



## Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

### Notes From The President

Civil responsibility, civil rights, civil action...all in the news today, but there's not much civility at times. Public discourse, public action, public responsibility should not mean subjecting each other to public temper tantrums or anger. Not long ago I was driving behind somebody who had left a binder on his car, so I honked and motioned for him to pull over. When he stopped and got out of his car, I realized that he was angry and had probably assumed I was going to yell at him for cutting off the person in front of while talking on his cell phone. He wound up apologizing and thanking me and I was left with the realization that doing somebody a favor shouldn't be something we should be afraid of. Nor, should we always assume there is a negative motive behind everyone's actions. While we can't do much about the uncivil behavior we witness daily or the uncivil way the media seems to be stuck in, we can do something on a one-to-one basis to make small changes. And, after all, that is where all change starts. I hope you all join us in promoting a kinder and more thoughtful neighborhood by joining in on our HIFIVE program which is featured on page 3.

I also encourage everyone to attend the United Neighborhoods Annual Conference on Oct. 16 at SJCC. This even runs from 8:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m. and includes breakfast and lunch. Workshops this year will include everything from a panel on ethics conducted by Councilman Ken Yeager to information on how a rehab facility affects your neighborhood. Also there will be workshops on Planning 101, How to Work with Your Schools and How to Plan a Neighborhood Event. Contact info listed on calendar page. With more than 20 workshops (in walking distance!) there is something for everyone.

You'll find a new feature this month...a calendar you can clip out and add to the artwork on your fridge. If you have events to list, let us know. Want to spread the word about your garage sale? Do you attend a club or classes in the area we might be interested in? Let us know.

### The Good Neighbor Corner

Thanks to the good neighbors on College Dr. who have put so much work into their house. Also, a special thanks to everyone who is making sure that cars are moved for streetsweeping day. And thanks to new and renewing members: Robin & Corky Dick, Scott McQueen and Debra Lewis-McQueen.

### October Agenda

#### October 14, 2004 Agenda

**6:30 p.m.**

Snacks and Socializing

**7:00 p.m.**

Welcome

**7:05 p.m.**

Police Report

**7:20 p.m.**

Approval of

Sept 2004 Minutes

**7:25 p.m.**

Treasurer Report

**7:30 p.m.**

Speakers from San Jose  
City College

Robert Dias

**8:00 p.m.**

**Adjourn**

## SONA Board Changes

## Traffic Updates

SONA would like to extend our thanks to Julie Easterbrook for her service as Communications VP this last year. Due to an increase in her "real life" responsibilities, Julie won't be able to continue in this role. But, we expect to see her at meetings and events in the future...

The Board has been lucky in that we have a quick replacement! **Sonya Paz** has volunteered to fill the position through this term and the board unanimously accepted her offer.

Sonya is a recognized artist who designed the SONA logo. Her work has been featured on posters and other commemorative memorabilia at art and wine festivals around the state. Besides her original pieces, her art is featured on cards, watches and (soon) wine labels in local stores.

Sonya, her son Ryan and her significant other Mark Kovich live in the Richmond/Kingman area south of SJCC. She has been active in traffic calming and upgrading the Richmond/Menker area. Last year she and Susan Price-Jang handed out glow necklaces and directed traffic on Halloween to make that corner of our neighborhood safe for trick or treaters.

A resident since 1994, Sonya looks forward to serving this year. We hope you join us in welcoming Sonya to this position.

Many of you have already noticed the new crosswalk on Kingman at Leigh south of San Jose City College. This crosswalk and returning the east side of the intersection to a red zone were brought about due to repeated SONA requests. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has also agreed to look into placing a temporary median on Kingman at Leigh in the same intersection. Recent monitoring by agencies and residents shows that there is a great deal of foot traffic combined with questionable driving practices. The high rate of u-turns made on this block should be lessened by new signage and this island.

A recent accident involved a car missing the stop sign on Richmond at Kingman, crossing the sidewalk and driveway then smashing the fences between two houses was evidence of our need for more traffic calming measures.

In addition, requests have been made to install directional signs on the SJCC campus directing people who wish to access the freeway to the Moorpark exit. We have requested that DOT install "Minimum Fine" signs on the island at the SJCC exit on Leigh. DOT will also be contacting the State about reinstalling the directional signs for the freeway in this area.

During recent meetings with DOT, SONA members and City Counsel staff resulted in an agreement to install "No Vehicles over 6' Tall" signs along Moorpark between Leigh and the freeway. This will eliminate truck/trailer parking, allowing residents, SJCC students and parishioners of local churches to use this parking.

