crisis that fuels homelessness; 2) a political morass (lack of process to create housing and provide mental health services); and 3) a mélange of contradictory laws that fail to empower the city with the authority to force people off the streets when they refuse housing.

To be sure, the road to fixing this problem is laden with unique and vexing challenges. No one would suggest a simple or obvious “fix” to the problem in general. **However, specifically addressing the issue of the dangerously unstable homeless - the homeless who pose a threat to themselves and others, and who refuse to “go inside” - needs to move to the very top of our elected official’s priority list.** The sanctity of everything that we fight for as Sherman Oaks Homeowners is at stake.

Thanks to all who participated in January’s “Homeless Count”. If you have questions, need more information, or want to help SOHA on homelessness, contact Larry Slade at SOHA914@gmail.com.

## ANOTHER STATE BILL TO CAREFULLY WATCH

Another legislative year has begun and so far, we are watching **Senate Bill 4** introduced by Senator Scott Weiner. This bill would **allow religious and teaching institutions to build affordable housing and shelters on their properties.** This is a repeat bill that was introduced two years ago but failed to pass.

We have always been in support of affordable housing and shelters. But the senate must amend this bill so the allowed housing can only be built on an institution’s main campus – and cannot be built in single-family neighborhoods where many of these religious and teaching institutions own single-family homes. It is well known that many people “will” their homes to their place of worship or alma mater, and these institutions often buy homes in single-family neighborhoods for their staff. These homes should not be available for shelters.

Similarly, City of LA Motion 22-0158 also introduces the right to build shelters on campuses of religious institutions. Again, we have sent a letter to the city clerk stating we are in support as long as these shelters are on the institution’s main campus. The motion should not include homes owned by these institutions that might be away from their main campus and in single-family neighborhoods.

We believe we all must work together to get more affordable housing in our community and that this can be achieved without building apartments or shelters in our single-family neighborhoods. We will keep you posted. Please contact Maria Kalban at mpkalban@gmail.com with questions.

## METRO OPEN HOUSE ON SEPULVEDA PASS TRANSIT NOT SO OPEN

January was Metro open house month for the Sepulveda Pass Transit Project. SOHA's Bob Anderson attended the Saturday January 21st open house in Van Nuys hoping to learn a lot more about the project. Metro showed some new station information but not much else. Through judicious questioning of Metro personnel, we learned that:

- Metro has delayed publishing the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report by two years to the "latter part of 2024". This is a ridiculous slip but typical Metro – hurry up and wait!
- Metro has delayed the project selection decision by two years to hopefully the end of 2024. But this gives us more time to fight now for affordable alternatives that best serve communities along the route.
- Metro has updated the peak passenger capacity for the monorails to 16,560 passengers per hour in each direction (Metro Alternatives 1, 2, and 3). This is 35% more passenger capacity than any of the heavy rail subways which only carry 12,240 passengers per hour (Alternatives 4 and 5) and 11,970 passengers per hour (Alternative 6).

Metro did show new location diagrams for all stations but didn't show any renderings of what the stations might actually look like. That's important to communities and was sadly missed.

Metro provided NO information about construction costs, operation and maintenance costs, financing, affordability, project schedules, construction timelines, public-private partnerships, route details, travel times, station parking, maintenance facilities, eminent domain, tunneling impacts, elevated train impacts, noise, or safety.

**The public needs much more information - NOW!** In two years, we will have only a month or so to review and comment on a 1,000-page or more Draft Environmental Report. By that time, we'll have had no substantive project information from Metro for four years. How can Metro reasonably expect people to read 1,000+ pages and make good comments in a month? Metro - **get real and give the public information now.** Stop the silly dog and pony shows. Be collaborative, not combative. Be informative, not misinformative. Work with us, not to spite us.

Contact SOHA for honest answers on the project at FairTransit4ShermanOaks@gmail.com. Email us your name and email and we'll send you our own honest project updates.

## METRO HIDES AGAIN BEHIND FREEWAY DIGITAL BILLBOARDS

Jay Weitzler notes that transparency is not the favorite way for Metro to operate, so without any public outreach whatsoever, it appears that they have approved the installation of 97 changing digital billboards towering over 16 commercial corridors and 8 different freeways across LA County, including the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and additional sensitive locations.

