



Issue 26 March 2003

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The result and voter participation of the March 4 election will be known by the time you are reading this newsletter. I hope all of you took the trouble to cast your ballot. We shall decide any issue that is important enough to be on the ballot.

On Tuesday, February 25 I parked my station wagon in front of my home to secure space for the refuse containers. A minivan doing a three-point turn backed into the driver side door and took off. A witness to this hit-and-run accident left a note setting the time at 9am, but included no license number, or other information. The SJPD couldn't help me at all. I am telling you about this only as an event when the HIFIVE program had a chance to work.

Please bring to any of our SONA general meetings children's clothes and toys you would like to be distributed in our neighborhood. See the good neighbor corner to read about Marge Waggoner's fine activity.

Fondly,
Jussi Rajna

VTA/DOT UPDATES FOR MARCH MEETING

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association requested a response in March response from the employees of Valley Transportation Authority(VTA) and Department of Traffic (DOT) concerning three specific issues: (1) Soundwall height along the new lightrail corridor on Southwest Expressway, (2) Improvement of the Fruitdale/Southwest/Corlista exchange to help traffic flow and reduce current problems of cut through traffic and traffic snarls due to the bus stop (3) Pedestrian access at the major intersections of Fruitdale/Southwest and Leigh/Southwest. There were public meetings recently on these issues.

The Corlista/Fruitdale/Southwest area is currently undergoing a design modification to address some of the issues there. An outline of the design change and solutions to the problems will be presented.

Resident Robbie McGuinness has been active in contacting departments concerning the Southwest Expressway soundwall. Councilman Ken Yeager has joined us in expressing concerns about the soundwall. Results of recent community meetings and VTA studies will be presented at the March meeting.

SONA GOALS FOR 2003

Our March meeting will include time to determine what you want SONA's goals to be for 2003. Do you want to focus on traffic and pedestrian access? Do you want to see more clean ups? What is SONA doing right and what is SONA doing wrong? It is important for us to get feedback from everyone so SONA works for you. If you can't make the meeting, drop us a note so we can incorporate your ideas.

MARCH MEETING AGENDA— 3/13

- 6:30 pm Snacks and Socializing
- 7:00 pm Welcome/Approval of Minutes—
Jussi Rajna, President
- 7:05 pm Approval of Bylaws Change
- 7:10 pm Police Report
- 7:22 pm VTA/DOT Update
- 7:35 pm SONA Goals for 2003

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/13 6:30 pm SONA General Meeting*
- 3/18 7:00 pm Traffic Calming Meeting¹
- 3/25 7:00 pm SONA Board Meeting*
- 3/26 6:30 pm PAC Meeting (TBD)
- 3/27 6:30 pm NAC Meeting*
- 4/10 6:30 pm SONA General Meeting*
- 4/22 7:00 pm SONA Board Meeting*
- 4/23 6:30 pm PAC Meeting (TBD)
- 4/24 6:30 pm NAC Meeting*

City Council Meetings: Tuesdays at 1:30 pm.
Evenings: 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday's.

1 See page 4 for details

* Sherman Oaks Community Center
1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128

GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

This month's salute to neighborliness goes out to Marge Waggoner. Marge has throughout the last year turned her care and concern for the children of our neighborhood into action. Rather than donating toys and clothing to anonymous groups, she has made sure that they are being distributed to local children. Thanks Marge for showing us that action is easy to take.

Recognize your good neighbor in the newsletter. Send submissions to randikinman@yahoo.com

BOARD ACTIVITIES

The SONA board is always active in many things, often behind the scenes. For instance, recent meetings between city officials and residents concerning traffic issues was coordinated by Board member Charles Crowder.

The Board is actively engaged with San Jose City College in ongoing discussions concerning soundwalls, traffic and noise. Board members are monitoring local landlords to assure compliance with code enforcement and to ensure the reduction in criminal activities. In development is the HiFive program that will encourage neighbors to be keepers of each others emergency information and to watch out for one another.

WHERE DOES SONA MONEY GO?

SONA requests a nominal \$12.00 per year contribution to offset the costs of day to day business. We depend on dues and contributions to pay for newsletters, and basics such as snacks for the meetings.

Chairing committees, conducting meetings, maintaining the website and producing the newsletter is only accomplished through hundreds of hours of volunteer time. With the current economic situation we cannot count on grants or outside funding to pay for these things.

