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## **Press Release:**

### **New Sherman Oaks Neighborhood to Celebrate Name Change**

The Van Nuys neighborhood which successfully changed its name and became annexed to Sherman Oaks after a nearly year-long, heated controversy, will hold a victory picnic and general community celebration this Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the Van Nuys Sherman Oaks park. Festivities run from 4 - 7 p.m. at the corner of Tyone and Huston.

Valley resident, Laurette Healey, who applied for the name change and spearheaded the Part of Sherman Oaks movement, said the group chose the Van Nuys - Sherman Oaks park as a way of including residents of all communities. "This is a celebration that embraces the spirit of civic activism and inclusiveness. We have discovered along the way that we are a community that cares about the lives of everyone in the Valley." Healey says that Part of Sherman Oaks is poised to initiate community projects such as solar powered street lighting and beautification, and that the neighborhood plans to become active in the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, the local chamber, and Neighborhood Councils.

City Controller and former Councilwoman Wendy Greuel will speak at 5 p.m. City Council members from varying parts of Los Angeles, such as Janice Hahn, Paul Koretz and Richard Alarcon, may also attend.

The celebration will feature a catered barbeque, raffle, music, face painting, games and a bouncer for children.

Part of Sherman Oaks is a neighborhood boundaried by Burbank Boulevard north to Oxnard, and Hazeltine to Sepulveda Boulevard. The neighborhood applied in October, 2008 to be annexed to Sherman Oaks, reasoning that it was once a part of that area, it is cut off from Van Nuys by an industrial zone, and that children in the neighborhood attend Sherman Oaks schools. While both the Van Nuys and Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Councils opposed the name change, former City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel supported it as one of her last acts in office. The name change was approved by the Los Angeles City Council on July 14, 2009.