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The SONA newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman

SONA Website Administrator: Sonya Paz

# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## HIFIVE Program

By, Jussi Rajna

This is a short outline of a program that aims to bring our neighborhood together and turn it into a more friendly place to live. There are many good programs that give safety and security training to residents. The City of San Jose has, for instance, the SAN JOSE PREPARED program for hands on emergency training.

**HIFIVE** wants to increase the personal, individual contact between the neighbors. Your five immediate neighbors, on both sides of your house and the three across the street are the closest to you in everyday situations and in an emergency. Use the coupons on the next page to give your neighbors information they need in an emergency. It is important to know that this data is only for you and your neighbor and will not be put in any kind of databank for official use.

The best approach is to give your information to your neighbor if he/she agrees to this mutual help. You can just clip out the coupons on the next page.

Please let me what you think of this program and feel free to give me feedback and suggestions on how we can improve this for you. You can call me at 291-0202 or email me [jussi-sona@earthlink.net](mailto:jussi-sona@earthlink.net)

## Neighbors Are Involved

Among the many meetings our neighbors have attended this last month was one on September 29 concerning the development of 1000 Bascom Avenue (the old Quement Electronics). Neighbors voiced their opinions on everything from landscape to access and had a lively discussion with Planning staff and the developers concerning how this property will impact the neighbors around Del Mar Avenue.

Residents and property owners were able to express their concerns and opinions about the site which will have over 40,000 square feet of retail. The site has been designed with a central pedestrian walk through that will allow residents to enter the site from Del Mar. The design requires all deliveries to be made from the Bascom Avenue side of the project.

Requests for additional trees on the site were made and a tentative naming of the site was even discussed. If the center is called Del Mar Plaza you can thank your neighbors for their comments and input.



**Dog Obedience Classes**  
In your neighborhood!

Keep your dog safe with commands like Stay, Sit, Come, and Heel.

Learn about dominance issues such as biting, chewing, climbing on furniture, and housebreaking. Training will include puppy playtime to develop safe socializing skills.

Classes will be limited to 10 and will be grouped by age: puppy, juvenile, and adult.

Classes begin September 18th, 2005.

Private classes available.

Please call, Roxana @ 293-5048

**HIFIVE CONTACT CARD**

Hey, neighbor, here's contact info in case of emergency.

The home phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

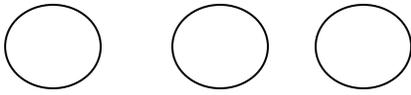
If you can't reach us, please contact the following in an emergency:

Name	Relationship	Phone
_____	_____	_____

My house is the square. Yours is the colored in circle.  
 G = Gas Shut Off  
 W = Water ShutOff  
 E = Electric Breaker



\_\_\_\_\_  
 My address



**Who Lives Here:**

First Name	Last Name	A/C*	Work/School/Cell
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\* A = Adult C=Child Child's age listed  
 Pets include \_\_\_ Cats \_\_\_ Dogs \_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special needs in the house:

**HIFIVE CONTACT CARD**

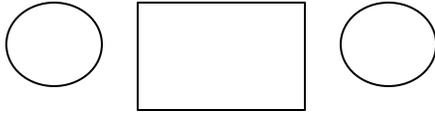
Hey, neighbor, here's contact info in case of emergency.

The home phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

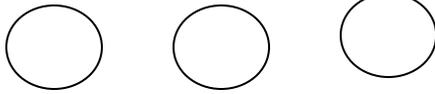
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Name	Relationship	Phone
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\_\_\_\_\_  
 My address



**Who Lives Here:**

First Name	Last Name	A/C*	Work/School/Cell
_____	_____	_____	_____
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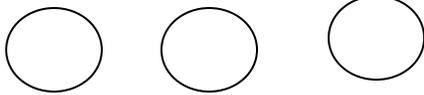
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First Name	Last Name	A/C*	Work/School/Cell
_____	_____	_____	_____
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\* A = Adult C=Child Child's age listed  
 Pets include \_\_\_ Cats \_\_\_ Dogs \_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special needs in the house:

## Richmond/Menker Update

As many of you know, the apartments that are on Richmond and Menker between Kingman and Moorpark have been the subject of a revitalization project for several years. This revitalization was the number seven project for the Burbank/Del Monte NAC.

