



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

January certainly flew by this year! For those of you who couldn't attend, our first meeting was full of useful information and ideas. We learned that there are many programs through PG&E that will assist low income seniors in replacing windows, appliances and heaters. We can all take advantage of the PG&E rebate program on everything from lightbulbs to refrigerators. San Jose PD chatted with us about local crime issues and we also learned how to look for contractors.

Our community center was full that night with 3 meetings going on at the same time, leading me to wonder just how much longer we're going to have to wait for a new center to be built. We live in the only district without a full service community center which means we must travel across town to find programs and services that others take for granted.

I hope you can all attend our February meeting when we will learn about the City's anti-littering and anti-graffiti programs. Learn how you can help make a difference in your neighborhood.

SONA is sponsoring a neighborhood wide garage sale and potluck day in May. Garage sales always generate more activity when multiple houses are involved, so this is your chance to get your spring cleaning done and trade treasures with your neighbors. Afterwards, you can join us in potlucks and parties. We have funds available to make this a great time for everyone. See article inside for details.

Elections are coming up in a few months and we're looking for volunteers to sit on our board. We also have room for volunteers to deliver newsletters, write articles or work on projects. See you at the meeting...Randi

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

February 10, 2005

6:30 P.M.

Snacks & Social

7:00 P. M.

Call to Order

Review Minutes

Treasurer Report

7:15 P. M.

Police Report

7:30 P. M.

Program:

Anti-Graffiti and

Littering Programs

8:00 P. M.

Announcements

Adjourn

SONA general meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1800A Fruitdale Ave. San Jose CA 95128

Good Neighbor Corner

Again, the good neighbor corner honors a number of people. To the 30 or more neighbors who turned out for the tree planting at Richmond/Menker on Saturday, January 15 2005 a huge thank you. 20 trees were planted in less than 3 hours! Trees were provided at no cost by Our City Forest .

Susan Price-Jang Resigns Board Position

Long time community leader Susan Price -Jang has resigned her position from the SONA board of directors. As with many of our community leaders, Susan just does not have enough hours in the day and did not feel she could continue to serve all parties without compromising some of her efforts and family life.

Susan currently works for the Sherman Oaks Community Charter School as a neighborhood advocate. This vital position brings resources, families, students and the school together in a number of ways. When not writing grant requests and scouting out new financial resources she can be found working with the kids or parents. Fluent in Spanish, she is able to direct parents to projects and programs that range from English classes to rent control mediation. She also spends many hours working with Second Harvest, a program that brings food to hundreds of our most needy local families each month.

Active in her church, Susan is also a member of People Acting in Community Together (P.A.C.T.), a city-wide faith based organization that takes the place of a PTA group at the school.

Susan's devotion to parks and recreational facilities has meant organizing street hockey games, participating in community outreach and helping to ensure the continuation of after school and summer programming for local youth. Working with the NAC she has chaired committees that have completed comprehensive asset mapping of our neighborhood and continue to push for a local full service community center.

Susan, her husband, son and foster son have lived in the neighborhood for many years. Susan was a member of the old Rose Glen Neighborhood Association and is a founding board member of SONA.

While she is resigning her board position, she promises we'll see her around the neighborhood as she continues to share her time and energy helping to make our neighborhood a better place for everyone.

The Board would like to thank Susan for her many years of service to our community and we hope that some day her schedule allows her to return to "active duty" on our board.

April Elections

Per our bylaws, elections for the board of director positions will be held in April at our general meeting. At this time we will also review bylaws and make changes as necessary. There are currently open seats on the board of directors which can be filled by vote of the board prior to April elections. By-laws changes should be submitted to any board member. A nominating committee is being formed and will be headed by Michael LaRocca. For more information contact any board member or Michael at the numbers listed below.

