



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is a volunteer group of residents working to make our neighborhood a better place to live work and play. A Community Action & Pride Grant from the City of San Jose supplements newsletter funds.

Issue 146 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

Thanks to all who joined us last month and discussed San Jose’s Urban Village plan for our area. With thousands of housing units proposed along Bascom, along with mixed use retail, it is important that residents weigh in now about how that will affect us. Some great ideas and dialogue on this subject, including various ways to slow or reduce traffic through our neighborhoods. We will try to keep you posted on upcoming meetings, but to be honest; we don’t arrange the public meetings. Your best bet is to be connected online.

Speaking of online, SONA is beta testing the Nextdoor Neighborhood format because SJPD has stated they will convey information via that online platform. It is easy to join in on SONA’s spot and it also connects you to adjoining neighborhoods, allowing the most recent information possible to be available. There are several ways for you to join, one of which includes giving your credit card to Nextdoor. If you aren’t comfortable with that then you can join via postcard authorization. It would seem that by using the post card option you can also keep your true identity a secret with the online community as a member of the Fruitdale family can attest. You can simply go to nextdoor.com or send me an email and I’ll connect you. Whether you join us at talk2sona@yahogroups or via Nextdoor, online is the quickest and easiest way to spread the word about local happenings.

I know that budgets are not the most exciting thing to talk about, but those are the discussions we need to pay attention to at the moment. It is only by raising your voice that your needs are met during this crucial time. You’d be surprised how much impact one letter or email can have; send one and get a neighbor to do the same.

I don’t know about you, but this is the worst spring on record for allergies and me.... which isn’t going to stop me from asking you to plant some sunflowers. With a declining bee population, you can do your part to ensure the little critters that allow us to produce most of our food have more food available for themselves. Sunflowers will do it; they come in everything from small ones suited for patio containers to the giant ones that grow taller than your house. Send me pictures and let’s see how many different kinds we can get in our neighborhood. Sunflowers also attract butterflies and birds. As the flowers ripen they become a favorite restaurant for our local animals. Be forewarned that if you have a large population of squirrels, they love the smaller flowers and ripe seeds. I’ve learned that if I don’t protect the small heads as they form I’ll come out of the house one morning to find rows of stalks and nothing else.

For those of you who want to know how programming is developed at Bascom and other facilities, don’t miss the May meeting. Mary O’Meara is our supervisor for the area and can fill us in on what’s available, what’s new and where it all takes place. This is your chance to ask questions and make sure your “wish list” for the community center portion of the facility is noted.

Hopefully you are all enjoying this marvelous spring...

See you at the meeting...Randi

General Meeting

May 9, 2013

Bascom Library

2nd Floor Community Room

1000 S. Bascom Ave

6:30pm

Meet and Mingle

Come meet your neighbors over coffee and snacks.

7:00pm

Welcome

San Jose PD (if available)

7:15pm

Mary O’Meara, Recreation Superintendent | San Jose Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services

8:00pm

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Door Prize Drawing

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association general meetings are open to all and held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Bascom Community Center. Board meetings are held on 2nd Monday of each month at Sherman Oaks Community Center small office at 6:30pm. Board members are listed on page 2.

Notes and News

SONA E-mail List: We are looking to add you to our list of online members for several reasons. First of all, it's expensive to deliver newsletters and our grant funding for this has been drying up. Second, it's the right thing to do. We need to reduce the amount of paper we use and become a leaner, greener community. Third, we need to expand our ability to contact each other and stay in touch. Because our newsletter is delivered monthly, we miss sending you vital information about your neighborhood. We also miss the general "chat" that makes life interesting and fun, so we'll be sending you requests to join our Yahoo group as well. Who's having a garage sale, who needs a gardener or plumber, who's looking for a babysitter, who's having a block party, who's selling their home? Online forums will allow us to build these neighbor-to-neighbor ties. **At no point will your information be given out or sold to anybody, at no point will your info be published.** If you have the skills and are interested in helping us grow our e-presence, contact Layne Kulwin (see below). **Also see page 1 on our new format for connecting neighbors online!**

PayPal is available on SONA's website! You can pay your yearly dues with just a few clicks, make donations and contribute to SONA's success. We simply cannot afford to mail out reminders to people, so we are hoping that you will use the PayPal option on the website's front page and make your contribution count. This is a secure and easy way to pay your dues each year and you can also opt to have your dues deducted every year from now on. What a great way to support your neighborhood from the comfort of your own home. **The SONA website is located at <http://www.sona-sj.com/>.** You can also sign up for easy to use yearly renewals or add a little extra to support SONA.