During the last few years, a tenant organization named MIRA was formed. The tenants hold regular meetings, and, like SONA they reach out to agencies like SJPd, the fire department and PRNS to voice concerns and work on issues. They applied for and received grants for celebrations and activities that will help them continue to build a strong network of tenants who will jointly act for the benefit of our entire neighborhood. They recently devised a system for tracking maintenance requests.

In the meantime, the owners have organized their own group RMPOA (Richmond Menker Property Owners Association) and have been working for years on a joint improvement project. Working with the Housing Department, Parks and Rec, SJPd, Planning, the Redevelopment Agency and the NAC, the owners and a private consultant, Catalyst, have designed a site improvement plan that includes ongoing joint maintenance agreements. There will be new front landscaping and exterior lighting. The central walkways or paseos will be re-configured to allow easier access while providing more privacy for ground floor residents. The dumpster areas are being reconfigured so they cannot be seen from the street. The back yards will become a large fenced in common area.

Once the improvements are complete, the owners will be able to upgrade and maintain properties in a consistent manner. A master plan of future improvements includes a paint palette so as each building receives a new coat of paint it will complement all the others while maintaining an individual look.

The owners are working together to address tenant issues along with the problems of loitering by outsiders. Look for groundbreaking later this month. An overview of the improvement project will be presented on 10/18 for all who are interested.

See Calendar for details.

## Time to Winterize

With winter coming on there are many chores that we undertake to keep our houses snug and warm. It is also nice when this can be done cost effectively.

While we aren't seeing the high energy bills that we experienced several years ago, the fact is prices will almost always go up. Being energy efficient can be as simple as buying different light bulbs or completely converting to solar power.

One simple way of saving money is to put all of your appliances that have clocks or remote controls on circuit breakers with surge protectors. Any item that tells you time or operates by remote is constantly drawing small amounts of electricity. Simply turn the circuit breaker off when not using the items.

Changing to compact fluorescent lights costs more initially, but brings you long term savings. The new lights do not have the "flicker" problems and come in a variety of color levels. You not only use 1/4 the electricity, you save energy and gas because you change them far less frequently and don't have to make trips to the store.

Converting your fireplace to gas saves energy and is far less polluting to the environment. You save not only in ongoing operational costs, but right now you can also get a \$300 bonus from the Bay Area Quality Management District by converting. Information on this program can be obtained on [t h e i r w e b s i t e a t www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm](http://www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm).

While you are getting ready for winter, don't forget to check the filters in your heater and make sure you install new ones. This keeps the air in your house cleaner and your furnace does less work, saving you money.

PG&E will provide you with energy saving tips if you call or visit their website. They will make housecalls to help you and have also reinstated their rebate program for energy saving appliances.

# October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Billiards Awareness Month www.bca-pool.com	4 National Safe Walk to School Week—Increased Patrols and Enforcement around all School Sites	5	6 Public Mtg for input on new RDA Director 6-8pm SOCC National Safe Walk to School Day	7	8	9 Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation and Celebration Day. Picnic, awards and activities. Call 277-400 for details. Solano vs SJCC 7pm
10	11	12	13	14 SONA General Meeting 6:30 p.m. Featuring reps from San Jose City College	15 Deadline for ads or stories Serra vs Bellarmine @ SJCC 7pm	16 UNSCC Annual Conference and Workshops for more info call Ken Henning at 887-4309 or visit www.unscc.org 8:30-3:0 SJCC
17	18 Last day to register to vote National Rainforest Week www.ran.org Richmond/Menker Improvement presentation @ Immanuel Lutheran Church 7pm. Contact Erik Larsen 858-8562	19 SONA Board Meeting 7pm SOCC	20	21 Street Sweeping Day..Move those Cars!	22	23 Last Free Dumpster Day For 2004
24 Take Back Your Time Day www.timeday.org	25	26	27 Lunar Eclipse PAC Meeting featuring presentation by Public Works: How do projects get done in SJ Site TBA Call 794-1000 for info	28 NAC Meeting 6:30 Focus is on how to broaden input and outreach	29 St. Francis vs Bellarmine @ SJCC 7pm	30 De Anza vs SJCC @ SJCC 7pm
31	1	2	3	4	5	6 Monterey vs SJCC @ SJCC 7pm

**VOTE**

<b>DOT</b> Department of Transportation	<b>SOCC</b> Sherman Oaks Community Center located at 1800A Fruitdale Ave. Phone
<b>B/DM NAC</b> Burbank Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee, a coalition of local neighborhoods under the SNI	<b>SOCCS</b> Sherman Oaks Community Charter School 1800 Fruitdale Avenue. Phone
<b>PAC</b> The SNI Advisory board required by law.	<b>UNSCC</b> United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County offers neighborhoods opportunities for a common voice. Annual conference includes workshops and face to face time with many city and county officials.
<b>RDA</b> Or, SJRDA San Jose Redevelopment Agency	
<b>SJCC</b> San Jose City College	
<b>SNI</b> Strong Neighborhoods Initiative. A group of 19 areas under a redevelopment zone to improve neighborhood services.	

