



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

Agenda 06/10/04

I need to start off by apologizing to a couple of residents who left me phone messages and didn't receive return calls. I should never have an option to "delete all messages" because it means, as in this case, I delete before returning calls. Please know it was nothing personal, just operator error on my part. Please, if your questions haven't been answered, call again.

SONA residents have again been busy this month working on various projects around the area, appearing at City Council meetings and committees and receiving awards and accolades for their work. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm over new projects as well.

With spring and summer, there comes more and more activity on our streets. Our lack of park and play space makes this a dangerous time for the kids in our neighborhood, as they are on the sidewalks and dashing into the streets. Please take care when

driving through our neighborhood. If you have concerns about traffic safety, please contact Mark Kovich who has another traffic article on page 6.

We have the opportunity to use grant money for barbeques and block parties this year. If anybody is interested in organizing an event for your block, please read page 7. This is a great chance for you to have fun with your neighbors.

We are working on several events for our neighborhood for some summer fun, so keep watching for further bulletins.

I so often hear, "When are they going to fix/change/correct/take care of something?" and want to remind everyone that we are all responsible and can all pitch in to help. Sign up to be a volunteer and spend an hour of your month helping to make your neighborhood better. Join the Vehicle Spotters, Graffiti or Littering teams. Or contact any SONA board member.

- 6:30 p.m. Snack and Socializing
- 7:00 p.m. Call to order
- 7:05 p.m. Approval of Minutes
April and May 2004
- 7:10 p.m. Treasurer's Report
- 7:15 p.m. SJPD Activities
- 7:25 p.m. Speaker

Recycling

Green Team San Jose

- 7:50 p.m. Announcements
- 8:00 p.m. Adjourn

SONA general meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose. SONA board meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. SONA boundaries are Bascom/280 south to Meridian then west to Los Gatos Creek. From the creek the boundary runs north back to Bascom.

The Good Neighbor Corner

This month the good neighbor corner is devoted to the agencies that have been providing services to our neighborhood this last year. The after school program operated by CORAL, the YMCA and Catholic Charities brings over \$200,000 worth of educational and enrichment programming to kids after school. KACS provides daily senior services and Second Harvest provides food for seniors and families each week.

Neighborhood News

SONA Board Members Commended

During the May 17, 2004 City of San Jose's Building Strong Neighborhoods Committee meeting, the Burbank Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee received a commendation from **Councilman Ken Yeager** for their work on preparing an assessment of the available services in this area versus the needs of the residents in this area. This document is a clear outline of the demographics and history of our neighborhood and outlines a series of steps the City should take to help correct the deficiencies in services provided to our local residents. Headed by sub-committee co-chairs **Susan Price-Jang** and **Michael LaRocca**, this group worked for 18 months collecting and collating valuable data. **Councilwoman Cindy Chavez** praised the group for the extensive thoroughness of this document. Susan and Michael will be teaching other communities how to do this type of research as part of a program to help neighborhoods find funds for needed services. This document was the number 5 priority of the Burbank/Del Monte NAC and was originally estimated to need \$50,000.00 to complete. Susan and Michael managed to do this on a \$5,000.00 budget. Also on hand to receive this award was SONA and B/DM President **Randi Kinman, Jay Brown and Erik Larsen**. Congratulations on a job well done.



Burbank/Del Monte
Neighborhood Advisory Committee

June 5 is Community Center Clean Up Day



SONA is leading the way in cleaning and sprucing up Sherman Oaks Community Center. **Dr. Charles Crowder** and Community Coordinator **Erik Larsen** have recruited members of the Korean American Community Services, Sherman Oaks Community Charter School and families who's children attend the after school programs run by CORAL and the YMCA. In addition, there will be assistance from the City of San Jose and Campbell Union School District.

The plan is to clean and paint interior surfaces of the meeting rooms, replace damaged ceiling tiles, steam the bathrooms and sidewalks and make minor repairs. You've watched television shows where homes are transformed in one day and now you can help transform the community center. Materials will be donated by local businesses and volunteers are encouraged to spend a day making a little magic in our own neighborhood.

Volunteers Needed!!!