Support your local voice by paying dues, making a donation or advertising in the SONA newsletter.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE

A proposal for a change in the bylaws has been submitted to the Board of Directors and is being presented to the general membership at the March 2003 general meeting for vote.

The proposed changes are:

Article V, Section 2 (c) (1) currently reads: Provide the membership with a slate of nominees for all elective positions in the Notice of the Annual March Meeting. Proposed change would be "...Annual April Meeting..." to comply with our calendar as set last year.

Article VII, Section (5) (a) currently reads: The Board shall meet at least once a month on the last Tuesday of the month. Proposed change would be "...on the fourth (4th) Tuesday ..." to ensure timeliness of Board meetings.

SONA DONATION

At the recent general meeting SONA was presented with a general outline of the Sherman Oaks Soccer Club (SOSC). Sherman Oaks Charter School teacher and SOSC coach Osvaldo Rubio has dedicated countless hours to developing a soccer club at the school.

The club formed 6-7 years ago with only two teams. The club has grown to 10 teams of local children who have developed quite a reputation in the district as teams to be reckoned with. Former members of the club have participated in state and national championships as well as Olympic feeder teams. Several have gone on to professional careers including one former player who was recruited at the age of 15 for the Mexico team.

Because many children in the area come from low income families, funding for the teams and their equipment has often relied on outside sources. Mr. Rubio has often paid the soccer league fees himself. This year, the team found itself short of funds for 10 students.

Resident Marge Waggoner put forth a motion to fund these children for this year to the tune of \$750.00. SONA was able to write a check that evening to the soccer club. If anyone is interested in donating to the club or in assisting in club activities, contact Osvaldo Rubio at the school. Future game schedules and the annual celebration event will be posted at a later date.

LETTER TO SONA

February 26, 2003

Dear Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association,

It is with great appreciation that I write this letter to thank you for your generous contribution of \$750 to the Sherman Oaks Soccer Club. Your contribution has made it possible for 10 needy children from the neighborhood to participate in South Bay Youth Soccer League. These children, are children who would not participate if it were not for your generous contribution. It has given these children the opportunity to be involved in a positive after school activity Monday-Friday. Once again, on behalf of the children of Sherman Oaks Soccer Club, I would like to thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Osvaldo Rubio,

6th Grade Teacher/Sherman Oaks Soccer Club Coach

SONA BOARD MEMBER CONTACTS

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Jussi Rajna, President | jussiraj@ix.netcom.com |
| Charles Crowder, Vice President | drchar@pacbell.net |
| Randi Kinman, Secretary | randikinman@yahoo.com |
| Paul Owens, Treasurer | pmol0l@hotmail.com |
| Sheila Cvitanich, Area Capt. | |
| Carl Lindner, Area Capt. | carlaine@batnet.com |
| Susan Price-Jang, Area Capt. | sleeprice@aol.com |
| Michael LaRocca, Area Capt | mlroo1@yahoo.com |
| Robin Wood & Robert Kabanek, Area Cpts. | rowood@rational.com |



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The annual meeting and election of officers will take place in April. Any member is welcome to apply for a Board position. Per our bylaws, a nominating committee will handle the nominations. All SONA members are eligible to be on the nominating committee or run for office. If you are interested in either, contact Michael LaRocca, Nominating Committee Chair, at 289-8449. Positions open for nomination are:

President (1): Preside at meetings, enforce the bylaws, appoint committee chairs and perform other duties as needed.

Vice President (1): Perform duties of President in absence of President, perform duties as Master At Arms during meetings and other duties as needed.

Communication Vice President (1): Record minutes of meetings, maintain a copy of bylaws at meetings, prepare ballots for all elections and retain for 30 days after they are cast, prepare grant requests, assure proper notification of association meetings, board meetings and prepare correspondence, oversight of newsletter and website.

Community Liaison (1): Maintain membership list, coordinate hospitality events, copy newsletter and ensure delivery, perform other duties as required.

Treasurer (1): Holds all funds in trust and maintains association financial records, disburses funds, prepare annual summary of funds, comply with grant regulations and other duties as required.

Area Captains (5): Maintain distribution of newsletters in geographic areas, assist in community projects, facilitate communication between residents and association, serve as general members of the board and attend monthly board meetings, collect information concerning crime, problems and potential improvements in area.