Randi Kinman, PRESIDENT	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Michael LaRocca, TREASURER	289.8449	mlroo1@yahoo.com
Sonya Paz, COMMUNICATIONS VP		sjsona@pacbell.net
Sheila Cvitanich HOSPITALITY VP	292.2690	
Dr. Charles Crowder, AREA CAPTAIN	287.2615	drcrowderhome@sbcglobal.net
Tommy Ellis, AREA CAPTAIN	388.2161	cassiesdad2003@yahoo.com
Mark Kovich, AREA CAPTAIN	295.7507	mark@sonyapaz.com
Carl Lindner, AREA CAPTAIN		
Jussi Rajna, AREA CAPTAIN	291.0202	jussi-sona@earthlink.net

The SONA newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman
SONA Website Administrator: Sonya Paz

San Jose Code Enforcement

SONA has received lots of calls lately that ask “What can I do about..” or “How do we get rid of..” Most of the times these questions should be directed to the Code Enforcement department for the City of San Jose.

Code Enforcement is responsible for making sure that everyone is living in a safe and secure manner. They handle everything from abandoned cars to sidewalk repairs, garbage cans left out, illegal dumping and other factors that contribute to blight in our neighborhoods. They also check regularly on apartments, conducting regular inspections to assure health and safety requirements are met.

When SONA receives complaints about barking dogs, excess noise, driveways with junk piled up and sidewalks that are blocked, we refer these complaints to Code Enforcement. Recent calls have reported bathtubs in front yards, graffiti, abandoned cars and refrigerators in front yards.

You can easily use the services of this department and all calls are confidential. If your neighbor is building an illegal rental unit, leaving garbage cans out all week or if you just have general questions, then you can rest assured that your call or complaint will never be revealed to your neighbor.

Code Enforcement conducts yearly “driveway sweeps” in some area of our neighborhoods, looking for obvious code violations. This doesn’t always, happen, however and they depend on citizens to call in when problems arise. They have no way of knowing where problems exist unless they receive a call and their office is “complaint driven”.

Many times people are afraid to call because they don’t want to make an uncomfortable situation worse, but if you don’t report problems, how will they get resolved?

CODE ENFORCEMENT: 408.277.4528

Newspaper Racks

At a recent SONA meeting, residents complained of losing money in news racks. News racks must have a permit to be legal and also have a contact number listed on the rack itself. If there is no number or contact, then call Code Enforcement as this may not be a legally placed rack.

Talk2sona

Join your neighbors at our online forum. We changed the address recently, but you can join us by emailing talk2sona@yahoogroups.com. It’s easy and puts you in touch with others who live and work in our neighborhood. Looking for a good place to eat? Lost your dog? Have questions about your neighborhood? This is your online location for these and other neighborhood issues.

Come One-Come All

Neighborhood Garage Sales & Block Party

Meet Your Neighbors

Review Traffic Calming Plans

High Five Program

Enjoy Food & Beverages or Just Hang Out

Saturday May 21, 2005

Garage Sale: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Block Party 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

1st Location: Randolph Drive, Rexford Way, Kingman Drive, Mansfield Drive, and Sherman Oaks Drive South of Fruitdale Avenue with block party on Mansfield between Randolph & Rexford

Join other SONA residents in our first area wide garage sale and block party event. Funds available for block party activities and advertising for the garage sales. Do your spring cleaning and take some time to get to know your neighbors. Open to all SONA residents.

For more information about hosting your own garage sale or block party contact SONA board members Michael LaRocca or Sheila Cvitanich.

Richmond Menker Improvement Project Honored

On February 9, 2005 the Richmond Menker Improvement Project will be presented by Councilman Ken Yeager as a highlight for Council District 6 during the annual Mayor's State of the City Address. This year's address will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the California Theater. Tickets are free and available through Council office or by contacting Erik Larsen at 858.8562.

Phase I of the physical improvements kicked off in Fall 2004, but it took years of work and planning to get to this point. Tenants of this area complained of poor living conditions in some of the units, along with illegal rent hikes imposed by several landlords. SONA neighbors were tired of the increase in traffic and littering due to over crowding and were concerned about the lack of play area for children. Many of the landlords were frustrated because it seemed every improvement they made was soon destroyed.

