



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is a volunteer group of residents working to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. Newsletter funds are supplemented by a Community Action & Pride Grant from the City of San Jose.

Issue 114 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

### *Notes From The President*

I want to thank everyone that joined us at St. Elizabeth Park for National Night Out on August 3. I had a great time meeting with friends and neighbors from various parts of our neighborhood *especially those that I have never met in person*. It was a joy to see young children enjoying themselves on the playground equipment and community members and others taking part in the activities (see the photos below.)

Please join us at our next membership meeting for some free legal advice that should help as you plan for the future. Also you will have an opportunity to let us know what's on your mind and/or how we might assist with your issues and concerns. I look forward to seeing at the meeting...*Michael*



National Night Out  
2010  
St. Elizabeth Park

### **General Meeting September 9, 2010**

#### **6:30PM**

- ❖ **Coffee and Cookies**  
**Come meet your neighbors and let us know what's happening in your part of the neighborhood.**

#### **7:00PM**

- ❖ **Welcome and Intros**
- ❖ **San Jose Police Department if available**
- ❖ **Staff Reports**

#### **7:20PM**

- ❖ **Speaker: Paul F. Hogan**  
*Family Law and You; Wills, Trusts, Health Care Directives and all the other important papers you need. See Page 3 for more information.*

#### **8:00PM**

- ❖ **Door Prize Drawings**

#### **8:05PM**

- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **Updates on local issues**
- ❖ **Updates on Bond Initiatives**
- ❖ **What's on your mind?**
- ❖ **Next meeting**

Notes and News

A great time was had by all...well, all of us, who went to St. Elizabeth Park for National Night Out on August 3. We had ice cream and cookies and sodas and more ice cream. Supervisor Ken Yeager dropped by for a visit, but City staff and Council were busy at the Council meeting that night. We got to meet a lot of new friends and put faces to the names of those we meet online.

A new service is available for reporting all kinds of problems using your smart phone. Councilmember Pete Constant launched an I-Phone application last year that allows you to snap pictures of all kinds of problems, and with the click of a button, send in a report to the city. The phones automatically geo-tag the picture, giving staff the exact location of the problem. This program now works for all smart phones, with a free download. Visit www.citysourced.com and become part of the solution to graffiti, illegal dumping and other eyesores. You can report abandoned vehicles and shopping carts, fire hazards, dangerous intersections, gang activity, homeless encampments and a variety of other issues from a pull down menu, or leave detailed notes on problems not automatically listed. Your pictures are proof of the problem and you can follow up with an online tracking system. No need to carry paper and pencil around or try to remember problems you've seen while out and about.

SONA has only collected about 1/3 of the normal dues payments this year, which means we are severely behind in collecting operational funds. We will be sending out pre-addressed envelopes again to most households this year. Dues are only \$15 per year and pay for meetings, insurance and newsletters. SONA operates solely on these dues, all actions and participation is voluntary. We also have PayPal set up on our website, allowing you to safely pay dues, make donations and help contribute.

It's back to school time again, so be aware of the changes in local traffic patterns. We don't want any of our children hurt because somebody is in too big of a hurry to get someplace. Watch out and slow down. By the time this newsletter is distributed, the grammar, middle and high schools will be in session. San Jose City College Fall Semester begins on Monday August 30 with this comes increased neighborhood traffic and congestion. For those of you with kids being transported to schools via cars, try parking a few blocks away and walking in. Get together with neighbors and take turns walking the kids to school. Stay off your cell phone. Carpool. Ride bikes. Teach your kids road safety. Take advantage of that extra 15 minutes to chat with your kids. The greatest danger to our children is parents all trying to get in and out of school zones.

SONA Contact List

President, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlroo1@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer, Marlene Bird	408.288.9727	mbird@cbtnorcal.com
Secretary, Steve Kline	408.768.4154	slkesq@me.com
Administrative VP, Randi Kinman	408.835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich	408.292.2690	
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	
Member at Large, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon	408.287.8795	www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletter editor is Randi Kinman. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation. Feel free to contact any of us with ideas or questions.

## **Free Legal Advice**

What would happen to your children if something happened to you? Do you have custody of family members or do you have aging parents?

Do you have property that you have inherited that you want to keep out of community property?

Do you know the difference between a revocable trust and an irrevocable trust? Would it make a difference to your family?

Do you have a will? Do you have an advanced health care directive? What's a power of attorney?

Why do you want any or all of these documents? Who should have them?

Which documents can you prepare yourself and which ones need professional oversight? Which ones need to be notarized? Which ones need to be at your doctor's office? Where should you store all of them?

If you can't answer these questions, then your family is not fully prepared. Just as we have been working on how to prepare your home for an emergency, your family should be prepared for day to day and emergency issues that could arise from an accident, illness or death. Does your family have a plan? Have you discussed these things?

Local resident Paul Hogan, an attorney who has been practicing family law for over 30 years, will be on hand at our September meeting to answer your questions. He will give you a general outline of the plans you should be discussing and the documents you need to ensure your family is prepared for anything.

While you may have discussed some of these things with family, unless there is a paperwork trail, your family is not protected and neither are you. Having a legal plan is no different than having an emergency plan...except there is a certainty your family will need these legal documents and we always hope we won't need emergency preparedness kits.

This will be a general information meeting, answering many of the common questions you may have. You'll be given a list of documents that will help you start preparing and help you determine what you need and how to prioritize. This is part of SONA's ongoing commitment to make sure SONA residents are prepared for anything.

## **Local Updates**

Are you registered to vote? Do you know what's coming up on the November ballot? While there is no local ballpark issue on the November ballot, there are plenty of things that interest SONA residents. Board member Steve Kline is gathering information on the November ballot issues and will be moderating a meeting on several of these issues at our October general meeting. While we won't have time to go through all of the ballot initiatives, we hope to have people on both sides of some of the city and county issues on hand.

While most of us live outside the District and cannot vote, the SONA board has taken an unprecedented action on the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District Measure G. SONA board members do not believe that there are adequate safeguards or prioritizations on Measure G that would ensure appropriate spending of tax payer funds. The board sent a letter to SJECCD and will circulate this letter to appropriate people. A copy of the letter is available online.

September 15 is the date for the Buena Vista Park update. The meeting will be held at Luther Burbank Elementary School in the library at 6:30pm. This should be the last meeting before final action is taken on developing this site.

One way of telling the economy may be picking up is the increase in permits now being processed through the City of San Jose. We are starting to see local developers working on smaller projects. That doesn't mean we'll see any movement on some of the big ones in our area that have sat around for years but we can hope. In the meantime, the Planning Department has applied for a grant that would allow them to master plan long term development along the Southwest/Bascom corridors.

Speaking of Bascom, no, there isn't any new or good news about the community center and library. The Friends of Bascom group is meeting because we may have an opportunity to help readjust budgets this fall. See Steve for details.

We're still collecting recycling for fund raising. Contact Lisa or Jussi if you have cans or bottles to donate to the cause.

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Fax: 408-899-5960

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mbeheshti@farmersagent.com