



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Meeting Notes

Welcome SONA neighbors to 2006...we have meetings and activities already lined up for the new year!

Our January meeting will be a joint meeting with the Burbank/Del Monte NAC Leigh/Kingman traffic calming subcommittee. This group last met in December with the Department of Transportation and learned what actions can and cannot be taken to slow traffic down, mitigate problems and look at installation of a signal at Leigh and Kingman. This is the first time we have had both English and Spanish speaking neighbors looking at the same issues at the same time. To follow up on this, at our next SONA meeting the committee will present the information and ask residents to prioritize the work that needs to be done. Among the issues discussed were speed humps or barriers along the feeder streets between Fruitdale and Moorpark, safe crossing along Fruitdale between Leigh and Southwest Expressway, corner access ramps throughout the neighborhood, stop signs and traffic islands along Kingman and improvements on Moorpark at the Menker/Hwy 280 intersection. An interpreter will be available at the SONA January meeting. Once there is agreement on the priorities, residents will then determine what steps are to be taken to lobby for funding to make these improvements.

Following this discussion, there will be time to look at plans for new developments in the Curci/St. Elizabeth and Meridian areas as well as the proposed changes in the old K-Mart site.

SONA general meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month (except December) at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose CA (corner of Fruitdale and Leigh).

<p>AGENDA</p> <p>SONA GENERAL MEETING</p> <p>January 12, 2006</p> <p>Burbank/Del Monte NAC Traffic Calming</p> <p>6:30pm</p> <p>Coffee and Conversation</p> <p>7:00pm</p> <p>Welcome Announcements</p> <p>7:05pm</p> <p>Police Report</p> <p>7:15pm</p> <p>Traffic Calming</p> <p>7:50pm</p> <p>Development Updates</p> <p>8:15pm</p> <p>Adjourn</p>
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Good Neighbor Corner

Thanks to all the neighbors who gave to charities, helped neighbors and blessed others with acts of kindness and giving during the holidays. One of our families would like to send a special thanks to their neighbors who helped them through some difficult weeks by listening, standing by and offering caring and kind support during a time of need. We can't mention names, but isn't it great to know we live in a true community?

Light Rail Quiet Zone

Message from Councilman Ken Yeager

Greetings. I wanted to share some good news that I just received from the Valley Transportation Authority.

A Quiet Zone was established at the following stops:

West San Carlos Street
Sunol Street
Auzerais Avenue
Lincoln Avenue
Race Street
Parkmoor Avenue
Fruitdale Avenue
Leigh Avenue
Stokes Avenue
Bascom Avenue

Residents should not regularly hear the light rail train horns. Residents should only hear a horn in the case of an emergency.

However, in accordance with established safety regulations, the gate arm bells will still sound when a light rail train passes through a street crossing. Furthermore, in the interest of public safety, the trains must sound their own bells when they are entering and leaving a station.

The following are some potential solutions that the VTA is researching to help reduce noise:

- 1) The VTA recently informed me that they are experimenting with shrouding equipment in an attempt to quiet the noise of the gate arm bells. They have seen some promising results.
- 2) The VTA is also working on a mechanism to quiet the bells on the ascent of the gate arm

3) At my request, the VTA lowered the decibel level of all train bells so that they will be as quiet as possible but still maintain safety standards.

4) The VTA is also hiring an acoustical expert to help in the process of noise reductions.

As I receive more information from the Valley Transportation Authority, I will be sure to keep you updated.

I encourage you to contact my office if you have questions or comments regarding the issue above. I can be reached at my office at 535-4906 or by email at Ken.Yeager@sanjoseca.gov.

Best,

Ken Yeager

Permit Parking Update

The permit parking approved by SONA voters last fall is working its way through the system and should be in place in the next few months. It is tentatively scheduled for Council approval at the January 24, 2006 meeting. This step is necessary to create a legally recognized permit zone. In addition, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently ordering the signage necessary for the area. Once approved, signs can be installed. Residents will be given a heads up just prior to installation of signs.

