



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

Hello SONA Residents,

With the summer in full swing and temperatures reaching triple digits during the last month, it's time for us to take it easy and not over exert ourselves. Take in plenty of fluids and stay out of the direct sun when those temperatures are extremely higher than normal. When possible take advantage of a cool and air conditioned place. August and September will bring us the end of summer. Things to be aware of are schools will starting their fall terms, people will returning from summer vacation and there will increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic, so please pay attention to your surrounding.

Like many of you, I took some time off to visit family this summer by taking an extended road trip of almost 5000 miles. We had a good time and took in parts of our country that I had never seen before. I owe a special thanks to my neighbors who picked up mail, cared for the cat, tended to the garden, watered plants, and keep an eye on our home while Mary Kay and I were gone.

Our upcoming general meetings should have something of interest for everyone. We will have a presentation on Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. There will be discussions on the latest planning and land use issues that affect our neighborhood. In October we will have representatives from San Jose City College giving us an update on their Capital Improvement Program. For our November meeting we will be inviting Dr. Julie Henderson, Principal of Sherman Oaks Community Charter School to join us and give us an opportunity to learn more about their wonderful educational program.

If you have suggestions for future meetings, give me a call or drop me a line.

As always, our goal is to be available to you and to help each other make our neighborhood a great place to live and work. **Michael**

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday

August 10, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Refreshments and Meet the Neighbors

7:00 p.m.

Welcome

Bylaws Changes

7:10 p.m.

SJPD (if available)

7: 20 p.m.

**Kary Houle, Education Coordinator
Guadalupe River
Parks & Gardens**

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

A blanket thank you to all the neighbors looking out for homes, gardens and pets while others are on vacation. SONA has received several anonymous calls in the last few weeks. Thanks to all of you for making our neighborhood a great place...see you at the meeting.

Notes and News

A general warning that summer brings more “gypsy” repair and yard work people around the ‘hood. No, they’re not real gypsies, they’re those fly by night people who claim to be contractors who knock on your door offering you services at a great price. There have been several complaints, especially about yard work, recently. Remember, any work over \$500 requires a contractor’s license. Just because someone shows you a card with a license number on it, that doesn’t make them legit. Check on their license, and if they claim to be tree cutters, check with the city because all arborists must be approved. If they tell you they’ve got some free time and can only offer you a deal if they do the job now, you can bet they aren’t legitimate. Call 311 and report them as suspicious people and do not risk your property or your life.

SONA residents **Susan Price-Jang, Mark Kovich** and **Randi Kinman** attended a dinner on July 19, 2006 hosted by the Neighborhood Housing Services. This first time event honored people in the SNI neighborhoods who have contributed to the livability of our neighborhoods. **Mark** received an award for his annual police barbeque which allows him to personally thank SJPd for their work in our area. **Leonardo Palacio**, president of **MIRA** did not attend that evening, but was also honored for his work in organizing the Richmond Menker tenants and working hard over the years to build relationships through gardening and annual events like the Christmas Posada and the spring Dia Del Nino. **MIRA** recently raised \$800 at a car wash for future projects. **Erik Larsen**, our former SNI community coordinator received a special award from SJPd for his efforts at organizing and enhancing communities. **Neighborhood Housing Services** has many programs that help build better neighborhoods through training and education and helps low income families move into and purchase affordable housing.

Too hot at your house? The City of San Jose has been operating extended hours at several centers. Older adults and small children are susceptible to the heat; for that matter, after a week of high 90’s or triple digit weather, we all could use a cool down. There are several centers that are fairly close by and are the haven you’re looking for. Try the Willows Senior Center (448-6400), Camden Community Center (559-8553) or the Gardner Community Center (277-4761). Many of our libraries, including the Rosegarden Library (808-3070) are open daily into the evening hours. Take a break; your taxes paid for these buildings and you should use them. Make sure you are keeping hydrated and keep an eye on your pets. If rolling blackouts occur, make sure you have one of the cheap, old style phones available because the new ones that require electricity won’t work.

Speaking of pets, several people have left for the weekend and left dogs behind. While your dog may not be noisy when you’re home, SONA has received numerous complaints around the neighborhood. Your neighbors don’t want to call in the officials, but aren’t willing to have their weekends ruined as they listen to your pet and wonder whether it has food and water. If you’ve left lately, go knock on your neighbors door and see how your pet behaved while you were gone. If your pet is stressed, wouldn’t you like to know? Please don’t assume Fido or Fifi is doing well in your absence.

