

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 158 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Dear SONA Neighbors and friends...

As your "new" SONA President, I am overwhelmed by the support and confidence that has been bestowed upon me and all the members of your new SONA Board of Directors. While many of the faces are the same, their commitment and resolve toward serving our community of property owners, businesses and tenants is solid as a rock. With your assistance and participation we will collectively strive to ensure that ALL of us has a "place at the table" and that our voices and concerns are heard - at City Hall, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, San Jose City College or any other venue where we need to ensure that our interests are taken into account.

I'm most pleased to note that Randi will continue to serve on our board as Past President. I know of no other person who has given so much herself to the community. Her past experience and historical knowledge will be of immeasurable help to us as we move into SONA's new term of office. Michael LaRocca, a long-standing board member and SONA resident will also continue on in his new role of Administrative Vice President. Additionally, he will be instrumental in assisting me in my new role as advisor, mentor and consigliere. Thanks to both Randi and Michael for their continued service to SONA.

Our upcoming general meeting is one that you just will not want to miss. We will be presenting to the general membership our proposed changes to the by-laws... changes that will truly aid us in our work as a community organization. Your participation and your vote are vital. We want your input, criticism and ultimately your approval on these changes. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW and make your commitment to being there.

We will have a presentation and Q & A regarding the upcoming election (June 3rd) and Measure B, which is vital to the survival our libraries. This is a parcel tax - not a new tax - and if not passed in June, the libraries will lose approximately \$8 million dollars. Some make even close. We've fought too hard for Bascom Library. Let's protect our investment!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and I thank you in advance for your participation in your community association.

Best wishes to you all!

LK

**General Meeting
May 8, 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

**Measure B - How your
local libraries are
financed and how this
could affect you.**

8:00pm

Drawing

8:15pm

Have a safe trip home!

Bylaws Changes

The SONA board members will be proposing a change of bylaws at our May meeting. A copy of the draft bylaws is available on our website or by contacting any board member.

In general the changes are designed to help clarify who is eligible to participate in voting on key issues. While SONA welcomes input from all parties, we are now proposing to clarify what was to date an unwritten "rule" that voting members are those who have paid dues.

In addition, because we have seen an increase in participation at SONA meetings from people who live adjacent or near to the SONA borders, we are creating an Associate Member status. We don't want to be like some local organizations and simply declare our boundaries have expanded to accommodate new members and provide them an access point to become members.

The Board is also proposing to add two new positions to the Board, Immediate Past President and increasing At Large board members from 3-4. Retaining the Immediate Past President will ensure that there is continuity in our actions and provide incoming officers with support from "seasoned" officers.

Board members also felt that expanding the terms from one to two years helps create a deeper level of board experience and will encourage new members to participate.

Recognizing that issues are often brought up that require timely reaction, the Board is proposing a change in the bylaws to allow for a Board vote on a single issue to be conducted via email or phone. It would require a 2/3 yes vote to pass.

SONA Board members want to encourage as many people to participate. This is your neighborhood!

Please feel free to suggest changes that you feel would help us develop a deeper and broader commitment to working together on issues.

SONA Recipe Corner

Bruschetta with Tomato and Basil

INGREDIENTS

Chopped fresh tomatoes with garlic, basil, olive oil, and vinegar, served on toasted slices of French or Italian bread.

Prep time: 15 minutes **Cook time:** 10 minutes **Yield:** Makes 24 small slices.

6 or 7 ripe plum tomatoes (about 1 1/2 lbs) 2 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
6-8 fresh basil leaves, chopped.
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 baguette French bread or similar Italian bread 1/4 cup olive oil

METHOD

1 Prepare the tomatoes first. Parboil the tomatoes for one minute in boiling water that has just been removed from the burner. Drain. Using a sharp small knife, remove the skins of the tomatoes. (If the tomatoes are too hot, you can protect your fingertips by rubbing them with an ice cube between tomatoes.) Once the tomatoes are peeled, cut them in halves or quarters and remove the seeds and juice from their centers. Also cut out and discard the stem area. Why use plum tomatoes instead of regular tomatoes? The skins are much thicker and there are fewer seeds and less juice.

