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Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes from the President

Thanks to our volunteers this month we raised some more money for SONA expenses. Headed up by Michael LaRocca, the Saturday E-Waste event was somewhat successful. We hope to beat the crowds by holding another event in January, so don't get rid of those electronic items quite yet. Anything from vacuum cleaners to dish antennas were piled up in the bins. It's amazing how many extra cords you have from old appliances that can be added to the pile. Again, thanks to Michael along with Jussi Rajna, Lisa Steingart, Layne Kulwin, Steve Klein, and Laura Duncan who joined me that day...and thanks to all of you who donated items for recycling!

We will be conducting another "Cash for Cans" event in the near future, so continue to save those bottles, cans and plastic for our board members to pick up. Every little bit helps. Jussi and Lisa will be figuring out when the best time is to pick the items up again, so give them a call if you are interested.

We had hoped to get more out of our efforts. As you can see on page 4 we have a long way to go. We won't ask you for extra money (but we won't turn any away!) and will simply ask you to help us by donating items you aren't using in any case. We know times are tight, we know there is fierce competition for fundraising events, but this goes directly towards communicating with your neighbors. If you are reading this, it means at least 12 volunteers have assisted in getting this to you and we have spent around \$250 this month to do so. Every penny counts when trying to make sure our neighborhood has a voice.

For those of you who are wondering how to cut costs long term and have been thinking about installing a solar system on your house, you will love our next meeting. With different programs around, different rebates and tax credits, solar has become more and more affordable. Is it good for you? Can you bundle costs with a neighborhood program? All these questions and more can be answered at our meeting.

Our speaker will be Bruce Karney "...a solar evangelist who helped persuade 117 families in Mt. View to buy solar PV in 2007. He's worked in the industry ever since in marketing, sales and finance. He'll give a brief illustrated presentation and then answer questions about whether solar makes sense for your home."

On a personal note, I want to take the time to let people know that SONA volunteers are just that: volunteers. We can help you with local problems, support you in finding solutions and direct you to resources, but we don't make the policies, implement them or have any control over the staff who does the actual work. We are here to help you help yourselves. As a community our goal is to make sure that problems are resolved, issues that need addressing are raised and we create an environment that helps to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. We all need to work together to make this happen.

See you at the meeting.....Randi

SONA General Meeting

Let's Talk Solar

Thursday

September 10, 2009

6:30pm

Social Mixer

7:00pm

**San Jose PD
(if available)**

Bruce Karney

**Solar Photovoltaic
Marketing and Finance
Consultant**

**Overview of Programs
Followed by Q and A**

8:30 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

Funds for our newsletter are supplemented with a Community Action and Pride Grant through the City of San Jose

Notes and News

Initial plans for removing the poles at San Jose City College have been started, but as of press time there is no timeline to report to you. We imagine they would want to move sooner rather than later on this issue, but will keep you posted.

It's still the first few weeks of school, so keep your eyes peeled for students young and not so young. It always takes a few weeks for people to get used to the new foot traffic. Since San Jose City College is seeing an increase in enrollment that also means extra parking in the neighborhood while students adapt to new schedules.

St. Elizabeth Park is going through some final checklist items, but no opening date has been set yet. At press time we had been told that there is some back and forth between the developer and the city that needs to happen before everyone is in agreement that it's time to turn the site over to the City. We know that many people have taken advantage of this site already, but it is still not a public park at this time, so you are technically trespassing. We'll keep you posted because you all need to join in this celebration. We advocated for this project for years and will finally see something positive come from these efforts.

The City of San Jose is in the process of updating both the Greenprint (how parks, recreation and neighborhood services will be planned for and implemented) and the General Plan (how the city as a whole grows in the next 30 years) through a series of workshops and meetings. This is important work that needs everybody to help by making sure your opinion is heard. How San Jose

develops relies on your input.

One way of participating is by completing a survey online. You can simply go to the site, log in and answer questions. There is room for you to add additional thoughts and ideas. First step is to go to www.wikiplanning.org and enter in your email address. You will be asked for a password and can enter 2040 to get into the survey.

