



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes from the President

January started out with a bang for me. Getting over a winter cold with what seemed like dozens of meetings back to back. Like many of us the small earthquake here was followed by trying to reach family in the Eureka area after their bigger shake. Following that with Haiti's major problems made me realize I really can't put off all those things again. This year is the year to make sure my home and cars have emergency supplies, my CPR training is up to date and I become CERT certified.

I can tell you our board members are excited about setting up a series of programs for us around emergency preparedness. As we make our neighborhood safe for a natural disaster we can build bridges with each other. It's only when we work together that we are strongest. With a neighborhood that has a high percentage of seniors as well as a high number of small children, wouldn't you feel better knowing your neighbors are there to help you, and trained to do so, if an emergency comes up?

Among the many meetings I've attended recently, the one surrounding the Diridon Station are proving the most interesting. While the initial focus was on the proposed ballpark, that has taken a back seat to High Speed Rail. What will that area look like and how will it function with we have VTA, Caltrain, ACE train, High Speed Rail and BART all rolling into the same area? How will we create a place that welcomes visitors and is dynamic and attractive enough to make it interesting and fun for locals? How can we keep the impact of parking to a minimum and how can we protect the surrounding neighborhoods? Even SONA would be impacted by traffic from all of this during and after construction. Meetings are opened to the public so drop in. There's lots of time for the general public to talk and there's always a yummy meal.

...hope to see you at the meeting....Randi

SONA General Meeting

February 11, 2010

6:30 PM Coffee and Snacks

**Catch up with your
Neighbors**

7:00 PM

**Energy Efficiency and
Solar Financing
Presentation by
Christeen Davis with
the City of San Jose
Environmental Services
Department**

8:00PM 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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Association meetings are held
on the second Thursday of each
month at the Sherman Oaks
Community Center, 1800A
Fruitdale Ave. SJ CA 95128**

Notes and News

The problem with lists is you always forget somebody unintentionally. So, this is a big thank you to **Carol Worley & Gary Palmer** who are two of our newsletter delivery people who got left off our list. Thanks, Carol & Gary.

Speaking of lists, the recent new or renewing members are **Yoka Drion and Paul Gonda**, and **Lynn Sisson**. You can now join SONA from the comfort of your own home by accessing our website (see below) and hitting the PayPal button. Easy as can be.

Those of you with markings on the sidewalk can expect the curb cut team to be out this spring. We will have had most of our neighborhood upgraded to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This also means those who aren't disabled will be able to get around a little easier and safer.

We haven't given up on the e-waste recycling event; we're just re-thinking a little bit. Many residents have asked for a garage sale event. Several years ago we did a neighborhood wide event and everyone had a chance to clean out closets and storage. We haven't set a date yet, but hope to do this again and expand it so Salvation Army or some other group comes by and picks up goods after the sale for donation. The last time we created a master list, had signs and it was quite successful. Let us know if you are interested in participating or in helping to organize. We're trying to bring things together a piece at a time. Meanwhile Jussi and Lisa will still take your donations of bottles and cans that can be redeemed at recycling.

We've had questions about what's going on with developments around here and the answer is "nothing much". With the current flat economy, most lenders aren't shelling out for housing developments and successful developers are kind of hunkered down. Expect that to change as the economy picks up. That gives us some breathing room to plan rather than get caught up in a lot of projects. As you can see by the signs, the two developments around Fruitdale/Southwest are still trying to fill up.

SONA is hoping to have a meeting in spring or summer at the St. Elizabeth Park. That will allow us some outdoor time, a chance to enjoy the site and a chance to meet neighbors from that area. If you live over there and are interested in helping out, let one of the board members know.

We can still expect stormy and rainy weather for the next few months. Don't forget that we need to keep the storm drains clear. When you are trimming around the yard and doing that spring weeding, make sure that all yard waste is well beyond the gutter line. This allows the water to flow freely to the storm drains and keeps them from clogging up. For those of you who live near a drain, try to keep it clear. It only takes a few minutes.

Buena Vista Park expansion (Scott and Menker across the freeway) has been delayed for awhile. While the city bought the next property, staff is mandated to keep all maintenance costs at or below current standards. Hopefully more news in the near future on this.

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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

What is SONA up to?

