



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## Notes From The President

### SONA Elections are coming.....

Our annual election of officers is coming up in April and SONA is looking for a few good neighbors to volunteer. Due to term limits, we will be left with several open positions. A few hours a month can help your neighborhood. Among the positions open are the following:

**President:** Sets board agenda and often acts as spokesperson.

**Administrative VP:** Acts as back up to President and acts as community liaison.

**Area Captain:** Helps organize newsletter deliveries, acts as liaison between neighbors and board.

All positions are now sharing the duties of lining up speakers for the monthly meetings. You can choose to work in any area (dumpster day, graffiti awareness, socials and pot lucks). If you're new to the neighborhood or trying to build a neighborhood based business, this is a great way to come into contact with others.

There's no pay, but we do have a lot of fun and look forward to having some new faces on the board. If you are interested in a seat on the board, contact Michael LaRocca or any of the board members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

If you think being on the board requires training and expertise, I can assure you that it's easy to "learn" on the job and only requires a willingness to work with others on projects that concern you and your neighbors. None of us are "professionals" and we all have "real" jobs outside our SONA volunteer hours. If we can do it, so can you...and you've got nothing to lose....See you at the meeting...randi

## AGENDA

### SONA GENERAL MEETING

**March 10, 2005**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Snacks & Social**

**7:00 P. M.**

**Call to Order**

**Review Minutes**

**Treasurer Report**

**7:15 P. M.**

**Police Report**

**7:30 P. M.**

**Program:**

**California Youth**

**Outreach**

**8:00 P. M.**

**Announcements**

**Adjourn**

**SONA general meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1800A Fruitdale Ave. San Jose CA 95128**

## Good Neighbor Corner

*Again, the good neighbor corner honors a number of people. To the 30 or more neighbors who turned out for the tree planting at Richmond/Menker on Saturday, January 15 2005 a huge thank you. 20 trees were planted in less than 3 hours! Trees were provided at no cost by Our City Forest .*

# Permits? Professional? Do it Myself?

Written by Tommy Ellis

Greetings neighbors!! This month I have been asked to address basic home remodeling and upgrade issues. When do I need a permit? Can I do it myself? When should I consult a professional?

With the growing popularity of the "Do it Yourself (DIY)" suppliers, their workshops and the interest of many homeowners to work on their own properties, many people want to know what guidelines they should follow.

Depending on the scope of the project, you may or may not need to get a permit from the city. Projects such as the following should always be permitted:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| New Roof                               | Additions                  |
| Decking                                | Electrical Re-Wire         |
| Plumbing Re-Pipe                       | Replacement of Ext. Siding |
| Full Room Remodel (kitchen/bath, etc.) |                            |
| Moving/Removing Walls                  |                            |
| Adding new shower/bath controls        |                            |

Any new structure permanently attached to the house (decks, arbors, overhead storage, etc.)

When in doubt, you should always contact the Building and Planning Department at the City and inquire as to whether or not your planned project requires a permit.

There are many things you can do around your home that do not require permits such as replacing the toilet, sinks, faucets, painting, replacing floor covering, replacing tile, installing shutters, etc.

Always remember that there may be hazardous materials (asbestos, lead paint, mold, etc.) that may require special handling.

You, as a homeowner are well within your rights to do your own work, provided you have the skills and feel comfortable enough to tackle the job. Or, if you are to hire out for the work, regardless of whether you have a permit job or not, you should always contract with licensed professional.

Some homeowners like to try and manage projects of a larger scale and act as their own "General Contractor" and coordinate all the various sub trades, material deliveries, etc. This can be quite an overwhelming process and might be better left to a General Contractor, whose job it is to make sure your project runs smoothly and with all the scheduling, etc., left as transparent to you as possible. You might pay a little more, but you, as a homeowner have better protection, should problems arise, dealing with one entity and not trying to run down any of the sub-contractors who may have created the problem. When that happens, there is usually a lot of "finger pointing" and resolution can be quite difficult and a very lengthy process.

Always check references and obtain multiple bids when hiring anyone to work on your home.

As long as you do your due diligence in regard to upgrading/improving your property, the remodeling process should be a rewarding (although sometimes complicated) experience

**SAVE THE DATE....** Saturday, May 21 is our first SONA-wide garage sale (see page 4). Do your spring cleaning and take advantage of lots of publicity! SONA will be taking ads out, creating flyers, etc. to draw as many people as possible. Following will be a block party. If you want your location on the map, or if interested in having a block party see page 4.

