

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 166 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

***Notes from the President***

Greetings to you all and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are at the beginning of the New Year, 2015, and we have wonderful opportunities ahead of us. I think about what should we do as a neighborhood association to further the goals of SONA.

What are our goals you might ask: (1) Promote the common interests of residents and businesses before governmental bodies; (2) Inform members of vital neighborhood issues by meetings, website and newsletters. (3) Address community development and neighborhood planning issues. (4) Encourage friendship and social networking within the community. (5) Enhance and maintain property values. (6) Promote neighborhood beautification

Keeping those ideals in mind, I will reiterate the three questions that I asked each of you toward the end of last year:

- 1. What would you like to see SONA accomplish this year?***
- 2. In what way could you see yourself making a commitment to further the growth of our neighborhood association?***
- 3. How can you make your little part of SONA a better place to live and work?***

I am reaching out to our SONA family and asking for YOU to join with your Board of Directors and me in planning and promoting new vision and insight, beginning right now, as we enter into this New Year. Before us are opportunities for individual as well as communal growth. I assure you that your Board is strong in their pledge and resolve to move forward. But, I must also tell you that we cannot do it alone. We need others to step up and find their place at the table.

This is not an idle request. This comes from my very own pledge and commitment. Will you join me?

***See you at the meeting!  
Bring your neighbor with you! - LK***

**SONA General Meeting**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015  
Bascom Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Community Room  
1000 S. Bascom Ave**

**6:30pm Cookies and Conversation.**

Come meet your neighbors before the meeting.

**7:00pm Meeting Starts!**

Welcome

Reports from elected officials and/or staff updates.

Police Report (when available)

**Los Gatos Creek Trail  
Past & Present**

**Larry Ames: How the creek trail was developed and how community involvement was and is important.**

**City of San Jose Park Rangers: How to keep the trail safe, how to report issues, how you can be involved.**

**8:15pm Time to Wrap Up**

Door Prizes  
Final comments/questions  
What's next  
Clean up

**Get Home Safely!**

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

## *Notes and News*

**Get up to date SONA news online.** SONA is online via a Yahoo group, NextDoor and Facebook. You don't need an invitation to join any of these groups. When information comes in we post to all three groups at the same time. You can join the Yahoo group anonymously by just going to the link. NextDoor is run by a third party and you simply "like" our Facebook page to get our feed on your page. Traffic alerts, West Nile fogging, school news are all things that happen quickly. Choose your platform and stay on top of the late

**Thank you to new member: Joshua Gordineer**

**Our January Meeting is coming up!** This month we will concentrate on the Los Gatos Creek Trail, a portion of San Jose that many of us use for recreation, short cuts to shopping and work and other things. Larry Ames will be giving us an overview of how the trail was developed, what exactly a riparian corridor is and how the community has been involved in the development and maintenance. Because this trail also presents a significant area of conflict for residents (after hours parties, illegal camping, etc.) we have asked the City of San Jose Park Rangers to be on hand. This is your opportunity to speak directly to the people who patrol the trail. While the creek itself and the corridor are under the control of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), the trail itself is maintained by the City of San Jose. Because SCVWD does not have law enforcement capabilities, they fund Park Rangers to patrol the many miles of creek trails. Whether you use the trail to take the kids on a stroll, get to work or school or as a recreational space, what happens on the trail affects our neighborhood.

**There's good news coming for the Rexford/Del Mar area!** SONA board members have had several contacts with property owners who own the "dead space" at this corner that is the scene of repeated dumping and unwanted activity. The property owner is now working on a way to secure the site and prevent the dumping that goes on over both sides of the fence. In addition, RLEI has made it's first pass through the area to help develop an outline of existing problems. This will allow us to develop a strategy with tenants and property owners to ensure this area is cleaned up and safe. Meantime the Richmond/Menker area is moving slowly along with RLEI. Expect a full report on both of these areas in our next newsletter.

### ***SONA Contact List***

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

**Nextdoor Neighborhood:** [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com)

**Website** [www.sona-sj.com](http://www.sona-sj.com)

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1000 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.

### *News from the 'Hood*

December is always filled with holiday goings on, but this year we also got a year's worth of rain in just a few days. Hopefully you've been able to dry out and are ready for our "real" winter rains that usually hit in February.

Bascom Library and Community Center joined forces to host a Cookies with Santa event that was a treat for everybody. If you enjoyed the tree at the Bascom Library, which was a SONA donation decorated by the students at Sherman Oaks.

Korean American Community Services (KACS) also held their yearly visit with Santa and toy give away for local in-need families. We hear that Santa had a little help at both events from our "local" Santa.

For those of you who commute through the 880/17/280 exchange near Valley Fair, the construction reached critical milestones and we all had to guess for a few days which way the lanes went. The Valley Fair side of the project has been activated and we can expect the portion on "our" side of the freeway to be done this spring. Once the flyover is in place we should see a significant ease in accessing freeways from Parkmoor and Moorpark.

