

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association



Sherman Oaks Community Center
1800A Fruitdale Avenue, next to Sherman Oaks School
Website: http://sherman_oaks.tripod.com
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Neighborhood Newsletter

Issue 16, May 2002

Where is SONA? The boundaries of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association are Bascom Avenue on the west, Los Gatos Creek on the south, Highway 280 on the north, and Meridian Avenue on the east.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING ON May 9, 2002!

SONA meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. Come early and meet your neighbors.

SONA AGENDA 5/9/02

- 7:00 Welcome - Jussi**
- 7:05 Treasurer's Report - Paul Owens** will give a brief outline of our financial status.
- 7:10 City College South – Jussi** will briefly recap our status with City College South sound wall.
- 7:15 NAC/PAC Update – Randi** will give a brief status report on these committees.
- 7:20 Richmond/Menker – Randi** will give a brief update.
- 7:25 District 6 Update – Debbie Rocha,** aide to **Councilman Ken Yeager,** will present us with an update on activities in our area of District 6. Questions and answers to follow.

Visit Our Website:

[Http://sherman_oaks.tripod.com](http://sherman_oaks.tripod.com)

CURB APPEAL

New changes to the City of San Jose's blight ordinances will mean big changes for you if you are currently storing your boat or RV in your side yard or if your yard does not measure up to new standards.

Residents from across the city cited issues ranging from excess cars, weeds and neglected yards as problems in their neighborhoods. After months of study, enhancements to current codes were proposed.

Minimal landscaping, including rock/dryscaping will be required with the new ordinance. Storage of boats or RVs on the front of properties or in driveways will be eliminated. The additions to the blight ordinance are an attempt to set minimum standards across the board for the portions of property that are visible from the street. The City Council will review the ordinance at a second reading in four weeks.

Note that it is currently unlawful to store vehicles in driveways. Residents who have existing side lots that are currently compliant would not be grandfathered in. Many questions were raised at the hearing about the lack of storage sites available for recreational vehicles.

If you feel your neighbor is violating current ordinances you can call the Code Enforcement Office at 277.4528.

Neighborhood Clean Up

Many residents have requested "dumpster days" in our area. SONA board members are currently working on a **neighborhood clean up day**. Funding for the clean up day may come from CAP grants or SNI funds. A district wide clean up is on the top ten list for the NAC. We want to make sure that those who are physically unable to move bulky items out to the dumpsters are helped. If you need assistance or would like to lend a hand, contact Charles Crowder.

SONA BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Our April meeting was kicked off with our first election of officers. All officers were elected unanimously. Here's a little background on all of them:

President: Jussi Rajna has been actively dealing with neighborhood problems since 1997. A resident of the Sherman Oaks area, he has been monitoring street sweeping, traffic and sound issues along the south side of City College. Jussi can be contacted at 291-0202 or jussiraj@ix.netcom.com.

Administrative Vice President Dr. Charles Crowder is a chiropractor who has been in the area for 16 years. Charles was an officer in the former Rose Glen Neighborhood Association and is a strong advocate of connecting the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Charles is also on the board of the Burbank/Del Monte NAC. Charles can be reached at 287-2615.

Communications Vice President Randi Kinman is a four year resident of the neighborhood. She has previous experience in community service, is an avid gardener and brand new grandmother. Randi is your representative to PAC. Contact her at 408.835.2881 or randikinman@yahoo.com.

Community Liaison Javier Meneses is a second-generation community activist. Javier is employed at Sherman Oaks Community Center so he wears two hats to our meetings. Javier can be reached at Meneses@att.net.

Treasurer Paul Owens is a 2-year resident who spends free time gardening, taking numerous classes and training for the Bay to Breakers. An engineer with Cisco, Paul is also fluent in Spanish. You can reach Paul at powers@cisco.com or 408.286.6044.

Area Captain Sheila Cvitanich and her husband Jerry have lived in the neighborhood for 44 years. She believes we can improve our neighborhood by working together. Sheila wants to make sure we are all involved in future issues and ongoing projects such as light rail and the K-Mart site development. She can be reached at 292-7690.

Area Captains Carl Linder and Susan Price-Jang are long time neighbors who will be sharing a position. Carl has owned his house here for 50 years and has been active in numerous neighborhood and city groups. He can be reached at 408.295.5664. Susan is active in a number of groups working towards the benefit of neighborhoods and children and is also bilingual. Both Carl and Susan are board members of NAC.

Area Captains Robin Wood and Robert Kabanek's interest in mid-century architecture brought them to their Eichler home several years ago. Robin can be reached at rowood@rational.com and Robert can be reached at rkabanek@yahoo.com.

Area Captain Robert Moore is a newlywed who has lived in the neighborhood two years. A tile contractor, he is anxious to get to work with his neighbors. He can be reached at levelines@juno.com.

Area Captain ***** Your name could go here! We still need to fill a position and would welcome your input.

The Good Neighbor Corner is a new feature. We're looking for stories that acknowledge the big and little things that make our neighborhood a pleasant place. I'll start us off with one....

I would like to thank the neighbor who delivers my newspaper. No, not the person who tosses it from a car every morning, but the neighbor who takes a walk every day and picks up my newspaper and tosses it up to the top of the driveway. Rain or shine, any season, my newspaper is transported from the sidewalk to just outside my door where I can pop out in my jammies without scaring the rest of the neighborhood. Thanks, neighbor.

Editor, Randi Kinman

NAC UPDATE

The Neighborhood Action Committee (NAC) has finalized its plan of action. The next step is to take the final version to the Planning Department on May 8 for approval. Once it is through the Planning Department it will be presented to the City Council for approval.

It should be noted that at a recent meeting (4/30/02) an official from RDA stated that with current funding it should be no problem to enact the first four items on all approved plans. This means that we could see almost immediate results after approval.

The top ten priorities on the Burbank/Del Monte NAC include completion of a tot lot (land has already been purchased), district wide clean up days and a very grand plan for a park over Highway 280.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 05/08/02 Planning Commission Meeting. On the agenda will be the Burbank/Del Monte NAC general plan.
- 05/09/02 SONA General Meeting 7:00 pm. Sherman Oaks Community Center
- 05/28/02 SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
- 06/13/02 SONA General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
- 06/25/02 SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
- 07/11/02 SONA General Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
- 07/23/02 SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

- 911 Emergency calls only.
- 311 Police Department non-emergency calls.
- 277-4000 This is the all-purpose City Hall number. You can ask them to transfer you to any department.
- 277-4444 Fire Department.
- 277-2700 Recycling and Garbage. Call this number to have an extra piece of furniture picked up!
- 277-4528 Code Enforcement. Report vehicles parked in driveways, illegal dumping or other violations of local codes. You can also get the straight story on what exactly a violation is.
- 277-2758 Anti-Graffiti Hotline. Report any and all graffiti whether it is on public or private property.
- 277-5305 Vehicle Abatement Hotline. Tired of looking at that abandoned car? Call this number or Code Enforcement.
- 277-5431 Rental Dispute. Questions about your rights as a renter? This is the number to call with questions or to report violations.
- 277-4661 Parks and Recreation. Find out what the current programs are and what services are available.