

*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 179 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

*Notes from the President*

April is now upon us and I am amazed how fast we've come into the springtime of the year. Where does the time go? The saying that "time flies" is absolutely true. What happened to El Niño? Our reservoirs may be full but the ground water supply is still woefully short of our needs. Conservation is still a reality that we must observe and practice.

In January of this year the San Jose Housing Department, along with SJPd held informational meetings regarding a proposed program (Crime Free Addendum) that will go in front of the City Council for their consideration. We did not support this initiative for several reasons, seeing it as creating stereotypes towards people of color, facilitating racial profiling, and further criminalizing Black, Brown, and Poor communities. SONA, and many other stakeholders saw this initiative as an attack on class and race, putting vulnerable communities at further risk.

Yes, we have a crime problem in our community. But the CFP is not a viable solution. It is loosely threaded and very vague in its language. Our community consists not just of homeowners. It is much more inclusive, embracing local businesses, landlords and tenants. We include the homeless in our consideration of board actions for they are individuals living in our community who are the most in need of our help.

Our editor, to whom I am deeply indebted, has outlined some wonderful information for all of us noting many programs that are happening in our area. There's lots of opportunity to get involved, learn, improve, restore and renovate! There's lots of opportunity to give back to the community, as well.

Don't be a couch potato (there's the pot calling the kettle black). Take advantage of the cornucopia of projects, events and agencies ready and willing to assist you. Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved and give the gift of you.

***SEE YOU AT THE MEETING - BRING A NEIGHBOR!***

**General Meeting  
Agenda**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016  
Bascom Library  
Community Room  
(Second Floor)  
1000 S. Bascom Ave**

- **6:30pm**  
Coffee and cookies with your neighbors. Come get acquainted.
  
- **7:00pm**  
Welcome – SONA  
President Layne Kulwin
  
- Reports from elected officials.
  
- Smart Yards Coop**  
**Elizabeth Sarmiento,**  
**Director and Founder**  
See program description on page 2. Presentation followed by Q&A.
  
- **8:30pm**  
Announcements and wrap up.  
Drive home safely.

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### *Notes and News*

**Great American Litter Pick Up is April 23.** Join residents from around San Jose as we celebrate Earth Day and conduct a city wide litter pick up. District 6 will meet at the Willows Center on Lincoln Avenue. Event runs from 8:30am-1:30pm and all ages are welcome.

Now is the time to sign up for classes in such things as vegetable gardening, bee keeping, water colors and more with the **Guadalupe River Park Conservancy**. Visit the offices on Coleman or visit the website at [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org). There is also a monthly river clean up that could use volunteers. And don't forget you can give mom a year round gift on Mothers Day through the Adopt-A-Rose program.

**Happy Hollow Zoo** is offering a ton of special programs for kids and families. Classes, events, and junior zoo keepers are popular. You can also sign up now for the summer family overnight camping experience. Check with the Zoo for their half price days or simply buy your yearly membership. Happy Hollow also trains teen volunteers and will allow younger kids to shadow mentors and learn how to take care of zoo animals. There are also great opportunities for adult volunteers. Book your birthday or other special event now. Visit [www.hhpz.org](http://www.hhpz.org) or give the office a call at 408.794.6401.

Both the **Bascom Community Center and the Bascom Library** have classes for kids and adults. You can enroll kids in the popular Camp Bascom during summer months. There are also special rates for low income students at Camp Bascom. Ask one of the rec leaders in the office for more information.

The **Homeless Care Kit Assembly** was a big success, providing more than 200 folks with basics like soap, toothbrushes, shampoo and socks. The care kits were turned over to the Valley Medical Foundation offices and used by the homeless and mental health outreach teams. Join us in May as we host another event. In the meantime, you can start collecting basic hygiene products for collection.

### **Smart Yards Coop**

Even with this winter's El Nino rains, Californians are wisely looking at how to make water and energy savings part of their landscape. Our April speaker will outline how a new program can help you make a lasting and cost effective change that enhances your property at the same time.

You don't have to sacrifice beauty or aesthetics to save money with a child and pet safe yard.

Consultants can help you alter your landscape in an environmentally friendly way that still creates a green and welcoming yard. You can qualify for rebates from the water district, reduce the amount of energy you use.

This program also shows you how to create herb and food gardens, install water catchment and graywater systems. You can also learn how you can raise fruit trees, create decks and beds or even raise chickens in your yard all while reducing your impact on the long term water problems we face in this state.

Spring is the ideal time to make these changes or at least start developing a plan. Learn from one of the experts what is possible for you and your yard.

All are welcome to join us at our next meeting, so grab a neighbor. Bring the kids and bring your questions. Smart Yards Coop offers full service from consultation to installation.

[www.smartyardscoop.com](http://www.smartyardscoop.com)