The Grand Opening of the Del Monte Park in early December was well attended. As District 6's only dog park, this one comes with a ton of room for the pooches and is adjacent to the creek trail. There are two very large off leash areas and you can feel free to separate the smaller pooches from the larger ones. Picnic areas, benches and bicycle racks are all in place. The playground is a fun, active area and there is a large grassy area to allow for a little ball tossing or just running around. Best of all, it is one of the few parks built with bathrooms so that means you don't have to worry about how long you stay with a toddler. Parking is on one side of Auzerais, but if you're clever you'll find the "hidden" parking on the other side of the site along Home Street. This is phase one of the development of a much larger park in that area and SONA, along with other local neighborhoods has long fought for policies that would ensure the city negotiates for the land rather than divert park funds to other uses.

This is a great time of year to explore our other park system amenities. The Guadalupe River Park system and trail runs from Discovery Meadow at the Children's Discovery Museum to the airport and beyond. You can actually take the trail from downtown to Alviso and visit the old shipping port that used to serve the bay area at the north end of San Jose. Along the trail is access to the creek, urban and wild exploration points and a series of monuments to San Jose's Sister Cities. You can visit the hidden statues behind the Center For Performing Arts or explore the Heritage Rose Garden and Heritage Orchard.

Don't forget to check in with the Bascom Community Center and Bascom Library often for ongoing programs and classes!

### *New Playground Coming! KaBOOM!*

There has always been an off-again on-again sanctioned use of the playground at Sherman Oaks after hours for local kids, but the re-design of the campus does not make that a viable condition. The Campbell Union School District has decided to provide a community playground on the corner of Leigh and Fruitdale where the large grass space is. This is exactly the spot SONA proposed a land swap with the City of San Jose, so we are thrilled that at last our community will have a legal and open playground within walking distance of our kids...walking distance that doesn't require crossing major streets or the freeway.

CUSD is partnering with KaBOOM! a non-profit whose goal is to ensure all children have access to play spaces. KaBOOM! has a format that develops a partnership with a major sponsor to underwrite the majority of the construction costs. The community must raise about 10% of the cost (usually \$8-10,000). Besides building a playground, there are also "side projects" around the site. **And the entire project is built with volunteer labor...that's you!**

The entire community contributes in a "hands-on" way as this is a full-out community participation event and is intended to build a lasting network of people who will adopt the playground area. Children will be participating in "Design Day" sometime in January. Based on their wish lists, a playground is designed to fit the space. It is often great fun to see what the kids come up with as it's not unusual to see swimming pools at the top of a climbing structure and once a thoughtful child placed a coffee shop nearby for mom.

As the playground goes through the design process, the community starts to really get involved. Fundraising, volunteer gathering, safety, food and logistics are all broken down into committees. The committee members have regular conference calls during the next few months.

In the weeks leading up to the playground build the ground is prepped and build captains are recruited. Build Captains will be the people in charge of the component construction, side projects, food and safety on build day. They will be spending the week before the build being instructed in safety protocols, team building and prepping the site. Build Captains are on site early and stay late for a few days.

On build day (late March for us!) volunteers start showing up early for the morning briefing and assignments. Because this is an actual construction site, minors are restricted and details on that will follow. The real work gets started and, by mid afternoon the project is done! After a few days to let cement cure, we have an opening celebration!

Our community coordinators for this project are Ramona Snyder and Campbell School Board member Michael Snyder who can be reached at [ramonasnyder@aol.com](mailto:ramonasnyder@aol.com). You can also check out our FaceBook page and website for the most current updates.



**Volunteers Needed**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities across the county to conduct a biannual Point-in-Time count of homeless persons. This biannual estimate provides invaluable data regarding the homeless population within Santa Clara County, the City of San Jose and across the nation.

**Give a voice to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.**

Volunteers provide the manpower needed to canvas every area of the county and ensure the population is adequately and accurately counted.

**WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING INCLUDE?**

- Learning more about homelessness and how you can make a difference
- Joining an enumeration team of community volunteers and homeless guides
- Conducting a visual count of homeless individuals
- Driving your team to designated areas of the county to enumerate

**VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT & RESPONSIBILITY**

- Attending a 1 hour training prior to count day
- 4-6 hours on January 27<sup>th</sup> and/or 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, beginning at 6:00am sharp
- Understand and be sensitive to the population you count and those you work with on count day

Use this link and sign up to volunteer:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SantaClara2015VolunteerRegistration>  
OR CALL 831-728-1356

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We often ask how we can help move people off the streets and into shelter. The first step in doing that is actually knowing how many homeless are out there, where they are staying and conducting a yearly census.

This census allows us to accurately track at risk residents and, as with all census numbers, the more accurate our census is, the more likely we are to develop the policies to help them and the funding to do so. If we undercount, we cannot begin to help.

Our homeless are often families and the working poor who have fallen through the cracks, suffered one too many setbacks and who often don't have the ability to reach services that are available.

We often ask ourselves "What can one person do?" and in this case, one person can help make a difference.

**SONA Dues are Due**

SONA asks for yearly dues of \$15 per person. Dues pay for newsletters, flyers and special events like the upcoming National Night Out Celebration. While we have augmented dues by obtaining grants, those sources have dried up. This year, more than ever, we need your support. 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make all checks out to: SONA**

\_\_\_\_\_ **DUES**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

**Mail to: PO Box 59146, San Jose CA 95159-0146**