**For More Information Call
Charles Crowder 287-2615 or
Erik Larsen 858-8562**

SONA Board Member Contacts

Randi Kinman, PRESIDENT	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Susan Price-Jang, ADMINISTRATIVE VP	287.0769	sleeprice@aol.com susan_price@campbellusd.org
Michael LaRocca, TREASURER	289.8449	mlroo1@yahoo.com
Julie Easterbrook, COMMUNICATIONS VP	836.6453	jkeasterbr@aol.com
Sheila Cvitanich HOSPITALITY VP	292.2690	
Richard Acquistapace, AREA CAPTAIN	298.3142	babarfloyd@yahoo.com
Dr. Charles Crowder, AREA CAPTAIN	287.2615	drchar@earthlink.com
Mark Kovich, AREA CAPTAIN	295.7507	mark@spazart.com
Carl Lindner, AREA CAPTAIN		
Jussi Rajna, AREA CAPTAIN	291.0202	

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association welcomes participation and input from all of you who live in our area. We are actively recruiting volunteers and board members at this time. If you have any questions, comments or concerns (no matter how large or small) please feel free to contact any of our board members. You may also send an e-mail to: **sjsona@pacbell.net**.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman

SONA Website Administrator: Sonya Paz

New Street Sweeping Program Update

The new streetsweeping program has now gone through its first trial month and will be fully implemented (that means tickets being issued) in June 2004. While we have heard some positive comments from neighbors, there were a few who weren't happy with the signs and potential ticketing. SONA will continue to monitor the program and channel your feedback to the appropriate City personnel.

During the first round, the street sweepers came through as scheduled. Unfortunately, the parking enforcement team did not come out ahead of time, so warning notices weren't placed on all the cars during the morning run. During the afternoon run, the notices were in place. Hopefully the word is out and this month people will move their cars to the appropriate side of the street and not get ticketed. Neighbors did report a flurry of activity and car moving during the morning run when people heard the sweeper coming down the road.

This program was put into place because SONA residents have long been asking for ways to get streets swept clean. While most neighbors can move cars into driveways, that is not always an option for some, leaving streets continually dirty.

Vehicle Spotter Program



Want to help get rid of abandoned and inoperable cars on our streets? Join the Vehicle Spotters Program offered by the City of San Jose. The next training session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.. The training will be at San Jose City Hall, 801 N. First Street, Room 204, San Jose, CA 95110.

You will be asked to take on a section of your neighborhood and contact the city when cars need to be towed. This program has reduced the response time of City officials and reduced the numbers of cars by 90% in the test neighborhoods thanks to volunteers. This is an opportunity for everyone to help make a difference.

SONA Board member Rick Aquistapace will be coordinating efforts in our neighborhood. He will keep track of which streets have volunteers and will be able to help you locate the closest authorized vehicle spotter in your area. Rick can be contacted at 298-3142 or online at babarfloyd@yahoo.com.

Volunteers must sign up at the training sessions to receive packets and instructions. For more information on this program your City contacts are Jamie Matthews or India Harris-Gonzalez at 277-8469.

CLIP AND MAIL TO SONA

I have read about the new streetsweeping program coming to my neighborhood.

_____ I **DO** live on one of the streets that will receive signs.

_____ I **DO NOT** live on one of the streets that will receive signs.

_____ I think this program is a good idea.

_____ I think this program is a bad idea.

Comments:

Name and Address:

Mail to SONA, PO Box 59146
San Jose CA 95159-0146

Sherman Oaks Community Charter School Given

On May 24, 2004 U.S. **Senator Barbara Boxer** presented Sherman Oaks Community Charter School with her "Excellence in Education" award for their after school program. **Mayor Ron Gonzales**, **Councilman Ken Yeager** and a host of City officials were on hand for this event.



Mayor Gonzales escorts Senator Barbara Boxer into Sherman Oaks Community Charter School

SONA members were advised at our May general meeting that the collaborative efforts of CORAL, YMCA, SOCCS and the City of San Jose has meant children in our neighborhood receive over \$200,000 in free programming designed to help raise their academic performances and bring enrichment programs to them that they might not otherwise have access to.



