



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From the President

Once in awhile we have a program that excites everyone in the room and allows us to plan ahead for our neighborhood. Our **April meeting will be Heart Smart training** provided by the San Jose Fire Department. You will be able to learn basic methods to help somebody suffering a cardiac event and keep them alive while waiting for an emergency response team. You will also be given instruction materials that allow you to train others in this technique, passing along this life saving information. SONA's goal is to have residents on every block trained in this procedure. The class will be limited to 20 people and you must sign up in advance, so please contact Michael LaRocca (see pg. 2 contact info) to make your reservations for the class. We will compile a "waiting list" of people beyond the 20 slots and, if necessary hold another training session. This training is designed for people of all ages.

SONA is in a transitional stage right now and **one of our main goals is fundraising**. We want to provide residents with ongoing meetings, trainings and events, but to do so requires funds. Between our website and newsletter, our current funds will be depleted by the end of the year. SONA's board will be concentrating on fund raisers at our April board meeting. If you have ideas, please attend our board meeting or let one of us know. And, if you know of any potential advertisers for the newsletter, give us a call.

San Jose City College Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) comments are due by April 20, 2009. The report, which includes construction of the baseball field is available online or at the campus library. We will be holding a workshop and study session on Friday, April 3, 2009 at Sherman Oaks Community Center from 6:30-9pm. We strongly urge you to write down your comments to be included in the review and decision making process. The Board of Trustees will vote on the DSEIR at their regular meeting on May 12, 2009. The meeting site was originally scheduled to be at the Evergreen campus but is being moved to the SJCC campus. Exact meeting location was not known at press time. We will keep you up to date on our website or you can call Robert Dias (408) 270-6401 for information.

Our City Forest staff presented a variety of programs available for residents who want to plant trees in their yards or park strips or who want to learn more about our urban forest. They offer a variety of free tree programs, trainings and you can become a certified Tree Amigo. Staff also told us the exciting news that they are developing a new arborist consultation program. This will allow residents to pay an extremely reasonable fee for a multi year contract. You will have an arborist consult with you and follow up to ensure your tree is maintained and pruned for optimum health. Thanks for a great program! For more information, call OCF at 99T-REES or visit the web at www.ourcityforest.org. They are also having a green fair on April 18 from 11am-3pm at Treehouse on the Green on Lincoln Avenue.

I would like to thank our current and future board members for their services. An all volunteer army depends on people who are willing to give their time and our army has been served well by our volunteers. A special thanks to **Nancy Moritz** as she leaves our board this term.

See you at the meetings.....Randi

SONA General Meeting Thursday April 9, 2009

6:30pm

Coffee and Social Time

7:00pm

Welcome

7:05pm

Election of Officers

7:10pm

Heart Smart

San Jose Fire Dept.

will conduct a training
for residents. Seating
is limited and by
reservation.

8:00pm Adjourn

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

Notes and News

Every spring SONA receives calls from residents around the neighborhood asking us to send a **message to pet owners**, so this year we are getting a jump on that. Please be thoughtful about your pets and where they are “going”. When weather is cold people aren’t out working in their yards and windows are being kept closed. When weather warms up it is obvious where pets have been allowed to roam. It is illegal for your pet to use other yards for toilets and is a disgusting health hazard. Pet feces spread life threatening illnesses. So, please pick up after your dogs and make sure your cats have litter boxes available.

The **Bascom Community Center/Library** project is moving along well. SONA residents recently attended an update on the art component which will be a stratiographic piece using brass and stone. A large tree will be rooted in the strata of the past with different objects rendered in each layer. The tree will “fruit” with trophies representing achievements. Everything from Ohlone baskets to I-Pods will be represented, reflecting the rich history and possible future of our area. The artist, Ron Baron, will cast objects according to input received from residents. For instance, what would be a good representation of the brick works that occupied the area around Del Mar High School? While sports are always obvious trophy material, what other accomplishments could be portrayed? There is still time to give the artist input by contacting City of San Jose program manager Lynn Rogers at 277-5144 x 15 or email Lynn.Rogers@sanjoseca.gov.

Free tax help for seniors, low income residents and immigrants is available at several San Jose libraries. Sponsored by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), residents earning less than \$42,000 per year can make appointments or walk in for assistance. For more information visit the library’s website at <http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/web/vita.htm>

Or call 800-829-1040. This free service is offered in multiple locations in multiple languages.

April is election month for SONA Board. Thanks to our election committee headed by Michael LaRocca, we will be proposing the following slate of officers for next year:

- President: Randi Kinman
- Administrative VP: Marlene Bird
- Secretary: Steve Kline
- Treasurer: Michael LaRocca
- Board Member: Sheila Cvitanich
- Board Member: Jussi Rajna
- Board Member: Lisa Steingart

We would like to encourage anybody who is interested to either contact Michael ahead of the meeting or throw your name in the hat at the meeting. Elections will take place at the beginning of our April meeting.

