



## 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 paid for through dues and advertising.

Issue 135 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

### ***Notes From the President***

While we've seen lots of activity at the Bascom site, SONA has not been advised of any opening schedule for either the community center or the library. We hear rumors and are chasing them down. We'll keep you posted when we find out. It does, however, look like the community center could be opened in early Summer 2012.

Sometimes things just get away from us and last month we forgot to hold elections at the general meeting. Since we aren't meeting in May, we will hold elections in June. If you are interested in holding a board position, we welcome you. And we'll make it easy for you. If interested in any position, contact any board member or simply attend June's meeting. The current proposed slate is: President; Randi Kinman; Administrative VP, Michael LaRocca; Secretary, Layne Kulwin; Treasurer, Vacant; At-Large, Jussi Rajna; At-Large, Lisa Steingart; At-Large, Marlene Bird, At-Large, Sheila Cvitanich.

A meeting was held with Caltrans in April to discuss the metering lights on Highway 280. Look for them to be turned on in the southbound direction sometime in late May. Caltrans and VTA will monitor the situation and come back in the fall before they launch the northbound meters. Residents expressed concern about the existing back up and impacts on the Menker/Moorpark intersection.

I can't urge you enough to join our online forums. We pass along events and happenings that do not make it into our newsletter because of timing. We also keep each other up to day on safety issues like recent burglaries, or store robberies. While things have become a little quieter, it's always better to be informed.

At our recent meeting with Campbell Union we learned that the big food processing facility is now no longer being considered for our neighborhood. You should expect to see the new playground renovation start this summer.

San Jose City College has informed us that their attempts to work with the city and renovate/use a baseball field have not borne fruit, but they are still working.

Speaking of fruit...my walks around the neighborhood show a lot of trees looking healthy and happy this year. Can't wait to share and exchange produce with everyone. I promise I will try to refrain from dropping zucchinis off on doorsteps this year.

*See you at the meeting...Randi*

### **SONA General Meeting**

SONA will not be conducting a general meeting this month to allow us all to participate in a neighborhood discussion with residents and business interests that are surrounded by Bascom and West San Carlos. Michele Beasley from Greenbelt Alliance and a group of students from San Jose State will be working with you and others to determine how future development plans will affect you. Both Bascom and West San Carlos are slated to be high-density zones with much more intense land use. Imagine Bascom with ground floor retail and high-density housing above. How do you want this to look at street level? Would you walk, bike or drive to shop? Would your transit use increase? Do you use transit? What are your questions and concerns?

**Thursday May 10, 2012**

**San Jose City College**

**Student Center, Room SC-204**

**6:00pm**

**Meet and Greet**

**Networking**

**6:30-8:30pm**

**Presentation**

**Workshop**

**Help plan the future of your neighborhood**

***Notes and News From The Neighborhood***

Want to stay in touch with neighbors online? Join our chat group on Yahoo. This ensures you can find out what's going on even if you are at work. Residents who are home during the day in both the Shasta/Hanchett and Willow Glen areas were able to use their online forums to track in real time people who had committed burglaries or stolen packages dropped off by delivery services. While waiting for police, they alerted each other as to where the suspects were headed. Neighbors tracking suspects (without confrontation) could keep an eye on them and kept police alerted to their exact locations. This online forum allowed us to notify neighbors in April of several burglaries, a couple of arrests and a robbery at CVS. We also posted this information on our Facebook page so if you are a Facebook user join us there.

We also provide online delivery of our newsletter. You can sign up for online delivery by contacting board member Layne Kulwin. Thanks goes out to Layne and our new website administrator Richard Anderson.

**Save those cans and bottles for our recycling drive.** Board members Jussi and Lisa will be conducting another pick up drive. Give them a call to be on the list. They offer front porch pick up and your contribution helps our bottom line.

We are very pleased to announce that **Rebeca Montano will be our youth liaison with Del Mar High School.** This allows SONA to develop a stronger relationship with students and faculty while keeping you apprised of the activities there. We look forward to working with her and other Del Mar students to build programs at the community center among other things. You may remember Rebecca from a couple years ago when you donated blankets and towels that she collected for a local animal shelter. Rebeca will be letting us know what's happening at Del Mar, provide us with the youth perspective in our neighborhood and work with us on ongoing projects.