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.



## Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

### DUMPSTER DAY NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

Saturday, October 23, 2004

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Neighborhood clean-up! Join your neighbors to recycle your household goods and discard your rubbish.

Cleanup hours: 8:00am – 11:00am or until bins are full. You must be a resident who lives in the clean-up area and show this flyer to Dumpster Monitors to use dumpsters.

#### Dumpster Locations:

1. Rexford Way between Mansfield and Del Mar [metal and rubbish]
2. Deland Avenue between Kingman and Nevin [metal and rubbish]

#### Friendly Reminders

- ◆ Bring large items early
- ◆ Break up bulky items
- ◆ Do not place items outside of the dumpsters or at the dumpster location before they arrive
- ◆ Bin locations and time of delivery are subject to change
- ◆ Gas powered motors (ex. Lawn mowers) must be drained of ALL fluids, gas and oil
- ◆ The clean-up event is for household use only
- ◆ For the safety of everyone, please follow the directions of the dumpster monitors

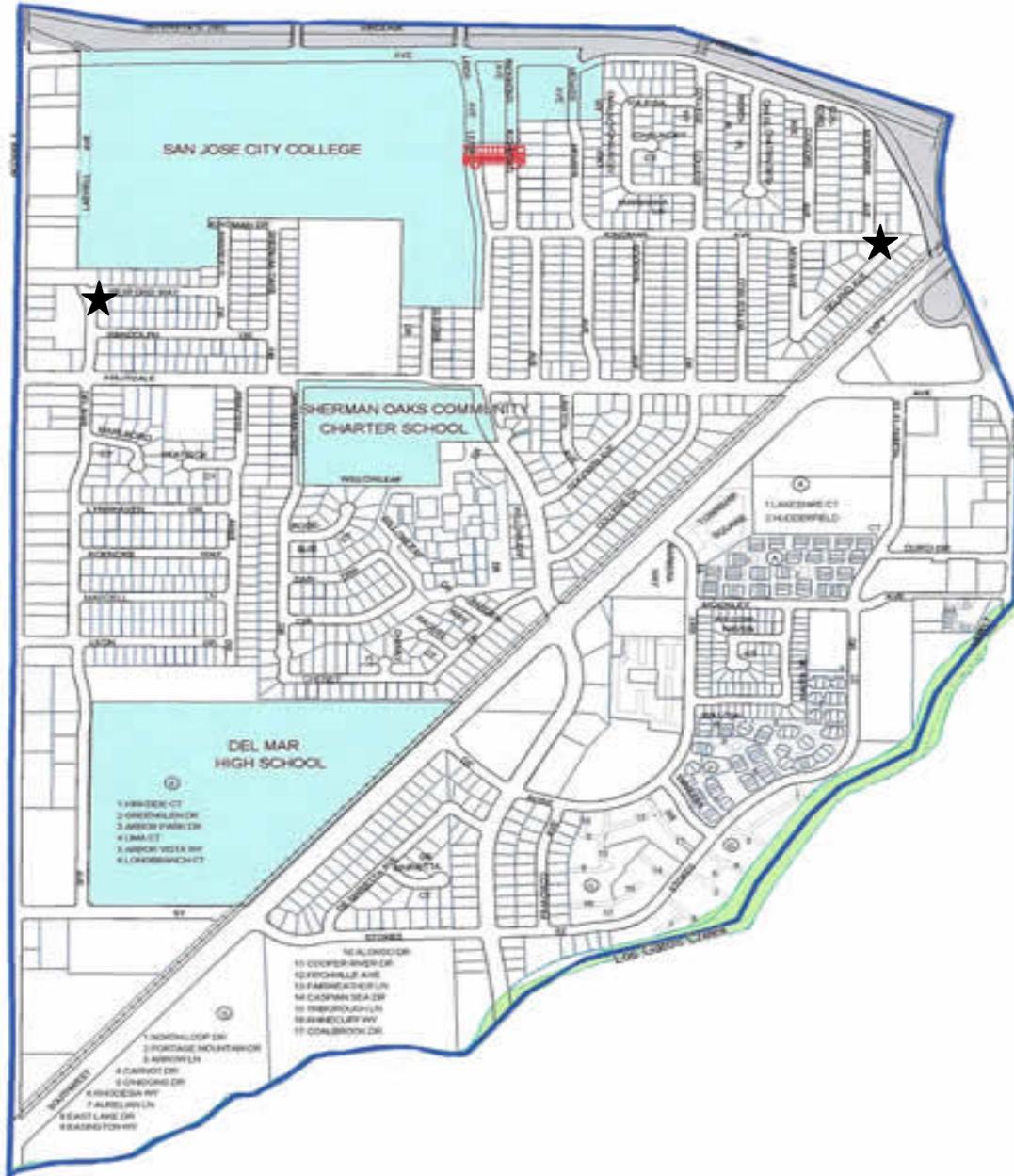
#### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR THE RUBBISH BINS

