



## Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

### *Notes From The President*

Just in case you've had your television and radio off for weeks, haven't picked up a newspaper or magazine and don't have a telephone ringing with robocalls...it's election season. We have the honor of holding a moderated debate for California State Senate District at our next meeting. While both candidates have served in various positions throughout Santa Clara County, this is the first time either of them have run for this seat. What are the questions you'd like to ask your future representative before choosing that person to go to Sacramento?

Every 10 years all elected offices are reviewed through a process called redistricting. This affects school boards, council seats and all state offices. It doesn't matter how long you've been living in your district, during this process we have a good chance of winding up with elected officials we either don't know, aren't familiar with or who have been representing nearby neighborhoods. Term limits on top of redistricting means it can be confusing.

Our debate night will also include resource tables for you and the ability to register to vote. If you have moved since the last election, didn't vote in the last election or are a new citizen who has yet to register, this is your chance.

I spoke at a recent ribbon cutting for the new Arts and Math building at San Jose City College. It was my honor to represent SONA at this event. I must say that being applauded at the campus is a far cry from our receptions in previous years. It has been the hard work of many neighbors and the existing administration at the campus that has allowed us to develop a sustainable and positive relationship. I also encourage all of you to wander over to the campus if you haven't been there lately. The configuration of the new buildings opens up outdoor spaces. The campus has created a wonderful space for outdoor events so you can expect a concert list in the future. When there is no event going on, this is a restful spot we can all enjoy.

The new buildings are state of the art and have a wide array of features that make the site energy efficient. We toured the buildings and dropped in on the ceramics studio. The new facility allows for a large number of students to work on a variety of projects at a time and the multiple kilns allow for rapid turn around. The music facility is the first I've seen that is totally accessible without seeming to place ramps in position awkwardly.

Instructors now have offices that are grouped in the new wing that also houses classrooms. The people on my tour agreed that while not part of the construction, the newer desks with larger surface space are a boon to those of us who struggled with where to lay out a laptop or work materials. The ability to monitor the weather and energy use of each building and adjust lighting and ventilation will save the campus an extraordinary amount of money over the next few decades.

*See you at the meeting...Randi*

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

*Issue 140 of your local neighborhood newsletter.*

## **General Meeting**

**October 11, 2012**

**\*\*Note Location Change\*\***

**San Jose City College**

**Tech Building Room T415**

**Corner of Bascom & Moorpark**

**Parking via Moorpark**

**6:30pm**

**Doors Open**

**6:50pm**

**Welcome**

**7:00pm**

**State Senate Debate**

- **Jim Beall**
- **Joe Coto**

**8:15pm**

**Wrap Up**

**Get Home Safely**

**You will be able to register to vote or request absentee ballots at this event. Thank you to the students of San Jose City College for providing refreshments prior to the event.**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association general meetings are open to all and held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the same location at 6:30pm. Board members are listed on page 2.

## **Notes and News**

**SONA Online** is an easy way to stay in touch in between newsletters. You can visit our website or like our Facebook page Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose). We've used this page to update people on crime, promote school car washes and keep people posted on activity in and around the neighborhood. We are currently working with the city on a new program, but frankly, all of the bugs aren't worked out yet, so stay tuned. We want to make sure that an online forum is inclusive but still protects our privacy. Meantime, if you've got an event or activity you want put on Facebook, you can pop in yourself or ask one of the board members to do it for you.

**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

**New and Renewing Members: Bill & Lea Adams, John Carter, Richard & Susan Ryzinga, Elizabeth White, Jack & Gloria Barone, William Rike, Richard & Phyllis Cirigliano, Lisa Steingart, Daniel Graham, and Kim Kirouac.** We thank you for your new and renewing memberships and donations it is appreciated.

**SONA Board members Jussi and Lisa will be conducting another recycling pick up day soon.** Save your cans and bottles! Give either of them a call and let them know you want to be on the pick up route. We won't publish the date of these pick ups because we don't want people scouting the neighborhood and taking the items off your front porch. **Thanks to Kay an Alberta for contributing to the cause this month!**

**Art Boxes are Here!** Well, not here exactly, but they are popping up all over the city. For a small fee, the utility boxes that grace our city sidewalks can be decoratively painted and sealed with an anti-graffiti coating. This makes business and residential neighborhoods more attractive and cuts down on tagging. Designs range from floating coffee cups near a Starbucks to graceful roses near the Rose Garden and a mirror image of a downtown street. The designs can be whimsical or reflective. Are there some utility boxes near you that you would like to see painted? If so, let us know.

