

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) general meetings are open to all interested parties. General meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Bascom Community Center, 1000 S. Bascom Ave beginning at 6:30pm. SONA board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center at 6:30pm. Newsletter is partially funded with a Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant from the City of San Jose.

Issue 157 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve another term as your President. I can see the renewal of SONA and it's board and I can see the work that is done around our neighborhood on a daily basis.

I recently had a conversation with a Realtor who was looking for a home here for a client and was glad to note that her clients were actively looking in our neighborhood. This led us to the designation of Roseglen and how we now identify as SONA. We aren't apologizing for ourselves, we aren't downplaying where we are and we don't describe ourselves as "between" two other seemingly better neighborhoods. What we have accomplished over the last decade and more has been SONA, standing proud and standing tall.

It was SONA membership that attended the many meetings with staff and developers to ensure the new signalized intersections would be included with the development slowly (oh, too slowly) replacing the old K-Mart site. It was SONA membership that lobbied VTA and ensured residents along the Vasona Light Rail corridor would not be on display from the trains; that concrete wall was all SONA's work. It was SONA members who lobbied year after year to get our community center and library open when we had no support from City Hall. It was SONA members who lobbied for and won traffic calming (stop signs) at Moorpark and Menker along with the signal at Leigh/Kingman. It was SONA members who fought with and now work with San Jose City College as they continue to grow. SONA, as part of a larger group planted the oaks on Moorpark. We have cleaned up graffiti, built parks (St. Elizabeth!) and worked to keep our neighborhood safe. And, I look forward to what comes next, what you want to see done and how we are going to build a better place to live, work and play. Join us at a meeting; let us know what you want and how we can help each other.

See you at the meeting...Randi

**General Meeting
April 10, 2014**

**Bascom Library
Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Ave
2nd Floor
San Jose CA 95128**

**6:30pm
Coffee and Conversation**

**7:00pm
Welcome**

**7:05pm
Reports (if staff available)
SJPD
Community Center
Library
Government Reps**

**7:45pm
Election of Board
What's Next in SONA?**

**8:00pm
Drawing**

**8:15pm
Have a safe trip home!**

**April Elections
And
Bylaws Changes**

SONA elects a new Board once a year at the April meeting. An election committee reached out to residents to see who might be willing to serve and their recommendations are below. We also will welcome any nominations (or volunteers) the night of our meeting. We want SONA board members to reflect the neighborhood.

Board members meet once a month to develop meeting schedules, follow up on legislative issues and figure out how we can better connect with each other.

Our bylaws are usually presented during the April meeting, but due to the diligence with which our board is combing our bylaws, the recommendations coming in that need investigation and the time constraints for us to get information to you in print, we will be delaying the bylaws changes until our May meeting. You are welcome to join us at the April Board meeting to review any of the proposed changes. Or you can ask in advance for a list of changes and make suggestions via email.

Proposed 2014-2015 Board

President:

Layne Kulwin

Administrative VP:

Michael LaRocca

Secretary:

Lisa Steingart

Treasurer:

Open

At Large:

Marlene Bird

Sheila Cvitanich

Randi Kinman

Steve Kline

Jussi Rajna

SONA Recipe Corner

**This Month's Contribution Provided
By
Mrs. Curry**

NO MAYO POTATOE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 pounds red potatoes cut into quarters lengthwise, then chopped into large chunks
2 medium stalks celery, finely chopped
1/2 medium red onion, finely chopped
1/2 jar Trader Joe's Corn & Chile Tomato-less Salsa

2 tbs coarsely chopped Italian parsley
1/2 pint whipped cream cheese

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

PREPARATION

Place the potatoes in a medium pot. Fill with cold water and bring to a boil. Add a liberal amount of salt and cook the potatoes until they are tender, about 12-15 minutes. Once the potatoes are tender, drain and return them to the warm pot to dry them out. Add the celery, onion, salsa, and parsley. Fold in whipped cream cheese carefully. Salt and pepper to taste.