With a warm spring and summer just around the corner, we know you'll be breaking out more refreshing beverages. If this means you are buying more bottled and canned drinks, do SONA a favor and save those cans and bottles. Board members Jussi and Lisa conduct periodic pick-ups and you can simply give them a call. This allows SONA to generate funds for our newsletter and our summer events.

Free Movie Night: Bascom Community Center and Library presents "Monster, Inc." on Friday, June 7th at 8:30pm in the their Outdoor Movie Theater. You are more than welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Chairs will be provided. **No pets please.**

SONA Contact List

President, Randi Kinman	408.835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Administrative VP, Layne Kulwin	408.256.0761	SONA@LayneKulwin.com
Secretary, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Treasurer, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlroo1@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large, Marlene Bird	408.288.9727	marlenebird@att.net
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, Richard Anderson		RichardAnderson.SONA@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison		youth.sona@gmail.com

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>

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1100 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.

Bascom Library Community Center

SONA recently joined other neighborhoods in our area asking the City Council and staff to address existing programming and facility issues at this site. There is, for instance, no youth programming even though we built a teen room for just that purpose. Our seniors would like additional programs and the café still remains vacant. Much of this will come up at the budget meetings this next month. If you have questions or concerns, contact our councilmember directly or attend one of the budget meetings. (See last page) This will not change unless you participate. As board members if the have questions.

The Friends of Bascom Library and Community Center meet each month on the third Saturday of the month at 10am in the community room upstairs. This group helps keep the books stocked in the library sales area and is in the process of determining what programs they want to support and how to raise funds. One of the major sources of fundraising is the periodic book sale at the library. To do this, they need a lot more donated books than they currently have. You can bring your used children and adult books to the library and staff will see to it that the books are placed in the Friends area. If you want to volunteer time at the library or participate in any of the Friends meetings, contact Steve Kline.

The Library had its first author event in April thanks to Hicklebee's Books on Lincoln Avenue. Chris Columbus, director of movies like Mrs. Doubtfire, has turned his hand to writing children's book. The first of many events like this!

Summer programs are filling up fast, so get down to the community center if you have young ones. Camp Bascom was at capacity last year, running half and full day programs. These programs are fee based, but families who qualify for school lunch programs qualify for extremely reduced rates. The programs are expanding this year so sign up now.

There are many activities for those learning or polishing their English Language skills that are sponsored by the Library. Children's programming is ongoing and the teen room sees a lot of activity. Drop in and pick up a schedule of activities and events.

In the summer we expect to have periods where day after day the temperatures soar into the century mark. When this happens, community centers and libraries extend their hours and allow you some respite from that heat. Don't risk heat stroke or becoming ill when you have a city facility right down the street that gives you a save place to cool down.

Mother's Day is Here

Looking for those last minute ideas for the moms on your list? San Jose has lots of things for you and that special mom.

Why buy her flowers when through the Adopt-a-Rose program at the Heritage Rose Garden at Guadalupe River Park and Gardens? You get to pick out the perfect rose bush and for a year there will be a commemorative plaque in place showing your mom how special she is. The package also comes with chocolate from Shurra's, potpourri made from the roses of the Heritage Rose Garden and handmade soap from Renee's Handmade Soaps. A gift card for a free long stemmed rose from Citti's florist is also included in the package. This gift allows you to support the volunteer work that makes our Heritage gardens thrive while promoting local businesses. You can contact them via the web at www.grpg.org or call Phil Cornish at (408) 298-7657 to take advantage of this great package.

Shurra's has been a fixture in San Jose for more than 100 years and is located at 840 The Alameda. This is always a great stop for gift boxes of handmade candy. Or, you can assemble your own collection of tasty treats. The line is often out the door during those holidays that demand the very best.

