

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Our first ever National Night Out Celebration was held August 5 at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. By all accounts it was a huge success.

Almost 100 people signed in and there were dozens more in attendance. Participants listened to music, chatted with neighbors and watched a display of Eskrima Martial Arts. City staffed manned face painting and spin arts booths while adults familiarized themselves with the new touch screen voting machine provided by the Registrar of Voters.

Councilman Ken Yeager's office sent both Alvaro Suarez and Tony Filice and former staffer Debbie Rocha and her husband dropped in. Supervisor Jim Beall's aides Sunshine Borrelli, Jean Cohen and Ashlee Oh were on hand giving out free information, pens and Frisbees.

San Jose Police Department sent numerous officers throughout the night and our local Fire Department Station 4 was well represented. The Sherriff's Department not only showed up, they arranged for a fly over with their new helicopter.

SONA members enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chili, chips and ice cream thanks to the efforts of **Sheila Cvitanich, Frank Fanger, Robin Wood and Mary Kay and Michael LaRocca**. Free flashlights and t-shirts were given out throughout the night while we played SONA Bingo, talked about our neighborhood and enjoyed the evening. Winners of SONA Bingo received dinner for four to Sam's and a gift certificate to Albertsons. Both prizes were donated by the businesses.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LONGEST

It was good to see new faces, new babies and new neighbors along with the neighbors who've lived here for many years. **Sal LaBarbera** wins for being in the neighborhood the longest, but **Carl and Elaine Lindner** were only 3 months behind (1953).

CLEAN UP DAY - 9/27

It's time for another dumpster day in the neighborhood. Clean out those closets and talk to your neighbors about gathering the trash because you only have a couple weeks to get organized for the September 27 event.

Dumpsters will be placed throughout most of SONA thanks to the organization of Councilman Ken Yeager's office. The dumpsters will all be located east of Fruitdale Ave. SONA will be holding another clean up in 2004 to cover the entire area. Keep an eye out for flyers regarding this clean-up.

STREETSWEEPING AND TRASH DAY PROBLEMS

Members have complained in the past that there are problems in some areas where people put yard clippings out too early or when cars aren't moved off street on streetsweeping days. While the ideal answer would be to talk to your neighbor and work things out, this often isn't possible when you don't know who's car it is or when the neighbors are non responsive.

SONA has printed up cards for you to use as reminders. They are post card sized and can be mailed or tucked under a windshield wiper. These cards will be available at all SONA meetings.

We ask that you use these wisely and thoughtfully. Remember that putting yard waste out early is a code violation and can be reported to the Code Enforcement office at 277-4528.

YOUNGEST PERSON AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The LaBarbera family also brought the youngest attendee, **Joseph** who clocked in at a whopping six weeks. Joseph's sister **Anna**, along with **Scott Cooper, Thomas, Isabel Sanchez, Janisse De La Garza, Anthony Avenas, Lizzy Avenas** and **Claudia** joined the 12 and under set.

OLDEST PERSON AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Carl Lindner thought he had a lock on oldest attendee at 81 years young, but **Mel Bingham** beat him by 10 years!

Memories of the old brickyard were shared along with school graduations held many years ago on the stage. Some of our neighbors remember when kids played where Highway 280 now sits, which would be quite the image for the **Strongs, Carvalhos** and **Youngs** who all moved here in 2002.

Among the things we wished for that night were parks for people, parks for dogs, parks with bathrooms, parks to play in, parks for athletics and games and any other park you can think of. We wished for a library, community center, teen center and a swimming pool. We want our streets slower and safer and we want people to respect streetsweeping days. One of us would even like a real, honest to goodness ice cream parlor.

SONA residents love the central location and the fact that the neighbors are welcoming and friendly. **Claudia** (age 4 ½) loves the availability of pizza while other youth like the skating opportunities.

Many thanks to the volunteers who organized the event, staff from numerous agencies and the Burbank Del Monte NAC for providing grant funding. Most of all thanks to the many neighbors who showed up and had a great time.

OFF LEASH DOG PARK OPEN

Watson dog park opened on August 2. The 1.25 acre off leash dog park features double gates, large and small dog areas, garbage cans, watering stations (the kind with the built-in drainage), benches, picnic tables, a concrete pad at the entrance, poop bag stations, a drinking fountain for people, and GRASS! The park is divided into a small dog side, and a big dog side. Each side is plenty for even the fastest and most energetic dogs to get in a good run. The park is located at East Jackson & 22nd, between E. Taylor & E. Julian Streets.