PRESIDENT, Randi Kinman	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRES, Marlene Bird	288-9727	mbird@cbnorcal.com
SECRETARY, Nancy Moritz	993-1059	
TREASURER, Michael LaRocca	564-2374	mlrool@yahoo.com
BOARD MEMBER, Sheila Cvitanich	292-2690	
BOARD MEMBER, Jussi Rajna	291-0202	
BOARD MEMBER, Lisa Steingart	666-3287	
Website Administrator, Patrick Solmon	287-8795	
Website	www.sona-sj.com	

SONA’s 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: Patrick Solmon

Spring is Here

While we may have a few more showers and a few more days of chilly weather, spring is in the air and neighbors are already in the mood to break free of winter. Weeds are being pulled, lawns mowed and I can see chores being done all over the neighborhood.

Aphids always make an early spring appearance. Instead of treating them as the enemy, cheer them on as food for ladybugs and other beneficial species. If you visit the Guadalupe Gardens demonstration orchard you will see they let the grass grow between the trees, giving aphids another place to live. In your yard, a blast of the hose will knock them down. Less work, more benefit for everyone.

Many people are planting vegetable gardens and if you are a first timer, it can be daunting. Look at how your yard is laid out and remember that the sun will be moving throughout the year. What may be a sunny space now might not be so later. Planning ahead saves time and heartache down the road. Sketch out a rough map of where things are going to keep track. Layer gardens by planting carrots, radishes and chard below where your tomatoes or sunflowers will grow. Remember that squirrels, possums and raccoons live here, too, so cover your seedlings with plastic nursery flats until they are established. Many a first time gardener has sown hundreds of sunflower seeds and never seen a flower because the squirrels get to the seeds first. Layering works for ornamental plants, also. You can reap more from your yard in a smaller space and conserve water at the same time.

Visit your local nursery and ask questions; staff are usually big fans who love to talk about their products. Take home or garden tours to get ideas. You don't have to do it all in one year and can plan to change things in stages.

The Master Gardeners Spring Sale is April 4 from 9am-2pm at History San Jose on Senter Road. You will find lots of heirloom tomatoes, peppers and other plants, demonstrations on composting and garden related activities and pros on a variety of subjects. Plan to get there early because there's a mad dash when the gates open. Bring boxes or containers to transport your purchases. For more info call 282-3105 or visit the web at www.MasterGardeners.org. A second sale will follow the next day at the Palo Alto demonstration garden.

Spring in Guadalupe River Park Gardens is another "don't miss" event that features entertainment, sales and experts. You can buy compost bins, learn about electric cars, attend workshops or listen to music while kids play in a bounce house. The Heritage Rose Garden will be in bloom and tours will be available. This event runs from 10am-3pm on April 25. For more info stop by the GRPG offices on Coleman Avenue, call 298-7657 or visit the web at www.grpg.org. GRPG also offers a variety of classes and workshops for kids and adults year round.

Santa Clara Valley Water District offers a free Water Wise House Call service that can help you lower your water consumption, save money and maybe win a new dishwasher. They also offer a variety of programs and rebates regarding saving water. For more info call 800.548.1882 or visit the web at www.valleywater.org.

Dates to Remember

04/03/09 Study session regarding San Jose City College DSEIR (see page 1). 6:30-9pm Sherman Oaks Community Center.

04/04/09,04/05/09 Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale (see article pg. 3)

04/20/09 Comments due regarding San Jose City College EIR.

04/18/09 Free health screenings offered by the Beverly Burbank and San Jose Visionary Lions Clubs from 10am-2pm. Free eye and hearing exams, glucose and blood testing.

04/22/09 International Earth Day celebrates 39 years of promoting a healthy planet. Sponsored events in our area for that weekend can be found on their website at www.earthday.net

04/23/09 Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee monthly meeting from 7-9pm at Sherman Oaks Community Center. Residents and business people, including Sherman Oaks, West San Carlos, Buena Vista, Shasta/Hanchett, Del Monte, and Burbank areas come together to prioritize projects and funding requests for Strong Neighborhoods Initiative area.

04/25/09 District 6 Leadership Group meeting 9am-noon Sherman Oaks Community Center. Residents from around the district working on local issues. 9am-noon

04/25/09 Spring in Guadalupe Gardens plant sale and event (see article pg. 3)

04/27/09 Opera in the Park at Overfelt Gardens. For more info contact Parks Dept. at 535-3570 or visit www.sanjoseca.gov/prns

05/02/09 Everything's Coming up Roses at the Municipal Rose Garden, Naglee and Dana 9am-noon.

05/12/09 7pm Board of Trustees meeting for SJCC DSEIR

For a complete list of activities, events and classes offered by the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, pick up a brochure at Sherman Oaks Community Center or visit the PRNS website at www.sanjoseca.gov/prns. Summer programs, including league sign ups can now be done online. This includes youth and adult leagues, San Jose summer camp and all programming offered at parks, community centers and neighborhood facilities.

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Decluttering Your Home Workshop

Come and learn strategies to: conquer your piles of paper, your mountains of mail, and your boxes of books!

Leave with your very own, personalized, declutter action plan!

Location: Campbell Community Center

Date: Wednesday April 29th, 2009

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Cost: \$35 (Early-bird pricing) until Tuesday April 14th

\$40 (From April 14 - April 28th)

Register at: www.bcd-communications.com/decluttering

Or call (408) 497-1132



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