



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 145 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

What would Bascom Avenue look like if we added 100 units of housing between Southwest and Moorpark? What about 200, 300 or 1000 or 5000 units? What would happen if we added high-rise development and thousands of new homes? This is exactly the scenario being proposed. This is one of your few chances to express your opinion on this issue.

While I can't say enough good things about our new facility on Bascom, I do want to relay my concern about the lack of youth programming being developed at the community center. We have an entire Teen Lounge that no longer has the equipment purchased for teen use. This is a direct result of budget priorities and if you want your teens to have a place to interact, hang out and enjoy this facility; you and your teens are going to have to speak up. Budgets are developed based on demand and that means, like the old saying, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. The facility was built to give our kids a place to go, but there is a gap in programming for the pre- and young teens. With budget season coming up, you have a chance to make sure money is added to the budget to keep our teens and pre-teens off the street and out of mischief. Even if the center can't be opened daily, creating periodic events or activities should be in the mix. You can contact me, but I can't do this alone. If you want real action, contact our council office at (408) 535-4906 or email pierluigi.oliverio@sanjoseca.gov or contact the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department's Acting Director Julie Edmonds-Mares at (408) 793-5553 or email Julie.edmonds-mares@sanjoseca.gov. Let me know what kind of response you get.

San Jose City College has a new Master Plan for facilities development for you to review. There are two open meeting times on April 8 (10-11 Tech415, 2:30-3:30 Theater) or you can contact the campus directly. The multi use field will see some changes in the near future to protect the apartment building from flying soccer balls. A temporary system of net and flagpoles will be erected pending the approval of a retractable netting system. This should keep all parties protected while allowing the youth using the site to continue to enjoy the field.

At our March meeting we met with Superintendent James Crawford from the Campbell Union School District and heard about the timeline for the projects at Sherman Oaks Community Charter School. We'll see construction throughout the summer. We also met with a few of San Jose PD's finest as they wrapped up moving someone along who didn't have business at the center. Looking forward to having the new batch of trainees out on the streets and in our neighborhood.

See you at the meeting...Randi

General Meeting

April 11, 2013

**Bascom Library
2nd Floor Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Ave**

6:30pm

Meet and Mingle

Come meet your neighbors over coffee and snacks.

7:00pm

Welcome

San Jose PD (if available)

7:15pm

SONA Board Elections

See Page 2

**7:20pm Urban Village Plan for Bascom Ave
and West San Carlos**

**Michele Beasley, Senior Field Rep
Greenbelt Alliance**

8:00pm

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Door Prize Drawing

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association general meetings are open to all and held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Bascom Community Center. Board meetings are held on 2nd Monday of each month at Sherman Oaks Community Center small office at 6:30pm. Board members are listed on page 2.

Notes and News

SONA Board Election: Proposed Slate is as Follows

Randi Kinman, President
Layne Kulwin, Administrative VP
Lisa Steingart, Secretary
Michael LaRocca, Treasurer
Sheila Cvitanich, Member-at-Large
Marlene Bird, Member-at-Large
Steve Kline, Member-at-Large
Jussi Rajna Member-at-Large

This is the proposed slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year. If you would like to add your name to the list, you may do so by contacting any board member or by attending the April 2013 meeting.

SONA E-mail List: We are 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. 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.

SONA Contact List

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Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	jussirajna@att.net
Member at Large, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Website Administrator, Richard Anderson		RichardAnderson.SONA@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison		youth.sona@gmail.com
SONA Chat Group		http://groups.yahoo.com/group/talk2sona/
Facebook: Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose)		

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherman-Oaks-Neighborhood-Association-San-Jose/151383304945052?fref=ts>

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1200 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.

Bascom Library Community Center

The Community Center held its first movie night on March 29, 2013 with a Willy Wonka showing. This was our first time using the outdoor plaza setting for this type of event and more than 60 people showed up. Staff provided pre-movie activities along with showcasing the library and community center activities. The bonus for this site is there are already soft mats that can be deployed so families can bring blankets and spread out while plenty of seating is available. For those of you who attend concerts, it is kind of a reversal of “reserved” and “lawn” seating. It was great to see so many families out for this inaugural event.

Community Center programming is ramping up with a host of activities for all kids being planned for the summer. Now is the time to get your kids enrolled in the spring and summer programs. There are a variety of programs for youth up to 12 years old along with drop in sports activities. Friday night drop in basketball is still going strong. Camp Bascom for the K-3 group will be running for the second year. This camp ran at capacity last summer. Part of the funding allowed low-income families to apply for fee reductions.

