



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 120 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

April is the month that we hold our annual election of officers. The following is a proposed slate of officer that is being put forward by our Board of Directors.

<i>President</i>	<i>Randi Kinman</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Michael LaRocca</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Layne Kulwin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Marlene Bird</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>Sheila Cvitanich</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>Jussi Rajna</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>Lisa Steingart</i>

We will also be taking nominations from the floor at the meeting.

I invite you to join the Friends of the Bascom Library and Community Center (FBL&CC) for a meeting to be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at the Rose Garden Branch Library Community Room located at 1580 Naglee Avenue San Jose, California 95126.

The Friends of the Bascom Library and Community Center will be discussing the on going strategies for getting both facilities open.

See you at the meeting...Michael

**General Meeting
April 14, 2011**

- 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**
 - ❖ **Election of Officers**
- 7:10PM**
 - ❖ **San Jose Police Department Update on Recent Escalating Criminal Activities in Our Area -- Followed by Questions and Answers**
- 7:30PM**
 - ❖ **Reuben Veek With SunWork Renewable Energy Projects Will Provide Us With an Affordable Alternate for Green Energy**
- 7:50PM**
 - ❖ **Staff Reports**
 - ❖ **Redistricting Discussion**
 - ❖ **Announcements**
- 8:10PM**
 - ❖ **Door Prize Drawings**
- 8:15PM**
 - ❖ **Adjournment**

Notes and News

PayPal is available on SONA's website! You can pay your yearly dues with just a few clicks, make donations and contribute to SONA's success. We simply cannot afford to mail out reminders to people, so we are hoping that you will use the PayPal option on the website's front page and make your contribution count. This is a secure and easy way to pay your dues each year and you can also opt to have your dues deducted every year from now on. What a great way to support your neighborhood from the comfort of your own home. **The SONA website is located at <http://www.sona-sj.com/>**

With the recent shooting at Bascom and Fruitdale, our thoughts first go out to the families, witnesses and employees affected by the execution of a San Jose resident. San Jose Police Department and other law enforcement agencies were prompt in responding to this event, all schools were placed on lock down status and the process slowly progressed. With that said, there were some secondary problems. How would residents be advised in the future? If a lockdown affects a school, what about the residents between the event and the school who were not advised a gun wielding person was still loose? Traffic was diverted, leaving non-locals wandering around our residential streets and creating issues for residents and local school traffic. How can we make this better? Shift change at Valley Medical Center increased the inflow of traffic. Could we look at the Bascom Community Center and Library site as a potential staging area or alternate parking for staff in the case of a major emergency? As a "land locked" neighborhood, we often deal with these issues whether it is a major event at San Jose City College or it is an accident on the streets. The proximity to a major medical facility, freeways and arterial streets means we are sure to face similar problems in the future. SONA board members have already taken steps to open dialogues with local agencies. What are your thoughts? How can we plan for future events?

The City of San Jose Redistricting Commission is up and running and needs your input. SONA is also in need of input regarding our neighborhood in particular. With the release of Census 2010 data, the city is mandated to balance the population in council districts. Some districts will grow, others will expand and virtually every council district will be changed in some way or another. When boundaries are changed neighborhoods are moved in or out of districts, leaving them represented by council members they had no say in electing. It is a temporary issue, lasting several years, but one that does make a difference to some. Among the things the commission can weigh are neighborhood boundaries and school districts when making these changes. Our neighborhood is part of the Campbell school districts, along with District 1. While slim, there is the possibility that our area could move out of District 6. SONA board members do not want to see our neighborhood bisected, but we need your input. Are you in favor of remaining in our current district? What thoughts do you have regarding how boundaries should be drawn? The commission is on a fast track of meetings as they are required to produce a plan in just a few months. The list of meetings, including the neighborhood public meetings was published in last month's newsletter. Please send your comments or questions to Michael, Steve or Randi as they have been following this process. We will have a brief discussion at our next general meeting.

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Website Administrator, Vacant		

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th 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.

Help for Seniors & Low Income Residents

There are a number of programs out there to assist seniors and low income families save money. Beyond your “senior discount”, there are ways for you to save on daily expenses.

For help with utilities, contact Sacred Heart Community Services at www.sacredheartenergy.org or call them at 877-278-6455. SHCS has been awarded a Federal grant to conduct energy audits and supply residents with upgrades to windows, weatherizing equipment (insulation, venting, etc.), low flow shower heads and other items, allowing qualified applicants to save money on monthly utility bills. In some cases appliances such as microwaves, stoves, ovens, heaters and refrigerators qualify for replacement. A qualification process is required, but it is not limited to property owners. In the case of rental property, the residents or tenants can apply themselves for the grants. SHCS is also hosts a variety of programs at their facility at 1381 S. First Street and accepts clothing and financial donations to support these programs.

