



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Meeting Notes

SONA members enjoyed a great meeting in June with Councilman Ken Yeager, his staff and staff from the Department of Transportation. For more about this meetings, see the articles inside.

We have a great line up of meetings coming up this summer and fall, so we hope to see more new faces in the next few months.

- ◇ **July's** meeting will bring us a great program from Freddy Howell of **The Wild Bird Center** in Los Gatos. Besides running a great store, Freddy, her husband John and their staff host bird walks, educational programs and children's programs related to anything that flies outside.
- ◇ **August** will be an ice cream social and a late National Night Out Celebration. We'll have snacks and games for all ages. If you are interested in helping out with activities, please contact Michael LaRocca. In addition, SONA residents are encouraged to attend National Night Out events at the Luther Burbank Elementary School.
- ◇ **September** will bring us San Jose Fire Department. Joy Weyer will present a program on general Fire Safety and also will concentrate on their Senior Safety programs. SJFD has received a grant for the Vial of Life program which ensures that all homes have medical/health information readily available in case of an emergency. Vials will be distributed at the meeting.
- ◇ **October and November** meetings are still being worked out, but we are looking at Emergency Preparedness and Solar Energy. In addition, we would also like to gather information from residents concerning the incoming community center. What do SONA residents want in a new center?
- ◇ **Block Party** funds are still available. Do you want to host a block party in your neighborhood? Not sure how or what it would cost? Contact Michael LaRocca for information on "how to" or how SONA can help offset the cost.

See you at the meeting....

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

July 14, 2005

6:30 P.M.

Snacks & Social

7:00 P. M.

Call to Order

7:05 P.M.

Police Report

7:15 P.M.

Freddy Howell

Wild Bird Center

See pg 7

8:00 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

Thanks to an unknown city worker who cut down shoes hanging over wires on Richmond Avenue. These shoes had been up for almost a year and contacting various agencies did no good. Spotting an empty city truck with a "cherry picker" lift on it, neighbors left a note and were pleased to note the shoes disappeared that day.

Community Center and Library Update

On June 14, 2005 the San Jose City Council voted unanimously to begin legal Eminent Domain proceedings to acquire the property at 1000 South Bascom Avenue (the old Quement site) for a joint community center and library.

The City had previously purchased the property across the street (Murray's Bar) for a new library and had been trying for several years to work out an agreement with the property owners on the old K-Mart site for use as a community center. City staff determined that a joint facility would serve two districts and could be built cheaper than two separate facilities. Funding is available from two bonds for community centers and libraries. With this in mind, the 1000 South Bascom site was picked as the site with the best location as it is central for both districts, close to a new light rail line and close to both San Jose City College and Del Mar High School.

The Donati family had purchased the 1000 S. Bascom site two years ago and intended to put in a small strip mall. Working with city staff and residents, a design was approved and the old building was demolished. The project was slated to be completed and occupied by November 2005 and excavation work started prior to the June 14 council meeting.

City staff attempted to work with the Donati family and their broker to purchase the property, but the owner refused. At this point the staff recommended acquisition through eminent domain.

Because the owner is unwilling to sell his property, the purchase, and the city's legal right to pursue purchase in this manner will be referred to the judicial system. It is expected to take at least a year to wind it's way through the court system.

The property adjacent to Murray's bar is also for sale. This property could have been combined with the site already owned, but staff rejected this due to several problems. The existing businesses would have to be moved and leases would have to be dealt with if the city purchased this strip. The site currently has an easement to condominiums behind it that would decrease the amount of land available and create a traffic flow through the property.

The Murray's bar site will be sold by the City if the courts uphold the use of eminent domain and the 1000 South Bascom site is acquired.

Speaking against the acquisition of the property was Mr. Donati and his attorney. Both pointed out that the project they designed met all city qualifications and had gone through an extensive review by city staff and the community. Stopping the project would immediately put the construction crews out of work.

Speaking for the acquisition were numerous members of the community, Del Mar High School, MIRA, SONA, the Burbank Del Monte NAC and a contingent of sixth grade students from Sherman Oaks Community Charter School. The Burbank Del Monte NAC voted unanimously to support the purchase of the 1000 S. Bascom site, but neither they nor any other group voted to support the use of eminent domain.

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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

Dues are Due

Did you have a good turn out at your garage sale? Did you get rid of unwanted material (free!) during our dumpster days? Did your street look cleaner, was your neighborhood friendlier and did you see a positive change this year? If so, it's because you and your neighbors worked together to make this happen.

SONA dues are voluntary and paid yearly. Dues support activities and meetings. While SONA has successfully applied for grants for many activities, these resources will not sustain our operations. We need your dues to continue paying for newsletters, websites, HIFIVE materials and other things related to the services we can bring to you.

