



Issue 23, Dec. 2002

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone in our neighborhood enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday as much as I did. I had a bountiful dinner with my family, in our home; safe and happy. My work with SONA is an expression of my thanks for living a good life. SONA's mission is to maintain and improve our neighborhood. The growth of our membership is a sure sign that our Board Members and volunteers are doing the right thing. Still, our Board wants to hear comments and suggestions all the time to keep our priorities current. We are working on making our streets safe from both traffic and crime. I wrote in last month's newsletter about the importance of having personal contact with our immediate neighbors in good times and in emergencies. The HIFIVE program is not information gathering for a database, it is to bring neighbors into closer contact and to provide knowledge of what to do when one has to act quickly. I will have more to say about HIFIVE at our December 12 meeting.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

—Jussi Rajna, President

COMMUNITY CENTER

During our December general meeting we will be hearing from Susan Price-Jang and Michael LaRocca about the work done by the NAC subcommittee working on the new joint use community center. This is also your chance to participate in the development of plans and ideas for the new center. What would you like to see in the new center? What services or activities would you participate in? What types of facilities would most benefit you or your neighbor?

Often we are presented with a project after the fact and are disappointed with the "gift" that does not quite fit our needs. This is your chance to become involved in the process and state your needs for this center.

SONA UNITES FOR HOLIDAY DECORATING

Join in the festivities and community spirit! Light up a tree in your front yard!

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 12 DON'T MISS IT!

SONA meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Sherman Oaks Community Center 1800A Fruitdale Avenue next to the Sherman Oaks Charter School.

SONA AGENDA 12/12/02

- 6:30 Snacks and Socializing
- 7:00 Welcome — Jussi Rajna, President
Approval of November minutes — Jussi Rajna
- 7:07 Police Report
- 7:20 New Community Center — Susan Price-Jang & Michael LaRocca
- 8:00 Updates and New Business

SONA FOOD DRIVE

SONA is continuing its food drive during December. We're asking all neighbors to assist our local Second Harvest food program. Donations of canned goods can be dropped off at SONA meetings or at the Sherman Oaks Charter School during regular school hours.

Second Harvest provides two programs in our area: Family Harvest and Senior Brown Bag. Family Harvest is on the third Tuesday of every month. Volunteers, who are parents at the school and receive food donations, sort and bag approximately three tons of food. The food is ready for distribution to families by 4:00pm. To receive food, families must have dependent minor children and meet the qualifications for low-income. Families registered in the program have first priority to the food. If any food remains then it is given on a first come, first served basis. Registration forms are available at the school and must be submitted to Second Harvest by mail, for more information call 266-8866. The Senior Brown Bag program is held on Thursday mornings. Low-income seniors register to receive a weekly bag of groceries. This program is administered by Korean-American Community Services (KACS). To register call KACS at 920-9733.

SONA'S YEAR 2002 IN REVIEW

During the hustle and bustle of everyday life we often are so caught up in where we're going that we don't take a moment to see where we've been. As we end the year 2002 we should all take a moment to stop and look at what we've accomplished in the last year. Thanks to all of our good neighbors for helping make this a successful year. —Ed.

In **January** we were still drafting our bylaws, but moving full steam ahead on traffic concerns. Councilman Ken Yeager introduced us to his "new" assistant Debbie Rocha. David George of the Richmond/Menker property owners group advised us of preliminary plans to improve that area.

In **February** we adopted our formal bylaws, had several streets monitored for traffic levels and had one new stop sign added to the neighborhood.

March brought us our first election of officers, the SNI's first driveway sweep of the area for Code violations and reports from our NAC representatives that SONA's issues would be on the top ten list for the NAC.

In **April** we discussed traffic problems surrounding City College, reviewed the new blight ordinance and began planning for our first neighborhood clean up day. We also saw VTA clean up Southwest Expressway in direct response to our requests.

May brought us new flowers and an infusion of cash from new memberships and the old Rose Glen Association. We learned more about the new blight ordinance and also learned that our Earth Day clean up resulted in over 50 bags of trash being sent to recycling or the landfill.

In **June** we learned from Code Enforcement just how to go about getting rid of abandoned cars and report code violations. NAC advisors reported that our requests for trail space and a community center are on the top ten list for the NAC. SONA members also met with City College officials to discuss problems concerning the soundwall on the south side and also the new garage.

July had the Clean-up day committee busy organizing dumpster sites and volunteers. We discussed the need for signs for streetsweeping days and how to get cars off the streets on those days.

August brought us a complete update on City College construction along with a promise to have a new traffic study done after the beginning of the school year to see how the new garage impacts traffic in the neighborhood.