Renee's Handmade Soaps is a 12-year old business based out of Los Gatos. Using only the finest ingredients, natural essential oils and fragrances, this is a pure product that has no chemical additives and is made without animal testing.

Citti's Florist is a local chain of floral shops that have been serving the valley for 50 years. Many of us use them for our gift bouquets and their online ordering works very well.

If mom is a gardener or spends time outside on the patio, stop by your local Orchard Supply. They have a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants for gift giving. There are still a wide variety of vegetables for the garden. Chimes, hummingbird feeders and outdoor decorations go well with that new lounge set you'll find. Orchard Supply was started in San Jose in 1931 as a co-op by local farmers.

You'll find lots of local restaurants offering Mother's Day Brunches, but get your reservations in early!

For the outdoor moms, stop by Mel Cottons on West San Carlos. You can pick up that new set of camping gear, sun hats and just about anything else you need for outdoor fun. They have the latest clothing and gear for all outdoor activities. They also rent gear for all types of sports so you can plan on taking mom out on an adventure later in the year. This great neighborhood business has been around since 1946 and comes with knowledgeable and friendly staff.

You can choose to simply enjoy a picnic at any of San Jose's parks. But if you do shop, shop San Jose and support your community while giving mom the best present in the world...your time and attention.

Happy Mother's Day.



Better Homes and Gardens
REAL ESTATE

VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES

Layne Kulwin, MA
AHWD, ASR, CBR, e-Pro, RFS, CNE
Real Estate Advisor and Advocate

Cell 408.256.0761
Layne@LayneKulwin.com
www.LayneKulwin.com

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE
VENTURA BARNETT PROPERTIES
5985 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95120
www.vbprop.com
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

DRE #00584323



Marlene Bird
408-288-9727
DRE # 00861180
mbird@cbnorcal.com
www.marlenebird.com

Selling...Buying...Questions?
I'm here to HELP! CALL ME...

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

Each Coldwell Banker Office is Owned and Operated by NRT, LLC.

Place Your 3.5" x 2" Business Card Here

1 Month \$25.00

3 Months \$60.00

6 Months \$90.00

1 Year \$120.00

Paul F. Hogan, Attorney at Law

Established 1983

Family Law

- Child Custody
- Divorce
- Marital Agreements

Estate Planning

- Wills
- Trusts
- Advanced Health Care Directives

No Charge for Initial Consultation

106 West Campbell Avenue, Campbell CA 95008
(408) 866-9147

Crime Alert

We are seeing an increase in auto break ins around the neighborhood. In addition to this, there are a number of stolen vehicles being left on our streets on a weekly basis. In general, when auto problems pick up, we also experience an increase in home burglaries shortly after.

Most of the auto break ins occur in the evening, victimizing cars parked on the street, but there have been reports that autos in driveways have been broken into also. We can all help by being alert and following some basic rules:

- Park your vehicle in the driveway, garage or carport when possible.
- Leave a clean vehicle; if there's nothing to see when they look in, they may bypass you.
- Work vehicles and trailers have been targeted for theft in our neighborhood. If your work requires your vehicle be loaded with tools or equipment, it is an attractive target and needs to be set with an alarm.
- If you are leaving a car at home while on vacation, have a neighbor move it. Also make sure that lights and sound rotate in your home while you're gone.
- Light up the front of your house. You can easily install motion sensitive lighting to discourage people from creeping up your driveway.
- Know your neighborhood. You can spot people and cars that don't belong there.
- **Report, Report, Report.** If your vehicle is burgled, file a report online even if you don't file an insurance claim. This allows SJPD to identify hot zones and potential patterns. Report abandoned vehicles on your street or vehicles that look disabled. Report any and all suspicious activity. Better to report and be wrong than to not report.

Emergency reporting for crimes actively taking place:

911 or program your cell phone with (408) 277-8911

Reporting non-emergency crimes or suspicious activity:

311 or program your cell phones with (408) 277-8900.

Report online at <https://www.sjpd.org/ReportingCrime/OnlineReport/>

Abandoned Vehicles:

Department of Transportation (408) 277-5305 or <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx/NID=1996>