

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 168 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Not all that long ago, a mother and her two children went into a supermarket to do the family shopping. She had very little money and her “fudge factor” was almost non-existent. They were just getting by financially with the aid of food stamps.

The little girl ran up to the bakery counter to see what sort of cakes they had for sale. Her birthday was just a few days away and she hoped she could pick out her favorite one for her special day. She saw the one she wanted, but as it happened, there was a young man standing ahead of her and he chose the cake that she hoped to buy. When he turned around he saw the little girl and it was obvious that she really wanted that cake too. As the tears of disappointment started to well-up he offered the cake to her and she gleefully accepted his kindness. Taking the cake, she ran back to her mother and brother who were busy in another part of the store.

The mother was worried that they might not have enough money to purchase the cake and when they went to check out this proved to be true. Mom asked the clerk to please take the cake back as they just couldn't afford it. Her daughter was heartbroken but kept a “stiff upper lip” knowing that there was nothing more to do or say.

The young man watched what was happening and as he checked out with his groceries, he also purchased the cake. Once outside of the market he quickly found the mother and her kids slowly walking home. He approached the mother and offered the cake to the little girl. The mother was overwhelmed, but indicated that they could not accept his gift unless he would give her his address so that she could repay him.

The man wrote out what they thought was his address. However, when they got home they read the message he'd written.

“A simple act of caring creates an endless ripple.”

Show others how much you care. Create your own endless ripple. SONA needs your caring, too. Get involved. Get active in your neighborhood community. Start a ripple in your area.

See you at the meeting! Bring a neighbor with you! - LK

SONA General Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Bascom Library, 2nd Floor

Community Room

1000 S. Bascom Ave

❖ **6:00pm Coffee and Conversation**

Come meet your neighbors and chat before the meeting.

❖ **6:30pm Meeting Starts**

- Welcome
- Reports from offices of elected officials
- Reports from staff
- Breakout Session: What's going on in your part of the neighborhood? What are the issues? What are the good points? How will construction affect you? Maps of the area will be provided

❖ **8:00pm Wrap Up**

- Drawing
- Announcements
- Get home safely

Notes and News
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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 latest.

Thank you to new members: Lynn Sisson and Tricia Bem.

Monthly Drawing Winners for February were Carol Worley and Tricia Bem! Good to see winners from both our newest and long standing groups of member.

DUMPSTER DAY IS COMING!!!! You all should have received a notice that Dumpster Day is March 7. If you didn't contact Henry Machens at Code Enforcement (henry.machens@sanjoseca.gov or 408.535.7864). There will be multiple locations handling everything from concrete to mattresses and appliances. Not every location will accept all items, so check the lists. Also, there will be a medication drop off station at the Del Mar High School site. You can drive through and drop off any prescription or non-prescription medication in pill form. Simply empty the pills into a Ziploc bag ahead of time. This free service is part of the overall contract San Jose has with our waste haulers and rolls around every 2-3 years. Get organized and get there early.

Our SONA Board elections are in April. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Lisa or Layne. SONA board members meet once a month and share responsibility for outreach, meetings and events. This is a great way to stay involved in your neighborhood. Several board members will be ending their terms of service per our bylaws, so now is the time to get involved.

Our drought appears to be sticking around. San Jose Water Company (www.sjwater.com 408.279.7900) will perform a free water audit, check for leaks and tell you how to save money. The Santa Clara Valley Water District (www.valleywater.org 408.265.2600) has a variety of programs and rebates that allow you to install water saving devices and landscaping. We will be asked to reduce our water consumption again this year, so take advantage of these free services and grants.

SONA Contact List

President, Layne Kulwin	408.995.0991	LayneKulwin.SONA@gmail.com
Administrative VP, Vacant		
Secretary, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Treasurer, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlroo1@sbcglobal.net
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Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich	408.292.2690	
Member at Large, Steve Kline	408.768.4154	slkesq@me.com
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	jussirajna@att.net
Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon		patrick.solomon.2008@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison, VACANT		

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 1000 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.

What's Important to You?

Our Saturday meeting in February residents sat down with maps, questions and ideas. There were many common areas of concern and many areas of agreement. Here's a partial list of what residents came up with, what would you add to the list? Join us at our March meeting where we'll break out into groups again. If you can't join us, send your thoughts to Layne or any of our board members so we can incorporate them.

Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety:

Speeding and cut through traffic is unsafe on Stokes, St. Elizabeth, Leigh, Richmond, College, Kingman and other areas. What can be done?

Safe crossing points need to be established all along Fruitdale. People who use light rail have no safe access on one end and kids coming from the high school are not safe on the other end.

While neighbors are doing a great job cleaning up the pedestrian overcrossing, how can we make this safer?

Residential streets like Roenoke are used for commercial purposes. How to discourage now and in the future?