There is also an ongoing process to decide how the Diridon Station Area will be developed in the future. While it is currently a busy place with bus lines, light rail, Caltrain, Amtrak, the Capitol Corridor trains and nearby Arena, just think what will happen in the future. BART and High Speed Rail are destined to bring millions of people through the station each year. Throw in a potential Major League Baseball site and you've got a great opportunity to create a world class area. This can only be done with great planning. A Good Neighbor Committee with over 60 people is wrestling with this now. The committee represents business, neighborhood, retail/commercial and transportation interests along with non-profits and the service sector. No matter how proficient and capable these people are, it will only develop well with input from community members. The committee meets at City Hall. More information can be obtained by going to www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/diridon or contacting Jenny Nussbaum at 535-7872. All meetings are public and a special Saturday session will be held on September 12 from 9am-noon at Parkside Hall at the Tech Museum. Use the above contact info to find details on free parking and public transit.

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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

Traffic Talk

We had a lively discussion last month about ongoing traffic concerns, including the potential realignment of Fruitdale Avenue to support left turn lanes and additional parking. All of these comments will be captured for later discussion. What was great to see from our residents was a desire to make improvements without negatively affecting services and access. Nobody was willing to implement a change if it meant reducing access to our residents. And, pushing the problem into another part of our neighborhood or somebody else's was not even considered.

The Menker/Moorpark intersection was also discussed and residents asked that we look into placing a stop sign on Moorpark at Menker. This would allow 3-way stop and make the intersection safer for both pedestrians and vehicles. It is impossible to clearly see along Moorpark when accessing the freeway from Menker and the speed at which vehicles travel along Moorpark doesn't allow for any mistakes. SONA board members will be consulting with DOT shortly to see if the problem can be addressed in this manner.

It's time to paint our red curbs again. Several years ago we had a large number of small spaces between driveways painted due to the overflow parking problems. These areas have faded considerably over the last couple of years. Several residents opted out of the red curb program the last time. If you want to opt back in, contact Randi.

Residents are asked to look at what streets need an enhanced street sweeping before the rainy season. If you know of a street that doesn't get swept, let us know. We can ask the City to conduct a one-time sweep. They will post signs and you won't be able to park for one day. While this means a little bit of moving around, the advantage is clear gutters and no flooding due to storm drain blockage. Let Randi know what areas are in need.

The final application of slurry seal will be applied to our streets the first few weeks of September. If your street had new gravel laid, you should have received a notice of the sealing process. If you didn't, contact the city at 277-5560. You will need to have all items off the street and the street will be temporarily closed. Make sure you also clear any weeds that are growing in the curb and gutter.

Things to do in September

This is the best month to get ready for fall and winter. Weather is still mild and you can prepare well. Yards need to be readied with mulch and pruning, cut back bushes that grow along sidewalks and take out the summer vegetable garden. Check windows and doors for needed weather proofing. Check roofs for debris and clear gutters out. Caulk up cracks in driveways and on sidewalks so they don't expand when rains come.

This is the time to check furnaces and make sure they work. Stock up on filters and other supplies before you need them.

While Californians don't deal with severe seasonal weather, we do have "summer" and "winter" wardrobes. When going through your closet, weed out and donate things you don't need.

And if you're tired of working, there are always local events to attend.

Bark in the Park will be held on Saturday, September 19 from 10am-5pm at William Street Park (William and 16th). This annual event is a "must" for the canine lover in all of us. There are things for people and dogs to do all day long, a variety of vendors and booths and just a whole lot of fun. Sponsored by the Naglee Park Campus Community Association, all proceeds benefit CCA, the Humane Society and San Jose Animal Care Center. For more information, go to www.barksanjose.org or call 793-5125. Last year's event was attended by approximately 3,500 dogs and 14,000 humans.

Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens has ongoing classes and workshops throughout the year. Get in shape with a fall walking program. You can learn to compost, develop a sustainable garden or learn how to grow fruits and berries. Kids can attend a Dinosaur in the Park event or Pumpkins in the Park. There are a number of events coming up, including walks for Diabetes and Alzheimers. For more information go to www.grp.org, visit the new center on Coleman or call 298-7657 for more information.

Emma Prusch Farm Park is a great place for the family to visit. A working farm is adjacent to community gardens. You can picnic in a rural setting and not go past King Road. There are events year round and a new kids program allows children to help staff and volunteers feed the farm animals (\$3fee) one Saturday each month. For more information go to www.pruschfarmpark.org or call 926-5555. You can even rent the facilities.

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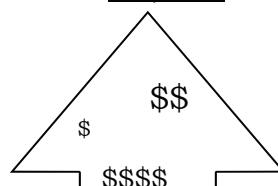
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