In the next year we hope to begin traffic calming measures on the east side of San Jose City College. Residents on the south side of the campus will be voting this summer on permit parking for their area. We will also be holding more dumpster days, ice cream socials, block parties and other activities that help build strong ties in the neighborhood.

In addition, with each paid membership you will receive a free SONA baseball style cap. The logo on this cap was designed by SONA resident Sonya Paz who is quickly becoming an internationally recognized artist. Additional caps can be purchased for \$5.00 each.

Donations and funds raised from SONA cap sales will go right back into activities that benefit the entire neighborhood. Join today.

SONA Membership Dues

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.

Dues \$12.00 per year, payable yearly.

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

Meetings are held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE and/or EMAIL: _____

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"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming
<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> SONA Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

Mail to:

SONA

PO Box 59146

San Jose CA 95129-0146

Comments:

Membership Dues: \$12.00

Additional Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Dumpster Days This Fall

The always popular dumpster day is coming again October 23, 2005 so start collecting now. As part of the efforts to keep our community clean and help you keep your dump expenses limited, SONA has once again received funding to bring dumpsters to you again at two locations this fall. The first location will be at the Sherman Oaks Community Charter School parking lot on Sherman Oaks Drive. The cross street is Fruitdale. This is the parking lot adjacent to the school, not the one on Fruitdale. The second location will be on Del Mar Avenue across from Del Mar High School. The second location is a new site for us and we hope to increase service in this area.

Dumpster days require some help from the community. If you can help monitor the site, direct traffic or wish to bring coffee and sweets to the volunteers, we can use your help. In addition, we encourage you to work with your neighbors in organizing your block. There are always neighbors with trucks, and neighbors who could use some help, so don't be afraid to ask for help or volunteer your services.

Because funding is limited, we are not expecting at this time to be able to accommodate appliances, computer equipment, TVs or other electronic materials as these require special dumpsters. We will keep you posted on what materials are acceptable. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, contact Michael LaRocca at 289-8449 or email him at: mlroo1@yahoo.com.

Entenmann's Oroweat Helps SONA

The Entenmann's Oroweat store at 1033 South Bascom donated hamburger and hotdog buns for our May 21, 2005 block parties. Their contribution allowed us to offset costs for this event. Block parties and other events help us to build stronger neighborhood ties. Check out their wide variety of fresh snacks, breads and pastries. The store is open seven days a week and is the perfect place to pick up those last minute items (cheaply!) for parties, barbeques and other occasions.

Neighborhood Messages

This new column is in response to all those calls and messages that start with, "Can you tell people.." Feel free to write or call in with your own message for next month.

Dog Walkers...scoop your poop! Neighbors have complained about unwanted "presents" left on front lawns. They shouldn't have to clean up after your pet.

Garage sale notices need to be claimed and taken down. On 6/28 neighbors took down over 50 signs that were posted along a route that started at Leigh/Fruitdale, down Leigh, down Southwest and back up Fruitdale. And that wasn't all of them! It makes the neighborhood look bad and you can be cited...after all your address is right there.

Neighbors on Richmond have been asking after **Bea Brown**. She's doing well and recovering quickly. Since she can't get outside for her usual walk, phone calls or cards would probably make her day nicer. Please no drop in visits without calling.

Interested in taking **Emergency Preparedness or CPR classes?** Charles Crowder is trying to put a group together. Call him at 287.2615.

Anybody recently have a good experience with a solar system installation? If so, contact any board member because we'd like to have a speaker on that subject.

Remember that just because curbs have a smooth edge (rather than right angle), that is not an invitation to park on them. **Keep cars off curbs, sidewalks and driveways** for our pedestrians.

July 12 is Family Fun Fest at **San Jose Giants**. Tickets are only \$3.00 per person for family activities and a game. For tickets or info call 559.8553. Free baseball maracas to the first 1,000 people. Fun begins at 10am and games starts at 12:45pm.

SONA Residents to Vote on Permit Parking

Residents who live south of San Jose City College (SJCC) will be voting later this summer on permit parking for the area. The bulk of these streets currently are restricted to no parking between 8am-5pm Monday through Friday. Neighbors petitioned for permit parking this year, which triggered an extensive study by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine what the parking issues were in this area. These findings and the discussion on permit parking were brought to our June SONA meeting by Jim Bittner (DOT) and SONA board member Michael LaRocca.

