



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## **Notes from the President**

*Wow! We are on issue 100! That's as good an excuse as any to throw a party and eat cake. So, join us at our July meeting for our annual summer potluck. Nothing fancy, just grab a dish on your way over and take a break. The room will be air conditioned, we won't have a speaker, there may be games, but there will be neighbors. This gives you a chance to get together informally and just enjoy an evening off. SONA will be providing the cake.*

*SONA board member are working on goals for this year and our major goal is to raise enough funds to ensure keeping the newsletter running. We are getting a small grant from the City of San Jose this summer, but it won't cover much. That means, at just about \$250 to produce 1500 newsletters each month, we need to raise about \$3000. How can you help? Glad you asked...and it won't really be all that hard.*

*Our major hope is to raise a lot of funds at our August e-waste collection event. Joining with San Jose City College, we will spend a Saturday morning collecting computers, monitors and other electronic discards (see the flyer) in the parking lot on Moorpark. It takes a lot of material to raise funds, so tell your family and friends, post flyers at work and start collecting. We also need 6 volunteers to cover two hour shifts (8:30-10:30am, 10:30-12:30pm and 12:30-2:30pm) in the parking lot. We need to keep cars moving and not backed up on the street. You'll be given a very flashy vest to wear. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact Michael (see pg. 2).*

*Board members Lisa and Jussi are heading our "Cash for Cans" recycling collection. You know all those bottles and cans you throw out each month? Separate them out, bag them up and save them. Jussi and Lisa will be picking up recycling from your front door on Tuesday, July 28. All you have to do is contact either of them (see pg. 2) and place your bags on the front porch the night before you take out the regular garbage and recycling.*

*I can't tell you how much we are counting on you this summer. We deliver 1500 newsletters door to door each month. We keep our neighborhood informed and involved. This is your chance to help out.*

*We are also still keeping up with our commitment to monitor and drive issues with San Jose City College. Our board members are attending meetings, contacting other neighborhoods and working hard on that front.*

**See you at the meetings.....Randi**

## **SONA General Meeting Potluck Night**

**Thursday**

**July 9, 2009**

**6:30pm**

**Bring your favorite  
potluck dish and  
we'll set it all out.**

**7:00pm**

**Yum, yum, yum. Let's  
see what our favorite  
dish is then enjoy  
cake in a nice air  
conditioned room.**

**8:15pm**

**All good things come  
to an end and clean  
up is a must.**

**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

First of all, a big “Get Well” wish from all of our SONA residents to board member Sheila Cvitanich. At press time Sheila was looking forward to coming home from a brief hospital stay. Sheila has been our “hostess” at our meetings since day one, providing us with some yummy refreshments. Sheila has also been our newsletter coordinator. She stuffs inserts each month then delivers to our dozen or so delivery people. It’s only through her ongoing help that we’ve been able to get news to the neighborhood in a timely manner. So, please, Sheila, get well and know we are all hoping for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to former resident Sonya Paz who was honored on June 19 by Senator Joe Simitian as the Eleventh Senate District Artist of the Year for her contributions to the Campbell community. Sonya began her career as an artist while living on Kingman where she also designed our logo. Sonya’s growth as an artist has led to international fame but you can still find our hometown girl in her studio in downtown Campbell. Congratulations Sonya!

SONA has been awarded a small grant from the City of San Jose’s Community Action and Pride funds. This will pay for our meeting insurance and for a few months of newsletters.

With downtown 4th of July activities cancelled, many of us are now wondering what we are going to do to have fun without leaving town. This is a good time to get back to home-town activities with neighborhood barbeques and smaller events. We can also hop over one neighborhood to the Alameda and enjoy the “Rose, White and Blue” parade and festival (*see insert*).

In any case, be safe on the 4th. And, don’t expect the police to be answering local calls about fireworks. As we’ve been told every year, it’s such a busy night that if somebody isn’t bleeding, we are not likely to see a patrol car. This year we can expect a full weekend of noise. And, if you are one of those who buy fireworks and set them off in the neighborhood, our only question is “Why?” You create fire hazards, disturb your neighbors and drive everybody crazy. Spend your money doing something that isn’t illegal and is much safer.

Check out the activity at 1000 South Bascom Avenue. The new community center and library building is moving along. SONA board member Jussi Rajna wants to know if they will fill it with furniture and equipment so we can at least use it for meetings. We’ll pass that question along to our Council office and hope that we can get some use out of the building. If nothing else, being able to use the “movie wall” feature would be great next year.

Thanks to renewing members Carolene and Anthony Giluso. Our membership drive was almost a year ago so you can expect to hear more requests on this front. If you want to know if you are current, check with Michael.

