

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 180 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Recently I got a phone call from one of our SONA community members who was reporting on the “homeless encampments” along the I-280 corridor and Moorpark Ave. and the activities going on there-in. After venting his frustrations to me the question was then posed: “what are WE going to do about it?”

While SONA does a great deal to bring to the attention of local government (City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara) and various agencies (VTA and CalTrans to name just a few) we cannot do it all. So, I implore you help us out – it’s easy and relatively painless.

1. When you see something that’s not right, report it.
2. If you witness nefarious activity occurring, report it.
3. Make sure to get a report or case number from the agency and then...
4. Let SONA know so we can keep tabs on your report and follow-up. By documenting resident complaints we were able to escalate them recently and see the Moorpark and Parkmoor areas cleaned up.

Your efforts will have a different effect because you were the eyewitness to the activity. If we make the initial report it may lack the momentum of a first-hand witness.

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We have a new issue to deal with on an individual neighborhood basis. It seems that a number of our teens have decided that it’s okay to break into empty homes in the community and have a party – complete with drugs and booze. What makes this so galling is the parents have returned with their teenagers looking for lost items (i.e. A cellphone, etc.). So...please watch your street and any property that you know is vacant should be a major focus of our attention.

Welcome to Summer!

SONA General Meeting

*****No May Meeting*****

We will not have a May general meeting to allow you to attend one of the upcoming candidate forums for our district. For the first time in 10 years we have the opportunity to elect somebody new to represent us. With the primary in June, there is limited time to get to know the candidates.

May 12 – Candidate forum sponsored by the District 6 leadership group and Shasta Hanchett Neighborhood Association at Westminster Church, 1000 Shasta Avenue. Meet the candidates at 6:30pm, forum 7-8:30pm, meet the candidates 8:30-9:00pm.

May 16 – Candidate Forum sponsored by Pierluigi Oliverio. Presentation High School Theater, 2281 Plumber Ave. Doors open at 6pm, forum starts at 6:20 pm.

Voter pamphlets have started going out for the June 7 election. Sample ballots will be delivered soon. Last day to register is May 23 and early on site voting begins May 28. If you need to register to vote, want to check on your status or have any questions about how and why to vote, you can contact the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters at www.sccvote.org

Notes and News

Saturday May 14, 2016 – Friends of Bascom Library Book Sale. Visit the Bascom Library between 10am-4pm and load up on books, videos and cds for all ages. The Friends group collects donated books throughout the year to hold these sales. Proceeds from the sales go towards supplementing library programming. Volunteers are also needed Friday afternoon to set up the site for the sale and afterwards on Saturday to tear down.

Saturday May 14, 2016 – Celebrate Our Playground. The San Jose Parks Foundation and the Campbell Union School District are hosting a celebration of our community built playground between 10am-2pm. Join your neighbors in celebrating what we built with all of our helping hands. What a great asset this has been to our neighborhood.

Thursday June 9, 2016 – Care Kit Pack-a-Thon. Our Fall 2015 event was such a success that we packed up over 200 care kits for outreach workers to give to the homeless they are working with. The kits include basic hygiene supplies and are distributed through staff as they try to match up homeless with services. Nobody will decide to become or remain homeless by receiving toothbrushes or toothpaste, but providing basic hygiene supplies helps everybody. All supplies are donated by individuals and businesses. For information, visit our Facebook or NextDoor sites or contact Randi at 408.835.2881 or randikinman@yahoo.com.

San Jose City College project is underway. The new PE building has gone through demolition and the project can finally get underway. The City stalled SJCC on a fully operating intersection at Kingman and Leigh, but they have been able to move forward. We will be receiving monthly updates and posting them online. Meanwhile, a construction camera has been set up and you can see the progression of the new facility by going to <http://cboc.sjebond.com/san-jose-city-college-physical-education-building-webcam/>

SONA Contact List

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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.

Summer Fun Schedule – Only in San Jose

Daily – Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. Great family fun for all ages. Petting zoo, education centers, play areas, rides, a zoo, hands on activities and plenty of room to run, have a picnic and enjoy the day. You can visit for a day, purchase a year pass and they will even host your party. 1300 Senter Road. 408 794 6400

Daily – Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens. Technically this stretches from the Arena Green Carousel to the airport via the trail system. The Coleman area site where the headquarters are hosts summer programs and camps for kids, including those tailored for home school programs. There are classes, courses and the Rotary Play Garden, an all access playground. You can ride, walk or run the trail all the way to the Alviso terminus where San Jose meets the bay. There are nature programs directed for those with special needs, beginning gardener and composting workshops and art classes. You can even decompress with twilight yoga outdoors.