Senior Nutrition programs supply seniors with lunch and companionship at centers throughout the city for low cost. For locations and information, contact the P

Whether homebound temporarily due to an injury or accident or homebound on a more permanent basis due to age or disability, the Health Trust will supply adults with daily meals and contact. Adults or their caregivers can apply. The Health Trust also provides wellness programs for kids and adults and dental services for children along with a variety of other programs. For more information, go to www.healthtrust.org or call 961-9850.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority provides free transit passes for the homeless along with discounted passes for youth, seniors and disabled. One valuable program you can access is their mobility training program for those of us who are becoming less able to drive; how to access transit effectively is a key to seniors being able to lead full lives while living in their own homes. For information on fares, programs and access visit www.vta.org or call 321-2300.

Outreach operates the mobility management transportation needs for seniors and disabled who cannot access VTA’s transit system. Para transit (door-to-door) service allows temporary or permanently disabled people and caretakers full access. If you are carpooling with a senior or transporting a family member, friend or neighbor to doctors or services, you may be eligible to receive compensation in the form of a gas card. For information, contact Outreach at www.outreach1.org or call 436-2865.

City Budget Updates and You

The Mayor’s budget message is bleak. Included in the budget message is the **continued non-operational status of the Bascom Community Center and Library for a potential five more years**. While the proposed plan hopes to open all facilities in five years, there is nothing guaranteed and no contingency plan for serving our neighborhood and east side neighborhoods that have been paying their fair share while not receiving any local benefits. SONA board members and others have been attending budget meetings and speaking out, but if this is important to you, you must join residents in voicing your opinions. A “Friends of Bascom Library and Community Center” group has been organized and is working with other local groups to make a case for the Bascom site. If you are interested in signing a petition, talking to your neighbors or getting involved in another way, contact either Marlene or Steve (see page 2). SONA residents have been helping to pay off the bond for this facility for ten years. The children of our community will go through their entire school career without access to a center or library. The original studies (prior to issuing bonds) showed our neighborhood was one of several in the city that, because of location, had residents who could not easily access libraries and community centers. No survey or study has ever been done to determine whether or not it is discriminatory practice to exclude services from communities of color, seniors or low income in this manner. No survey or study has been done to see if operating Bascom is less expensive than operating two other facilities.



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For more information, contact Michael at
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Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
Adult Fitness Class

Do you sit all day at work and need energy boost? Did your exercise routine fall apart during the holidays? Burst out of winter with a fun, new way to get fit this spring! Join Guadalupe River Park Conservancy for an eight-week spring walking series, led by fitness instructor Kristin Strellis. Step by step, you will improve your health as you walk on the paved trails along the beautiful Guadalupe River. Learn proper stretches, toning exercises and wellness tips as you meet others who enjoy outdoor exercise. Classes will meet at the Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Visitor & Education Center, located at 438 Coleman Avenue in San Jose. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, visit www.grpg.org or call 408-298-7657.



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We can't wait --- Open them all now !!!

To Mayor Chuck Reed and San José City Council Members,

This year, new libraries remain unopened and others are threatened with closure. These facilities are vital parts of our communities used for finding jobs, education and recreation. Our communities are negatively impacted as these facilities remain unopened or are closed.

More than ten years ago, San José voters approved bonds to construct libraries for residents' use. Community leaders and city staff worked diligently to find suitable affordable locations and painstakingly labored to create facilities that would be of benefit to their communities. As of December 15, 2010, the Bascom Library and Community Center was substantially completed and ready for use. Today, it stands as a beacon of potential for a community hungry for its services. A beacon whose doors remain locked.

Across San José, other newly built community facilities are not being opened. Other community centers are threatened to be closed. Library hours may be reduced to three-days-a-week and city services that provide a better quality of life are being completely eliminated. The Mayor recently said that he wants the new facilities opened WITHIN FIVE YEARS. All of this is not acceptable.

We, the signers on the reverse side, request that:

- 1. Everything must be equitable across the entire library system. All 22 San José Branch Libraries must be opened now including the recently completed Bascom Library Community Center.**
- 2. We request that the Bascom Community Center be opened. In the event the city chooses to outsource the operation of the community center, the community should be involved in the selection and operation process to ensure the center serves all members of the community.**
- 3. To comply with the intent of revenue generation on this site, the City along with community representatives should initiate immediate action to select a business to operate the Café section of the facility.**
- 4. The City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members act in accordance with these library & community center priorities that are vital to the residents of San José.**

