



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Meeting Notes

Welcome to Spring and to our newly elected Board of Directors headed by incoming President Michael LaRocca. SONA members and the board look forward to meeting more residents over the course of the year.

For those of you who haven't attended before, this is an easy way of bringing your family to a casual meeting and getting to know some of the neighbors who live close by. If you are having problems, have questions or want to know "Why is it that.." then this is your place. We meet at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month and socialize for about 30 minutes. Then we welcome people and have a brief report from San Jose Police Department. SJPD keeps us briefed on current issues and will also address any complaints you may have. After that, our program varies, but is always in response to requests from the neighborhood. After every meeting you'll find people chatting and socializing, getting caught up on the latest goings on in the neighborhood and getting to know each other.

Join us this month for SJ's Street Smarts Program (see inside for details). Next month we will have a program on recycling. Based on the fact our recycling bills are going up in part due to the fact we are mixing up what should be in our bins, this is a timely meeting. If you have items you question (is it garbage or recycling), bring them along and get that question answered once and for all. In June or July we're going to have an ice cream social meeting at O'Connor Park with several other neighborhoods. O'Connor Park is where the old Saddle Rack site was and sits across a portion of what used to be Auzerais. Since the park has a multi-age playground there will be plenty for the kids to do that afternoon. Restrooms will be available.

AGENDA

**SONA GENERAL
MEETING
May 11, 2006**

6:30 p.m.

**Coffee and
Socializing**

7:00 p.m.

Welcome

7:05 p.m.

SJPD

7:20 p.m.

Street Smarts

NOTE: The meeting starts early this month to accommodate the program and to allow you to sign up.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave. SJ CA 95128

Good Neighbor Corner

Jim Jr. & Jim Sr. Dressbach are being nominated by **Rick Smith** this month for the good neighbor award. A disabled neighbor couldn't mow his lawn and was threatened with a fine so they took it upon themselves to take care of it. This shows how much easier things can be if we look out for each other. Look around and see if your help is needed...and thanks Dressbachs for being great neighbors.

Notes and News

Congratulations to our new board. As always, our volunteer board members are ready to listen to you. You can find the list of board members below.

There have been several complaints around the neighborhood about gypsy yard workers **dumping green waste in front of houses**. They often do this at night on weekends but have also been doing this in broad daylight during the week. This is illegal dumping and if you see anybody dumping trimmings, debris or other green matter, take down the license number and call 311. These activities need to be reported.

Since it's a wet spring following a wet winter, tree trimming is just now starting up. Remember, you are not allowed to take large trees down without permits. If you see a tree being taken down that exceeds 56" around, there should be a permit for this removal. Illegal removals should be reported to 311. You can also take pictures of the trimmings or activity for reporting.

The **permit parking** process on the south side of San Jose City College is just now moving forward but should be done by the end of May. If you live over there, make sure you review the permit requirements.

Supervisor Jim Beall's annual Free Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, May 13 from 8:30-10:30am at the Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Ave, 95118. For info or to RSVP, call 299-5040.

The County Supervisor Race is beginning to come to a boil. If you haven't had a chance to hear all of the candidates, you can attend the **Saturday, May 20** forum at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. This event is sponsored by the Burbank Community Association, Shasta/Hanchett NA and SONA and

runs from 10am-2pm. You can listen to Ken Yeager, Linda LeZotte and Patricia Mahan and there will be time for direct questions.

Did you all notice the **new bus shelter** on the traffic island at Southwest and Fruitdale? This new shelter is there because SONA residents asked for the bus stop to be moved and then lobbied for a shelter to protect users. Thanks SONA members and VTA for this project.

Save **May 6** for the grand opening of the West Side Community Center and Community Policing Center. Program runs from 1-3pm at 3707 Williams Road. For more info call 535-4901

More than 60 residents turned out for the community meeting on Monday, April 24 at Del Mar High School to discuss the new **community center and library on Bascom Avenue**. Residents asked for many amenities and programs to serve our needs. This was the first of numerous community meetings to discuss everything from building design to programming. If you want to learn more, or have suggestions for this project contact any of our board members or you can call our District 6 council offices at 535-4906.