If you haven’t been on our SONA website in awhile, check it out. Patrick Solomon has been busy updating and cleaning house. We will also be setting up Pay pal accounts to make it easier to process payments for dues and advertisements. We have links to often requested sites as well as a complete listing of the documents regarding San Jose City College. Thanks Patrick!

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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

## Conflict Resolution

While we all consider ourselves reasonable people, we often wind up disagreeing with others who are also of the mind they have the more reasonable viewpoint. No matter what, good people who are simply trying to do the best can often wind up with a problem they can't resolve on their own. We are lucky that our county currently funds a training program to bring volunteer mediators into all aspects of our lives.

These mediators often work in the court systems, helping people resolve issues that have gotten to a stalemate. Mediation works best in these circumstances because people are more willing to live by an agreement they have worked on than live by a third party's decree. You may not like the result, it may not be exactly what you wanted when you walked into the room, but if you were a full participant and have been able to "give" as well as "take" then it's hard to argue with the outcome.

Other mediators work with juvenile offenders and their victims. It is very easy to push aside the affect even a minor crime has on somebody. If you don't see them, and don't talk to them, you can never understand the full impact of your actions. By bringing these two groups together, youthful offenders are more likely to identify with their victims. When a victim becomes a "real" person, it becomes harder to continue down a path of criminal behavior. And, when you are a victim, it is sometimes about just being able to have your say. Things and possessions can be replaced, but the loss of feeling safe is a harder problem to overcome.

When you have a neighbor who's actions are causing you stress or interfering with your life, it is reasonable to expect a quick conversation can do the trick. But, often this is not the case. We all live with different values of what is "right" and what is "wrong". Sometimes there really is no right or wrong, just disharmony. In this case, mediation can help because you have a neutral third party stepping in to help resolve the issue before it gets out of hand.

The County of Santa Clara conducts mediator training sessions and encourages those who are interested to become certified volunteers. A few hours a month can help cut down on the need for court services and keep our neighborhoods more friendly and cooperative places to live. If you are interested in training or would like to enquire about mediation services available, contact Viola Alvarez, Supervising Mediator, Office of Human Relations, 2310 N. First Street, Suite 104, SJ CA 95131. Call 792-2314 or email [viola.alvarez@ohr.sccgov.org](mailto:viola.alvarez@ohr.sccgov.org)

## San Jose City College

There is still no resolution to the ball field on Leigh Avenue or the EIR, but SONA residents did come to agreement on many recommendations at our latest meeting. We agreed to support removing the existing poles, fencing, etc. that were erected to support a ball field that SJCC's own documents state will not safely allow games to take place. We support conversion of the field to return it to a practice area or to support soccer. We agree that there are few facilities available and would hope that the field could become available for use in conjunction with our local Parks and Rec department while the campus is struggling with how to move forward with improvement plans. We would like trees replaced along side walk areas. We agreed that conversion of the area to parking is not an acceptable alternative. We agreed that resolving existing parking and traffic problems for SONA residents should not mean pushing the problems onto other residential streets. Residents were all willing to help lobby for moving the ball field to the Evergreen campus and we asked our Council Aide Laura Tran to relay our request to Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio to weigh in on this matter and support us at the next Board of Trustees meeting. Robert Solis from the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association was in attendance and will be bringing back this information to his group.

In the meantime, there is another Board of Trustees meeting on July 22, 2009. SONA residents are gathering to bring forward our recommendations. The meeting usually starts at 7pm which means we will be meeting beforehand. Even if you don't want to speak, we need your support. All of our recommendations will be forwarded in writing to the trustees before the meeting.

Michael LaRocca and Randi Kinman met with the campus outreach group regarding their new policy. We have been encouraging them to reach out to all affected neighborhoods and will be assisting by forwarding to them a list of neighborhood association president contacts. The campus is developing an outreach policy that is similar to the City of San Jose's which means neighborhoods will receive advanced notification of events and meetings.

The campus is also revamping its website to allow users to find events easier. With ongoing athletic, arts and cultural events going on all year along with the day to day campus activity, easy access will allow us to participate in some really great events in the future.

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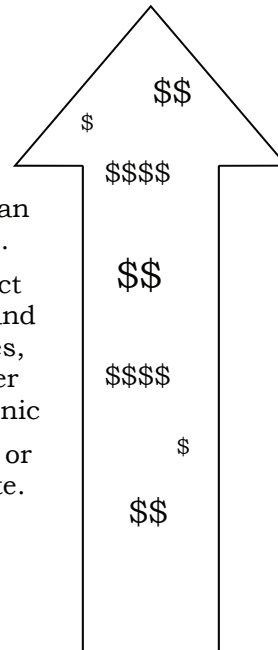
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