



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

Parking & Traffic Meeting—Prior to our September meeting staff members from Councilmember Oliverio's Council District 6 office and the Department of Transportation provided a follow up to their July 29th meeting. The following was presented and discussed at the meeting.

1. DOT has investigated the following concerns on College Dr. (between Fruitdale & Kingman), the results are as followed:
 - a. Speeding and cut through traffic—Traffic data shows the avg. speed is approx. 26 mph and the avg. daily traffic (ADT) is 775 vehicles.
 - b. Visibility concerns at College/Fruitdale (turning onto Fruitdale) - Existing red curb on Fruitdale Ave. provides adequate visibility. Additional red curb will impact parking of adjacent property.
 - c. Missing speed limit sign near Kingman—A speed limit sign will be installed.
2. DOT has investigated speeding and cut through traffic concerns on St. Elizabeth (east of Leigh/Stokes). The traffic data showed the avg. speed is 31 mph (posted speed limit is 30mph) and ADT is 1,820.
3. DOT has investigated visibility concern at Rhodesia Way driveway off of Stokes and will install 5' of red curb at each end of the driveway to enhance the visibility.
4. DOT has investigated speeding concern on Richmond Ave (between Moorpark & Kingman Ave). The traffic data shows the avg. speed is 19 mph.
5. DOT HAS INVESTIGATED THE FADED RED CURB AT Mansfield & Randolph and will refresh red curb.
6. DOT has investigated request to install additional speed limit sign on Mansfield. There are currently speed limit signs on both Sherman Oaks Dr and Del Mar Ave. The signs are located near Fruitdale Ave., which indicates the posted 25 speed limit for this residential area.
7. To address neighborhood concerns regarding parking impacts from adjacent high density residential complexes, the only available solution is to install parking restrictions. DOT can work with neighborhood to determine appropriate time limit for these restrictions. At this time, City Residential Permit Parking is not a viable option.

Grocery Store Report—Randi Kinman and I attended a meeting with other community leaders last month hosted by Councilmember Oliverio. At the meeting staff members from the City's Redevelopment Agency provided us a letter addressed to the agency from Metrovation Brokerage addressing the need for retail/grocery store need in our area due to the close of Albertson's Grocery Store. Randi and I will provide update at our October meeting.

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday

October 11, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Social Mixer

7:00 p.m.

Announcements

SJPD

General Meeting

■ **Follow up regarding last month's parking & traffic meeting**

■ **Grocery Store for our area report**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave. SJ CA 95128

Good Neighbor Corner

We don't often have the call to thank local developers, but the Sobrato family and their partners the Morely Brothers deserve a big round of thanks. Because the new housing being built behind Midtown Safeway will remove existing trees, they are required to replace them or pay for trees. These developers wanted all replacement trees to be place in areas adjacent to or near the project and have worked with SONA, Burbank/Del Monte NAC, Buena Vista, Delmas, Shasta Hanchett and Willow Glen representatives to ensure our priorities for new trees come first. Thanks to both the Sobrato and Morely groups!

Notes and News

The Leigh/Kingman signal light is in progress. Surveys have been done and staff is now working on the details of installing a signal at the Leigh/Kingman intersection. This was a long term action item on SONA's to do list. With the help of the Richmond/Menker tenants group MIRA and the Burbank/Del Monte NAC, funding for the signal was obtained through a grant. This signal will allow better control of auto traffic, especially the cut through traffic caused by people who don't want to wait at the Leigh/Fruitdale intersection. It will also allow children to cross safely during school hours and pedestrians of all ages to safely get across Leigh at all hours. There will most likely be an elimination of parking along both sides of Kingman for one block to allow for a right turn lane onto Leigh. SONA residents are still working with staff to ensure u-turns at this intersection and down Kingman are illegal. Look for changes in the next few months.

