Issue 106

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes from the President

It's always a good idea to start the new year with gratitude for what we've accomplished in the old year. In 2009 we delivered 28,000 newsletters door to door. That took incredible amounts of volunteer time from our delivery people: ***Our Delivery Individuals are list on Page 2.*** *Newsletters are written by board members and Michael delivers them to Sheila's for sorting and distribution to carriers. Sheila also adds any inserts that have been paid for that month. She then drives them to the delivery people's homes and ta-daaaa!!! Your newsletters find their way to your door. Many thanks to those who make this happen, including Jack Ford who is turning in his delivery bag this month after years of service. We appreciate all they do to make this happen each month. We do need some new delivery people who can give us one hour a month to walk around your block and place newsletters in doorways. If you can do this, please contact Sheila. Thanks from the entire neighborhood for those who volunteer to do this.*

Board members have been following the trustees meetings at San Jose City College. At our last SONA meeting residents authorized sending a letter to the trustees. In light of the issues surrounding the baseball field, the grand jury report and the recent resignation of the chancellor under a cloud of accusations regarding many things, SONA residents felt that it was in the school district's best interests to go outside for help. Asking for an independent audit, bringing in somebody without ties to the campus, somebody with the ability to look at all the problems on the table, seemed like the best course of action. The district has hired somebody to look at the allegations regarding the Chancellor, but does not feel anything else is necessary. The trustees recently approved a budget regarding the bond that included more than $1million in administrative fees and almost $300,000 in legal fees, none of which were explained. Staff, faculty and students recently rallied in response to many issues and they all agreed that it was time to bring in outside help. We will continue to urge the administration to do so because as one person pointed out, "Why should I trust anybody you hire to investigate you when you are under investigation?".

One of my goals for 2010 is to have graffiti out of our neighborhoods. With cut backs in city staff, there won't be as many graffiti teams out and about in the neighborhood. So, let's sign up as official graffiti monitors, get the free materials and clean up our own neighborhood. Information will be provided at the next meeting….

…hope to see you at the meeting….Randi

SONA General Meeting

January 14, 2009

6:30 PM Coffee and Snacks
Catch up with your Neighbors
7:00 PM 2010 and Beyond
What are we following Up on from 2009?
What are our goals for 2010? What's on your Mind?

SJPD if available
8:30PM Adjourn

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

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Notes and News

Abandoned and/or Stolen Vehicles

You learn some interesting things when you talk to local cops. During session at SJCC local streets were full of "new" cars that came and went with students. One car stayed (on 3 wheels) for a couple days before residents called vehicle abatement. A couple nights before Christmas Eve we heard clattering and clinking, and looked outside to see two patrol units and a flatbed tow truck. Turns out the car and 2 others on Richmond were stolen. The cars had shown up before class, didn't leave that day and hung around for the holidays until called in. SJPD told us that this is somewhat like commuter theft....somebody steals a car to where they need to go and they may or may not take it on the way home. One local resident had his car return in his driveway after over a week of being missing. Things to look for are cars with wires hanging around the dash or steering column, cars with spare (or missing) tires, cars without license plates. If an unidentified car shows up in front of your house, don't be afraid to ask around and call it in if it hangs around too long. Vehicle Abatement number is 277-5305 and you can leave a message 24/7. A quick walk through the neighborhood after that resulted in towing of more than half a dozen cars.

Newsletter Volunteers

Sheila Cvitanich, Randi Kinman, Steve Kline, Jussi Rajna, Lisa Steingart, Jack Ford, Carol Cooper, Konrad Beck, Elsa Carvalho, Sal LaBarbera, Michael LaRocca, Celia Medina, Jean Reed, Lynn Sisson, Bob Slater, Alberta Parker, Layne Kulwin, Richard Anderson, and Mary Margaret Wedge.

San Jose City College

Spring 2010 Semester Begins Monday February 1, 2010.