Speaking of **Del Mar High School, graduation practice is June 5-6 with Graduation June 7.** Keep alert for lots of activity around the school on these days. Also, if you are a family or friend of a graduate, please avoid the use of Mylar balloons. A balloon got away from somebody last year at the Rose Garden and shorted out a power line, which set fire to a truck parked on the road causing quite a mess. **Congratulations to our graduating Dons!**

A great event for the family is **Family Archaeology Day on May 20, 2012 from 11am-4pm at San Jose History Park.** Dig into San Jose's past at Kids' Archaeology Day where Stanford Archaeology Center students will be at the Peralta Adobe site conducting a mock excavation, screening, artifact identification, and artifact reconstruction. This family educational program will allow individuals to collect stickers for each activity to place in Archaeology Passports and become "certified" as a Junior Archaeologist. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, free if you're under 6 or a member. Make a day of it and enjoy a picnic on the grounds. Call 287-2290 for more information.

The **Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens** have ongoing events and summer is the prime time to go over there. **Looking for that unique gift for Mother's Day?** Adopt a Rose program allows you to adopt a special rose bush at the gardens. Staff will place a special plaque in her honor in front of the rose. It's quite fun to surprise mom with this gift. If you are interested in ongoing classes, you can learn to compost, raise urban chickens, volunteer in the orchard or just stroll the grounds. This is a gem of a park that we should all enjoy, with trails, gardens, displays and all kinds of activities. For more information stop by the offices on Coleman Avenue or visit [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org).

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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.

## **District 6 Election Activities**

On June 5, 2012 we go to the polls to vote on a variety of issues, including who represents us on the City Council. Running this year is the incumbent Pierluigi Oliverio, Bill Chew and Steve Kline. There have been two debates set up by neighborhoods in District 6 that will allow you to meet the candidates and listen to them outline their plans for our community. The debates will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

The first debate is being sponsored by the northern neighborhoods in our district (Cory, Newhall, SHPNA, Rose Garden, College Park, Alameda Business Association) on May 7 at 7pm. This event will be at the Cory Elementary School Cafeteria, 2280 Kenwood Drive. Doors open at 6:30pm.

SONA will be one of the hosts for the second debate on May 21 at 7pm. This event will be held in the Tech Building of San Jose City College on the corner of Moorpark and Bascom. Our thanks to the neighbors in Buena Vista, San Jose City College the West San Carlos Business District and others for making this happen.

**May 7 Absentee Ballots Mailed  
Debate in Cory**

**May 21 Last day to register to vote  
Debate at San Jose City College**

**May 29 Last day to request absentee ballot**

**For more voting information or to volunteer as a poll worker, contact the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters at [registrar@rov.sccgov.org](mailto:registrar@rov.sccgov.org) or call 282-3005.**

## **San Jose City College News**

For those of you who drive along the Leigh/Moorpark side of the campus, the new fencing is almost completed. The campus is being wrapped in the same wrought iron style that surrounds the multi-purpose field.

**Farmers Market is here!!** Every Friday from 9am-2pm you can walk over and enjoy your own local farmers market. If you drive, simply follow the signs on Moorpark for free parking. This market is scheduled to be open every week for the rest of the year, so take advantage of fresh produce brought (almost) to your front door, food trucks and entertainment. Help grow this market in your very own backyard. The favorites for the first two weeks were strawberries, kettle corn, tomatoes and cinnamon rolls. The great thing about a local market is there is something new every time.

Look for construction to begin in the near future along the Leland/Moorpark intersection. The campus is converting the signal at this intersection to allow drivers regulated access in and out of the campus. This project is due for completion this summer.

## **Transit and Increased Residential Development**

According to General Plan 2040 the City of San Jose has designated several city-wide transit oriented corridors to restrain the urban growth boundaries and specify several promising urban locations to preserve spaces for natural city amenities. This goal will lead to the development of 2 to 3 story buildings near the Fruitdale and Bascom light rail stations and to improve residents' access to jobs and local services via walking, biking, or public transit. Soma Chatterjee a graduate student of Urban and Regional Planning Department will be conducting a survey in your neighborhood to know, how do you feel about the existing and future 2 to 3 story high-density buildings in your neighborhood.



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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](http://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**