This tastes great either warm or cold.

*****RECIPES WANTED*****

If you would like to provide a recipe for the Recipe Corner, send an electronic copy in Microsoft Word .doc format to Michael LaRocca at the following email address:
mlrool@sbcglobal.net

Please include your name or alias for inclusion in the recipe corner

**Master Gardener Spring Sale
April 12, 2014 9am-2pm
History San Jose
1650 Senter Road**

This is the “must go to” event in the county. While there may be bigger garden shows around the bay area, this one is your one stop shop for local information and experts, unique veggies for the garden, vendors of all types and a series of lectures that will help you make the best of your yard or garden.

If you are in the market for well tested and tasty tomatoes, peppers and herbs along with flowers, download the list from the website and plan to get there early. You’ll find people lining up with wagons and carts to haul away their booty and you can take advantage of the plant nursery. Safely store your purchases while you wander the site, grab lunch or sit in on a workshop.

With more than 40 vendors on site you’ll find a large array of seeds, plants, cuttings and garden related items. If you’re thinking of installing a beehive or chicken coop, looking for some new tools or containers, what to know, who can help with installing raised beds..there’s a vendor for you.

Information booths from non-profits, the water district, wildlife experts and more will keep you busy.

Experts will be on hand to diagnose your plant problems, advise you on water wise gardening, pest control and tool maintenance.

All of this is located in San Jose’s History Park, allowing you to enjoy one of San Jose’s gems. Parking is always at a premium so bring your patience.

For more information, including a list of plants being offered, vendors and workshops, visit the Master Gardener website at

<http://mastergardeners.org/spring-garden-market>

Or call (408) 282-3105.

Some vendors take credit card payments, but bring cash for the others.

The Drought is Not Over

While it may seem like our spring rains solved a lot of problems, the reality is our reservoirs are at record low levels. Combined with the lack of snow pack (to provide long term run off), we are going to be under drought conditions for at least another year.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has called for a 20% reduction of water use. Something that is often easy to do.

The smallest leak adds up to a lot of water. Check your timers on your sprinkler systems and make sure they are running properly.

Swap out some of your landscaping for low water plants or other materials.

The district has a variety of programs to help you. If you are a senior you may be eligible for a parcel tax reduction. Rebates are offered for swapping out toilets and washing machines as well as landscape conversions. Mobile homes and condo units must convert to subunit metering; there are rebates for that as well!

Not sure how you can save money around your home or business? Not sure where to start? You can take a virtual water wise tour on the district’s website or you can have somebody come out and give you a free inspection and analysis. You can apply for this online or call (800) 548-1882. When you’re done you will know what steps to take and can develop a game plan that will allow you to reduce water consumption without drastically changing your lifestyle.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is responsible for making sure residents have a safe and sustainable supply of water. They also oversee flood protection and the maintenance of healthy creek and river ecosystems.

Visit their website at www.valleywater.org and find out where demo sites are!

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181 Metro Dr. Suite 290

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Bus: 408-573-3820

Fax: 408-573-3829

License: 0H53498

jhunt3@farmersagent.com

SONA Contact List

President, Randi Kinman 408.835.2881
Administrative VP, Layne Kulwin 408.256.0761
Secretary, Lisa Steingart 408.666.3287
Treasurer, Michael LaRocca 408.564.2374
Member at Large, Marlene Bird 408.288.9727
Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich 408.292.2690
Member at Large, Steve Kline 408.768.4154
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna 408.291.0202
Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon
Del Mar High School Liaison

randikinman@yahoo.com

Layne.Kulwin.SONA@gmail.com

mlroo1@sbcglobal.net

marlenebird@att.net

slkesq@me.com

jussirajna@att.net

patrick_solomon@sbcglobal.net

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>

Nextdoor Neighborhood: www.Nextdoor.com

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1100 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.