

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

PO Box 59146 San Jose CA 95159-0146

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Neighborhood Newsletter

Issue 17, June 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 JUNE 13, 2002!

SONA meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Sherman Oaks Community Center 1800A Fruitdale Avenue next to the Sherman Oaks School.

SONA AGENDA 06/13/02

- 6:30 Refreshments and Socializing.**
- 7:00 Welcome - Jussi**
- 7:05 City College Report** – Michael LaRocca will be presenting a report on our recent contacts with City College. The SONA board prepared a list of questions for Michael to take to the Board of Trustees meeting.
- 7:20 NAC/PAC Update** – Charles and Carl will update you on recent NAC activities. Randi will discuss PAC actions and activities.
- 7:30 Loren Due** – Our local Code Enforcement officer, Loren Due will give us an overview of Code Enforcement efforts in the area. He will also answer questions concerning the new amendments being proposed concerning landscaping and storage on residential property.
- 7:55 NEW BUSINESS** – Any new items for future agendas, general discussion or announcements.

Guest Speakers

In our continuing effort to educate ourselves about various public service offices, we are hosting a series of guest speakers. We are currently working on speakers from City College, VTA, the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County. If you have any officials you would like to see as guest speaker, or if you have a great idea for a speaker, let one of the SONA Board members know. Don't limit yourself to serious issues and be creative. Guest speakers can come in all shapes and sizes and from all backgrounds.

There will be cards available at the beginning of each meeting for you to write down questions for the speakers. This way, the speaker can hopefully address all of our questions and will have a few minutes before his/her presentation to formulate answers.

Our thanks to **Debbie Rocha** who appeared at the May meeting and gave us an update on happenings in **Councilman Ken Yeager's** office as well as some background and helpful info on code enforcement questions. Debbie also helped us to identify other departments who are better suited to answering questions outside of her domain. Thanks, again Debbie.

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

We now have a PO Box! Direct all correspondence to PO Box 59146 San Jose CA 95159-0146

Code Enforcement

Our June guest speaker will be **Loren Due** from the Code Enforcement office of the City of San Jose. Lauren is our local enforcement officer and can answer questions about the previous driveway sweep actions, pending amendments to code enforcement laws and other questions you may have.

We know there were many questions at our last meeting concerning new code enforcement amendments, so please bring your questions that weren't answered before to this meeting.

Code Enforcement is a department that is complaint driven. If you call to complain they will come out, but they don't necessarily go out looking for code violations. They can't act on violations if they don't know they exist. An example recently is a residential swimming pool that wasn't cleaned in a long time, presenting a health hazard. Without a neighbor's call they wouldn't know the problem existed.

Cards will be available for you before the meeting. We ask that you write down your specific questions prior to the meeting. This will give our speaker a chance to organize the questions and maybe answer them in his presentation. You don't need to give your name, but please ask specific questions.

Neighborhood Clean Up

A committee has been formed to organize a SONA-wide clean up and dumpster day. Charles Crowder has applied for a CAP grant and other funds may be available from a NAC (Neighborhood Action Committee) CAP grant.

No date has been set yet, but volunteers are needed. We need people to supervise the dumpsters themselves to make sure they don't get over filled, help move items from homes or yards where the owner or tenant is not able to physically move the items and we'll also need volunteers to help organize the post-dump party. (And I wouldn't mind somebody coming up with a catchier phrase than dumpster party.)

All are welcome to join in the fun. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Charles Crowder at 408.244.5317.

Dues are Due

Per our bylaws, membership dues are due and we now have a means of collecting them. Thanks to **Treasurer Paul Owens** we have a bank account and can start collecting money.

Dues are voluntary and are \$12.00 per year. This is a bargain considering most groups charge \$20.00 or more. Dues can be pro-rated through the end of our fiscal year.

What do you get for your dues? Membership in your local neighborhood association assures your voice is heard. Operating expenses such as phones, our new Post Office Box, copying newsletters, etc. are ongoing expenses, which need funding. We hope to build up enough in our account to finance yearly clean up days, neighborhood parties and other things that will help us build a strong and united neighborhood.

We have until now been utilizing the services of the Sherman Oaks Community Center, but with the future of that entity in doubt, it is important that we develop our own independent funding sources.