Prior to going to press there were no new updates on the **Fruitdale Station (K-Mart)** site. The hearing before Council is set for 5/16. Planning Staff recommended that the Planning Commission turn down the request for a new **liquor store on Bascom Avenue**, and the Commission agreed. If you have questions, contact either Michael or Randi.

Cpt. Fairchild reminds us that spring is here. With more people out and about we need to keep an eye on the neighborhood and watch for all illegal activity. Report anything suspicious to 311.

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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

Street Smarts

Street Smarts is a traffic calming program from the City of San Jose Department of Transportation. They will be presenting their program to us at the May 2006 meeting in response to residents' concerns about traffic safety in our neighborhood.

THE PROGRAM

STREET SMARTS will get people thinking
STREET SMARTS addresses problems at the source: In the minds of drivers, pedestrians and cyclists

The following behaviors have been identified as most urgent and will be addressed by the STREET SMARTS program:

- Speeding
- Red light running
- Stop sign non-compliance
- School zone speeding
- Crosswalk safety & compliance

SONA residents can help make our neighborhood safer by learning about the Street Smarts program and volunteering to help pass out literature in our neighborhood. Safer streets are one of the top priorities for SONA residents.

Our neighborhood has a high number of pedestrians of all ages along with bicyclists and auto drivers all trying to use the same streets at the same time to get to school and work. The Street Smarts Program will help us understand how to do this in a safer manner. Like any other program, success requires participation of the residents. Join us in helping to make our neighborhood a safer place for everyone. If you have specific problems to discuss, this is the time.

Neighborhood Problems

There are right ways and wrong ways to handle neighborhood problems. Unfortunately, there have been several instances lately of people handling things the wrong way...handling problems in a way that creates more problems.

The right way to handle a problem is to first try to talk to your neighbor. You can do this in a friendly, non-confrontational manner. "I'm concerned about your dog's health because it barks all day" works much better than yelling. Knocking on the door and saying "I noticed your lawn hasn't been mowed, can I help?" is a friendly way to remind your neighbor it needs to be done while opening the door to assist them.

If you are uncomfortable about contacting your neighbor, you can call any SONA board member and we can assist you. We will listen to your complaint, contact your neighbor for you or help file an appropriate complaint. It may turn out that your neighbors may be elderly, disabled or for some other reason unable to address a problem. SONA can help them.

You may also find out you are wrong about the situation. You may not like your neighbor's landscaping (and weeds count as landscaping), but they might be legal. You may not like where they park their cars, but the street doesn't belong to you; they can park in front of your house anytime they want as long as it hasn't been more than 72 hours.

What is not acceptable is the recent incidents of anonymous letters or phone calls. Some of these actions were just mean spirited. Instead of shaming people into complying with perceived standards, neighbors were hurt and angry...and so were the people who live around them.

SONA will not support or act upon anonymous complaints. We can keep your complaint confidential, but we must know with whom we are working. If you think there's a problem, give us a call before you do or say something you might regret.

San Jose Prepared!

Community Emergency Response Team Training

The next C.E.R.T. training begins on Saturday, May 6 and will run for five weeks. You can learn how to prepare your home and neighborhood for an emergency through the four hour sessions. You will also learn fire suppression techniques, disaster medicine and psychology, light search and rescue and terrorism awareness. Graduates receive a certificate, hard hat, identification vest and waist pack that are recognized by disaster response teams. Modules 1-4 are \$10 each with the fifth one free. Classes will be held at 855 N. San Pedro Street, SJ 95110 and you must register in advance. You must be 18 years or older to attend. This is your opportunity to learn how to prepare yourself and your neighborhood for disasters and become part of San Jose's response teams.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is neighbors like you building a strong and safe community.

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1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

Help Reduce Lightrail Noise !

Can you spare a few hours one Saturday to help us plant some trees? One of our neighbors on Cheney Drive is negotiating with Del Mar High School to plant some trees on school property. We need volunteers to help plant the trees! As mentioned in the January 2004 SONA newsletter, Our City Forest will supply trees free of charge. This will help reduce noise generated by the light rail line. All we need are volunteers! Make this a fun family event. If interested, please call Laura at 298-1304.

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