



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From the President

Our National Night Out Celebration was a lot of fun. Thanks to Teresa Faz and the Pamilar Neighborhood Association for joining with us this year. We met a lot of people in our own and other neighborhoods while enjoying entertainment, games and the ever popular exploration of fire trucks.

If you or a family member expects to be using Medicare in 2012, there is an opportunity to learn how to save money and navigate the new rules before open enrollment (10/15-12/7/2011) ends. This is a “can’t miss” event sponsored by Assembly member Jim Beall and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. See page 4 for details.

Even though some of the burglars have been caught, our neighborhood and surrounding areas are still seeing higher rates of criminal activity. Come to our next meeting and learn more about what’s going on and how we can help make our neighborhood safer.

Our local firefighters have been kept busy lately, but they wanted to take the opportunity to connect with us. They do a lot more than put out fires and will be coming by (if not on call) to outline what they do and how they can work with neighborhoods. There are some new and exciting things coming along!

We are starting to see a turnover in residents due to home sales lately which means an increase in remodeling and other improvements. Often new residents are eager to get started and don’t always know the rules and regs in San Jose, depending on their contractors to follow through. One of the benefits of having an active board is having somebody to call when you aren’t sure what you see happening is legal or not. SONA board members can act as a go-between for you and can help you determine whether there are permits needed or if there are active permits. We want our neighbors to maintain civil relationships and don’t mind helping you out. But, keep in mind, just because something has “always” been around doesn’t mean it will always be around. And keep in mind that a friendly “It really bothers me when workers show up at 6:30am with radios blasting” is a better approach than screaming. Our local Code Inspector is Doug Perasso (535-7936) and you can call him anytime to ask a question confidentially. Please welcome our new neighbors and make sure we get them a copy of our latest newsletter.

See you at the meetings...Randi

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 125 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

General Meeting September 8, 2011

6:00pm

- ❖ **Mix and Mingle.** Meet neighbors, enjoy snacks and coffee. This is time to touch base with everyone.

6:30pm

- ❖ **Welcome.** Thanks for being here! Look for a list of upcoming events.
- ❖ **Reports from Council Office**
- ❖ **Reports from San Jose City College**
- ❖ **Public Safety Night**
 - **San Jose Fire Department**
Captain Jeff Welch and Fireman Matt Chekouras
What are the services and training provided by SJFD?
Meet some of your local firefighters.
 - **San Jose Police Department**
Kimberly Gaddis
How can we make our neighborhood a safer place?

8:00pm

- ❖ **Wrap Up.** Last minute announcements, clean up and what to expect at upcoming meetings. Get home safely.

Notes and News

SONA E-mail List: We looking to add you to our list of online members for several reasons. First of all, it's expensive to deliver newsletters and our grant funding for this has been drying up. Second, it's the right thing to do. We need to reduce the amount of paper we use and become a leaner, greener community. Third, we need to expand our ability to contact each other and stay in touch. Because our newsletter is delivered monthly, we miss sending you vital information about your neighborhood. We also miss the general "chat" that makes life interesting and fun, so we'll be sending you requests to join our Yahoo group as well. Plans are in the works to launch our Facebook page and re-vamp our website. Who's having a garage sale, who needs a gardener or plumber, who's looking for a babysitter, who's having a block party, who's selling their home? Online forums will allow us to build these neighbor-to-neighbor ties. **At no point will your information be given out or sold to anybody, at no point will your info be published.** If you have the skills and are interested in helping us grow our e-presence, contact Layne Kulwin (see below).

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/>.** You can also sign up for easy to use yearly renewals or add a little extra to support SONA.

Thanks to our new and renewing members who really came through last month! We are getting closer to our goals and if we get responses like this every month, SONA will be able to continue delivering local news to your doorstep, plan future events and help make our neighborhood a better place. Many of our members also donated extra funds beyond the dues! Big round of applause for: **Saffett Brackman, John and Beth Costa, Corky Dick, Carolene and Anthony Giluso, Elizabeth and James Harris, Lavina and Charles McCain, Paul Owens, Emmet Sands, Lois Silva, Lisa Steingart, Anastasia Walsh, Patricia Wolf, Susan Kanagawa and Raymond Yuen, Jean and James Reed!**

SONA Board members Jussi and Lisa conducted another recycling pick up (cans and bottles) last month. If you want to be on their list and help contribute, contact them directly.

Other board members have been out and about in the neighborhood working with the police and fire departments, answering code enforcement concerns and renewing contacts with San Jose City College.

United Neighborhoods of Silicon Valley is partnering with NeighborWorks America and Neighborhood Housing Services for a free day long **Neighborhood Development Conference at San Jose State on October 8**. If you, your church or organization wants to learn how to deal with blight, promoting yourself, event management, financial literacy, leadership training, building consensus or other skills, this is an excellent opportunity. For questions, call 279-2600 ext 1290.

Park(ing) Day is an international event where people take over public parking spaces and create a mini park or public space for the day. Greenbelt Alliance is working with the City of San Jose to coordinate spots, most of which will be along San Fernando. We are planning on sponsoring a "park" on Bascom Avenue in front of the Bascom Community Center and Library and we need your help! We want to create a mini reading room, so we'll need some furniture, people to be there at all times and some people to drop in and do what you would be doing in a community center and/or library that day. If Bascom was open, would you be taking a class, working on a computer, using gym equipment, doing homework? Do it at our "park" that day. If this sounds like fun and you can come by for an hour or so, contact Steve, Layne or Randi. This event is Friday, September 16.

