

## *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 173 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

### *Notes from the President*

How well do you know your neighbors? America used to be a place where you knew everyone on your block. Now? Not so much. A recent survey revealed that more than half of Americans do not even know their neighbors' names.

There are basically two ways of connecting with your neighbors today.

Welcome to "social media!" In today's generation, where people are just too busy, there is new, alternative method. We now have an app called "Nextdoor" and it's designed to help individuals connect and thereby build safer and stronger communities. This tech-savvy approach allows neighbors to help keep an eye out for criminal activity, find a babysitter, plan garage sales and anything in between. But, does it promote a deeper connection with one another?

Some say Nextdoor makes you feel safe. Communicating things you noticed in the neighborhood, it's easy to hop onto this site, make your comments, requests and share your observations. The response time very fast, too. City leaders and law enforcement appreciate how the app promotes communities and allows residents to become the eyes and ears of their area.

All well and good, I suppose... but I can't help wondering if this isn't a false sense of security. Certainly it's better than nothing... but does it lead one to actually get off the couch and visit a neighbor you've connected with on-line? Doubtful, I suspect.

On the other side of the discussion, we used to make friends with our neighbors the old fashioned way. We used to have a party, a BBQ, or an informal get-together and we would invite neighbors to come over and bring cookies or whatever. That was a good way to get to know everybody.

While it's no surprise that the approach to get to know one another is changing with the times, let's not lose our traditional, historical and effective methods. I lament the loss of the summer block parties, those weekend gatherings over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Memorial Day or Labor Day.

National Night Out is an attempt to bring back that old fashioned get-together and I welcome it enthusiastically. This year, as we have done in past years, the Kulwin-Kline house will host a gathering from 4:00 pm till about 8:00 pm. All are invited to drop by, share in some refreshments and meet and greet your neighbors. Welcome one and all!

***See you at National Night Out this month.  
All are welcome at our home. Bring a neighbor!***

### **No August General Meeting Please Sign up for National Night Out Tuesday, August 4, 2015**

**This international program is designed to help you fight crime and take back the night by getting to know your neighbors, connecting with each other and getting acquainted with resources. Some communities throw large parties, SONA asks that you bring this down to the very local level by hosting an event at your house. It can be something as simple as putting lawn chairs out on your lawn or driveway and asking people to drop by. Here are some other things you can do:**

- **Leave your porch light on and light up your neighborhood**
- **Pot luck**
- **Cookies and punch**
- **Organize games for the kids**
- **Progressive block party where you and neighbors go visit each other. You know you want to see what their remodel looks like.**
- **Bring your own barbeque**
- **Dog party; invite all those folks you nod to every day to bring their pooches over for a mini dog park party.**
- **Discuss neighborhood watch**

**Whatever you choose to do, each contact with your neighbors helps build a stronger and safer place to live, work and play.**

**Register your event with the City of San Jose Police Department and they will try to send a car over. They will also coordinate with our council office.**

**President Layne Kulwin will be hosting a driveway party at 761 Richmond Ave from 4-8pm**

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Popsicles  
in the  
Park.

Making  
new  
friends  
and  
visiting  
with old  
friends.



**SONA Saturdays**

SONA will be organizing clean ups, walk  
abouts and more on upcoming Saturdays.

On our inaugural SONA Saturday we  
picked up trash and garbage, swept,  
moved mulch and cleared out tree wells at  
the new Sherman Oaks playground.

Each SONA Saturday will be different, so  
you get to help decide what we are doing.

Our next SONA Saturday will be in the  
Sherman Oaks/Mansfield/Rexford/Del  
Mar area. Join us as we walk the  
neighborhood, do a little clean up and see  
what's working and what's not. This is one  
area where we actually have permit  
parking! Join us August 1 at 10am, 2069  
Rexford. Parking Permits will be on hand.

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### Notes and News

**SONA Saturday is August 1 this month.** Each month we will try to set aside some time for a community walk about, clean up or small meet and greet. We want to know what's going on in each and every pocket. **Join us this month as we walk the area off Sherman Oaks, Rexford, Mansfield and Del Mar between Fruitdale Ave and San Jose City College.**

Councilmember Oliverio or one of his staff will be joining us as we talk to neighbors and work on the litter, garbage and run down apartments in some of this area. We will meet at Anne Kearney's house at 2069 Rexford. **This is also a good time to congratulate Anne for becoming SONA's newest board member.** Parking passes will be available for those who drive in.

**SONA has signed up with the city and will be supplied with litter and graffiti clean up materials so where would you like the next SONA Saturday to be? What would you like to do or help with?**

**Thanks to the folks who helped on our last SONA Saturday at the Sherman Oaks Park.** Yoka Drion freed trees from turf and others swept, picked up litter and moved mulch. We carted off six bags of garbage after cleaning up the site. People showed up a little late but that allowed us to finish the clean up.

**The Department of Transportation will be installing parking signs on Leigh Avenue at Fruitdale adjacent to the park.** Parents were concerned with motor homes and trucks parking along the site, making it difficult to see the park and making people feel uneasy with the camping. A blue handicap zone will be installed next to the bust stop. This will allow people to safely park and have higher visibility with oncoming vehicles. When the bus is there it helps protect people, when it's not there is a big open space for easy views. The rest of the street between Fruitdale and the next driveway will be posted with time limit parking signs. This ensures no long term parking and some turn over for families. Work should be completed before the end of August.

**Friends of Bascom Library are holding their quarterly book sale on August 8 from 10-2 at the Bascom Library.** They need your help to make this a success. Volunteers are needed on Friday at 3pm to help stack books on the tables and set up for Saturday. Volunteers are also needed on the 8<sup>th</sup> to help pack up after the event. This book sale is a great way to stock up on gently used books and help support programs at the library. Now that our libraries are open six days a week, the more we want to bring special events to the site. Contact Ted Santos (408-298-7112) if you want to volunteer, become a member of the Friends group or learn more about how you can support our local library.

**Support your local schools on August 8 from 11:30-4.** Support your local schools by attending a free event at the Harley Davidson store on Moorpark. The bike group Nuscense has been running a program for 4 years to collect materials for schools. This year they are targeting our local schools. Bring school supplies (pencils, paper, backpacks, binders, etc) or money for a cash donation and enjoy food trucks, activities and fun. The Fire Department has committed to being there so you and your kids can explore. A walkable fun family event that benefits Sherman Oaks, Burbank and Trace.

**For those of you who are caregivers to family members, there is some financial relief available.** If you or your family member is MediCal eligible and need assistance, if you are caring for a family member who meets certain criteria, there is a state program that may be able to help. Contact your case worker to see if you are eligible for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) or go to the State's website <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1296.htm> In addition, you should check your private insurance to see if there is assistance.

**SONA's board has been asked to remind you that you should notify at least one neighbor when you are on vacation.** We've had cases where newspaper and mail stops haven't worked or alarms have gone off. Make sure at least one neighbor can reach you and knows how long you'll be gone. We've had residents call the police on "suspicious people" because strangers were going into a house. It's a good thing your neighbors are keeping an eye out on your home, make sure they don't have cousin Bob defending his presence with the police.

Summer is wrapping up for students so be aware it's back to school time. With San Jose City College starting back on August 31, you can count on a high number of people in a panic trying to find parking for a few weeks along with an increase in general confused driving topped off with "hey, they're under construction" issue. August 19 is the first day of school for Blackford, Sherman Oaks Elementary with Del Mar High beginning August 17. Drive carefully, take your time and be aware of increased vehicle, pedestrian and bike traffic.

