



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Meeting Notes

*You are bigger than anything in your garden...*and other pieces of advice were given to us at our may meeting by Master Gardener, Sharon McRay. With great tips and lots of information, she helped us identify problems in our yards and determine the least toxic way of dealing with them. It is not always necessary to conduct a "search and destroy" mission in your yard as many of the flying, crawling and creeping critters are actually beneficial and need to be there for a healthy yard. Others can be eliminated with just a hose or some very clever (and cheap!) methods. For more information, and some great recipes, look inside this newsletter.

Our June meeting has two areas of focus: At the beginning of the meeting will be a discussion and vote on permit parking along the south side (Randolph, Sherman Oaks, etc.) of San Jose City College. Neighbors have been working on this for a long time in an effort to lower incidents of speeding and racing and to free up the streets for residents and guests of residents.

Councilman Ken Yeager will be on hand to update us on local issues, budget cut backs and what we can look forward to. This is your chance to find out what's going on and get some real answers to you questions. **To make sure you get answers from Ken, please forward your questions to any board member via email or phone (see page 2 for list).** You don't have to identify yourself if you don't want to, but this will assure that you get answers that evening instead of waiting. Ken and his staff will have time to research your problem before the meeting, making the time there more productive.

Our July meeting is still not nailed down, but **August is National Night Out Month.** We have funds for events, but would like to know what you are interested in doing? A big party at the community center or smaller events on your block? Again, contact any board member...see you at the meeting.

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

June 9, 2005

6:30 P.M.

Snacks & Social

7:00 P. M.

Call to Order

By-Laws Vote

7:05 P.M.

Police Report

7:15 P.M.

Permit Parking

Jim Bittner, DOT

7:45 P.M.

D-6 Councilman

Ken Yeager

8:30 P.M.

Adjourn

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

Good Neighbor Corner

Michael LaRocca and Sheila Cvitanich are our good neighbors this month. They coordinated the SONA-wide garage sale on May 21. Michael also did all the leg work for the block party held later that day, arranging for street closure, tables and volunteers. Thanks to both of you...

Sherman Oaks Community Charter School

Proposed By-Laws Change

Principal **Peggy Bryan** was honored on May 17, 2005 in Washington, DC by COMCAST as a finalist for Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards. Recognizing her implementation of a program that allows teachers to participate in formal training on a daily basis, Douglas Levin, Director of Education Policy for Cable in the Classroom stated, "Only rarely do education leaders - in the classroom, in administration offices, in the halls of government - get the recognition and credit they deserve for the differences they make in children's lives and for education in our communities." Peggy was one of only 43 finalists nationwide.

From 11am to 12:30 p.m. all teachers participate in on site staff training. Students are supervised by paraprofessionals and participate in study time, physical fitness and lunch during this period. Student scores in the school have jumped an average of 70 points per year on the state Academic Performance Index, moving the school from on of the lowest to mid-point. SOCCS had the highest gain of any school in the state in the 2002-2003 year.

Principal Peggy, is moving on, however. After delaying her retirement to lead the school through budget problems, she is going to be attending the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley to become a chaplain. Peggy opened the school in 1997 and led the move to make it the second charter school in the county in 2002. It was re-chartered for 5 years this spring. It is hoped that a new principal will be selected for the June school board meeting. The families, staff and neighbors will truly miss the leadership of Peggy Bryan and we wish her well.

Per our by-laws and by unanimous board agreement at our May board meeting, the following insertion to our by-laws is being brought to the general meeting in June for a vote. New material to the bylaws is bold-faced in the text. Material to be deleted is bold-faced and underlined .

Section 1 -Eligibility

All those who reside or who own businesses within the boundaries of the Association are entitled to voting membership. **(vote at its general meetings)**

Persons, groups or associations who join but are outside the boundaries of our association shall be "Associate Members" Associate memberships will enjoy full membership benefits with the exclusion of voting privileges. Associate members are not eligible to vote in SONA elections, hold office or vote on general issues.