Everyone, including City officials, was concerned with the rise in home and auto burglaries, theft, graffiti and vandalism. There were a number of gang members who lived in the area or visited from outside, bringing with them more serious crimes and making it impossible for people to live peacefully.

Tenants stepped forward and, working with City officials, provided information that resulted in this area becoming a gang abatement zone. They then continued to meet, attend training sessions and workshops that helped them develop a strong network of neighbors.

SONA residents worked on bringing in enhanced streetsweeping, reporting all criminal activity and getting rid of abandoned cars. They successfully lobbied for after school and summer youth programs.

The landlords began meeting to join forces to address common problems. Working with many departments and a private design firm, Catalyst, they have developed a comprehensive multi-phase project that addresses safety issues while opening up secure play space and providing community gardens. They now share information on tenants and have agreed to joint maintenance of the grounds.

None of this would have been possible without the support of Councilman Ken Yeager, his staff and the staff of the Planning, City Attorney, Parks, Housing, Redevelopment, Our City Forest and Catalyst. The Burbank/Del Monte NAC has acted as an oversight group, coordinating these efforts and contributing \$250,000 in funding. San Jose City College helped removed boulders that were used as gang markers.

February-March 2005

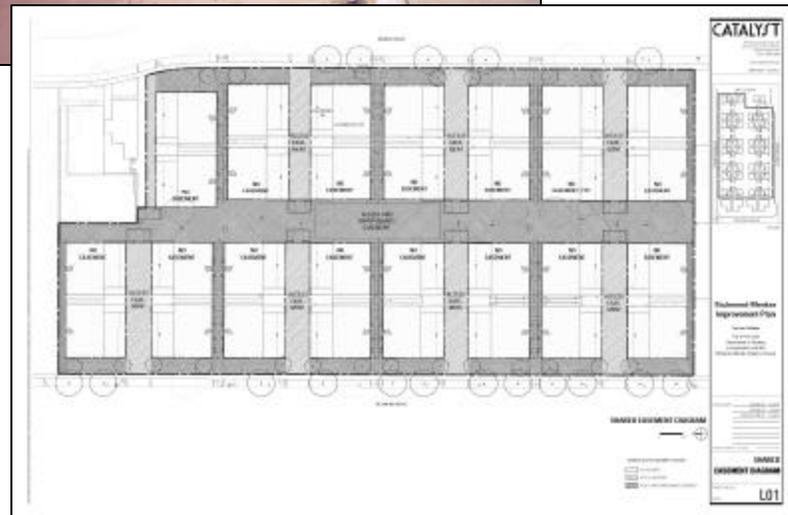
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

6 National Heart Health Month	7	8	9 State of the City Address 5:30pm	10 SONA General Mtg 6:30pm SOCCS	11	12 Lincoln's Birthdy
13	14 Valentine's Day Beginning of National Random Act of Kindness Week	15 SONA Board Mtg 7:00pm SOCCS	16	17 Street Sweeping Day..MOVE THOSE CARS!	18	19
20	21 President's Birthday Observed	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 NAC Mtg 6:30pm SOCCS	25	26
27 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 SONA General Mtg 6:30pm SOCCS	11	12



Tenants, SONA residents, Landlords and staff from Catalyst, Housing, Redevelopment, Planning, PRNS and Landgro on site of the Richmond Menker Improvement project in January 2005. Photo by Jeff Peters.

Preparation of new walkways above with finished product at right. Walkways will also have large cement planters placed on either side under windows for privacy.



Improvement project shows new paseos (walkways) between buildings. Dumpster areas at the end of each driveway will now be enclosed by brick walls that will prevent people from drive by dumping and add new recycling areas. Central mid block area will have a large central lawn area, community gardens, trees and a small rose garden. If funding becomes available, there will be two large barbeque areas installed on either side of the central lawn. The entire mid block area will be fenced with wrought iron and includes locked gates. This will help make the area more private and increase security.

Asbestos - What you should know!

Written by: Tommy Ellis

Greetings neighbors!! I thought this month I would discuss asbestos. Where it may be and what can be done if you have it.