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Dr. Charles Crowder, AREA CAPTAIN	287.2615	drcrowderhome@sbcglobal.net
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Carl Lindner, AREA CAPTAIN		
Jussi Rajna, AREA CAPTAIN	291.0202	jussi-sona@earthlink.net

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

# SONA Residents Joing Anti-Littering and Anti-Graffiti Efforts

At a recent SONA meeting residents signed up for volunteer slots in both the anti-graffiti and anti-littering volunteer programs run by the city of San Jose. By donating a few hours a week SONA residents assist in keeping our neighborhood cleaner and safer. Removing litter is easy, improves the looks of the neighborhood and makes people think twice about throwing trash around. Reporting graffiti means the City can send crews out quickly. This reduces the visual blight and also discourages taggers. Because much of the graffiti is gang-related this also serves as a deterrent to more gang activity. Here's some information from the City's website:



The City's Anti-Graffiti Program (AGP) has three components:

**Eradication:** The eradication team is responsible for removing graffiti from both public and private property. Call the Anti-Graffiti HOTLINE (408) 277-2758 24-hours a day to report graffiti in San Jose.

**Enforcement:** The enforcement team is responsible for upholding the City of San Jose Municipal code for graffiti. Code violations, educating the public and surveillance efforts are offered. The enforcement team works with SJPD to accomplish these goals.

**Community Involvement:** The community involvement team is responsible for educating the residents on the effects of graffiti and how they can receive free supplies for becoming a volunteer. Currently there are 4,000 graffiti and Litter volunteers working to beautify the City of San Jose.



**Anti-Graffiti Program (AGP)**

**Why do People Litter?** They feel no ownership or sense of pride about their community. They believe somebody else will pick it up and it's not their responsibility. Litter has already accumulated in a spot, and "no one will notice another piece of litter there". Lack of convenient trash and recycling cans, or unwillingness to use available trash cans. Some don't see that litter is an important environmental and community concern. For some smokers, it has become an "accepted norm" to throw used cigarette butts on the ground. Here's some information on how long it takes some products to break down:

The results of the 5th annual survey once again showed a city-wide decrease (40%) in graffiti. Totals for the last few years are:

Orange peels - 6 months	January 1999 71,541
Paper - 2-5 months	January 2000 35,744
Cigarette Butts - 1-12 YEARS	January 2001 10,498
Plastic Bags - 10-20 YEARS	January 2002 5,612
Aluminum Cans - 80-100 YEARS	January 2003 3,827
Glass Bottles - 1 MILLION YEARS	
Plastic Bottles - NEVER!!!!	

This means the overall reduction from 1999 is 95%!!!

If you want to become a volunteer in the anti-littering campaign, call 277-4661 or visit the City's website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/Anti-Litter/litter%20index.htm>.

For more information you can call (408) 277-4000 or email AGP at: [Anti-Graffiti@sanjose.ca.gov](mailto:Anti-Graffiti@sanjose.ca.gov). The anti-graffiti hotline is (408) 277-2758.

Both programs are run through the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department, 4 North Second Street, Suite 600, San Jose, CA 95113. Main phone number is (408) 277-4661.

## San Jose City College Spring Athletics

The following is a partial list of athletic events scheduled at San Jose City College. Clip this and save it to remember when events are occurring that could affect parking and traffic in the neighborhood. For a full list of events or if you have questions, contact SJCC Athletic Director Don Stagnaro at 288.3731.

- 3/8 Softball (vs Hartnell) 3pm
- 3/10 Softball (vs Gavilan) 3pm
- 3/22 Softball (vs San Mateo) 3pm
- 4/2 Softball (vs Ohlone) 12 Noon
- 4/12 Softball (vs Cabrillo) 3pm
- 4/18 Softball (vs Monterey) 3pm
- 4/26 Softball (vs Mission) 3pm

Baseball games are scheduled at the PAL field this year.

**GO JAGUARS!**

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

**APRIL 30, 2005 11:00 a.m.**

#### **International Day of the Child**

Make sure you save this Saturday for the Richmond Menker ribbon cutting ceremony. This will mark the "official" completion of Phase I of the improvement project and all neighbors are invited.