SONA Contact List

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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.

Upcoming Events

- Sept 8** SONA General Meeting (pg1)
Sept 9 District 6 Movie Night 7pm
Willow Street/Frank Bramhall Park
Sept 9 San Jose City College Football
1st home game of the season
Sept 11 Gardening with Succulents class at
Guadalupe River Park and Gardens
Sept 16 Park(ing) Day (pg 2)
Sept 17 Coastal Clean Up Day
Sept 17 Supervisor Cortese Day on the Bay
11am-4pm Alviso Marina County Park
299-5030 or
steven.blomquist@bos.sccgov.org
Sept 25 Wine Stroll on the Alameda 2-5pm
www.StrollTheAlameda.com
Oct 5 International Walk to School Day
Join a Safe Walk to Schools Group
Oct 8 Neighborhood Development Training
Conference 8:30am-5:00pm (pg 2)
Oct 9 Pumpkins in the Park family event at
Discovery Meadow

Children's Discovery Museum

Make cornhusk dolls; visit Lupe the mammoth discovered nearby, etc.

San Jose Museum of Technology

Islamic Science Rediscovered, Virtual Tech Zone, Green by Design and more

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles

Current Exhibit: Scrap Art

San Jose Museum of Art

Roots in the Air, Branches Below
R. Crumb's The Bible Illuminated
Beta Space: Anna Sew Hoy
Braving the Elements
Bill Owens: Ordinary Folks

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum

Burial Practices, Afterlife and Mummies
Gods and Religion
Kings and Pharos
Daily Life, Trade and Neighbors

History Museum of San Jose

Nature's Beloved Son, John Muir
California Admission Day
Celebration Sept 10
Celebrating Local Artists

The Truth About Trees

Our urban forest is a vital element in providing shade, protection, on site water retention, beauty and the maintenance of local habitat. The trick is having trees that provide benefit without creating problems.

When planting new trees, don't just look at what is, look at what will be. How big will it get, how much maintenance will it require, is it placed too close to a fence, will it spread out over the neighbor's yard? Just because you want a screen of trees along your back fence doesn't mean your neighbors want the same. What type of root system does the tree have and how much room will the roots need? Look at the species of tree and acknowledge there is a reason they are called "coastal" trees. Six trees may look good now, but is there room for six fully grown trees?

Existing trees need care. It's worth the money to have a certified arborist inspect your trees and give you advice on how to maintain them. Regular pruning keeps them healthy. Don't save money short term by using unqualified or uncertified tree trimmers. Those few dollars you do save could be quickly eaten up by the damage done to people and property. You, as a homeowner, bear the liability for any damage or injury if your workers aren't insured. Anybody who offers to top your tree or simply lop off major limbs halfway down should be politely escorted off your property. These actions are no longer practiced because they damage and kill trees.

Eventually it's time for a tree to come down and the hope is this is done in a controlled manner and not during a storm. San Jose has a specific ordinance that prohibits removal of heritage trees (56" around) and requires permits for removal of live or dead heritage sized trees. You will need a report from a certified arborist to obtain a permit. San Jose used to restrict removal of large trees until recently. Noting that many of our mature trees have reached the end of their lifespan, were inappropriate for the area or yard and have the potential to harm people and property, it is much easier to get that permit now. It still takes going through the process and waiting for the approval, but these days property owners have an easier time of removing trees before significant damage happens. Permits are obtained through the City's Planning Department.

While it is easier to remove heritage sized trees, illegal tree trimming and removal is not tolerated. Signs will be posted if it is a legal removal. Because it requires immediate action, if you see illegal or questionable tree trimming being done on private property, call 277-4528 (Code Enforcement) during regular business hours. If it is a street tree, call the Department of Transportation at 794-1901 during regular business hours. If it is outside regular business hours, the City of San Jose asks that you immediately call 911 and they will dispatch personnel.

Arborists and tree trimmers are in big demand during the rainy season, so now is the time to get the work done. If you want information about trees, need to talk to a pro, have questions about your trees or would like to take advantage of a free tree program, Our City Forest is a great local organization. They can be contacted at 998-7337 or go to their website at www.ourcityforest.org.



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Preparing for Medicare in 2012

Assembly member Jim Beall and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren are hosting an informational presentation that will help you save money while navigating new rules. Make your reservations today!

Saturday, September 17, 2011
9am-12pm

O'Connor Hospital Medical Office Building Auditorium
2101 Forest Avenue, San Jose, CA

Reservations and Information: Call the District Office at (408)282-8920 or visit www.asmdc.org/yp. If you cannot attend the event and need help, call the **Council on Aging Silicon Valley** (800)510-2020 or visit www.coasiliconvalley.com.

Medicare Open Enrollment runs Oct 15-Dec 7, 2011

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SONA Dues are Due

SONA asks for yearly dues of \$15 per household. Dues pay for newsletters, flyers and special events. While we have augmented dues by obtaining grants, the grant sources have dried up. This year, more than ever, we need your dues. You can also pay dues online through PayPal and set up an automatic billing by visiting our website at www.sona-sj.com. Thanks for your help. Please note that at no time do we share or release your information.

YES! Our Family wants to support SONA with our dues payment.

NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Email/Phone: _____

_____ **Dues** **Make all checks out to: SONA**

_____ **Donation** **Mail to: PO Box 59146, San Jose CA 95159-0146**

_____ **Total**