



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

**We Are Holding Another Family
Fun Night and Pot Luck**



**AGENDA
SONA GENERAL
MEETING
Thursday
July 10, 2008
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**This Month's
Meeting Will Be
a Family Fun
Night and Pot
Luck**

**See Page 3 For
Activities and
Details**



Notes and News

With a perfect storm of summer vacations, broken bones and unexpected illnesses, our newsletter **delivery system could use some help this summer**. We have temporarily lost carriers and need replacements. Delivering newspapers means taking a short walk around a block or two. We will supply you with maps. If you have an hour or two to give, please contact Sheila at her number below.

Bascom Community Center and Library celebrated groundbreaking on Saturday, June 14. The groundbreaking was well attended by SONA residents. President Randi Kinman spoke about how many people it takes to keep a process like this going for so many years. Board member Michael LaRocca and former board member Susan Price-Jang were in attendance. Councilmember Oliverio reminded the crowd that the \$1million it will take to operate the facility will mean cut backs elsewhere. Residents painted and wrote on rocks that will be used as part of the foundation.

SONA residents are celebrating a victory with a new sound wall adjacent to San Jose City College. After years of broken promises and multiple administrative changes, residents were afraid they would be left without any wall. With a letter from the SONA board, residents attended the SJCC trustees meeting on June 10. The trustees voted unanimously to direct SJCC to keep the promises made a decade ago and build the wall. This will allow residents to enjoy their yards without having to endure the noise and other problems associated with ongoing construction. Congratulations to all who kept on this project.

Code Enforcement

The June meeting included a presentation by Pierre Schutz, City of San Jose Code Enforcement officer. Pierre left his child's graduation celebration to join us and we thank him.

Vehicle Abatement is a problem when people park cars on lawns, abandon cars or leave them on the street for days. Report vehicles parked more than 72 hours to **277.4528** or fax info to 277.3290. Be prepared to give a description, including license number, and location. **Vehicles that have gas cans or other toxic/flammable materials inside should be reported immediately to 911.** The process takes time, so be patient.

West Nile Virus can be prevented by keeping pools, ponds and fountains clean, eliminating standing water and fixing sprinkler head. Report all problems to the Santa Clara County Vector Control District by calling **792-5010**. If you find recently deceased birds, Vector Control will pick them up.

Home auto repair does not mean storing disassembled autos in your driveway, nor are you allowed to run a repair business out of your home. If vehicles are under repair for more than 72 hours you can call **277.4528** to report the problem. Fines range from \$250-\$2500 per day.

The Code Enforcement Division is responsible for making sure that all homes, rentals and businesses are up to current standards and free of blight. This includes inside wiring, sanitation, housing code and habitability inside. Outside conditions must be free of hazards, abandoned property and dead landscape. Code Enforcement operates 7 days a week on a complaint driven basis. They don't know there is a problem unless you call. While they will ask you for your contact information, your complaint will be kept confidential to protect you. You can learn more by accessing the city's website:

www.sanjoseca.gov/CodeEnforcement/

Or calling 408.277.4528.

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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: **Help Needed**

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

1. Have smoke alarms that work.

Make sure you have at least one working smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms once a month. Use a broom handle to gently push the "test button." If you climb, always use a sturdy step ladder. Replace batteries with new ones at least once a year or when the smoke alarm "chirps," which signals low battery power. If your alarms are ten years old or older, get new ones.

2. Make a home escape plan.

Know how to get out of every room of your home. Practice your plan at least twice a year. If possible, move your bedroom to the first floor. That can help you get outside quickly if there is a fire or other emergency.

3. Keep escape routes clear.

Clean out clutter. Move any furniture that blocks your way. Make sure doors and windows open easily. If you have security bars on doors and windows have quick-release bars installed. These make it possible for you to open the bars from inside in an emergency.