Restricted parking was implemented to curb daytime parking by SJCC students and faculty as a result of neighborhood complaints. Unable to park in front of their own homes, residents also lived with excessive noise and garbage that came with cars using this area instead of SJCC facilities. DOT determined that the current restrictions did not serve the neighborhood well as residents not only couldn't park during the day, they also couldn't park in the evenings because the streets began filling with cars owned by students attending evening classes. Current restrictions did nothing to address weekend parking or SJCC parking that comes from events held on campus.

More than 20 residents voted on a variety of permit programs and narrowed down the options for a Summer 2005 local ballot. Among the options were permit only, no parking at all and combinations of the two. The residents attending the meeting chose to vote in a layered system. The ballot will first ask if you want permit parking. If you vote yes, you will have an option concerning the times for the permit based on the options that received the most votes at the meeting.

To pass or fail, the vote needs a simple majority (50% plus one) of the eligible voters. There are approximately 80 households in the proposed permit parking area. Each household receives one vote. If the house is a rental, the household receives one ballot and the owners also receive one ballot. Any ballot not turned in will count as a "NO" vote. Ballots will be mailed by DOT and will need to be mailed back. DOT holds onto all ballots and they encourage you to add comments to your ballots. Any comments are confidential and seen only by DOT.

Permit Parking would be enforced by a special unit of DOT who would come out to the area 3-4 times each day permits are required and this would occur several times a week. This is the same unit that has successfully implemented the restricted streetsweeping day parking on streets with signs and the new parking restrictions on Corlista. People with disabled plates/placards can park anytime.

The Permit Parking program runs for two years, beginning the day it is enacted. If it begins 12/01/05 then all permits are valid through 12/01/07. If you purchase permits anytime between those two dates, the cost is the same. You don't need to purchase any permits if you are not parking on the street during the restricted hours.

Permits all cost \$30. Residential permits can be purchased for any vehicle registered to the address (unlimited number) and are permanently affixed to the vehicle. If you sell a permitted vehicle you can transfer the permit to another one. Guest permits are limited to two per household and are the type that hang on your mirror. If you have a family emergency or family holiday that brings multiple short term visitors to your house, you can obtain free two-week passes for all vehicles. You can also obtain free passes for contractors or others who are doing long term work on your house. You don't need to purchase residential permits to qualify for visitor or guest permits. Watch your newsletter for more information or call board member Michael LaRocca.

Join our online email group mailing. Contact any board member or write to talk2sona@yahoogroups.com

Councilman Yeager Visits With SONA

Councilman Ken Yeager, accompanied by aide Tony Filice, paid a visit to SONA to catch up on the latest SONA doings and to bring us information on several ongoing projects in our area. He began by thanking SONA residents for their continued help in improving our neighborhood. He noted our streets were cleaner, our community was safer and we enjoyed better neighbor-to-neighbor communication. He thanked past president Jussi Rajna and current president Randi Kinman, along with NAC members Michael LaRocca and Carl Lindner for community and NAC involvement and singled out Bill Adams for volunteering to pick up litter along Southwest Expressway. Among the updates were:

- A new community center/library facility will be coming our way soon (see article page 2).
- The Hudson property (across from old K-Mart) was zoned for mid level density (98 units) five years ago but the owner has not proceeded and is in the process of submitting a new proposal.
- The Fruitdale Station development (old K-Mart) is moving along slowly. The owner was under the impression the sign had been removed, and pledged to make sure it isn't just down, but gone from sight. He has also decided that in this economy it would make better sense to put up more housing instead of the office space as originally designed and will be submitting new plans for this. The neighborhood would be notified and this would also change the amount of park impact fees brought in by this development. Residents expressed a desire to meet with staff and the developer sooner rather than later about changes and about the required improvements at Southwest and Fruitdale. Retail is still planned for the Fruitdale side of the development but it is hampered by the fact the current occupants are only a short way into a 20 year lease.
- Enhanced streetsweeping will occur along Rexford and DelMar. **If SONA residents have an area that is in need of enhanced streetsweeping (signs are posted and vehicles cited if not moved), notify Ken's office or SONA.**
- Pedestrian crossings at Fruitdale and Leigh are being investigated for re-timing. SONA members will meet with DOT, VTA and Ken's staff to look at crossing issues on Fruitdale. The hazards at Menker and Moorpark are being worked on through the NAC as part of the Richmond/Menker development.
- Median island construction on Kingman at Leigh is in the loop. Note that there is a new "NO U-Turn" sign on Leigh for the left turn lane.
- **Vasona Light Rail** scheduled for a grand opening (and free rides) on August 12, 2005. Traditionally there is also an extended time of "free rides" for residents to introduce them to the new transit line.
- Neighbors complained about visibility at McDonalds due to advertising on the VTA bus stop. When a bus is parked it blocks visibility and people exiting cannot see oncoming traffic until they are out into the lane. People going around the bus can't see either. Staff will forward to VTA and get a response. If there are other stops in the area, contact Ken's office.
- Traffic backed up on Moorpark at Bascom due to "No Parking" signs not being enforced is a county problem. Staff will refer it to county for action. NOTE: County has already responded that they will step up Sheriff patrol to enforce this area.