- ◆ Hazardous materials – Car batteries, antifreeze, gasoline, motor oil, transmission fluids, alkaline and lithium batteries, fluorescent lighting, paint, oil rags, chemicals or pesticides. Contact the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program (408) 299-7300 for information on the disposal of these items.
- ◆ Refrigerators and air conditioners and other items that contain CFC's
- ◆ TV's and computer monitors
- ◆ Couches and mattresses
- ◆ Tires, concrete, vehicle batteries and dirt
- ◆ Gas cylinders and tanks such as helium or propane
- ◆ Wet household Garbage and Human Waste
- ◆ Engine parts with fluids
- ◆ Recyclable items, such as glass, cans, newspaper or cardboard (these can be recycled with regular garbage service)

For more information please call Michael LaRocca at 289-8449



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association



Approximate Site of Dumpsters. Get there early because when they are filled, it's over!

# School News

The following is a brief outline of school bond issues that affect SONA residents. It is by no means a comprehensive outline, but will give you a brief look at what is on the November ballot. Note that even though San Jose City College is our neighbor, due to district regulations, Del Mar High School is in the Campbell Union High School District. The CUHSD is part of the West Valley Community College District that includes West Valley College and Mission College.



The **Campbell Union High School** District has placed Measure M on the November ballot "To restore funds cut by state government with local funds that cannot be taken by

the state, reduce class size, retain qualified teachers, restore/expand offerings in science, mathematics, English, Advanced Placement, music, foreign language and other classes, improve academics and safety at Branham, Del Mar, Leigh, Prospect, Westmont, Camden and Boynton High Schools.."

This would assess parcels \$85 per year for five years with an exemption for qualified seniors.

This is the first time in the District's 104 year history that they have asked the public to pass such a bond.

The district recently raised \$200,000 in private funding to restore the seven period class day for one year. None of the money raised by the proposed bond can be used for administration or salaries.

For further information you can contact the Campbell Union High School District Office at 3235 Union Avenue, SJ 95124 (408) 371-0960 or email Gal Long at [glong@cuhsd.org](mailto:glong@cuhsd.org). The District website [www.cuhsd.org](http://www.cuhsd.org) has more information about the district, schools and bond measure.



For information about **Del Mar High School** you can visit their website at [www.delmar.cuhsd.org](http://www.delmar.cuhsd.org)



The **West Valley-Mission College District** has placed a \$235 million bond measure on the ballot. This is the first bond measure placed by this district in its 40 year old history. The District developed an Educational Facilities Master Plan that details "...critical repairs and renovations.." according to the District's website.

This would amount to an assessment of \$14.00 per \$100,000 of assessed property value per year and give the District an advantage in competing for State and other funding that require matching revenues.

Among the repairs and renovations are updating of the science and math labs, repair of leaking roofs and outdated fire alarm systems and the expansion of classroom space for nursing, police and firefighting training.

There is a provision for senior exemptions.

The bond would not finance salaries or improvement of the athletic facilities at West Valley College.

For more information contact Ruth Carlson, Public Affairs Director at (408) 741-2652.

Principal Peggy Bryan has invited SONA residents to a tour of **Sherman Oaks Community Charter School** and a lunch time visit with the staff. The date has not been set yet, so stay tuned. You can always visit the school online by going to <http://so.ca.campus.grid.next/house>

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