Administrative VP Randi Kinman and Ken Henning, past president of Buena Vista Neighborhood Association were honored by **Mayor Chuck Reed and Council members Nancy Pyle and Pierluigi Oliverio** at a session of the City Council on September 25, 2007 for their work in bringing play spaces to all San Jose children through the work of the non-profit KaBOOM! Randi and Ken have been advocates for community built play spaces and have participated in builds in Chicago, New Orleans and San Jose. These playground builds are financed through grants and the communities involved supply the labor and love during the construction process. This has led to a city wide effort to upgrade older playgrounds and build new ones in both city and school lots. The commendation honors them for their commitment to providing play spaces within walking distance of every child and for bringing play and laughter to residents throughout San Jose. Congratulations!

Thanks to our new and renewing members this month: **Art & Marg Magagna, Carolene & Anthony Giluso, Daniel Smith & Juan Ortega and Paul Owens.** SONA dues are our primary means of fundraising and allow us to print monthly newsletters.

Keep an eye out for a **pet adoption and vaccination fair** at Willows Senior Center on October 20. Details are still being worked out at press time, but you can contact D6 Policy Advisor Denelle Fedor at 535-4952.

Yard Waste is just like garbage and recycling: It cannot be put out on the streets more than 24 hours before pick up. Yes, we know the weekends are the prime time to trim hedges, mow lawns and trim trees, but it makes your street unsafe and unsightly. Neighbors are again complaining that some of you (you know who you are) are leaving piles out for days on end. Please be a good neighbor and don't run the risk of being cited by Code Enforcement because of early on-street dumping.

The DO NOT CALL REGISTRY hold on incoming marketing calls only lasts for five (5) years. For many of us it's time to update again. Once your number ages out past the 5 year limit you are open to those solicitation calls again. If you do not wish to be bothered by these phone calls you can register your home or cell phone number at www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 toll free. The registry is operated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). If new to the system, it will take up to 31 days to be effective. If you have complaints about violations, contact the same numbers.

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SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. It is partially funded by a City of San Jose CAP Grant. 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

Police & Safety Notes

There have been a number of petty thefts and auto break-ins recently throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors have reported to each other that items have been stolen, windows broken, etc. but they are making a big mistake: **They are not reporting the crimes to the police department.** Even if you do not file an insurance claim, even if you think this is a minor incident, take the time to file a report. By doing this you will help the police department track problems before they get completely out of hand. Petty thieves who routinely steal from garages, yards and cars will become bolder when there is no increased police presence. **All criminal activity should be reported and you should make sure to get a report number.** This will create a statistical accounting of crime in the area and, when crime increases, so does our police patrols. Do yourself and your neighbors a favor and take the time to either file a report over the phone or by using the San Jose Police Department website www.sjpd.org.

A resident of Shasta Hanchett was recently mugged while attempting to take her child toy shopping. Luckily she and her toddler escaped unharmed, but she lost her purse, identification and other belongings. SJPD told her there has been a marked increase in parking lot muggings across town. Women with children are becoming prime targets. Practice parking lot safety. Look all around as you park and before you start loading or unloading your vehicle. If attacked, it is better to give up your purse than to be physically harmed. You can minimize the impact of this loss by carrying your wallet, cash, credit cards and identification in a front pocket. When shopping at a mall, park in a high traffic area with good lighting and ask mall security to escort you to your car. With holiday season around the corner it's often easier and safer to shop with a buddy or to take a taxi.

School's back in session and we'll soon be moving the clocks so keep an eye out for pedestrians of all ages. Remember that people attending events and games at San Jose City College don't always look before stepping into the street.

As a final note and reminder: **The rolled curbs in our neighborhood are not meant to allow parking on the sidewalk.** Treat them as you would any curb. Parking on the sidewalk creates unsafe conditions for our pedestrians.

Save The Date

Saturday Farmer's Market on The Alameda. From 8:30am-12:30pm you can join others in purchasing farm fresh produce, cheese and seasonal fish at the public parking lot next to Peets Coffee and Tea at 1345 The Alameda. A kids jump house is available. Every last Saturday of the month will be a different festival (music, drums, dancing, etc.) There is also a Farmers Market in Willow Glen behind the old theater that runs every Saturday, allowing you a choice of local markets.