The Library held a Battle of the Bands in March, one of a series of events for our youth. There are ongoing story hours and activities for families with small children. The Family Center hosts ESL and language classes weekly. Crafts groups run on Saturdays with lots of activities scheduled during the week.

The library has a room full of computers for those who do not have access at home along with printing access. You can order books and other materials from other branches if you can't find them on the shelf and they will be delivered to Bascom for you. This allows students to get homework done, job seekers to apply online and develop skills. You can also reserve computer time, allowing you to be sure one is waiting for you during the busy hours.

To your left as you enter the library is the Friends of Bascom corner with gently used books available for purchase. Volunteers run this corner and the money raised will help the library increase programs. You can pay the suggested donation or more on the honor system. If you have books to donate for the book sale, simply take them to the main desk in the library and the staff will store them for the volunteers. If you want to volunteer at the library, there is a sign in sheet in the Friends corner. You can join other volunteers and learn more about this program by attending the monthly meeting at 10am on the third Saturday of each month.

Bascom & West San Carlos Urban Village Plan

San Jose must plan ahead to accommodate about 30% more people over the next 30 years. This means 3000,000 people will be added to our city with the area near and adjacent to us absorbing about 10% of that total. To do this in an efficient manner, we cannot “spread out” and create more dense development in and around the core of the city. The planning process for this wrapped up more than a year ago with the inclusion of new “urban villages” along high use traffic corridors where there is room for development. One of these urban village corridors is the Bascom/West San Carlos corridor that runs adjacent to our neighborhood.

To accommodate the city's growth, the current plan is to zone these two streets in a manner that prohibits low rise buildings, strip malls and low rise (under 5 stories) housing. This means any future development must include dense mixed-use (housing over retail/commercial) components. Bascom could become home to dozens of new businesses and thousands of new housing units. It is estimated that these plans could add tens of thousands of new people to our area.

What would traffic be like, what would our schools look like, where would we put parks and other amenities? How can we best protect our existing neighborhoods in the long run? How can we direct new traffic in a manner that moves it off our residential streets? What is the plan for increasing transit opportunities? What are the existing issues that need to be part of the future plans? What can we, as residents, predict will happen?

Several workshops have already been held in our area and they were sparsely attended.

A parallel process of defining existing neighborhood needs and priorities has been ongoing. Michele Beasley from Greenbelt Alliance will be our guest speaker to outline this process and how you can provide input.

Greenbelt Alliance is a non-profit local organization that “...brings people together to make the Bay Area great for everyone by ensuring the right development happens in the right places.”

Michele has a long history of working with neighborhoods to ensure open spaces are protected and that we create livable communities as we grow. She is an affordable housing advocate, a former Peace Corps volunteer and is a proud member of the Big Sister program.

The results from these meetings and workshops will be eventually rolled into the proposals for plans adopted by the City Council. This is your chance to make sure that the city's future growth does not negatively affect our existing neighborhoods. This is your chance to make sure that neighborhood businesses are included in the mix.



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Crime Alert

We are seeing an increase in auto break ins around the neighborhood. In addition to this, there are a number of stolen vehicles being left on our streets on a weekly basis. In general, when auto problems pick up, we also experience an increase in home burglaries shortly after.

Most of the auto break ins occur in the evening, victimizing cars parked on the street, but there have been reports that autos in driveways have been broken into also. We can all help by being alert and following some basic rules:

- Park your vehicle in the driveway, garage or carport when possible.
- Leave a clean vehicle; if there's nothing to see when they look in, they may bypass you.
- Work vehicles and trailers have been targeted for theft in our neighborhood. If your work requires your vehicle be loaded with tools or equipment, it is an attractive target and needs to be set with an alarm.
- If you are leaving a car at home while on vacation, have a neighbor move it. Also make sure that lights and sound rotate in your home while you're gone.
- Light up the front of your house. You can easily install motion sensitive lighting to discourage people from creeping up your driveway.
- Know your neighborhood. You can spot people and cars that don't belong there.
- **Report, Report, Report.** If your vehicle is burgled, file a report online even if you don't file an insurance claim. This allows SJPD to identify hot zones and potential patterns. Report abandoned vehicles on your street or vehicles that look disabled. Report any and all suspicious activity. Better to report and be wrong than to not report.

Emergency reporting for crimes actively taking place:

911 or program your cell phone with (408) 277-8911

Reporting non-emergency crimes or suspicious activity:

311 or program your cell phones with (408) 277-8900.

Report online at <https://www.sjpd.org/ReportingCrime/OnlineReport/>

Abandoned Vehicles:

Department of Transportation (408) 277-5305 or <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx/NID=1996>