VOLUNTEER SAN JOSE - 9/13

Saturday, September 13 is the Mayor's 4th annual Volunteer Celebration. This event is held to acknowledge and thank the many San Jose volunteers who contribute hours of service throughout the year.

The free event will be located at Plaza de Cesar Chavez on Market Street between San Fernando and San Carlos. There will be numerous activities, live music, prizes and informational booths.

Whether you pitch in once a year on dumpster day, work on committees or serve on volunteer boards, this is your chance to celebrate and meet other volunteers from around the city. If you've always wondered how you can get involved, drop by and explore the many opportunities available.



Issue 32, Sept. 2003

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September brings us all back together it seems. Vacations are winding down, school is in session and it's time for another clean up day. While we're enjoying the last of our summer gardens we are also looking ahead to what the next few months will bring.

Among the many fun things this summer, National Night Out is my personal number one. What a great time for everyone! It was nice seeing old faces and meeting new friends. I look forward to this event next year.

Our September meeting speaker is coming to us through the Santa Clara County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. With over 2000 children requiring temporary foster placement in our area each year, there are never enough homes to go around. Children need loving and supportive havens while their families are going through transitions. Learn about the training and resources available at our meeting.

October will bring us the official public ceremonies at San Jose City College commemorating the completion of the new Tech building and the new Cesar Chavez Library. October 8 will have panel discussions and a reception at the Tech building beginning at 3:00 p.m. On October 9 you can listen to Richard Chavez discuss the contributions made by his brother Cesar Chavez at 11:00 a.m. followed by a re-dedication of the library at noon. On October 10 there will be public tours of the new campus buildings at 1:00 p.m. followed by an ice cream social at 2:00 p.m. I hope everyone takes a few minutes to become familiar with our campus neighbors.

Upcoming meetings will have presentations around winterizing your homes and making them more energy efficient. SONA is about what you want in a neighborhood association; so don't hesitate to contact us. See you at the meetings.

Randi Kinman, President

GOOD NEIGHBOR CORNER

Sonya Paz's recent landscaping has created a beautiful addition to the neighborhood and has uncovered the street sign marking the intersection at Kingman and Richmond. Kids and adults alike have been entertained by dump trucks, cement mixing and placement of new trees. Thanks, Sonya for adding to the beauty of the neighborhood.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA—9/11

6:30 Snacks and Socializing

7:00 Welcome/Approval of Minutes

7:10 Treasurer's Report

7:15 Police Report

7:30 Santa Clara Co. Foster and Adoptive Parent Resource Center

7:50 Announcements

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 pm Meetings are held at the SOCC*.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11 6:30 SONA General Meeting (SOCC*)

13 Mayor's Volunteer Celebration

20 Coastal Clean Up Day

23 SONA Board Meeting (SOCC*)

24 PAC Meeting (tbd)

25 NAC Meeting (SOCC*)

27 Dumpster Day

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8 Safe Walk To School Day

8-10 City college open house and events

18 United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara

* Sherman Oaks Community Center
1800A Fruitdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
City Council Meetings: Tuesdays at 1:30 pm.
Evenings: 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday's.

SAFE WALK TO SCHOOL DAY - 10/8

While the parents in the neighborhood wish every day was designated as a safe walk to school day, the fact is that children in our neighborhood face challenges in their own daily commute to and from school. Our smallest children dodge cars in crosswalks (and sometimes fail) while the older ones hesitate to use bicycles to get to school.

Started as a way to encourage parents and kids to take the pedestrian route to school, the Safe Walk to School Day is an international program that picks one day a year to highlight the benefits and problems for school age children. This year's event is October 8, 2003.

This one day event is usually enhanced by an increase in police patrols around schools for that week. By cracking down on drivers around the schools it reminds everyone that they need to be more aware of the kids at back to school time.

The additional benefits of safe streets for kids are healthier kids and healthier neighborhoods. By walking to school each day, kids and their parents develop healthy patterns that combat childhood obesity and encourage daily physical activity. When parents walk their kids to school they get to know others in the neighborhood and become eyes and ears for everyone. In addition, our environment benefits when cars are taken off the road for these short trips and that means healthier air for everyone.

COASTAL CLEAN UP - 9/20

Saturday, September 20 is Coastal Clean Up Day in California. More than 552,000 Californians have collected 8.5 million pounds of debris since the event was started in 1985. In 1993 the event was called the "Largest Garbage Collection" by the Guinness World Book of Records.