Community Sports Field Study Meetings—The City of San Jose invites you to attend meetings regarding community sports fields. Your participation will help shape their direction.

- ⇒ Monday October 1, 2007 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Camden Community Center
- ⇒ Monday November 5, 2007 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Willows Senior Center
- ⇒ Monday December 10, 2007 6:00pm-7:30 pm at the Almaden Community Center

Saturday, Oct 24th 10am – 2pm ~ Fall Family Health & Resource Fair-Don't miss this information and fun packed event at the Luther Burbank School (Wabash and West San Carlos). O'Connor Hospital and BCA are partnering together to host the biggest health fair in BCA's history. Over 700 free adult flu shots will be given away.

Wednesday, October 10 from 6:30-8:30pm (Fire Training Center, 255 S. Montgomery) will be a public meeting to help plan the new park located across from the old Del Monte Cannery on Auzeiras. The new park currently has several acres of land dedicated but will expand as more housing is built in the area. Everybody is invited to help determine how this precious resource will be used.

Sept 29-Jan 26 is the Bodyworks 2 exhibit at the Tech Museum. You can explore the incredible world of the human body, how all the pieces fit together and how the body changes through age, growth or disease. Over 200 real human specimens are preserved through a Plastination process that allows you to view large muscles, tiny capillaries and the human brain. While not for everyone, it is a most unusual show. www.thetech.org/bodyworld or 294-tech.

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Mark Your Calendar

October 13 is Pumpkins in the Park at Discovery Meadow. This free family event is just a short light rail trip away and features music, food, free crafts, children's activities, apple tasting and of course...pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and make-up. One of the best bargains last year was a booth with glass pumpkins in all shapes and colors. The event is sponsored by the Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens and runs from 10am-4pm. You can pick out your Halloween pumpkin, make a scarecrow and enjoy the family fun.

Our local libraries have a number of free programs and lectures ranging from computer skills to learning about reverse mortgages. There will be a panel discussion on October 2 as a follow up to Ken Burns recent WWII PBS series at the main branch and you can follow up by donating care packages for our troops at the Seventrees branch. For more information contact the main branch at 808-2000 or visit www.sjlibrary.org.

November 3 is the next date to take a 3-hour tour of our local waste water processing plant. Doesn't sound like fun? How about if we told you it was at the **Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge?** This incredible waterway is the home to millions of migratory birds each year. For registration or information, visit the city's main website at www.sanjose.gov or call 945-5300.

November 17 is the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County 2007 Conference. You can join neighbors from around the valley to simply mix and mingle or sign up to learn about pandemic flu, planning—a community guide, code enforcement, working with elected officials or other workshops. This year's event will be held within walking distance at San Jose City College. For more information contact UNSCC at www.unscc.org or write to them at PO Box 1766, San Jose, CA 95109.

November 23 is opening day for Christmas in the Park. This means lots of family fun, ice skating and food all a short light rail ride away. This annual event is held downtown at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez.



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Volunteers Wanted

SONA is currently looking for more volunteers who have a couple hours a month to give towards making our neighborhood a better place in which we live, work and play. One of our needs is for some temporary newsletter people who can fill in while regulars are on vacation or temporarily are unavailable. This only takes about an hour or so a month. We also need volunteers to help with newsletter articles you don't have to be an expert journalist, you just need to be willing to help out. If you are willing to help out do not hesitate to contact any board member. Just jump in and help it may be more rewarding than you ever imagined.

SONA is also looking for community volunteers who can sit on the Burbank/Del Monte NAC. This is the Strong Neighborhoods group that meets monthly and works with other neighborhoods and city staff to develop projects and priorities. Randi Kinman's recent appointment to the City's Planning Commission will mean she needs to avoid conflicts by stepping back from some of her duties. Commitment time varies. Contact Michael for info.