Daily – Tech Museum of Innovation. Hands on fun where you can learn bio engineering, become a cyber sleuth or see what a jet pack chair feels like. Daily access or plan a special group trip or party. There are summer programs and camps. 201 South Market Street.

Monday – Saturday Bascom Library. Check in to see the ever changing programs for families offered at our local library.

Tuesday – Sunday Children’s Discovery Museum. Open Mondays beginning in June. Lots of hands on activities for the kids, exhibits and activities. Special programs and group rates. Woz Way.

May 28 Taco Festival of Innovation. Fifth year of food, fun, music and entertainment. History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Road. Moveable Feast offers a complete array of tacos with most plates in the \$6 and under range.

June 24 Music in the Park with Los Lobos. This concert kicks off the summer Music in the Park series with more to come. www.sjdowntown.com

June 25 Fountain Blues Festival. Our premier blues festival always has an exciting line up at the Plaza de Caesar Chavez. www.fountainbluesfestival.com

August 12-14 San Jose Jazz Fest. One of the best jazz festivals in the country with venues scattered all over downtown. Come for the day or buy a full 3-day pass. See local groups and international stars. www.summerfest.sanjosejazz.org

San Jose Flea Market. This is a city within the city. On Wednesdays and Friday-Sunday you will find an incredible array of treasures, food, entertainment and fun. Looking for that obscure ingredient in a recipe? You’ll probably find it there along with strolling mariachis, kids activities, concerts and more. With 500-1500 vendors on site on any given day you are sure to find something you need in the miles and miles of stalls. Or, use SJFM to sell your own merchandise. www.sjfm.com or call 408.453.1110

SONA Prepared – May Checklist

Family Communication Plan

The first thing any family can do is sit down and talk. Talk about what might happen, talk about what could happen, talk about what you can do and how you should be prepared. Your workplace has a plan, your children are drilled in any number of scenarios at school and you should have a plan for your family.

- ✓ Meet with family members. Talk about how the family plan aligns with the work and school plans. Make sure caregivers, nannies and other providers are aware of the plan.
- ✓ Choose an out of town contact. While contact in a disaster area can be difficult, it is often easier to reach outside the area to establish a communication clearing house. Make sure that your out of town contact is part of the plan, that you all have alternative ways of reaching at least one out of the area contact point. Your out of town contact should have everybody's name, date of birth, likely location, medical information, care giver information and meet up locations.
- ✓ Choose meet up locations if you are separated. Schools will automatically go into action, but where are the secondary points students might be routed to? Where can you meet if there is an emergency at home? Where will you meet if there is an emergency in the neighborhood? You should have a neighborhood location, an out of neighborhood location and know the locations for secondary evacuations from work or school.
- ✓ If there is a barrier to a family member making it to the meet up point, what are the solutions? Can your caretaker get your elderly or disabled relative to a meet up point without assistance? What are the options?
- ✓ Update all of your emergency contact lists. Include your out of town access point and include your meet up points. Make sure your out of town contact has the list of meet up sites and locations. Make sure all family members have a copy of the contacts and meet up points.
- ✓ Make sure that any special needs are listed in your contact plan. Medical conditions that require monitoring, medications and allergies should be noted.
- ✓ Plans should also take into consideration our surrounding infrastructure. With a multi-freeway intersection and Valley Medical Center nearby, a major event will clog all roads and services. And don't forget that we have already experienced incidents where activity at VMC has resulted in a partial neighborhood lockdown.
- ✓ Summer is here and it's vacation time. Make sure you travel with important information that might affect you in an emergency out of town when you won't have access to your health care provider or records. Whether you are visiting a theme park, camping or at the vacation home, designate a meet up point daily if necessary. If your kids are going away to camp make sure that your out of town contact info is included in the emergency information they require.

For more information on actions you can take, visit www.ready.gov

Next Month: Emergency to-go bags. What do you need, where should they be stored and how can you make them easily?