



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## Meeting Notes

*Well, it's another year and SONA has certainly been busy. Members have worked on a number of committees, including traffic calming, dumpster days, parks issues, school issues and so much more. It only takes a few hours and a few people to really make a difference in our neighborhood.*

*Our local charter school, Sherman Oaks Community Charter School, has an award winning after school program that needs your help. If you can spare one or two hours in the afternoon on a periodic basis, you can help raise the literacy rates of the children at this school. Students are mastering both English and Spanish and can always use another friendly face from the neighborhood.*

*SONA residents and tenants at Richmond/Menker have combined forces to work on traffic calming and safe pedestrian access at the Leigh/Kingman intersection. They have brought this issue to the Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee and formed a working group to address this problem. They will be meeting on December 1 with representatives from the Department of Transportation then bringing recommendations to another full meeting in January on SONA's regularly scheduled night. Thanks to the City's SNI project, we have interpreters available. Traffic safety is a major concern to all residents of the neighborhood and it is rewarding to see all parties working together to resolve the problems.*

*No meeting in December means we're on hiatus, but board members are always available to answer questions. We wish you safe and happy holidays...see you next year....Randi*

## AGENDA

### SONA GENERAL MEETING

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

**No December meeting!  
Happy Holidays  
See you in 2006!**

Our January meeting will be a joint meeting with the Burbank Del Monte NAC subcommittee on traffic calming around the Leigh/Kingman intersection. Neighbors have requested a traffic signal at this intersection.

## Good Neighbor Corner

Thanks to the neighbors who made the calls and Code Enforcement for following up on the litter and garbage issues at the old K-Mart site (Fruitdale Station development). The sign was torn down years ago and the litter has accumulated for years and neighbors finally got tired of it and brought the City into the picture. In just a few weeks the most unsightly corner of our neighborhood was cleaned up. Thanks neighbors and thanks Code Enforcement!

## Notes and News...

SJPD reports that things are much quieter these days. While being the victim of a crime is always difficult, our neighborhood is not overrun with criminal activities right now. Remember to report all crimes (even small ones that are more pesky than scary) to SJPD.

Recent reports of transients sleeping in the bushes at Sherman Oaks School have been reported to SJPD. A teacher taking her class outside discovered two people "sleeping it off" under the play equipment last month, also. When SJPD does a sweep of transients in one area, they move to another, so make sure you report any problems. We don't want people taking up "winter residence" in our neighborhood schools.

For parents and guests at Sherman Oaks School and Sherman Oaks Community Center, there is a new parking lot enforcement program. You can no longer park in red zones or the fire lanes without risking being towed. Since it will cost you about \$200 for the first day of towing, and since your car can be sold after 10 days, it's not worth the risk. Park a little farther away and walk.

Code Enforcement has been doing sweeps in our area, so some of you may be receiving some friendly reminder calls about violations that can be seen from the street.

SJPD will also be out checking on speeders, so watch your speed on our neighborhood streets. It's safer if you drive slower...and it's the law.

## Neither Rain, nor Snow...

OK, we really don't have snow and sleet and our rain hasn't been bad yet, and we do not expect them to deliver during dark of night, but our newsletter delivery people do a great job getting the SONA newsletter to you each and every month. Led by Sheila Cvitanich, our delivery people walk door to door each month bringing you news of the neighborhood. If you see a name you recognize, then thank one of the carriers listed below who volunteer their time each and every month:

Bill Bailey  
Carol Cooper  
Charles Crowder  
Sheila Cvitanich  
Brian Cvitanich  
Joel Cvitanich  
Jack Ford  
Sal LaBarbera  
Michael LaRocca  
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### PRESIDENT

#### ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Michael LaRocca, TREASURER	289.8449	mlroo1@yahoo.com
Sheila Cvitanich HOSPITALITY VP	292.2690	
Randi Kinman, Communications VP	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Dr. Charles Crowder, AREA CAPTAIN	287.2615	drcrowderhome@sbcglobal.net
Carl Lindner, AREA CAPTAIN		
Jussi Rajna, AREA CAPTAIN	291.0202	jussi-sona@earthlink.net
Website	www.sona-sj.com	
Online Chat/Info	talk2sona@yahoogroups.com	

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

# Disaster Preparedness

Our November speaker, Robert Steinberg, from the Office of Emergency Services, brought lots of great materials to take home and answered numerous questions from the audience. The OES is responsible for helping to coordinate emergency response measures in San Jose and provides neighborhood training. If you think about what happened during hurricane Katrina, it is obvious that in case of a disaster, you may be on your own for up to a week. Wouldn't it be better if you were prepared?

While the Federal emphasis has been focusing on terrorism, Mr. Steinberg pointed out that the home preparation is the same as what you should be doing for earthquakes. A terrorist attack is unlikely in this area, but an earthquake is a certainty. San Jose is prepared to evacuate the city, repair infrastructure and work with agencies throughout the Bay Area. In an emergency, however, the first response teams go where there is the highest damage and the easiest access. Phone systems will most likely be down, including cell phones. Because emergency agencies need the cell phone coverage, providers may cut service to allow those agencies the access they need to provide services.

There are some immediate steps you can take right now to prepare your household:

- Make sure your chimney is secured; most homes in this area are older and the mortar is beginning to weaken or degrade.
- Make sure your water heater is strapped down appropriately.
- Move anything that is above your bed; do you want it falling on you in an earthquake? Also, look around your room for anything that will become airborne in a big quake.
- The number one injury after an earthquake comes from stepping on broken glass. Keep an emergency kit with a flashlight and shoes under your bed.
- Start an emergency food and medicine kit with what's already in your cupboards. Do a little extra shopping each time and stockpile enough for at least 72 hours and build up to a week's supply. Rotate your food and water. Make sure you store extra blankets and clothes for each person.
- Make sure all heavy furniture and appliances are secured. You can keep smaller items such as vases on shelves with a small piece of Quake Hold (available at drug stores and hardware stores).
- Make copies of driver's licenses, birth certificates, etc. and keep them in a safe place. Keep a running list of all medications for all people and pets in the household.
- Ammonia and bleach are deadly if mixed; store them in separate secure areas.
- Make a family plan, discuss it and practice it.
- Become part of the neighborhood response team. There are classes held by the City of San Jose that are FEMA approved that will train you and your neighbors in everything from basic medical response to using fire extinguishers. You can find out more by calling San Jose *PREPARED!* at 408.277.4598 or e-mail [sjprepared@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:sjprepared@sanjoseca.gov).

## SONA Permit Parking

The permit parking that was voted on and approved must go before San Jose City Council for final approval. This is tentatively scheduled for the December 13, 2005 meeting, but may get pushed to January. SONA residents want to see this as soon as possible so it will be in effect for the next school term.

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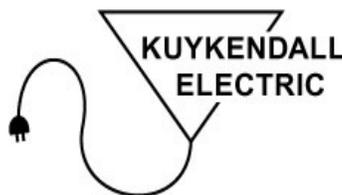
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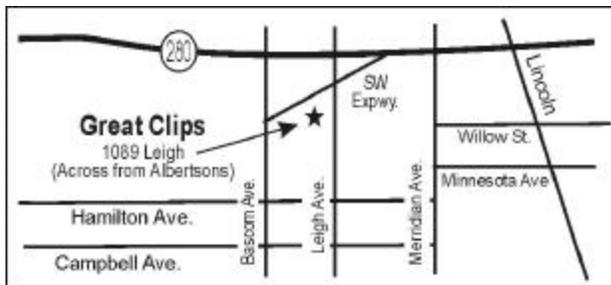


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