Our **August Meeting** will include some minor bylaws changes; we will provide copies of changes in writing at the meeting. Also, our guest speaker will inform us of the many wonderful features of **Guadalupe River Park & Gardens**. This incredible public venue has 2.6 miles of trails, heritage fruit trees, playgrounds, educational facilities, 15000 trees and 3700 varieties of roses all within an easy commute of everyone in San Jose.

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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

Question of the month: What is blight?

By Susan Price-Jang

The City has been receiving a numbers of calls about blight in our neighborhood. However, what one individual may call blight might actually not meet the City's legal definition. The City defines blight as the following:

- Vehicles parked on the lawn (unless you are washing the car.).
- Indoor furniture (e.g., sofas, recliners, day beds, etc.) in the front yard or porch.
- Graffiti
- Commercial vehicles over 10,000 pounds (when empty) parked in residential areas.
- Junk stored in the front yard or porch, or visible from the sidewalk in front of the house.
- Junk cars in driveways (If the vehicle is operable, it is not junk no matter how bad it looks. Inoperable means flat tires, missing parts, broken lights, etc. Current registration is not required.)
- Overgrown or non-landscaped yards (crushed or pebble rock is considered landscaping. No yards of bare dirt allowed or with lots of tall weeds. Keep vegetation along sidewalk trimmed – It must not intrude more than 12 inches on to sidewalk.)
- Trash and Recycle bins left at curb for more than 24 hours after collection or in front of the house and visible from the curb. (Place at side of house or behind a closed gate.)
- Abandoned shopping carts.
- Cars parked on the street for more than 72 hours in same place.
- Appliances in front of house – unsecured refrigerators are dangerous to children.
- Camper shells left in any area visible from the street. Nothing parked with stilts is allowed.
- Yard waste put out more than 24 hours in advance of collection. Keep piles to 5' x 5' x 5' or less. Please place YOUR yard waste in front of YOUR house.
- Vehicles and boats obstructing sidewalk. (They must be on a paved surface - driveway is okay.)

More odd bits of info: New construction or remodeling projects must have City permits. Painted surfaces must not be peeling and exposing wood. Fences should not be about to fall over. No standing water even in the plates under flower pots (think mosquitoes and West Nile virus).

Just because something is ugly in someone's opinion does not necessarily mean it meets the legal definition of blight. If the problem does not fit the descriptions above, Code Enforcement can do nothing.

Actually, our neighborhood has made a lot of improvement in the past few years since drive-by inspections started in Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) areas. There are fewer abandoned cars, fewer weeds, more flowers, and lots of houses improved. Rejoice!

	
	Home VALUES are UP... Care to know Yours?
	Call Me...
	Marlene Bird
	408-491-1627
	1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125
	

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead - formula for changing the world

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

SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

EMAIL TO THE PRESIDENT

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREVENT VANDALIZATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD PROPERTY

Summer is here and with it comes the favorite pastime of spraying graffiti on private property. Persons engaging in this illegal activity are known as Taggers. Taggers are mostly young adults and teens living in your neighborhood. The City of San Jose municipal code states that the parent or guardian of a minor is responsible for the cost of removal of the graffiti, law enforcement expenses, administrative expenses, related court costs and attorneys' fees.

What can parents do to prevent this vandalism? Talk to your children. Let them know you disapprove. Ask them not to hang with friends that vandalize their neighbors' property.

Defacing private property has become a weekly occurrence along Kingman Ave, and I am sure in other parts of our community. Neighbors need to keep a watch out for criminal activities and report graffiti to the Anti-Graffiti Hotline at 277-2758.

Note: Letters or comments to the editor/president reflect the views of the writer. They do not necessarily reflect views, opinions or policies of SONA. SONA welcomes contributions to the newsletter and will continue to publish your view point on a space available basis.

editor



Nicole Morrella

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

San Jose City College Police Department

The San Jose/Evergreen College District has a police department acting as security for the campus.

Hours of availability and contact numbers are listed below. If an incident happens outside these hours, call San Jose PD.

7am-3pm Mon-Fri	288-3735
7am-3pm Mon-Fri,Sat	270-6468
3pm-11pm Mon-Sat	270-6468
7am-3pm Sun	270-6468