



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

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 130 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

Hope all of you enjoyed your holidays, had fun with family and took some time to just sit back and enjoy our mild California December weather. We can all look forward to jumping into 2012 with our internal batteries charged and new energy to bring into the new year.

A big thanks to Korean American Community Services for holding their annual holiday. The adult and youth groups did an incredible job of bringing joy to neighborhood families. The group also participated in an event on December 17 that brought 10,000 children in to visit Santa at the fairgrounds. After Santa gave the kids presents, the families were treated to music, games, face painting and food. KACS turned around the next week and on December 24 held a similar event that served hundreds of SONA kids. Families were served snacks, caroling and music were provided and the all-important visit with Santa took place in the community center. Each child received an age appropriate gift. Who knew there were such great vocalists in our KACS group? And watching our KACS youth helping out was almost as heartwarming as the excited faces of local kids sitting on Santa's lap.

January's meeting will be all about developing our game plan for 2012. We have ongoing projects like Emergency Preparedness, Neighborhood Watch and getting our community center and library open. We have traditional activities like potlucks and evenings in the park. This is the time to get together with neighbors and figure out how we can work together over the following year.

Gather all of those odds and ends of broken or obsolete things lying around the house and get ready for a dumpster day in the near future. We are gearing up for our turn in the dumpster rotation. We will also be accepting cans and bottles for recycling. Standard rules for dumpster day apply; no gasoline, batteries, paint, etc. Flyers will come closer to the event day. If you have items that need to be picked up on dumpster day and cannot manage them yourself, let us know so we can match you up with neighbors. If you have a truck or some muscles to loan and would like to help your neighbors, let us know.

For those of you who have Christmas trees to dispose of, you can put them out on the regular garbage day between now and Feb 3. Just pop them out curbside in sections no longer than 5 feet in length.

Don't forget that San Jose is now a plastic bag free zone. Grocery stores, department stores, etc. will no longer be using disposable plastic and can charge you for paper bags.

See you at the meeting...Randi

SONA General Meeting

January 12, 2012

6:30pm Meet and Greet - Get to know your neighbors.

7:00pm SONA Priorities 2012

- **What are the top priorities for SONA members in 2012?**
- **What projects do we want to work on?**
- **What activities should we continue with?**
- **What will make our neighborhood a better place?**
- **How can we reach more neighbors?**
- **How can our volunteers pitch in?**
- **Meeting topics.**
- **Fun stuff and activities.**
- **Working with other neighborhoods.**
- **Goals.**
- **How can we help each other?**

8:30pm Wrap up and safe trip home.



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Winter Around the House

Winter might be a slow time for gardening, but it's a busy time for planning. Spray for peach leaf curl (if you didn't in December) then spray 6 weeks later. Trim those bushes and hedges that are obstructing sidewalks. If planning a spring landscaping job, sign up for free classes from San Jose's Environmental Services on soils, pest control and composting at www.reducewaste.org or call 918-4640. Guadalupe River Park has also set up a spring list of workshops and events at various sites. You can find out more my going to www.grpg.org. You can sign up for a bay friendly showcase tour at www.bayfriendlycoalition.org. All of these groups help you reduce pollutants that run off into the bay while creating a perfect yard at a lower cost.

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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.