Although Metro is clearly involved in planning transportation countywide, they seem to be unconcerned in the least about safety and more concerned about a money grab from renting billboard space. Had Metro held public hearings, they would have been properly informed about the risk to drivers from looking at changing billboards while going 70 mph on the freeway or driving on other highly traveled streets.

But, as we have learned in studying the "plans" for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor, listening to their constituency is not the way Metro works. Please let City Councilmember Nithya Raman (contactCD4@lacity.org) and County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov) know that this is not what we expect of our officials.

**Do you receive our email updates?**

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

# DISGUSTING NEWS RACKS GONE FOR GOOD

For years, Jules Feir has been complaining to the city about removing all the disgusting abandoned news racks from sidewalks in Sherman Oaks and surrounding areas. He reports that the city has finally removed all these news racks in Sherman Oaks. We appreciate the help of our CD 4 Field Deputy Ryan Ahari in getting this done. Jules' next campaign is repairing our parking meters that are filthy and impossible to read. Go get 'em, Jules.

## SEAN KURZWEIL – ANOTHER NEW SOHA BOARD MEMBER



Sean Kurzweil was born in Kansas and raised in south Jersey, the son of supportive, hardworking, accomplished parents. His African-American mother and Caucasian father met as officers in the U.S. Army. Sean spent several summers in Washington DC as a page in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Having graduated from Yale University and the Columbia University School of Law and practicing corporate law at several large New York City law firms, Sean moved to Los Angeles in 1999 for sunshine and work in showbiz.

He found both and has been a talent manager since 2010. He moved from West Hollywood to the Ernie's Walk neighborhood of Sherman Oaks along the LA River in 2014 where he quickly got involved in neighborhood issues. He spearheaded efforts to address quality-of-life issues affecting his neighborhood with the last three CD4 offices, former Supervisor Kuehl, and representatives from LAPD and CalTrans. For the last several years he has been block captain for his area neighborhood watch and board member of the LAPD Van Nuys Division Community

Police Advisory Board. Recently, he led a neighborhood group that organized to successfully oppose Chick-Fil-A's efforts to get approval for a two-lane drive-thru at their forthcoming location on the old Corky's Restaurant site.

## MATT EPSTEIN'S NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

I am human. I messed up ... 🙄

Let me start off this month's Cs&Gs by apologizing to the wonderful owners of the Green Apple China Bistro for mistakenly writing last month that Fat Sal's was coming to Studio City in the location where Green Apple is located. I was wrong, and it was sloppy on my part. So, I want to set the record straight. This fantastic Chinese restaurant, which has been a mainstay in Studio City for over 13 years, is not going anywhere. It is open and continues to serve its delicious food to our community as it has since 2010. It is the only location for this wonderful family-run restaurant. From the response that my error created, I know that this family and their restaurant are loved by many people. So, no worries, the Green Apple China Bistro is alive and well and serving daily in Studio City! Fat Sal's will be opening in the old Jamba Juice location right next door! (<http://www.greenapplechinabistro.com>)

Say goodbye to Feinstein's at Vitello's and say hello to the Velvet Martini Lounge, which will be opening either the middle or end of February upstairs at Vitello's. Step back in time and experience the glamour of vintage Hollywood with the new Rat-Pack era cocktail lounge/piano bar. There will be live music nightly, delicious food and classic cocktails with a twist! You'll be able to immerse yourself in the ambiance of a bygone era. Whether you're looking for a romantic night out or just a fun night with friends, the Velvet Martini Lounge will be the perfect place to frequent. Seating will be comfortable couches and chairs with a swanky 50s style. (<https://www.vitellosrestaurant.com>)