**Did you see the new stop sign at Menker on Moorpark?** After years of trying to make this intersection safer for pedestrians, this improvement will ensure those of us who have dodged cars for years now have a measure of safety. The other great thing that comes with the stop sign is those who are leaving the neighborhood and trying to get onto the freeway now have a safer way of getting across Moorpark and more "stacking" room that allows more than one car to line up. A completely random and unscientific observation of the intersection the first few days after installation highlighted we as a neighborhood have gotten a little lazy about stopping on Menker prior to moving across Moorpark. Part of that is probably due to the fact that you can't actually see the traffic coming down Moorpark, but now that they have to stop, there is no excuse. Stop. Each time. No matter what direction you are going in. This corner also is home to a day care/pre-school and parents are walking children through here at all hours. It is the primary pedestrian route for residents who are heading over to the shopping center on Parkmoor. It doesn't take that much time out of your day to come to a complete stop.

**Sherman Oaks Community Charter School** completed it's playground renovations. If you are wondering what the big "hole" is on Sherman Oaks between the playground and the street is, that's the pad for the multi-purpose room that will be built next year. They completed all of the prep work for it during the summer which will reduce the time the neighborhood has heavy equipment operating on site.

**Farmer Market in our neighborhood every Wednesday!!!** The Farmers Market is back at San Jose City College on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm. The market is located behind the library and student center in the open area by the football field entrance. Fresh produce available almost at your door on a weekly basis. Stroll over and make a few purchases so we can grow this event in our neighborhood.

**All residents are asked to attend a meeting regarding the Bascom Community Center and Library on October 17, 2012. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm in the Community Room.**

## **Notes from the Campaign Season**

The following is reprinted by request from a newsletter several years ago:

*By the time this newsletter goes to print we will be done with our national and local elections. Signs will come down, TV commercials will cease, robo-calls will disappear and our junk mail will turn from politics to seasonal sales. I only hope that the country and our communities can begin the healing process just as quickly. While it gives me great pride to see the huge crowds of people lining up to vote, I was appalled by how quickly many campaigns turned to fear, negative tactics and name calling and half truths rather than a calm discussion of issues. What happened to celebrating our diversity?*

*Politics could take a lesson from neighborhoods like ours. We may meet our neighbors for the first time when a fire truck or the police show up nearby. We many stand in our yards complaining about traffic and speeding. We may band together because we are tired of not receiving our fair share of the pie.*

*We aren't successful as a neighborhood, however, until we calm down, discuss our common goals and plan a course of action tht will correct deficiencies or make improvements. We empower ourselves when we change from making "this doesn't work" statements to saying, "this is how it should look and this is how we'll do it."*

*SONA has a history of making changes to better our neighborhood. We took complaints about student parking on residential streets and converted some areas to permit parking. We identified important pedestrian routes that needed upgrades to allow our disabled to move safely through our streets and curb cuts were installed on various streets. We identified a hazardous situation at Leigh and Kingman, worked with the City staff to alleviate the problem and a new intersection was installed. These things are possible because you, as residents, have made the decision to work together. Pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself.*

These words still ring true. We accomplish good things, great and small, when we work together. We may not be able to change the tone of politics, but we can change the tone on our own block.

## **What Will Our Neighborhood Look Like in 30 Years?**

You can help decide how the city's growth over the next 30 years affects us directly. While the high level General Plan update has been completed, the "now how do we make this work" portion of the process is starting to take place.

Our neighborhood is a focal point for the "Urban Village" concept that allows for infill housing and increased commerce along transit corridors.

The City of San Jose's Planning Department has received a grant to conduct preliminary work on the process along the Bascom Avenue (beginning at Southwest Expressway) corridor. The work extends down West San Carlos. The decisions made at these meetings will affect us all for years.

Partnering with the non-profit Greenbelt Alliance, the city will be holding the following meetings that are open to the public.

- October 25, 2012 6:30pm Bascom Community Center. Focus is on Bascom Ave between Southwest and Highway 280.
- November 15, 2012 6:30pm Bascom Community Center. Focus is on Bascom Avenue from Highway 280 to West San Carlos and the West San Carlos corridor.
- November 26, 2012 6pm Luther Burbank Elementary School (Spanish Language Meeting). Will cover the entire planning area.



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**Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Needs You!**

While many of us are voting by mail these days, The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (ROV) always needs workers on election day. Tasks vary from checking people in at the polling site, overseeing polling stations, sorting and manning drop off sites. The ROV will pay residents a stipend for their service and will place you as close to your home as possible. They provide training and support. If you are interested in helping the ROV to make our election day run smoother, give the office a call at (408) 299-8683 or visit the ROV website at [www.sccgov.org/sites/rov](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov). You can help make a difference this year.

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