In addition to cleaning up the coast, our local creeks and waterways also receive attention on this day. Numerous clean up sites are organized by the Creek Connections Action Group. The closest location this year is the Los Gatos Creek at Blackford Elementary School at 1970 Willow Street. For more information, contact site coordinator Susan Kusters at 408.718.3133. For general information, visit the website at www.clearacreek.org or contact Ed Morales at 408.265.2607 ext 2880.

For information on Coastal Clean Up Day visit the website at www.cleanup.org or call 800 COAST4U.

ACHIEVING APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT BY TAMIEN STATION

By Councilmember Ken Yeager

On Sept. 10, the San Jose Planning Commission is scheduled to hear a zoning application for two 11-story towers by the Tamien Station on Alma Street just east of Route 87. The City Council is tentatively scheduled to vote on the matter on Sept. 30. These critical votes will set a precedent for years to come as to the type of development that is suitable for residential areas. This topic should be of particular interest to Sherman Oaks residents because of the location of the proposed Fruitdale and Bascom Ave. light rail stations.

Although higher density housing is needed in the Tamien area because of its location near transit stations, for me the question is how much density can the area handle before creating a severe negative impact. I'm also concerned about whether the proposed project, named Tamien Place, is appropriate for the neighborhood, and what the traffic impact will be due to the lack of retail in the surrounding area.

First, some background. In 1995, the San Jose City Council created a Specific Plan that established the location, intensity, and character of land uses for the Tamien Area. Some of the larger parcels have familiar sounding names, like Alma Bowl, the Elk's Lodge, and Italian Gardens. Community members were involved in the process with many hearings held.

The study recommended a maximum number of 1,250 housing units for the Tamien area. This is quite dense, given the relatively low density in the Washington neighborhood and throughout most of San Jose. Community members accepted the plan because they understood the need for higher densities near transit corridors. The plan also identified the community's wish to receive more public amenities, like parks.

Since 1995, close to 600 units have already been approved for construction. When this number is added to the housing units either in application or anticipated at future housing sites, the total is over 1600 units. This number is far more than anticipated by the Specific Plan. I agree that the Alma Bowl site needs to be dense, but I question whether the height is imperative to meet our housing goals.

The Tamien Place project will harm the working class neighborhood that is just now beginning to improve. The surrounding area will gain nothing by having two glass and steel high-rises dropped right in the middle of it. The Washington and Goodyear-Mastic neighborhoods need housing that will enhance the area, not overshadow it. As currently designed, with one vehicular entrance, the project presents itself more as a private enclave, than as part of the existing neighborhood.

New parks for the Tamien area are a dream still many years from completion. As proposed, there is not enough money raised from parkland dedication fees to pay for a park. Moreover, fees raised from recent developments at Italian Gardens have gone for parks miles away and are no longer available for the Tamien Area. Even with the proposed density by the Tamien Place project, neighbors would receive few amenities.

There is little retail available in the area. Although Willow Street has some shops, for the most part there are few stores around. The absence of retail and services mean an increase in the number of trips that new residents will have to make. As only a small percentage of new residents will use mass transit to get to work and virtually none will use it for shopping, surrounding streets will become even more congested.

I believe that high-rise condominiums belong downtown. I find it ironic that the City is pushing high-rises outside of downtown at a time when only one high-rise residential development has been approved but none built. The City has spent millions on downtown redevelopment, infrastructure, and transportation. High-rises should be promoted downtown first.

Many neighbors and I support the concept of a "transit village" for the area. We believe the project should be mixed-use, pedestrian friendly, fit into the neighborhood, and be oriented toward transit. Neighbors have already agreed to support the necessary heights and density this would require as envisioned in the 1995 Tamien Area Specific plan, which is a maximum of 65 feet and 55 dwelling units per acre.

I encourage all San Joseans to become informed about this issue. The impact of the twin 11-story towers could have a long-term negative effect on our community. Feel free to call my office at 277-5166 to confirm the dates for the Planning Commission and City Council in case they should change.

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SONA's SILLY QUIZ FOR SEPTEMBER

"Name the first lighthouse to use electricity"

All correct answers turned in at the September 11 SONA meeting will be entered into a drawing to win a gift certificate from a local coffee shop.

The answer to last month's question: "Insomnia Cafe" was an alternate title considered for which NBC hit series? is Friends.

Thanks to all who participated.

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November Newsletter Ads and Copy due 10/21/03
December Newsletter Ads and Copy due 11/20/03
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