SONA is our neighborhood, bounded by Bascom, Highway 280, Meridian and the Los Gatos Creek. We welcome participation and hope to bind our residents and businesses together in common goals. We meet once a month, publish a newsletter and distribute it to 1500 homes while posting on our website. We have a board of directors who bring activities and programs in based on what SONA residents state they want.

SONA board members also participate in a variety of outside activities, representing us at meetings on the weekends, evenings and whenever there is "free" time". Our members attended the recent Mayor's Budget Priority Setting session on a Saturday morning at City Hall and have been active in District 6 leadership meetings and the Burbank/Del Monte NAC. Board members attend San Jose/Evergreen Trustees and Bond oversight meetings.

In January we met and reviewed what our goals for the year are. Not surprisingly, we have a number of things like parking and traffic that are perennial issues. How we handle them in the next few years is going to be a challenge. City budgets are being slashed by 1/3 based on the lack of revenue. This means some big changes and we will just have to come up with a new way of thinking. Even if the economy turns around dramatically this month, it will be years before the affect of that impact the state, county or city revenues.

Not surprisingly, with our recent earthquake, followed by the one in Northern California and the devastation in Haiti, emergency preparedness is going to be a high priority this year. This means helping you find the tools to make your home safe, giving you the information you need to make it through at least one week on your own. The better prepared we are as neighbors, the better off we'll all be. Even though there is no comparison between the infrastructure of Haiti and SONA, the reality is, if a major event were to happen, we must be prepared to help each other for days, maybe weeks. So, first step will be getting you organized at home and second step will be getting our neighborhood organized, block by block. If we take this one step at a time, we can become the best prepared neighborhood in the city.

The benefit to all of that is we get to know our neighbors better, making this a safer place to live.

Our community center and library on Bascom is scheduled for completion this year. Unfortunately, the facility will not open because of budgets. This has not been an acceptable idea to many residents who feel that we've been paying on the bonds for years and should reap some benefit. They want to know why we can't reduce hours elsewhere and share the pain. The facility was built so either the community center or library could operate independently. Others are saying "if you lived this year without it, you can live a few more years". No matter what you feel on this subject, we need to become educated and speak up. The Director of Library Service, Jane Light, will be at our March meeting. The Burbank/Del Monte NAC will be taking a stand on this issue soon; most likely to lobby for opening on a limited basis. Marlene Bird has agreed to take the lead on this for SONA and Susan Price-Jang is chairing the Community Services committee for the NAC.

San Jose City College continues to grapple with a number of problems, including a turn over in the administration. President Burke has left to take a job elsewhere, so a search for a new permanent chancellor and president is underway. In the meantime, SONA board members are confused by the way the trustees and district are continuing to handle issues related to the field on Leigh Avenue, the EIR and expenditure of bond funds. They seem determined to make the same mistakes over and over. SONA has issued letters, has made requests and has kept on top of this. Visit our website for a full update, copies of our correspondence, links to groups and most recent updates.

SONA applied last year for a grant for newsletters and will do so again this year, but we are in need of fund raising. Jussi and Lisa will collect your recyclables (the ones with deposits) and pick them up, but we need dues and donations to deliver our newsletters. We also need advertisers for the newsletter. As an organization we will cease to print newsletters this year if we do not see an influx of cash.

SONA needs newspaper delivery people. We just want you to cover one block. Once a month you walk to your neighbors' houses and deliver the most recent neighborhood news. We need carriers in all areas. If you can help out, please call Sheila or Michael.

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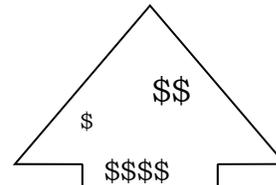
Attention Pet Owners

There is nobody in the neighborhood who is excited about your pet contributing "fertilizer" to their yards, driveways or sidewalks. Nobody is hoping your animal will come do in their yard what you don't want them doing in your yard. Nobody wants to garden, mow the lawn or have their kids out playing only to discover your precious pet has left a "gift" for us. We love our homes, we love our pets, too. So, please, be responsible. If you don't want it in your yard, why would you think anybody else does? Make our neighborhood cleaner and safer. Curb your pet, pick up after your pooch.



Fundraising Goal

\$3,000



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