ARTHA, located where The Gap used to be, is a yoga and wellness sanctuary opening in April. ARTHA refers to meaningful wealth derived from the power of health along with a happy body and mind. These goals are considered an important aim of human life in Hinduism. ARTHA will be offering comprehensive rejuvenation and healing therapies to renew your mind, body, and soul. They offer yoga, meditation, massage, and cryo facial treatments. They'll be offering

state-of-the-art body treatments from muscle relaxation and facial regeneration to non-invasive body sculpting. They'll have a float tank and an infrared sauna. There are therapies, classes, and treatments. This will be their second LA location after opening their first on Sunset Blvd in West Hollywood. Sounds truly interesting! And most definitely worth the experience. (<https://www.artha.la>)

Maybe after a wellness experience at ARTHA, it might be fun to walk over to Backyard Bowls on Little Ventura right off Laurel Canyon. Backyard Bowls is described as a revolutionary eatery specializing in acai bowls, hot porridges, smoothies, and more. They provide high-quality fast-meal options. Their bowls are mostly organic, and they serve only food that they believe is good for you. Real food. Backyard Bowls opened their doors in downtown Santa Barbara in 2008. Their bowls must be good because since opening in 2008, they now have five locations with the sixth open in Studio City. Looks like a place that deserves a try ... or a bowl. (<http://www.backyardbowls.com>)

I'm Verklemp! Have you heard of the Oy Bar? It opened its doors last year where the Oyster House used to be on Moorpark just east of Whitsett. It's a casual bar where you can grab a solid cocktail along with a pastrami quesadilla covered with a crispy gruyere jalapeno crust on the outside. There's a deconstructed borscht which is served cold and made with a beet and aji Amarillo granita and is basically served as a dessert. But from what I hear the burger is not to be missed! So, I know I've got to make my way over to the Oy Bar sometime soon, at least before Passover! Oy! (<http://oybarla.com>)

## **PLEASE SUPPORT SOHA - SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER AND HELP INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP!**

The ways in which SOHA has enriched lives is many. Did you know one of our longtime board members (the late Chuck Betts) was instrumental in getting Proposition 13 adopted? Prop 13's tremendous impact in keeping property taxes lower for homeowners all over California has kept countless seniors – and so many others – in their homes. Did you know SOHA's board raised the money to get trees planted on Ventura Boulevard? Did you know that board member Maria Kalban has devoted a huge chunk of her life over the past several years working to protect our single-family neighborhoods? Maria created United Neighbors, a first-of-its kind coalition of communities all over California to work in strong unity to fight destructive housing legislation.

Are you aware that SOHA's hardworking (some would say tireless) board members, all of whom are local professionals who volunteer their time (most for decades!) to identify major issues that could, and otherwise would, negatively impact the quality of life for our residents? Board members spend sometimes YEARS devoting their time, energy, and skills to help secure the best outcomes for our community on major issues – whether that's working with our LAPD leaders to increase safety or working with developers of major real estate projects to reduce negative impacts and beneficially add to Sherman Oaks (as I did with Sunkist/Citrus Commons). Whether its mass transit (with our VP Bob Anderson painstakingly researching for years Sepulveda Pass transit options), beautification, reducing homelessness ... I'll run out of space before running out of ways SOHA has benefitted our community!

But we can't do any of this FOR our community without the strong support OF our community. We are a member-supported nonprofit and receive NO funding from LA City or County. Our work is contingent on your membership. So, who do you know in Sherman Oaks who's not a SOHA member? Please reach out to them and share this newsletter and the work we do to protect and preserve quality of life here.

If you're not a member, join now and encourage your neighbors to join! Go to [SOHA914.com](http://SOHA914.com), click on "JOIN SOHA", select Member Level (Basic \$45, Silver \$75, or Gold \$125), enter your name and email, click on "Subscribe", and pay with debit or credit card (enter card info via PayPal Guest). OR join by mail. Select your Member Level, legibly include your name, address, email address, and mail your check payable to Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association to SOHA MEMBERSHIP, PO Box 5223, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413-5223. Thank you for your support!

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP SOHA STRONG!  
VISIT [SOHA914.COM](http://SOHA914.COM) TO BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

# SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The **ONLY** member-supported,  
volunteer-run, non-profit  
community organization  
dedicated to preserving and protecting  
the quality of life here in Sherman Oaks.

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