All neighbors are invited to attend and tour the site during this event. Along with the usual speakers and guests, there will be games for the children, a barbeque and a resource fair.

If all runs according to plan, you'll be able to see the community gardens, a mini fruit orchard and a rose garden along with the new lighting, landscaping, dumpster enclosures and security fencing.

Take time to celebrate our neighborhood and the work on this project that has reduced crime, created safer living conditions and made our neighborhood a safer and nicer place to live.

## **New SJPD Captain**

Our area, the Western Division, has a new police captain, Richard Fairhurst. This 28-year veteran of San Jose Police Department began his service with the patrol unit and has also spent time on the swat team and crime scene investigation, sexual assault division, covert narcotics team and traffic divisions.

He can be reached at richard.fairhurst@sanjoseca.gov or 277-5542

### **Come One-Come All**

Neighborhood Garage Sales & Block Party

Meet Your Neighbors

Review Traffic Calming Plans

High Five Program

Enjoy Food & Beverages or Just Hang Out

### **Saturday May 21, 2005**

Garage Sale: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Block Party 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

1st Location: Randolph Drive, Rexford Way, Kingman Drive, Mansfield Drive, and Sherman Oaks Drive South of Fruitdale Avenue with block party on Mansfield between Randolph & Rexford

If you want to have a garage sale in your area, let us know and we'll put your location on a map that will be run in the newsletter and available that day. We'll also help provide signage.

**Join other SONA residents in our first area wide garage sale and block party event. Funds available for block party activities and advertising for the garage sales. Do your spring cleaning and take some time to get to know your neighbors. Open to all SONA residents.**

For more information about hosting your own garage sale or block party contact SONA board members Michael LaRocca or Sheila Cvitanich.

# March-April 2005

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**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10 SONA General Mtg 6:30pm SOCCS	11	12
13	14	15 SONA Board Mtg 7:00pm SOCCS	16 	17 Street Sweeping Day..MOVE THOSE CARS! St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20  Palm Sunday	21	22	23	24 NAC 7pm SOCCS	25  Purim Good Friday	26
27  Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31	1 April Fools!	2
3 Daylight Savings Begins! Spring ahead	4	5	6	7	8  Buddha's Birthday (JPN)	9

## Keep Our Curbs and Sidewalks Clear

Our neighborhood is in constant motion with people using streets and sidewalks. Many of our pedestrians use strollers, walkers and wheelchairs. Sidewalks and gutters in our neighborhood need to be kept clear for a number of reasons; safety, easy pedestrian access and drainage are just a few of the issues. So, here are a few reminders:

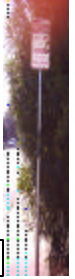


**Yard Waste:** When piling up trimmings from your yard, remember that yard waste should be in piles that are no larger than 5'x5'x5' with a 5' space in between piles. Spacing is necessary to allow the trucks to grab the entire pile. All piles of yard waste should be placed beyond the gutter line to allow rain water to drain cleanly **Move debris out of gutters!**

**Do not park in gutters!** down the street. This allows the water to be as clean as possible before draining into the creek system and keeps the vents from clogging up.



**Parked Cars:** Much of our neighborhood has sloped curbsides. These are not designed for you to park your cars on the slope. All vehicles should be parked outside of the gutter/drain lines. This allows water to drain easily down the street and also opens the sidewalk for pedestrians. Treat the sloped curbs as if they were the straight-edged kind and stay out of the sidewalk area. **Shrubs blocking sidewalk and sign.**



**Hedges:** Trim hedges back from the sidewalk. This allows people...especially those with strollers, walkers or wheelchairs...full access to the sidewalk. Keeping the hedges from growing around signs at all times. People can't read what they can't see and the restrictions of the signs can't be enforced if signs are hidden from sight.

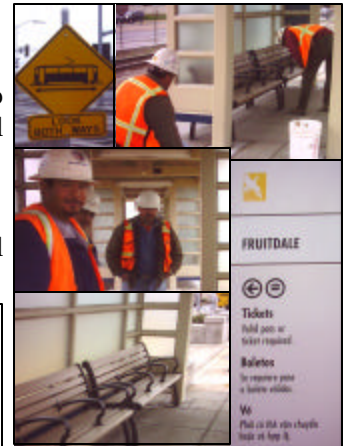
## Supervisor Jim Beall Holds Community Meeting

Several dozen people attended a February 16 meeting at Luther Burbank Elementary School to listen to Supervisor Jim Beall update them on current projects. As many have noticed, the first phase of the Bascom Avenue improvements between Highway 280 and West San Carlos have begun. This will include a median island and enhanced pedestrian crossing. Further improvements will include sidewalks and gutters in this area to make walking much easier. Much of this space has been used for parking.

