



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

I am proud to announce that SONA residents have decided to work together to resolve parking problems in the area bordered by Fruitdale, Southwest Expressway, Moorpark and Leigh. Rather than discuss a solution good for just one street in the neighborhood, a comprehensive plan will be discussed and designed at upcoming public meetings beginning in July. It would be easy to “fix” the problem of overflow parking on College or Kingman, but that will only push the problem onto another neighboring street if we all don’t work together. Join us early at our July meeting to discuss this problem with our Councilmember, Pierluigi Oliverio, his staff and staff from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Even if you don’t live in this part of our neighborhood, this is your chance to take part in the process and to learn how we might resolve problems in your area.

San Jose Medical Center closed it’s doors downtown several years ago. This transferred emergency care patients to various hospitals locally, including Valley Medical Center and O’Connor Hospital locally. How does this affect us long run and how does this affect our rapidly growing downtown neighborhoods? Come find out when Roz Dean from the Coalition for a Downtown Hospital gives us an update on this situation.

Upcoming SONA meetings will be diverse and interesting. Following our July meeting we will celebrate National Night Out in August. Volunteers and ideas for activities are still needed. In September our program will be The Climate Project “Realities of Global Warming”. In October we will have a home and family workshop on Emergency Preparedness and November will be an end of the year potluck.

See you at the meetings...*Michael*

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday
July 12, 2007

****Note Early Start Time****

6:00 p.m. - 7:00p.m.

Traffic and Parking Forum

7:00 p.m.

Break and Coffee

7:15p.m.

Announcements

SJPD

General Meeting

How Lack of a Downtown Hospital Affects our Neighborhood

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

It takes many hands, many hours and many meetings often to make things happen. Because neighbors were active, our community will have local swimming pools and safe centers to stay cool this summer. Because neighbors have been willing to work together, we are developing a comprehensive system to make sure our streets are safe. Many neighbors do little things daily to help each other out. One neighbor, for instance, tosses our newspapers up to the doors every morning. Thanks to all of you who are making our neighborhood a better place.

Notes and News

Dr. Charles Crowder has started a **walking group** on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 8am. Walking is one of the most effective ways to get in shape and will be made more enjoyable when you join your neighbors. Walkers will meet at 821 Goodwin Avenue at 7:55am and leave for a 30 minute walk at 8am sharp. For more information contact Dr. Crowder at 287.2615 or email him at drcrowderdc@sbcglobal.net.



Bark in the Park 2007
 Saturday, September 15, 2007
 William Street Park, San Jose, CA

SONA has received a Community Action and Pride Grant from the City of San Jose to hold our annual **National Night Out** celebration in August. We need your help. You can help arrange food, entertainment, displays or join the set up/tear down committee. Do you have interesting ideas that would be fun for others? Any particular activities you look forward to? Contact Michael LaRocca for more information.

Here is your opportunity to share another great day in San Jose with over 3,500 dogs and 14,000 dog lovers like you! Sponsored by the Naglee Park Campus Community Association from 10am-5pm this event benefits their association and the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. This is one event where dogs rule, featuring dozens of vendors, rescue groups, misters and wading pools for pets, exhibitions and herding demonstrations. Everyone has an incredibly fun time. Even if you aren't a canine caretaker this is one event that is too fun to miss. Bark in the Park has grown from a neighborhood dog festival into one of the most popular dog festivals in California. For information contact Ken Podgorsek at 408.793.5125 or BigDog@BarkSanJose.org

Looking for information on jobs, housing assistance, mental health referrals, drug and alcohol counseling or other social services? Want to volunteer your services for an hour or so? Need help with aging family members who want to remain independent? **Dial 211 for resources on just about any issue.**

Community Swimming will be available this summer at Del Mar High School and Willow Glen Middle School thanks to intense community lobbying efforts. Many thanks to those who made this work. See the flyer inserts.

Vasona Vibrations. Come to Vasona Lake County Park to hear folk, bluegrass, Americana, and big band tunes from local bands. Performers include The Bird Dogs, The Mighty Avalanche Choir, Leanne Weatherly Band, and the San Jose Metropolitan Band.

New and Renewing Members The following people deserve thanks for paying \$12 yearly dues as new or renewing member or as funding donors for SONA activities: Bill and Rena Bailey, Nick and Marla Bressani, and the Chris Burwell Family.

When: Saturdays in June and July from 5-7 p.m.
Where: Vasona Lake County Park, enter off University Avenue in Los Gatos
More Information: Visit www.southbayfolks.org/vasona or call 354-2608. Ride light rail into Campbell and take the free shuttle.

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Website	www.sona-sj.com	

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. It is partially funded by a City of San Jose CAP Grant. 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

Summer Water Around the Home

With a less than stellar rainy season we are faced with a conflict: How do we conserve water while making sure we don't lose valuable landscaping and without severe personal cutbacks? You can cut your water consumption without depriving either yourself or your yard. It's not that hard to cut your home water consumption by 10% or more. This saves money and water now and will help avoid mandatory cut backs later.