You can bring your dues to the next SONA meeting or you can mail them with the membership form attached.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

This month, the good neighbors are a collection of people who are helping to stem the crime in our neighborhood. **Ken Yeager, Susan Price-Jang, Carl and Elaine Lindner, Eric Larsen and Loren Due** were part of the team who recently removed boulders from the front of apartments on Richmond Avenue. **Backed by owners** of the Richmond/Menker apartments, removal of these boulders took away the physical site of drug dealing in our neighborhood. While most of us don't see, drug dealing and gang activity going on, these activities negatively affect all of us.

The Good Neighbor Corner is a monthly item. Send your stories that show something positive that has happened in our neighborhood to Randi Kinman.

Neighborhood News

The recent upturn in the economy hasn't meant, evidently, a decrease in the need for affordable housing close by as our resident webmistress found out. **Sonya Paz** was participating in a large weekend artist's studio tour and exhibit. She had posted signs directing people to her "open studio" on Kingman. During the hustle and bustle, Sonya found herself in a conversation with a gentleman who was enquiring about the studio for rent. Seems he'd seen the signs pointing to the "studio". No word on whether or not he became a fan of Sonya's art.

And which neighbors were doing a good deed only to find themselves answering to the police? Seems that a couple of our neighbors have taken advantage of the City's anti-graffiti group and have paint at the ready to cover up gang tagging. Much to their surprise, they found themselves lit up by a spotlight from a local police patrol. It all ended well and I'm guessing that the police were just as surprised as our thoughtful neighbors.

Strong Neighborhoods Initiative

The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) is a project designed to bring services and amenities into the neighborhoods using Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds

The SNI project covers neighborhoods across the city. They have been broken down into 20 different Neighborhood Action Committee (NAC) areas. Each NAC is made up of interested people from the NAC project area and includes neighborhood groups, service groups and other interested parties. About half of the Sherman Oak Neighborhood Association is in the Burbank/Del Monte NAC.

The NAC comes together for long-term planning to determine what would make that project area a better place to live. The NAC then designs specific projects in the area and prioritizes them. The Burbank/Del Monte NAC plan has been approved.

The Project Action Committee (PAC) is the organizing group for all of the NACs. It will be the PAC who determines policy and funding recommendations

Of the 20 NACs, about ½ have submitted their plan to City Council and have been approved. The PAC goes before the Council on 6/11/02 for approval.

The Burbank/Del Monte NAC has identified the top 11 priorities in the NAC. A sign up sheet will be available for you at the June 13 SONA general meeting if you are interested on being on one of these committees.

- Completion of the Buena Vista Tot Lot on Scott and Menker. The lot is owned by the City, but there is no funding available to build the Tot Lot.
- Designate Scott St. and Auzerais as a primary Pedestrian/Bikeway. This will allow upgrading of sidewalks and complete streetscaping.
- Conduct a feasibility study for a freeway overpass park in front of City College. This is a way of capturing air space to provide the area with a large park.
- Work with San Jose City College to build a 17,000 sq ft multi-use recreation center (already underway).
- Conduct a programs/services inventory and needs assessments survey to determine what services are needed and what facilities are available.
- Initiate a regular bulky waste pick up day (some funding already secured).
- Strengthen Code Enforcement and Housing Programs.
- Create an economic development strategy for West San Carlos Street and Bascom Avenue

- Establish a trolley service along West San Carlos Street and Bascom Avenue. This would also have the potential for running in front of San Jose Medical Center and San Jose City College, linking the area to the Diridon Station and downtown.
- Develop a new public neighborhood park along Los Gatos Creek at Auzerais Avenue. This would also facilitate linking of the creek trails.
- Implement strategies to address any adverse impacts related to adult business activity on Burbank/Del Monte neighborhoods (already under way).

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 06/11/02City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. 801 N. 1st Street
06/13/02SONA General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
06/18/02City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. 801 N. 1st Street
06/25/02SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
06/26/02PAC Meeting 6:30 p.m. Place to be announced call 794-1000 for details
06/27/02NAC Meeting 6:30 p.m. Lions Club Blind Center 101 North Bascom Avenue
07/11/02SONA General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
07/23/02SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
08/08/02SONA General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center
08/20/02SONA Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Sherman Oaks Community Center

NOTE: City Council meetings are every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Evening sessions begin at 7:00 p.m.

Randi Kinman, Editor