At **September's** meeting we met Sergeant Pate, our new beat Sergeant and were told that we would see an increase in police patrolling due to the fact we are a designated training area. SONA members and Richmond Menker residents participated in court hearings that declared the Richmond Menker area a gang abatement zone.

October was a busy month with our first Neighborhood Clean-up day and barbeque, funded with a CAP grant obtained by Charles Crowder. Dozens of volunteers showed up and we all enjoyed the party after. SONA members attended workshops sponsored by the UNSCC and Redevelopment Agency. Our guest speaker from De Anza properties updated us on the development at Fruitdale Station (formerly K-Mart) and listened to our concerns.

In **November** we followed up on traffic calming problems and learned we have funds left over from our CAP grant to use towards other community projects. We followed up on concerns with City College and participated in the Richmond/Menker Pride Day.

In **December** we'll learn about the proposed joint use community center and participate in developing plans for this facility. We'll also help sponsor local families by donating to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

RECYCLED PLUS SERVICE RATE INCREASE PROTEST

Recycle Plus is trying to increase our service rate. We can protest this by writing to the City. Letters must be received prior to December 16. A form letter is available at www.sona-sj.com so you only have to fill in your parcel #, print and sign. If you'd prefer to write your own letter, be sure to include your parcel # and send it to: Recycle Plus Rate Change, City Clerk, 801 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95110.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Brooks House, the new senior housing development on Leigh, has opened and is accepting applications. Be sure to say hello to our new neighbors. If you know of a senior who qualifies for low-income housing, take them to tour Brooks House and for a tour of our neighborhood.

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

If you don't know who to call in the city of San Jose for action, you can always call 277-4000. This is the main City Hall number that can connect you to any office.

Emergency	911
Police Department (non-emergency)	311
City Hall Center (24 hours)	277-4000
Airport Noise Hotline	452-0707
Fire Department	277-4444
Recycling and Garbage	277-2700
Energy Conservation	277-5533
Street Sweeping	277-2571
Street Tree Permits	277-2762
Library Services	277-4846
Senior Programs	277-4101
Parks and Recreations	277-4661
Anti Graffiti Hotline	277-2758
Rental Dispute	277-5431
Transit/Light Rail Info	277-2300
Vehicle Abatement Hotline	277-5305
Code Enforcement	277-4528

RICHMOND MENKER PRIDE DAY

On November 23, 2002 over 150 people showed up for the Richmond/Menker Pride Day clean-up and celebration. Residents of the apartments and neighboring houses, landlords, City staff and the youth group from Crossroads Bible Church fanned out early in the morning to clean up the area. Joined by the Fire Department personnel, they picked up trash, cleaned up vacant lot areas, gathered broken grocery carts and filled three dumpsters.

Everyone enjoyed the carne asada barbeque afterwards held in one of the festively decorated carport/driveway areas. The carne asada was provided by the city and neighbors provided side dishes. Staff from Sherman Oaks Community Center along with the Housing Department were on hand with other agencies to provide information at a resource fair.

With over 250 children living in these apartments, there is a basic need for open play space and areas for all of us to gather and join each other in other celebrations. Plans are underway for renovation of this area, with a design team to be hired by the Housing Department through SNI funds this month. In the meantime, it was noted that there are units available for rent.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association Membership Form

All residents wishing to join must complete this form. Membership is from June 2002 to June 2003

Join the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association and become part of a network of residents working to improve and maintain the neighborhood quality of life (safety, property values, aesthetics) and represent SONA neighborhood interests before local governments.

The SONA encompasses the neighborhoods between Bascom Avenue on the west, Los Gatos Creek on the south, Highway 280 on the north and Meridian Avenue on the east.

All residents, business, elected officials and organizations within SONA's boundaries are eligible for membership.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00 at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128.

Membership dues help fund projects and social events working toward SONA's mission of moving in a positive direction for the improvement of our neighborhood.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Home: _____ Work: _____

Sign me up for the following committees:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint out graffiti | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Preparedness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SONA Board | |

Membership dues: \$12.00

Mail to: Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association
 PO Box 59146
 San Jose, CA 95128

Additional donation: _____

Total: _____

December 2002 SONA Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1	2	3	4	5 6:30 NAC Meeting (SOCC)	6	7
8	9	10	11 6:00 pm PAC meeting 1 st Methodist Church	12 6:30 pm SONA General Meeting (SOCC)	13	14 Show your community spirit by lighting a tree in your front yard throughout the holidays.
15	16	17 7:00 pm SONA Board Meeting Bramhall Park, Willow Glen	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOTE: City Council meetings are every Tuesday at 1:30 pm. Evening sessions begin at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday's.
 SOCC=Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
 1st Methodist Church, 24 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA
 Bramhall Park is on the corner of Camino Ramon and Willow Avenue