- ⇒ **Water Wisely.** Do not water during the day at all. This will ensure your water doesn't evaporate. To avoid disease problems related to mildew and to discourage the local raccoons, water in the early hours of the morning. If your landscaping is on timers, set it for the hours between midnight and 6am. You will get more bang for your watering buck this way. Water lawns no more frequently than every 3rd day.
- ⇒ **Water Deeper, not More Often.** You will develop a deeper root system in your plants. Rather than watering your lawn every couple of days, water longer and less frequently.
- ⇒ **Deep Water and Mulch Trees to Avoid Stress.** Invest in a soaker hose for the base of trees. Trees are nature's water tank and will store lots of water, but the root system needs to have deep, healthy drinks, not shallow sips of water. Arborists will tell you that those very mature pines in our neighborhood need at least 12 hours of slow watering once a week or the root systems will start to rise and the tree will become stressed. Set the soaker hoses under a deep pile of mulch. This will protect the top layers of soil from drying out. Mulch should be away from the trunk and can extend to the drip line. This is an excellent use for your lawn clippings.
- ⇒ **Mulch, Mulch, Mulch.** All flower and vegetable beds and any landscaped areas will benefit from mulching. This protects and cools root system, deters weeds and makes the water you do use go farther. Most of what you trim, cut or mow from the plants and lawn in your yard can easily be turned into mulch. This also recycles your yard waste and provides your plants with healthy nutrients. Mulching results in far less use of chemicals. You can also buy sterilized mulch at any garden or hardware store.
- ⇒ **Take Advantage of Water Monitoring Programs.** If you want an expert to review your home's water use, you can contact the Santa Clara Valley Water District and take advantage of the **Water-Wise Housecall Program**. By calling 279-7900 you can have a pro come to your home and assess your water use. You may even be eligible for up to \$1000 in rebates for irrigation upgrades, \$150 rebates for new washing machines and \$125 rebates for new toilets. Your new irrigation alone could save you up to 80% of the water you are using.
- ⇒ **Use Less Water in Your Shower.** You don't even have to change your habits. You can get a free shower head or aerator that will allow you to save 20 gallons of water each day! This program is offered by calling the **Water Conservation Hotline** at 265-2607. They also have toilet leak detection tablets that quickly assess any problems.
- ⇒ **Get Paid to Re-Landscape Your Home or Business.** You can receive up to \$10,000 or \$75/100sq ft (whichever is less) in rebates for installing drought tolerant landscape if you are in the County of Santa Clara through the Water Efficient Landscape Rebate Program (WELRP). For more information, contact Kurt Elvert at 265-2607 ext 2205.
- ⇒ **Run Full Loads.** Whether washing laundry or dishes, always run full loads. No excuses, just let the machines fill up before turning them on.
- ⇒ **Stop the Leaks.** A dripping faucet, dripping sprinkler heads, leaky hand held nozzles all waste water. Check the direction of your sprinkler heads and make sure they aren't directed to sidewalks or driveways. Save those gallons by repairing or replacing.
- ⇒ **Use Your Broom.** Sweep sidewalks and patios off instead of using your hose.
- ⇒ **Use the Shutoff Button.** When hand watering or washing your car, shut off the water if you don't need it running. How many times have you seen water running down the street when your neighbor is washing vehicles?
- ⇒ **Remodel Responsibly.** Driveways, patios and walkways are wonderful amenities but they also encourage water run off. When you are planning a yard remodel, try to use the most pervious (or porous) materials available. Cluster plants that are drought tolerant away from plants and trees that need more water. Plan wisely and reap the rewards of water savings.

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Save the Date

Saturday Farmer's Market is back on The Alameda. From 8:30am-12:30pm you can join others in purchasing farm fresh produce, cheese and seasonal fish at the public parking lot next to Peets Coffee and Tea at 1345 The Alameda. A kids jump house is available. Every last Saturday of the month will be a different festival (music, drums, dancing, etc.) There is also a Farmers Market in Willow Glen behind the old theater that runs every Saturday, allowing you a choice of local markets.

Saturday, July 21 2-5pm is the last open house for local fire stations. Join neighbors at Fire Station #6, 1366 Cherry Ave. at Minnesota. Visiting a fire station is fun for the entire family but it can also be a life saving experience. Learn about the importance of fire alarms, exit drills and other subject.

October 27 is the Family Health & Resources Fair sponsored by O'Connor Hospital and the Burbank Community Association from 2-5pm.

Now through September 21 is the time to visit an exhibit at City Hall entitled The Story of a Silicon Valley Orchard. Angela Buenning Filo documented the last prune orchard in the valley by taking daily photographs of over 1700 trees before the property on Cottle Road was sold for development. This incredible reminder of why this was called "The Valley of Hearts Delight" is in the main lobby. The photos are printed on 2"x2" magnets mounted on a two-story back drop. It became an interactive display at the June 18 open house as people moved magnets around and rearranged the display.

Looking for entertainment opportunities this summer? Visit the City of San Jose's website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/upcoming.asp> for great ideas. Recent listings for July included **An Evening with Sylvia Brown, San Jose Bodybuilding Championships, boxing, concerts and the July 27-29 Grand Prix.** That's quite a variety of special events and it doesn't include free concerts in the park at two locations, cultural activities and fairs around town. It's easy to be entertained in San Jose.



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Stay Cool This Summer

San Jose is one of only two Bay Area cities that provide 24 hour relief when the weather becomes excessively hot during the summer. Ten cooling centers throughout town will be available for the entire family. Children and the elderly are especially susceptible to becoming disabled by extended periods of heat. There is no need to suffer this year. Protect yourself and your family from becoming over heated and take a break in a clean, cool city facility. Listed below are some of the centers that will be open nearby. For more information contact the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department at 277.2741.

Gardner Community Center

520 W. Virginia St. San Jose CA 95125
408.277.4761

Willows Senior Center (open to all ages)

2175 Lincoln Ave., San Jose 95125 408.448.6400.

Camden Community Center

403 Cypress Avenue, San Jose 95124
408.559.8553