4. If you can't get out...

Keep a phone in your bedroom to call for help if you can't get out quickly. Write down emergency numbers and tape them to the telephone. Keep your door closed to protect you from the smoke.

5. A special message for smokers...

Use "fire-safe" cigarettes and smoke outside. Use large, deep ashtrays on sturdy surfaces like a table. Wet cigarette and cigar butts with water before putting them in the trash. Stay alert. Do not smoke if you feel sleepy, have taken medication or had alcohol to drink.

6. Smokers need watchers!

Check in and around furniture cushions for cigarettes that may have fallen out of sight.

7. A RECIPE FOR safe cooking:

Always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove. Avoid loose clothing and roll up sleeves before you start to cook. Use oven mitts. If you do get a burn, immediately cool it with water for 3 to 5 minutes. Then call for help.

8. Space heaters need space.

Make sure space heaters are at least 3 feet away from anything in the room that can burn. Turn them off if you leave the room or go to sleep.

9. Prevent electrical fires.

Plug only one cord into each electrical outlet. Make sure cords and appliances are in good shape. Unplug appliances when you are not using them.

President's Message

As your president, one of my jobs is to remind people that we all have rights but we all have responsibilities. These reminders are liberally dealt out to elected officials, staff and residents alike because we all have to bear the responsibility of being good neighbors.

SONA has recently sent letters to **City College** regarding the sound wall and to **VTA and DOT** regarding pedestrian access on sidewalks and bus stops. It is always a pleasure to help neighbors resolve a problem by following up with a letter, but the real work is done by the neighbors who stay on the problem and the officials who eventually help resolve the problem.

As your president it is also my job to help us develop strong bonds in our neighborhood. We will only have each other in an emergency. We need to know who our neighbors are. On my block alone there are residents recovering from long term illnesses, surgeries and broken bones. We all pitch in to help one another and keep an eye out on each other. I will be asking all of you to get to know each other and your neighborhood a little more this year.

To that extent, I hope you join us in the next few months at our meetings. With **July** typically being warm (and let's face it, we're all in vacation mode) the board thought it would be fun just to have a **family game night**. We'll have a variety of things to do, prizes to hand out and cold drinks in an air conditioned room. Bring a dessert, vegetables from your garden or a side dish to share. I confess we also want to pick your brains a little....what are the things most important to you in this neighborhood? What would make your life better, easier or more enjoyable? How can we help you? Looking forward to seeing

In **August** we will join our neighbors from Burbank, Buena Vista and Shasta Hanchett for **National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5 at the Luther Burbank Elementary School** located on West San Carlos just off of Leigh. While we are currently looking into shuttles, there is plenty of parking near Lincoln High School, 2 blocks away and you will be able to drop off family members. Beginning at 6:30pm there will be games, information booths from service agencies, activities for all, a movie and a free barbeque. **SONA has committed funds for this event and we have also volunteered to handle the barbeque pit**. We need volunteers for that, so please contact Michael LaRocca if you want to take a turn at the grill. If you want to join us and have transportation problems, let us know.

See you at the meeting.....Randi

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Advertisers Needed

How Can You Help?

SONA needs advertising dollars to keep our newsletter going. We have limited resources from our monthly dues and limited access to outside funding sources such as grants.

Our advertising rates are incredibly low and you can help us spread the word. Do you have a favorite restaurant, barber shop, salon or business that you do business with? Do you know of a new business just getting started or a hidden gem that nobody knows about?

You can help your favorite business and SONA by promoting our advertising. We can supply you with a rate sheet and all the information you need, or you can download the information from our website.

Our newsletters are delivered by hand to 1500 households every month. This is a great opportunity for a business (cheapest rate they'll find) and it is also a good way for you to thank or promote a business you enjoy. It's also a way for you to thank a neighbor publicly for going the extra mile and being a good neighbor. Does your service group, school or church have a special event? Are you looking for help or do you have skills that somebody might need?

Contact any board member or visit our website for information.