

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.

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Notes from the President

In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621. Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird—whether roasted, baked or deep-fried—on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives and host free dinners for the less fortunate.

Did you know...

Lobster, seal and swans were on the Pilgrims' menu.

Parades have also become an integral part of the holiday in cities and towns across the United States. Presented by Macy's department store since 1924, New York City's Thanksgiving Day parade is the largest and most famous, attracting some 2 to 3 million spectators along its 2.5-mile route and drawing an enormous television audience. It typically features marching bands, performers, elaborate floats conveying various celebrities and giant balloons shaped like cartoon characters.

Beginning in the mid-20th century and perhaps even earlier, the president of the United States has "pardoned" one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year, sparing the birds from slaughter and sending them to a farm for retirement. A number of U.S. governors also perform the annual turkey pardoning ritual.

See you at the meeting. Bring a friend and your appetite with you.

**General Meeting
Agenda**

November 12, 2015

**Bascom Community Center
Multi-Purpose Room
Or
Bascom Library Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Avenue
2nd Floor**

**SONA's Pre-Holiday Dinner
Thank you Staff!**

The Meal's on Us!

6:30pm – 8:00 pm

SONA's board would like to invite you to a relaxed evening of getting to know your neighbors.

We'll be bringing salad, fruit trays, turkey wraps, pizza, fried chicken and pasta with marinara sauce so there is something for everybody! We will also be supplying cookies and cake for dessert.

This is our chance to just have a relaxed evening, chat with our library and community center staff and ease you into the holidays.

If you want to help set up or tear down, let Michael LaRocca know.

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Notes and News

Friends of Bascom Library will be holding their quarterly sale on Saturday November 14, 2015 from 10am – 2pm. This is a great way to stock up on holiday gifts and help bring programs to your local library. The Friends group can also use some volunteers to help set up for the sale on Friday afternoon from 3pm-5pm. Contact Steve Kline slkesq@me.com or by phone at 408.768.4154 or just show up. The Friends can also use help the day of the sale, moving product and tearing down after the sale. Just show up. If you have school related community service hours, this is one way to work on them.

Keep your eye out for the holiday activities that start this month. Downtown Ice will kick off at the Circle of Palms across from Plaza de Caesar Chavez. This is a great opportunity for those who grew up knowing how to skate or for those of us warmer weather folks who want to give it a try. Runs Nov 15-Feb 7. Contact Downtown Ice at www.downtownicesj.com or call (408) 291-0525. Group rates available

The Plaza itself turns into a winter wonderland when Christmas In The Park sets up. This long time tradition has entertainment, carnivals, activities and lots of jolly stuff. Your group, school or organization can decorate one of the hundreds of Christmas trees on display by contacting www.christmasinthepark.com or calling (408) 200-3800. This event kicks off with Santa arriving and a tree lighting on the 27th.

Santa arrives at Santana Row on November 17 and they have a full schedule of family events scheduled before and after the tree lighting.

Hop over to Los Gatos and enjoy a small town vibe. Tree lighting and caroling in the plaza the night of December 4 followed by the Children's Holiday Parade Saturday December 5. Santa is in the plaza all weekend.

Whatever you do, enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Winter Preparations

We are holding off on SONA Saturday this month to allow folks to get ready for winter. We hope you use the first Saturday of November (the 7th) to finish up your winter checklist. We've been told we're going to have a wet winter finally, so you may have deferred routine maintenance.

Your vehicle is a good place to start. Check your tires; will they last through winter or will you find yourself hydroplaning across the road? Time to run your car through the carwash to make sure all of the seals are intact, your windshield wipers work and you get a wax to protect the paint. Check your emergency supplies. If you carry medical information, make sure it's updated.

Test heating units now, change filters and make sure everything is working. Call PG&E if you suspect a leak or need a pilot re-lit.

Patch and seal driveway and sidewalk cracks. A tube of sealer and a caulking gun do wonders.

Check doors and windows for leaks.

Check the roof and gutters. Did you have leaks before? Are the gutters and downspouts cleared?

Prep your yard for rain. Beds can be mulched; those dried lawns can use a few waterings to get them going.

Family Dues Now Available

For a limited time (now until the end of the year) we are offering family memberships for \$25/family. Join SONA now at this great rate! Dues help offset costs of websites, newsletters, etc.