

Officers

*President*  
Richard H. Close  
*Vice President*  
Matt Epstein  
*Vice President*  
Jules Feir  
*Treasurer*  
Chuck Betz  
*Secretary*  
John Isen

Founded in  
1964



SHERMAN OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 5223  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91413  
Information: (818) 377-4590  
www.shermanoaks914.com  
Email: soha914@gmail.com

Board of Directors  
Bob Anderson  
Chuck Betz  
Richard H. Close  
Matt Epstein  
Jules Feir  
Elke Heitmeyer  
John Isen  
Marshall Long  
Jay Weitzler



### City Attorney Mike Feuer

- \*Porter Ranch Gas Leak – What Can the City Do?**
- \*The Solution to the Homeless Problem?**
- \*Is Prop 47 Increasing Local Crime?**

COMMUNITY MEETING  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 - 7:15 PM  
 NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
 RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer will be the featured speaker at our Wednesday, February 17 Meeting. Previously, City Attorney Feuer represented Sherman Oaks in the Los Angeles City Council and in the California State Assembly. He has had a longstanding relationship with the Association and is very familiar with the needs of our community. The City Attorney has one of the most important positions at City Hall.

The City Attorney will discuss issues of importance to Sherman Oaks, the San Fernando Valley, and the City. The City Attorney is the attorney for the City, the City Council, and the City Departments. However, more importantly, he is the attorney to protect and represent the interests of the residents of the City.

The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program is an important function to help residents at the local level. Our Neighborhood Prosecutor is Assistant City Attorney Tamar Galatzan, who has been in that position for 14 years and has attended and discussed the City Attorney's activity in our area at virtually every meeting for the 14 years.

Attend the February meeting to discuss your questions and concerns with Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer.

Jules Feir is happy to announce that once again Carnival Restaurant is the Restaurant of the Month. Located at 4356 Woodman Ave in Sherman Oaks this most popular Lebanese restaurant has long been rated as serving the finest Lebanese food in the Valley and beyond.

Owners Nabil Halaby & Afif Hakim have built an amazing restaurant serving great food at affordable prices. Specialties such as lentil soup, Arabic salad, freshly made hummus, kebabs and on Tuesdays they serve a lamb shank dish like no other.

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

At our January Meeting Jill Stewart, previously General Manager of the L A Weekly and former Los Angeles Times reporter, discussed the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative currently being circulated in the City. The measure should be on the ballot in November. If approved by voters, it would stop developers with political connections from obtaining "spot zoning" and exemptions from Specific and Community Plans.

Too often in the City, developers with connections can disregard the rules that everyone else has to abide by. Projects like the IVT at Sepulveda Boulevard, just south of the 101 Freeway would be required to comply with city zoning and the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan. If you would like further information or to assist in the Initiative process, contact us at soha914@gmail.com.

LA Metro is planning major improvements to rapid transit countywide, and SOHA is carefully monitoring them to ensure that the Valley, and especially Sherman Oaks, gets our fair share. We have reviewed the LA Metro Long-Range Transportation Plan, and most recently the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Draft 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. Unfortunately, both plans essentially ignore near-term rapid transit through the Sepulveda Pass Corridor, and the SCAG plan pretty much ignores the Valley. This is sad because the Sepulveda Pass is the greatest rapid transit challenge facing Los Angeles County (and probably Southern California). More appallingly, the current rapid transit project for the Sepulveda Pass Corridor has a completion date in the 2030-2040 timeframe. This is ludicrous, especially because rapid transit in the corridor is the critical missing link in an otherwise fairly well integrated countywide transit network.

What the LA Metro and SCAG plans to focus on is getting people to use alternative methods of transport, such as rapid transit. SOHA's position is that we want to see legal requirements for near-term Valley rapid transit projects, including the Sepulveda Pass Corridor project before we are willing to support a proposed tax increase that will fund these projects throughout the County.

We have been fooled before, but not again.

