



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## Notes from the President

*It's certainly been a busy month around here with events at San Jose City College. De-construction of the baseball field on Leigh Avenue began the first week of November and the poles were down within days. For many, seeing these things come down was a big relief. For all of us it still leaves questions regarding how this could have happened in the first place. SONA residents were stunned while attending the Board of Trustees meeting in November to hear that Chancellor Rosa Perez was retiring for health reasons amid allegations of misuse of funds. The Channel 7 I-Team was there and ran a story just before Thanksgiving along with the Mercury News. This is certainly unsettling for all. In addition, SONA residents learned that President Michael Burke is in the finals for a new job out of state. That would remove all of our administrative long term relationships, which is a step back for SONA.*

*On the positive front, Vice Chancellor Jeannine Hawk (now acting Chancellor) made it to SONA's general meeting in November. Our apologies for not clearly giving her directions because finding our meeting space can be difficult in the dark. Thank goodness Council Aide Laura Tran was in the parking lot on the way to the meeting. SONA and Acting Chancellor Hawk had a lively discussion about past, ongoing and future issues. It's safe to say a lot of "clearing the air" took place on both sides and we are all working at developing a strong ongoing relationship. The campus is in the process of exploring the launch of the next round of bonds to continue their Capital Improvement Program and we hope they are successful. SONA residents were clear, however, that the best thing for the campus is to get all outstanding questions answered regarding bonds, allegations of improper use of funds, etc. to allow the campus to continue it's good work. Things are tough right now for all educational bodies and it doesn't need to be made tougher by administrators constantly having to defend themselves.*

*It's hard to believe another year is almost over. It's been a busy one for me personally and a trying one for many SONA residents. Don't forget that while we've slogged through a lot of things, we got a few good things done. I got to build two local playgrounds this year (Cupertino and Campbell) and we opened St. Elizabeth Park! Who could ask for more? Creating public spaces for our neighborhoods and safe places to play for kids is the fun nest hard work you can do.*

*My board of Directors has had my back this year and covered for me while I dealt with family issues. I can't thank them enough for making me look good, supporting me and keeping me going at times.*

*My neighborhood has been awesome, and I've met lots more of you this year. Drop me a line and let me know what you'd like to see on next year's meeting agendas.*

*And, last, but not least, please take care of yourselves during the holidays and the year to come. Be safe, be happy and enjoy being in the moment when you can. If you can find a smile everyday you are a rich person. **See you at the meeting.....Randi***

## SONA

### No General Meeting In December

**You are invited to attend the Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee's Annual Holiday evening of fun and food for the whole family.**

**December 10, 2009**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Sherman Oaks Community Center**

**Join neighbors from around the area for a relaxing evening.**

**RSVP to Michael LaRocca**

**Happy Holidays**

**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**

Funds for our newsletter are supplemented with a Community Action and Pride Grant through the City of San Jose

## Notes and News

With rain and winter weather here, it's important to keep track of traffic conditions whether you are on foot, a bike or in a car. Any traffic hazard in the city, whether a blocked sidewalk or clogged storm drains can be reported to the Department of Transportation at 277-4373. Any emergency should be reported to 911 and you can always call the 24-hour City hotline at 535-3500 to report incidents.

Jussi Rajna is still busy collecting cans and bottles for our fundraising drive. We know that holidays mean extra recycling, so make sure you save it and contact him when it needs to be picked up. This doesn't cost you a thing and benefits SONA tremendously.

Don't forget you can donate funds or pay your dues via PayPal online now. Just go our website and log in. Easy as pie....of course a good pie isn't that easy, but you know what we mean.

We've forgotten to list our new and renewing members for a couple months...so a belated thanks to Sheila & Jerry Cvitanich, Eileen & Joe Mosher, and, Lena & Jussi Rajna.

This is a time of year when neighbors are coming and going, when people take off for a week or so to visit relatives and when homes can be empty long enough to trigger curiosity. Make sure that if you are leaving, even if for a weekend, you let your neighbors know. Besides feeding the pets, they can keep lights on inside, put out garbage cans and make it look like people are home.

Holiday shopping means taking advantage of seasonal bargains to upgrade or buy new items that

are lightweight and easy to steal. Never leave packages in your car where they can be seen. That's what your trunk is for. Use mall services to get you safely to and from your car. When you get those packages home and have lots of cardboard to get rid of, break down the boxes. Either put them in the recycling bin or, if too large, turn them inside out before putting the cardboard outside. You don't need to advertise to burglars that you got a great deal on a new flat screen HDTV.

And don't forget to save all those electronics for our next fundraising drive. You'll get lots of flyers in the mail or dropped on your porch, but if SONA's logo isn't on it, it's not from us. Again, this won't cost you anything and can benefit your local neighborhood association.

Our yearly reminder to make the holidays safe. Get rid of those strings of lights that are half way out. Watch where you put candles. Keep all flammables away from the tree. Make sure your pets can't get into things they can't digest or that will harm them.