2 Make sure there is a top rack in place in your oven. Turn on the oven to 450°F to preheat.

3 While the oven is heating, chop up the tomatoes finely. Put tomatoes, garlic, 1 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil, vinegar in a bowl and mix. Add the chopped basil. Add salt and pepper to taste.

4 Slice the baguette on diagonal about 1/2 inch thick slices. Coat one side of each slice with olive oil using a pastry brush. Place on a cooking sheet, olive oil side down. You will want to toast them in the top rack in your oven, so you may need to do these in batches depending on the size of your oven. Once the oven has reached 450°F, place a tray of bread slices in the oven on the top rack. Toast for 5-6 minutes, until the bread just begins to turn golden brown.

Alternatively, you can toast the bread without coating it in olive oil first. Toast on a griddle for 1 minute on each side. Take a sharp knife and score each slice 3 times. Rub some garlic in the slices and drizzle half a teaspoon of olive oil on each slice. This is the more traditional method of making bruschetta.

5 Align the bread on a serving platter, olive oil side up. Either place the tomato topping in a bowl separately with a spoon for people to serve themselves over the bread, or place some topping on each slice of bread and if you top each slice with the tomatoes, do it right before serving or the bread may get soggy.

**Friends of Bascom Library
Book Sale
May 10, 2014
10am-40m**

The best bargain is a great book at a great price. You can spend hours learning, visiting another world or expanding your mind when holding a single book in your hands. And you can reuse it over and over again! Get there early and grab a lot!

And if you have used books that you want to donate for the book sale or the rotating collection of books for sale, simply drop them off at the library.

The Friends of Bascom Library are a dedicated group of volunteers who, among other things, organize book sales. These book sales pay for special programming at the library like speakers, events, puppet shows and more.

The standard method of scheduling the special programming has been to select from a menu of approved programs. FOBL has asked for community input in this process. While the library staff has done an excellent job, the people who know our community best are the people who live here.

FOBL will have their next meeting May 17 at the library. If you want to volunteer for the book sale, join the Friends group or want to help maintain our use of the library, contact Board member Steve Kline. You can also find information on the Friends group on Facebook.

Libraries...assets for our community...survive only with your help.

SONA Safety Snippets

We are seeing a large number of vehicles that have been stolen “parked” on SONA streets. Report all suspicious vehicles to 311. Many of these stolen vehicles are late models and often have spare tires, broken or missing radios, etc. that are easy to spot. Recent stolen vehicles were traced to a group operating by the Southwest/Bascom light rail station, but our proximity to easy freeway access and some dicey property management in the area, we need to expect periodic influx of these problems. Only by acting quickly can we cut back on becoming a dumping ground.

Are you prepared for warm weather? Make sure your pets have access to water and shelter if they are outdoors. Keep your yard free of mosquitoes by eliminating standing water and watering in the early mornings or late evenings. Check your AC units now if you have them. The affects of warm weather (especially when we are in flannels the week before!) can creep up on you quickly, so stay hydrated.

Welcome your new neighbors. For Sale signs are popping up all over the neighborhood and our renters are also moving in and out. Vacation season is upon us and homes will be empty for long weekends or weeks. The easiest thing you can do to make our neighborhood safer is to introduce yourself to new neighbors, welcome them to the neighborhood and ask each other to keep an eye out when you're going to be gone.

Would first responders know how to help you? Can they access your medical information easily in an emergency? Are there at risk people in your home? Do you or your neighbors have special needs? Talk to each other, know how to contact each other and get a Vial of Life for your home. The Vial program allows you to store emergency info easily in one spot for responders. Ask a SONA board member or your local fire department.

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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.