Crime and Safety

The 7/11 stores at either end of Fruitdale attract an unsavory element. There have been recent assaults nearby.

The entire corner of Fruitdale/Bascom continues to be a site of drinking, crime and drug dealing.

Dumping along Moorpark, Del Mar, Rexford and other areas. It may get cleaned up, but how do we stay on top of it?

Homeless encampments float around and in the neighborhood, including a growing RV group by the community center. What are the resources?

Community

Can residents use the tracks at City College or Del Mar?

How can we make sure construction at San Jose City College doesn't negatively impact our residents?

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. 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**

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Campbell Union School District has donated the land on the corner of Leigh Avenue and Fruitdale Avenue for a playground that can be enjoyed by everybody in the neighborhood. All we need is your help to make this happen! Join us in building a playground on

Friday, May 15, 2015!

Follow us on Facebook: Sherman Oaks Playground

Timeline for Fun

Tuesday March 3, 2015 Design Day!

- 3pm site walk for Committee Chairs. Meet at the corner of Leigh and Fruitdale to see exactly where the playground will be.
- 4pm Kids Time. All children (even if they don't attend Sherman Oaks) are invited to participate in designing the playground. All ages welcome. Meet in multipurpose room.
- 5pm Adults. Based on the input from the kids, the adults will discuss what components will be the best fit for our playground. Volunteer sign up and info.

TBD: Three design options will be presented to the community.

Wednesday May 13, 2015

- Prep Day #1 for the Build Captains and all of the committee chairs. Materials are delivered, sorted and organized. Training and safety education. There is paperwork to sort, costumes to acquire and organizing to do.

Thursday May 14, 2015

- Prep Day #2 finishes up what we didn't do on Day#1.

Friday May 15, 2015 FUN DAY

- All hands on deck beginning early in the morning. By the afternoon we'll have a whole new playground!

TBD: Playground opens. We don't get to play on the equipment until cement cures and sign offs are complete. Great excuse for a party!

Playground Committee

- **Corporate Sponsors: San Jose Sharks!**
- **KaBOOM!** Staff has the role of overall organizing
- **Campbell Union School District** is organizing the infrastructure needs. Logistics coordinator for the district is Dave Radke dradke@campbellusd.org
- **Fiscal Agent/Green Team** is being handled by the San Jose Parks Foundation. Donations (monetary and in kind) are tax deductible. For information contact **Jim Reber** at james@sanjoseparks.org. You can also send donations directly by going to www.sanjoseparks.org. Hit the donate button, and follow it to the "Donate Directly" area, find KaBoom Sherman Oaks and send your tax deductible donation in.
- **Community Co-Chairs Ramona and Michael Snyder** can be reached at ramonasnyder@aol.com. They are responsible for the overall community organizing. And we have them to thank for making this possible.
- **PR/Media Chair** is Dev Davis (davisdev@gmail.com). Dev is looking for a volunteer DJ and videographers. Can you or your company sponsor this?
- **Fundraising Chair needs a volunteer.** The community needs to raise about \$10,000 in matching funds that will help with the build and establish a maintenance fund. We've already raised \$2000! You will work with Jim Reber who will provide the fundraising letters. Contact Ramona.
- **Recruitment Co-Chairs are Randi Kinman** (randikinman@yahoo.com 408.835.2881) and **Mario Montes** (montes.mario@gmail.com 408.917.8544). We need about 200 volunteers of all shapes, sizes and abilities even if only for part of the day. We will have bi-lingual teams. Volunteers should sign up in advance.
- **Food Chair is Susan Price-Jang** (sleeprice66@gmail.com 408.425.7830). Susan needs a core group of volunteers to help obtain, organize and prepare food for all of our activities. On build day others will be assigned, but this team is essential because volunteers are happiest when well fed and hydrated.
- **Youth Engagement Co-Chairs are Lisa Lumbreras** (lisa.lumbreras@yahoo.com) **Marisol Verdugo** (crlyq@gmail.com) and **Karen Rock** (kjensen00@sbcglobal.net). We have something for everyone, so if you have questions about how youth can participate, contact them.
- **Safety Chair is Layne Kulwin** (laynekulwin.sona@gmail.com 408.995.0991). We have an on site safety booth for first aid and will need folks trained in first aid to work a few shifts on build day.
- **Logistics Chair is Vacant.** This person helps coordinate all of the "where do things go and how do we get to them" aspects of the project. This can run from meeting rooms to parking. (And San Jose City College is volunteering parking space!) You'll work with Ramona and Dave to make sure we have everything we need in place. Contact Ramona if interested.

While we have about 8 weeks to do this, with everybody helping it will happen! So sign up to volunteer (even for a few hours). Ask your company to use this as a team building event, donate funds or prizes. Every contribution counts; we need people who can handle sign in and give directions as much as we need people to do physical work. Grab a neighbor and join us!