Mayor Gonzales, Senator Boxer, Councilman Ken Yeager listen to Principal Peggy Bryan explain some of the activities and programs offered at the SOCCS after school program.

The children delighted in showing off their computer skills and were very outspoken about how this program has helped them. There was a mini drumming concert given by kids who enjoy the music component of this program. The enthusiasm of the kids was truly joyful. Other children were entertained by Senator Boxer as she read one of her favorite children's books.



The children eager to explain to reporters and dignitaries what the programs mean to them. The kids point out that they are not only learning things, they get to participate in art and music programs not offered during school hours. They also appreciate having a safe and fun place to go after school. Homework gets done before they go home so they can have quality family time in the evenings. This program services kids from Kindergarten through sixth grade and has added a nutritional element.

Refreshingly, all of the politicians made a point of not answering reporters' questions that weren't related to this event until after the press conference. They all emphasized that this was a time to pay attention to the kids and honor the people who bring these programs into our neighborhood.

Excellence In Education Award by Barbara Boxer



Smiles all around as Principal Peggy Bryan receives the award, left. Bottom left, Senator Boxer reads to a group of kids. Bottom right the staff sharing in this moment.



Kids and drums are always a good mix.



Traffic Calming, Challenge and Time for Action

Written by Mark Kovich

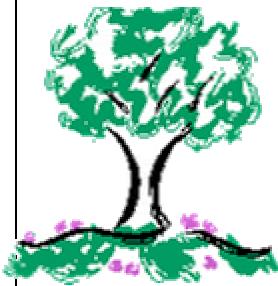


As a community, we are challenged with traffic calming. As a community, it is time for action. On Thursday, May 13th, there was a serious injury accident on the corner of Leigh Avenue and Fruitdale Avenue. Approximately 27 hours before that, there was another accident at the same intersection. San Jose's Department of Transportation has studied this intersection and concluded to have the sign's in front of the school upgraded and replaced. SONA is investigating and working on getting radar speed signs installed in front of the Sherman Oaks School and Community Center. For details on these signs please visit the Fortel Traffic Website at www.forteltraffic.com. If you don't have access to a computer, feel free to contact me and I will be pleased to mail you information.

If you are encountering speeders, or reckless drivers, on your street please contact me so that we can request the San Jose Police to come out and patrol your neighborhood. Make sure to indicate the time and particular day(s) these infractions are happening. Recently, in my understanding that the San Jose Police wrote eight speeding tickets within 40 minutes in an area that we requested additional patrols. So please, let's utilize law enforcement to catch and cite any speeding or reckless motorist in our neighborhood.



The SONA is in the process of writing a Traffic Calming Mission Statement. This will be posted on the SONA web site. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact any SONA board member to solicit your ideas. I will also be holding a Traffic Calming workshop in the next couple of months. The SONA would like to share with you ideas on traffic calming, i.e., street chokers, roundabouts, speed humps, neck downs, and other street engineered implementations. It is important that you are aware of options for traffic calming. We will need your input on this important issue, so that an approving consensus is reached prior to developing our "Master Traffic Calming Plan". Dates and times for the workshop will be published in the newsletter, web site, and announced at all SONA meetings. For the "Master Traffic Calming Plan" to work and be implemented we need your involvement. We as a community need to address our concerns with the City as "One Voice". Please contact me so that SONA can add you to our mailing list. We desperately need your involvement, concerns, and ideas.



San Jose's Department of Transportation has indicated that trees have a traffic calming effect. Also, trees are a great way to beautify communities. We are targeting Leigh Avenue, north of Fruitdale Avenue, to have more trees planted. We are in the process of contacting the Leigh Avenue property owners and tenants. San Jose's "Our City Forest" program is willing and ready to help plant more trees. But, we need community involvement and acceptance to make this a success. Please visit www.ourcityforest.org for details of this program. Or, contact me, and I will be pleased to mail you out information. If you would like a tree planted on your property, please contact me so that we can make arrangements to have one planted on your property in the first phase of this project.