Section 2 -Votes

Only **eligible** members who are present at meetings shall be entitled to vote; there shall be no proxy voting. No member shall have more than one vote. **Voting shall take place at regularly scheduled general meetings.**

These changes will allow non residents to become non-voting members of SONA, allowing us to expand our membership base but still ensure voting is only done by those who live or work within the SONA boundaries. Questions and/or comments should be directed to board members prior to the June 2005 meeting.

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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

Recipes for Success In Your Garden

Our May meeting we learned lots of tips and were given several non toxic recipes for successful elimination of garden pests.

Snails - If you don't want to pick them off, you can scatter products like Sluggo which are non-toxic. As long as you see it, it's working. Also, no need to waste beer, simply mix dry yeast and water, set it into a bowl on the ground and watch them hurry to it.

Earwigs - Use a piece of old hose. Lay it in the garden and each morning evict the tenants by banging the hose over a bucket of water. Wet newspaper attracts them. Place it in the evening and pick it up in the morning. Or, take a clean tuna can, fill 1/3 with soy sauce and add 1 tbs. Cooking oil, set can into ground where earwigs congregate. Strain and reuse or just throw out.

Tomato Hornworms - User Bacillus Thuringiensis (B+) which is a bacteria that kills caterpillars and hornworms. Comes in a powder form. **Watch out because it kills butterfly larvae also.**

Aphids and Spittlebugs - Both can be eradicated simply by hosing them down. Once they hit the ground they can't make it back to food.

Ants - Ants not only do their own damage, they carry other insects along, providing them free taxi service. Combine 1 tbs boric acid, 1 tbs white sugar and 3/4 cup water and place in garden in bottle caps or other small containers. **Ingredients are poisonous to animals and humans so place out of the way.** Also, if ants are at your citrus trees or hummingbird feeders, apply Tanglefoot or petroleum jelly as a barrier. Protect citrus with tape or cloth before applying.

For more tips, or if you have questions, the Master Gardener Program has a hotline staffed by trained volunteers. This service is free and sponsored by the University of California.

Do You Really Know What Your Gardener Does?

After the May meeting a number of people were talking about the problems with other people's "mow and blow" hired gardeners. Do you really know what they are doing? If not, take the time to stay home one day and watch.

Complaints are not about the noise (surprise!), but they do focus on the fact that the leaf blowing creates huge clouds of dust and debris. While your yard is getting cleaned, your neighbor is suffering with debris blown through and over fences and into their yards and driveways. Now that spring is finally here and people have windows open, this means neighbors are also coming home to piles of dust in their homes as well as the debris blown into their yards.

The other major complaints were about gardeners using toxic materials that blow into homes, and cross boundaries. Several people reported damaged plants, sick animals or people becoming ill after sprays were used next door. Sprayed chemicals travel through the air and soil, so it's important that getting rid of your problem doesn't create problems for others.

So, be a good neighbor and monitor your gardener (or just ask your neighbor) Make sure your neighbors are alerted before chemicals are used.

Stop Dumping "Free" Furniture

SONA has received numerous complaints recently about people posting "free" signs on mattresses, washers, dryers, etc. that are left on the sidewalk or in front of houses in the hopes somebody wants these things. Please be advised that this is an illegal practice which detracts from the hard work you and your neighbors go to in making our area a visually nice place. It is also a hazard to leave machines out that do not have secured doors as there are incidents of children climbing inside and dying every year. SONA residents do not want that to happen here. If you have "extra" things, call non-profits and you'll also get a tax deduction receipt. If they don't work, it only costs a few dollars to have them picked up on garbage day. For those of you who are tired of the debris, call Lyn Romano at Code Enforcement (408) 277-4510 and report these problems. All calls are confidential.

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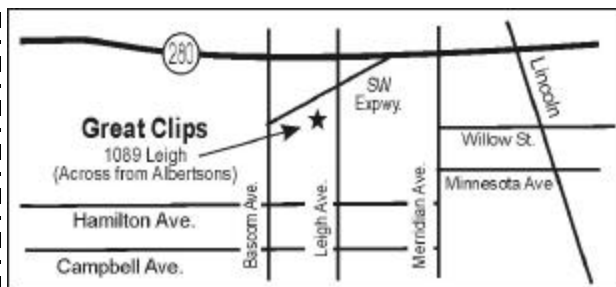


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