Infrastructure programs include enhancing the drainage in the Buena Vista area (across 280 from us) and working with the City of San Jose to install consistent sidewalks, curbs and gutters along Scott Street from Bascom through Douglas and Willard to Meridian.

The new Vasona Corridor light rail line is on track to open later this year. Neighbors have spotted trains running down the track to test the line. This also allows them to align tracks before the line is officially opened. Sup. Beall promised a celebration and "...a week of free rides.." when the line opens.

Don't forget the annual Pancake Breakfast to be held at the Campbell Community Center on Saturday, April **xx**, 2005 at 9am. Enjoy a free breakfast, meet your neighbors and talk to your supervisor about issues in your neighborhood.



**Installation of new benches for Fruitdale Station on the Vasona Light Rail Line Feb 17 corner of Fruitdale and Southwest**

## MICAP PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY DOLLARS

MICAP (Moderate Income Comprehensive Attic Program) was the focus of our January meeting. This program is funded by the CUPC (California Public Utilities Program) and provides no cost insulation and energy saving measures to low and moderate income families. You don't have to own your own home to qualify for this program and if you are a landlord, qualification is based on your tenant's income.

All weatherization work is performed at no cost for program participants. Work included in this program includes a free energy assessment and installation includes:

- |                  |                         |                              |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Attic Insulation | AC Diagnostics          | Low Flow Shower Heads        |
| Attic Vents      | Torchiere Lamps         | Water Heater Blankets        |
| Duct Seals       | Aerators                | Water Heater Pipe Wrap       |
| Energy Education | Programmable Thermostat | Compact Fluorescent Lighting |

Number of persons in household	Minimum combined annual income allowed (head of household is under 60 years of age)	Minimum combined annual income allowed for Seniors and Disabled	Maximum combined annual income allowed
1-2	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$26,800</b>	<b>\$ 53,600</b>
3	<b>\$27,500</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>	<b>\$ 63,000</b>
4	<b>\$33,100</b>	<b>\$37,900</b>	<b>\$ 75,800</b>
5	<b>\$38,700</b>	<b>\$44,300</b>	<b>\$ 88,600</b>
6	<b>\$44,300</b>	<b>\$50,700</b>	<b>\$101,400</b>
<b>Each additional</b>	<b>\$ 5,600</b>	<b>\$ 6,400</b>	<b>\$ 12,800</b>

For more information on this program, you can contact PG&E directly. The Implementor, BO ENTERPRISES, has successfully served 1000,000 households in California and offers this program with the technical assistance of RLW Analytics, a nationwide engineering firm. For more information you can call Ken at (800)476-1022 Tuesday-Saturday 9am-5pm.

Don't forget PG&E offers other programs to help residents with long term or short term energy solutions.:

**CARE** (California Alternate Rates for Energy) offers a 20% discount on monthly gas and electric charges for fixed-income households. (866)743-2273 or [www.pge.com/care](http://www.pge.com/care).

**REACH** (Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help) a PGE/Salvation Army program provides one-time assistance for customers who experience severe or unplanned hardships. (800)933-9677

The **Energy Partners** program provides qualified customers with free weatherization and appliances. (800)989-9744 or [www.pge.com/energypartners](http://www.pge.com/energypartners)

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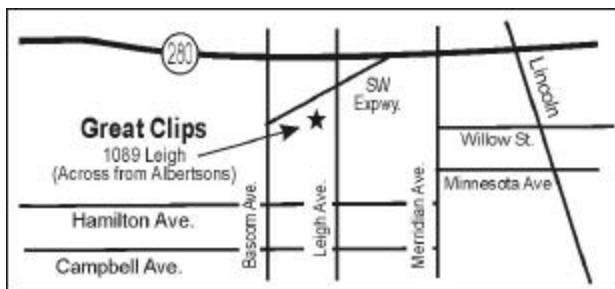


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