SONA cares about you; our primary mission for traffic calming is for the peace and safety of our community. Let's reach out, embrace the challenge, and take action. Please, come to the SONA meetings and get involved. SONA board members are willing to spend, the personal time with you, to hear your concerns and ideas. We as a community can make it happen.

Mark Kovich
408-295-7507

1687 Kingman Avenue
mark@spazart.com



Yes, sign me up for SONA !

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Languages other than English: _____

Skills or Technical Knowledge: _____

Sign me up for the following committees:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> SONA Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint Out Graffiti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Spotter | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Up/Dumpster Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness | |

12.00	Dues
_____	Additional Donation
_____	Total

Mail to: SONA, PO Box 59146, San Jose CA 95159-0146

Comments:

New and Renewing Members

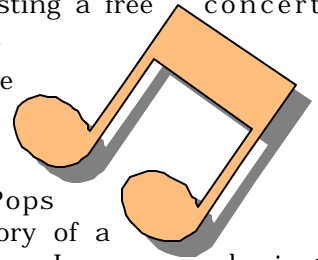
Welcome and thanks to the new and renewing members in the last few month. Among these are **Mark Kovich, Sonya and Ryan Paz, Bill and Lea Adams, Richard Anderson, Michael Broxmeyer, Patty Masa, Barbara Meininger, Stella Eccleston, Stacey King, Barry Lepore, Robin Wood, Robert Kabanek, Susan Price-Jang and Victor Jang.** Besides dues, we received additional funding from many members. This funding allows us to print the newsletters, pay for our website and post office box, supply you with coffees and treats at meetings as well as paying for insurance and other expenses related to running our organization.

Take some time to say hello to your new neighbors!

Free Music Event

Del Mar High School will be hosting a free concert on Saturday, June 5 at 1:00 p. m.

This will be the final concert of the _____ year. This concert is the 10th Annual



Melissa Garcia Memorial Pops Concert which is held in memory of a DMHS grad who passed away from Lupus during her Freshman year at UC Santa Cruz. A scholarship in Ms. Garcia's name along with other honors are awarded at this concert. In addition, there is a barbeque lunch that is served at the cost of \$5.00. The public is invited to attend this year end event and celebration concert. For more information, contact Bill Burkhead at Del Mar High School wburkhea@cuhsd.org.

National Night Out

August 3, 2004

Free Event for You!

Last year we celebrated our first National Night Out at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. We need to know if you want the same type event or if you would rather have a smaller block party for you and your neighbors. Funding will be available to rent chairs and tables, purchase food and obtain street closure permits. This is a chance for you and your neighbors to celebrate the true spirit of National Night Out, which is for one night to take back your streets for the neighborhood and get to know each other. If you are interested in having a free block party for you and your neighbors, contact Randi at 835.2881 for more information.

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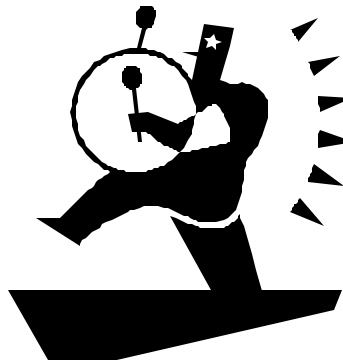
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Festa Del Mar a Success

Del Mar High School music instructor Bill Burkhead reports that this year's Festa Del Mar band competition was a rousing success. This professionally accredited event will become a yearly tradition in our neighborhood, so block out April 30, 2005 for the next one.

Bill would also like to thank **Mr. and Mrs. Don Jackson** for their help in accessing through the Princess Anne gate. This allowed them to accommodate the event better.

Next year's event will probably see an expansion of the streets being used to allow the percussion groups a little more room for staging. The parade route got a little crowded toward the end, but everybody had a great time. For information or feedback, contact Bill at Del Mar High School or any SONA board member.



Advertise Locally Invest in Your Neighborhood

Whether looking for long term exposure or short term advertising of special events, you should be using your local newspaper.

Delivered the first week of each month, SONA's newspaper reached over 1000 households directly.

For as little as \$25.00 a month you can reach local residents who depend on local businesses.

Contact the SONA newsletter at 408.835.2881 for more information or visit our website: www.sona-sj.com.