Sports Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Event
2/3/10	7:00 pm	SJCC	Women's Basketball-SJCC vs Chabot
2/5/10	5:30 pm	SJCC	Women's Basketball-SJCC vs Hartnell
2/6/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Men's Basketball-SJCC vs Hartnell
2/12/10	All Day	SJCC	Track & Field-Coast Conference Preview
2/12/10	5:30 pm	SJCC	Women's Basketball-SJCC vs Cabrillo
2/13/10	10:00 am	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs DVC & Redwoods
2/13/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Men's Basketball-SJCC vs Cabrillo
2/17/10	5:30 pm	SJCC	Women's Basketball-SJCC vs Mission
2/17/10	7:00 pm	SJCC	Men's Basketball-SJCC vs West Valley
2/23/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Gavilan
3/2/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs West Valley
3/4/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Monterey
3/9/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs San Mateo
3/16/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Foothill
3/18/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Chabot
3/23/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs CCSF
3/30/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Mission
4/8/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Cabrillo
4/20/10	3:00 pm	SJCC	Softball-SJCC vs Hartnell
4/28/10	All Day	SJCC	Track & Field-Coast Conference Trails
5/1/10	All Day	SJCC	Track & Field-Coast Conference Finals

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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

Heat Your Home Safely

Heating the home is expensive and one of the leading causes of home fires. Here are some steps you can follow to cut your risk of starting a fire in your home, and to cut down on your heating bills.

Use Alternative Heaters Safely

a.. First, never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

b.. Never leave alternative heaters unattended—turn off space heaters or extinguish the fireplace before going to bed or leaving home.

c.. Keep all flammable materials and potential fuel sources—including but not limited to newspapers, matches, bedding, clothing, carpets and rugs—at least three feet away from heat sources such as space heaters, fireplaces and stoves.

Place your space heater on a hard, level, nonflammable surface. Do not put space heaters on rugs or carpets, near bedding or drapes, and keep children and pets away. Look for a space heater model that shuts off automatically if the heater falls over.

Keep the fire in your fireplace by using a glass or metal screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs. Never leave fireplaces unattended. Be sure to have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and furnaces professionally inspected once a year.

Be Prepared

Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home. Check them once a month by pressing the test button, and replace batteries as necessary. Make sure both your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly, and practice your home fire escape plan so every member of your family, including young children and elderly, can get out quickly and safely. Your escape plan should include at least two routes out for every room in the home, and a meeting place outside your home.

Reduce Your Heating Bills

Simple solutions—

a.. Turn down the thermostat & put on a sweater. You'll be surprised at the savings on your heating bill.

b.. Close off any rooms you aren't using and close heat vents or turn off radiators in those rooms.

c.. Make sure heat vents aren't blocked by furniture.

d.. If you can, buy heavy curtains to help keep cold air out of your home, even in the kitchen. Open them during the day to let the sun help warm your house, and close them at night. Use "fabric snakes," or old rugs in front of windows and doors to help eliminate drafts.

e.. If you have a wood burning fireplace, use it to cut down on your heating bill. Make sure you close the damper when not in use or heat will escape through it. If you can seal off the fireplace when not in use, do so.

f.. Turn off vent fans in the kitchen and bathroom as soon as the job is done.

g.. Set your ceiling fans to blow air down.

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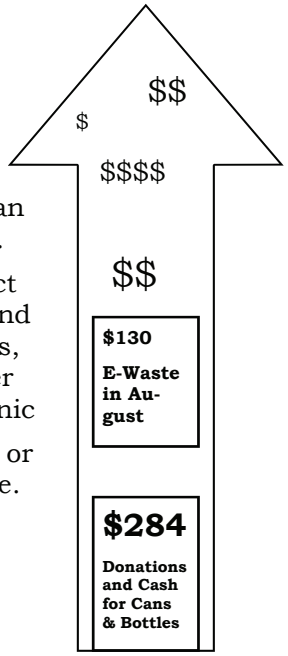

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