Holidays can be a trying time for families and remember that there is a resource out there for you. The 211 number is staffed with people who can direct you to services and resources if your family is in stress. Asking for help is a good thing.

And, no matter what, you can help others simply by buying an extra can of food each time you shop and donating to Second Harvest.

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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

## Holiday Happenings

It's not too late to join the Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee's annual holiday celebration in an evening of fun and food for the whole family. Come join neighbors who have worked with SONA to put forward ideas and funding strategies for our neighborhoods, building parks, making sure streets have sidewalks, curbs and gutters, installing signals at intersections and planting trees. This event will be on SONA's regularly scheduled meeting night. RSVP to Michael.

There are tree lightings, carriage rides and open houses in all our local business districts; Alameda, West San Carlos and Willow Glen have schedules posted that include visits from Santa, caroling and other holiday activities. Rather than list all the events, we'll list the association contacts. Alameda Business Association (408)436-8581 or [www.the-Alameda.com](http://www.the-Alameda.com). West San Carlos Street Neighborhood Business Association is (408) 947-8711 or [www.sancarlosstreet.com](http://www.sancarlosstreet.com). Willow Glen Business Association (408) 298-2100 or [www.downtownwillowglen.org](http://www.downtownwillowglen.org). Shop local this year!

You can always take a stroll through Santana Row and enjoy the outdoor festivities at no charge while window shopping, grabbing a bite to eat or enjoying a movie.

AAUW (Association for the Advancement of University Women) and Bay Area Striders are co-sponsoring a Volkswalk through downtown Willow Glen on December 12 between 4:30 and 9pm. This non-competitive walk is open to all ages and begins at the AAUW headquarters next to the Willow Glen Library. Sanctioned by the American Volkssport Association, a member of International Federation of Popular Sports, the course is designed for 10k (6 miles) or 5k options so you can go at your own pace. AAUW sponsors programs, research and education that promotes equity for women and girls throughout the year. For more information, contact Holly Peking at (408)259-5157.

Linda Levine will be at the Willow Glen Library on December 10 conducting a workshop for kids and adults in how to create a holiday gift that includes chocolate...who could ask for more. Pre-registration is required. December 12 will be the Fratello Marionnettes for you entertainment. And, on December 17 is Rainbow the Clowns Holiday fun fest. These are just a few of the offerings at this one year old library. Contact the Willow Glen Library at (408) 808-3045 or go to [www.sjlibrary.org](http://www.sjlibrary.org).

Willows Community and Senior Center is now a full service community center, offering courses, classes and activities for all ages. They also run a senior lunch nutrition program. There are ongoing programs and special holiday offerings for the entire family. Contact them at (408)448-6400 or go to <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/communitycenters/willows/>

Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens is an excellent place to get away for the day, whether you are hanging out at Discovery Meadow, biking down to the play area and carousel at Arena Green or enjoying the fall/winter aspects of the river, Heritage Orchard or Heritage Rose Garden. Next time you have to make a shopping trip to Coleman Center, plan a little time to take a walk along the river. Relax, enjoy the peace and quiet of a natural surrounding and recharge your internal batteries so you are good to go throughout the season. It's not too late to join the Holiday Wreath Making workshop on December 12. For more information call (408)298-7657 or go to [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org).

Christmas in the Park is running full steam in downtown San Jose at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez. You can make a day or evening of wandering through all of the exhibits, visit vendors and sign up for free give a ways. There is a carnival running and the yearly ice rink is up surrounding the palm trees across from the Museum. Take light rail or use one of the handy parking lots that are close by. You can always pop over to the Children's Discovery Museum and learn the Secrets of Circles or get your Star Trek fix at the Tech Museum.

If you get chilled downtown, pop into the Fairmont or St. Clair and check out the decorations. Grab a cup of hot cocoa or coffee at Bijan Bakery and sample their pastries. Visit any of the local shops in the pedestrian plaza that runs from Chavez Plaza to San Jose State. There is a world of small coffee shops, a stellar bike shop, bakeries, sushi bars and a slew of restaurants to enjoy while enjoying the variety of small, local businesses that have taken root in this hidden downtown gem.

When it's too cold to be outside, visit one of our local museums, most within walking distance downtown or close to our homes by car. When was the last time you visited the Rosicrucian Museum, or San Jose's Quilt and Textiles Museum, or the Museum of Art? Enjoy the holidays.

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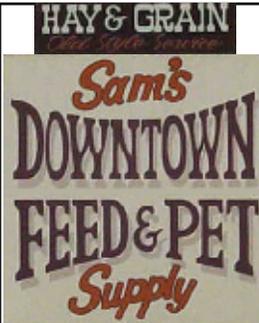
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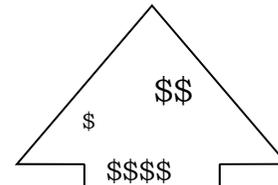
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