CLEAN UP FUNDS AVAILABLE

Many of you participated in the SONA-wide community clean up in October 2002. Funds are still available to you if your area needs to have a dumpster day. If you are willing to organize an event with your neighbors, we can provide funding for dumpsters.

The neighborhood clean-up is meant to help the community as a whole and act as a way for your and your neighbors to get rid of accumulated trash and debris. Funds cannot be used for personal home improvement projects. Funds are available to both homeowners and tenants.

If you only have a few items, remember that you can make arrangements to have them picked up on your regular garbage day for a nominal fee.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Councilman Ken Yeager updated SONA on District 6 events at our February meeting. Mr. Yeager started by commending his aide Debbie Rocha who has been at most of our meetings this last year. He also commended our efforts to clean up Moorpark in January.

While the current budget freeze has halted many projects, Councilman Yeager has turned over \$65,000 from the district's construction and conveyance fund to complete the Buena Vista Park. While this lot is across the freeway, it is easily accessible and will be a service to all surrounding neighborhoods.

While discussions continue with San Jose City College concerning a joint use facility, Ken's staff is also looking at alternatives that could bring services to our area quicker.

There may be a library in our future if ongoing talks progress well. Councilman Yeager is hopeful a decision will be made regarding the library by our March general meeting.

SHERMAN OAKS COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

Our February meeting speaker was Peggy Bryan of Sherman Oaks Community Charter School (SOCCS). Peggy outlined how the school was converted to charter school status. Charter schools maintain the same academic criteria while operating without a traditional big book of rules and regulations.

SOCCS is a bilingual Spanish/English immersion program in which all students K-6 are taught in both languages, allowing the student to learn in his or her native tongue while becoming fluent in another. While serving our neighborhood children, this program has attracted students from as far as Morgan Hill.

The current budget crisis has the potential to deplete the staff by one-third. Due to the economic insecurity facing the school, Peggy has postponed her retirement scheduled for this year to see the school through the upcoming changes.

Residents are invited to drop into the school at any time to lend a hand or just take a look around. You'll find children actively engaged with materials in two languages, a clean and orderly campus and the strong feeling of a community school.

ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER

SONA distributes this monthly newsletter the first week of each month to households and businesses within the boundaries of SONA. Because this is a volunteer group, specific delivery sites vary and are not guaranteed.

Contact Randi Kinman at randikinman@yahoo.com with questions or to request a ratesheet.

THANK YOU JAVIER

We'd like to thank Javier Meneses for the time and work he devoted to SONA over the last year. Javier coordinated the printing and distribution of the newsletter as well as providing all the yummy food available at the meetings. Javier resigned from the SONA board in February. We'll miss you Javier.

CORRECTION

As with any newsletter, we try to be accurate, but sometimes things slip through. Last month we reprinted a release from the Korean American Community Services regarding their celebration that listed the event as being held in the KACS multi-purpose room. It should be noted that the event was held in the general multi-purpose room of the Sherman Oaks Community Center and that KACS, like any of us who use the site, are tenants. Our apologies for this error. Ed

TRAFFIC CALMING MEETING

As part of an ongoing discussion of traffic issues in the neighborhood, there will be a meeting March 18, 2003 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Bible Church, 1670 Moorpark Avenue. A presentation will be given by Mark Jensen who has a passionate interest in making neighborhoods beautiful while making them safe for all children and adults. Mark has given previous presentations to other community groups (including SONA) and has a wealth of information for those interested in how to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists while acknowledging the current and future levels of traffic flow. All are invited to attend. Contact Dr. Charles Crowder at 287-2615.

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Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association Membership Form

All residents wishing to join must complete this form. Membership is from June 2002 to June 2003

Join the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association and become part of a network of residents working to improve and maintain the neighborhood quality of life (safety, property values, aesthetics) and represent SONA neighborhood interests before local governments.

The SONA encompasses the neighborhoods between Bascom Avenue on the west, Los Gatos Creek on the south, Highway 280 on the north and Meridian Avenue on the east.

All residents, business, elected officials and organizations within SONA's boundaries are eligible for membership.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00 at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128.

Membership dues help fund projects and social events working toward SONA's mission of moving in a positive direction for the improvement of our neighborhood.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Home: _____ Work: _____

Sign me up for the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint out graffiti | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SONA Board | |

Membership dues: \$12.00

Mail to:
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association
PO Box 59146
San Jose, CA 95129-0146

Additional donation: _____

Total: _____