\* \* \*

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is preparing the legally required 5 year Urban Water Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles. It is required to plan strategy for the next 25 years to ensure conservation efforts, water demand forecasting, development of alternative water sources, drought contingencies and assessing the vulnerability of our water transport system.

Board Member Jay Weitzler has met with representatives of the LADWP to ensure that the Valley receives it's fair share of water distribution and cleaning up the blighted Valley Aquifer, contaminated from many years of aerospace industry manufacturing. We are also pointing out that large new developments stress these limited resources and believe water availability should play a major role in their approval. We are also concerned that the proposed rate structure does not penalize those of us who live in the hottest part of the city and conservation plans take our specific climate into account.

\* \* \*

John Isen, a Member of the Association's Board of Directors, reports that in 2008, the Los Angeles City Council passed the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance limiting the size of single family residences in the flatlands. In 2011, the Los Angeles City Council passed the Hillside Mansionization Ordinance limiting the size of single family residences in the hillsides. Many communities, including Sherman Oaks, are unhappy with the ordinances because oversized "McMansions" are still allowed to be built under the ordinances.

In response, the Department of City Planning proposed amendments to the ordinances late last year. The proposed amendments are a step in the right direction. The proposed amendments (a) reduce the maximum size of residences by about 10%, (b) in the flatlands reduce the number of ways from 3 to 1 to obtain the 20% additional square footage "bonus", (c) reduce the maximum second floor residential floor area from 75% to 60% of the first floor area in order to obtain the "bonus" and (iv) in the flatlands include an attached garage as residential floor area instead of exempting up to 200 square feet per parking space.

In early January, our SOHA Mansionization Committee submitted written comments supporting the proposed amendments and urging the Department of City Planning to propose additional protections for neighborhoods.

The Department of City Planning is expected to release revised proposed amendments to the ordinances by March.

\* \* \*

The Village at Sherman Oaks Business Improvement District has revamped their website and directory. It has a calendar of events, a listing of all of the businesses in the Village, and sections for property listings and other areas of interest. Please check it out! [www.VillageAtShermanOaks.com](http://www.VillageAtShermanOaks.com). If you have questions or suggestions, please email them to: [info@villageatshermanoaks.com](mailto:info@villageatshermanoaks.com), or call 818-326-0273.

The District is Ventura Boulevard - from Cedros Avenue, east to Van Nuys Boulevard On Van Nuys Boulevard- from Ventura Boulevard, north to Hortense Street.

\* \* \*

LAFD Battalion Chief Linda M. Cessor reports that rain in the Los Angeles basin has long been a source of recurrent flooding problems. In 1960 the current flood control system, which consists of a series of channels, was completed. One of these channels, which is commonly referred to as the LA River, runs through the middle of Sherman Oaks. During heavy, continuous rain this channel can reach speeds of up to 45 MPH. In the event of someone being swept into the river, the Los Angeles Fire Department maintains a Swift Water Rescue Team. This team, which includes members from Sherman Oaks Fire Station 88, is placed on alert when the river fills to dangerous levels. It is not uncommon for the LAFD Swift Water Teams to deploy and effect rescues of individuals who have fallen into the river.

\* \* \*

On January 27, Councilmember David Ryu and his staff participated in the 2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless count, which was stationed out of his Sherman Oaks district office. The Greater LA Homeless Count is the largest homeless count in the nation. In 2015 over 5,500 volunteers spread out across LA County to count homeless individuals in an effort to get them the help and housing they need.

Sidewalk repair, costs, and maintenance has been an issue raised by Valley residents. In mid-January Councilmember David Ryu submitted a motion that instructs the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Street Services and Sanitation to report to the City Council on the feasibility of citywide sidewalk repair using alternative materials and funds.

On January 26, Councilmember David Ryu voted to prohibit the use of smokeless tobacco at sporting events and at City parks, including Dodger Stadium. The vote limits the influence tobacco has on young athletes.

\* \* \*

Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email it to us at [soha914@gmail.com](mailto:soha914@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.shermanoaks914.com](http://www.shermanoaks914.com) to learn more about the Association and our community.

Very truly yours,  


Richard H. Close, President