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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

FREE TREES

Our City Forest has opened a grant program for neighborhoods that are within 2 miles of the Vasona Light Rail Corridor between downtown San Jose and downtown Campbell for free trees. Residents can apply between now and April 30th.

- Who:** Groups of residents, schools, and parks. Our City Forest would prefer groups of 10 or more.
- What:** Free 15 gallon shade-trees with stakes and planting materials. Free project coordination and professional assistance including species selection, site assessments, planting permits, tree ordering and delivery, site prep, and tree care planting is also available. In certain areas, auguring and cement-cutting, may also be provided at no cost.
- When:** Apply now! A grant for free trees in this area expires in late Spring 2006.
- Where:** Eligible planting sites are public parking strips, parks, and public school grounds within 2 miles of the Vasona Light Rail Corridor between downtown San Jose and downtown Campbell.
- How:** To apply, call Our City Forest at 998-7337 and request a simple 1 -page tree grant application on behalf of your neighborhood or school.
- Questions and Information:** Please call Jake Miller at 998-7337 (99-TREES) or email him at jmiller@ourcityforest.org. Those interested can also visit their website at www.ourcityforest.org

Free E-Waste Recycling

SONA resident Michael LaRocca recently spotted an ad for free e-waste recycling and successfully got rid of old equipment. E-Waste Services will pick up old TVs, computers, cell phones, printers and other items at your home or office. You can call them at 408.464.9999 and set up a time for them to come by at a time that fits your schedule. Remember, it is not legal to dispose of e-waste in your garbage or by sending it to the dump. SONA cannot take e-waste during our dumpster days, so we hope you find this helpful.

SONA Note and News

SONA general meetings are already lined up for the beginning of 2006. If you have topics or ideas for meetings, contact any board member.

February 2006 general meeting will be held at Brooks House, Immanuel Lutheran's senior housing on Leigh Ave. between the church and the fire station. The meeting will be a presentation by staff from Heart of the Valley, Services for Seniors. This non-profit program pairs seniors and volunteers to ensure seniors can live independently. If you are interested in volunteering or are a senior with needs, this is a great program to attend. It will also be our first visit to Brooks House!

March 2006 will be the Neighborhood Watch Program. Due to the length of the presentation, and to allow time for you to sign up, we will start the meeting at 6:30pm and run to 8:30pm. SONA residents have placed the Neighborhood Watch program high on the list of priorities. This is a great way for you to help keep an eye out on your neighborhood and get to know people better.

April 2006 is election night. According to our bylaws, new boards must be elected. This year some of our board members must step down, leaving vacancies. If you are interested in helping to build your neighborhood, if you have particular projects you would like to see happen, join the board. For questions and info please feel free to contact any current board member.

May 2006 is scheduled for the Department of Transportation's Street Smarts program. This program encourages safe passage for all who use our streets and sidewalks.

SONA is run solely by volunteers and dependant on your dues. While we have obtained funds through grants in the past, we need you to pay your \$12 yearly dues or we will not be able to continue our outreach. These dues help offset meeting expenses, newsletters, website and dumpster day. If you brought items to dumpster day, you saved yourself the fees (and time and energy) you would have spent in taking those things to the dump. All members receive a SONA baseball cap. Additional caps can be purchased for \$5 each. Send in your dues to the post office box, or bring them to our next meeting. Additional donations are always welcome.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is neighbors like you building a strong and safe community.

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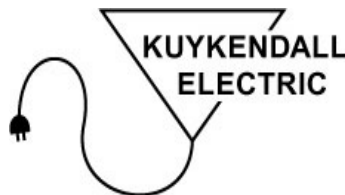
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Now is the time to get your advertising in for the SONA newsletters in 2006. One year of advertising to 1500 households can cost you as little as \$120! For more information contact Randi Kinman at :

randikinman@yahoo.com or call 835.2881.



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Newsletter Carriers Needed

SONA needs carriers to deliver newsletters. If you can help out even one month a year, that will enable us to reach more households. All it takes is one lap around your block! We are especially looking for people in the Lynhaven and Princess Ann areas. If you can help, call Sheila at 292-2690.