VTA CONTACT INFO

Customer Service

408.321.2300

TDD Service

408.321.2330

Service and Operations

408.321.7050

SONA residents enjoyed their time with Ken and commended both he and his staff for the work that has gone on in our neighborhood while he has been in office. Councilman Yeager committed himself to action in this neighborhood before he was elected to his Council seat. Due to term limits, this will be his last term on the City Council. He will be running for the County Supervisor seat currently held by Jim Beall in the next elections. Both Ken and Tony left with new

Wild Bird Center July Meeting

Join Freddy Howell from the Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos at our July meeting and find out how to attract different birds to your backyard. Wild birds need food, shelter and habitat for their survival and your back yard can fill a part of those needs.

By using different feeders and seeds you can attract a wide variety of birds without sacrificing your vegetable garden. She will bring a variety of feeders, seeds, birdbaths, nesting boxes and gardening books to help you build your own backyard bird sanctuary. And this can all be done while discouraging the squirrels from eating all the seeds!

Freddy will also show you not only what attracts hummingbirds, she'll show you how to keep the ants out of the hummingbird feeders.

Freddy, husband John and her staff provide the community with a variety of programs related to birds. Adults can take short neighborhood walks or join groups on outings for serious birdwatching around the Bay Area. Kids have their own programs that teach them about the wonderful world of nature that include lots of hands on activities. You can adopt butterflies, join annual bird counts or find great accessories for yourself and your garden.

While concentrating on birds, the Los Gatos Wild Bird Center also reserves places for our feline and canine companions. Their dog, Sage, supervises a line of pet products and supplies. You can sign up for special discounts and programs at the store or subscribe to the online newsletter at www.wildbircenter.com/stores/los

for great ongoing information.

Join us at this great program and learn more about the birds in your neighborhood.

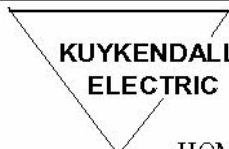


County Board Update

A recent newsletter from Supervisor Jim Beall, Jr. contained the following: "Supervisor Beall recently participated in the groundbreaking of the new Valley Specialty Center. The Valley Specialty Center will be a 244,000 square foot building housing specialty clinics on the Valley Medical Center Campus. It will be home to 4 specialty outpatient centers; cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes/endocrinology and neurosciences centers. Over 300 staff will work there when it opens in 2001. The new facility is a key component of the county hospital's ongoing financial stability. Although this investment will improve the positive fiscal balance for the hospital, it is unclear whether this benefit can outweigh the long term negative consequences of current state and federal proposals for hospital financing."

In a meeting with Burbank/Del Monte NAC representatives, Supervisor Beall expressed his concern at the Governor's proposed cuts in hospital personnel and the state's need for MediCare funding to continue to bring services to this area. Supervisor Beall and his staff are also helping members of the NAC formulate plans and strategies for increasing the amount of park/open space in this district.

Supervisor Beall also held a meeting with residents near the Cypress Senior Center after neighbors discovered swastikas burned into lawns. Sheriff Laurie Smith and SJPD Chief Davis launched an investigation and two persons were arrested. There are opportunities for resident volunteer to fill positions in County Boards and Commissions, including Consumer Affairs, Human Relations, and the Senior Care Commission. For information on these and other vacancies, contact Lee Sturtevant at 299.5040. Supervisor Beall's office distributes an online newsletter that covers activities of his office. To sign up, write d4news@bos.sccgov.org.

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Wed.	8:00	4:30
Off	Thurs & Fri	

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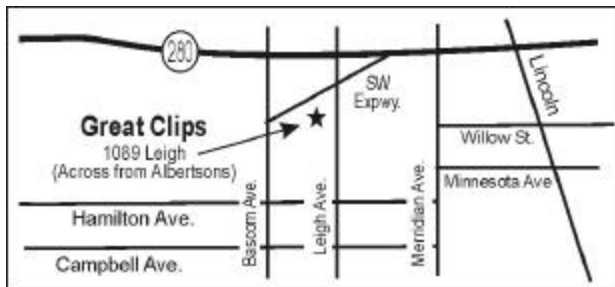


Sherman Oaks Resident Special

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(408) 298-8685

Expires August 31, 2005. Not Valid with any other offer.



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