Any structure built prior to 1980 probably contains or contained at least some material containing asbestos. Asbestos is a natural mineral fiber that was widely used in construction materials. It could be found in acoustical ceiling insulation (popcorn ceiling), drywall and joint compound, electrical insulation, pipe coverings, vinyl tiles, asphalt tiles, linoleum flooring, roofing and siding, mortar, bricks and the list goes on.

Exposure to asbestos can cause serious health risks, if it is not dealt with properly. Asbestos cannot simply be detected by sight or smell and the materials suspected of containing asbestos must be laboratory tested. It may sound like a major hassle to deal with, but the potential risk to your health is even greater. Exposure to asbestos can cause many different diseases, and you may not even showing symptoms for many years.

If you are planning any type of remodeling or renovation work and there is a concern that asbestos may be present, you should contact a licensed contractor who is also licensed for asbestos related work and registered with Cal/OSHA to test and if necessary remove the material(s) containing asbestos for any work that involves 100 or more square feet of asbestos containing material. An uncertified contractor can perform this work provided they file the proper forms with the State Agency DOSH and complete 40 hours of asbestos training.

There are exceptions to the rules but they are very limited and very specific. There are many agencies that can assist you if the need occurs. You can visit the web site of the Contractor's State License Board at www.cslb.ca.gov, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at www.cdc.gov/niosh or the Asbestos Consultant Certification Unit at www.dir.ca.gov.

I certainly do not want to unnecessarily alarm anyone, but you should at least know where to go and what to do if you are starting a project that may involve the disturbance of asbestos containing materials.

If you need additional help or resources, I would be more than happy to help. You can email me at tommyellis_hi@hotmail.com or call me at (408)388-2161.

I would also be interested in receiving feedback on the pieces I have submitted and any suggestions for future topics to cover.

SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

Tommy Ellis Construction
Complete Interior and Exterior Remodeling

Tommy Ellis
Owner/General Contractor

772 College Drive
San Jose, CA 95128

Phone: 408-771-8446
Email: tommyellis_hi@hotmail.com
CA Lic. # 847639

Real Estate Needs?

Harvey Yamanaka
A Professional Approach to Real Estate

- Since 1987
- Complimentary Market Analysis

For Your Home




RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

408.861-8878 Direct hyamanaka@cbnorcal.com
866.755-4977 Toll Free www.harveyyamanaka.com

KUYKENDALL ELECTRIC

CA LIC. NO. 794798
2795 CHENEY DRIVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95128

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR
LICENSED AND BONDED
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL
"ANYTHING ELECTRICAL"

ALAN KUYKENDALL (650) 255-9222
OWNER (408) 275-6447

ADVERTISE HERE
FOR \$125 PER YEAR!
HAND DELIVERED ADVERTISING
TO ALMOST 1500
LOCAL RESIDENCES!

Insert prices available.
Seasonal rates Available.

For more information contact any SONA board member listed
on page 2 or visit our website www.sona-sj.com

\$2 Off Your Next Haircut

Regular Price \$13, Children/Seniors \$11

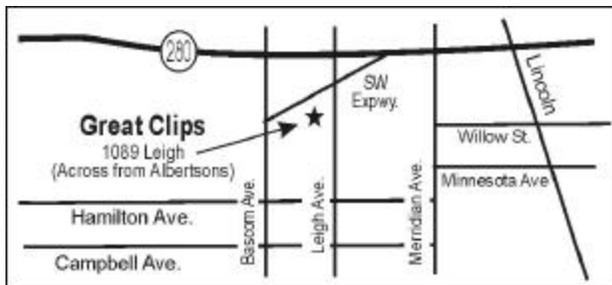


Sherman Oaks Resident Special

Valid only at Great Clips At 1089 Leigh Avenue

(408) 298-8685

Expires March 31, 2005. Not Valid with any other offer.



Egil Tax & Notary Services



Larry Olsen, M.B.A.
Deborah Cherkas, Notary Public

(408) 293-1752 (Phone & Fax)
egilas@sbcglobal.net

Tax preparation Mobile Notary Business Valuations Asset Appraisals