



**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is a volunteer group of residents working to make our neighborhood a better place to live, work and play. Newsletter funds are supplemented by a Community Action & Pride Grant from the City of San Jose.

Issue 116 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

### ***Notes From Our Administrative Vice-President***

*By the time this newsletter goes to print we will be done with our national and local elections. Signs will come down, TV commercials will cease, robo-calls will disappear and our junk mail will turn from politics to seasonal sales. I only hope that the country and our communities can begin the healing process just as quickly. While it gives me great pride to see the huge crowds of people lining up to vote, I was appalled by how quickly many campaigns turned to fear, negative tactics and name calling and half truths rather than a calm discussion of issues. What happened to celebrating our diversity?*

*Politics could take a lesson from neighborhoods like ours. We may meet our neighbors for the first time when a fire truck or the police show up nearby. We may stand in our yards complaining about traffic and speeding. We may band together because we are tired of not receiving our fair share of the pie.*

*We aren't successful as a neighborhood, however, until we calm down, discuss our common goals and plan a course of action that will correct deficiencies or make improvements. We empower ourselves when we change from making "this doesn't work" statements to saying, "this is how it should look and this is how we'll do it."*

*SONA has a history of making changes to better our neighborhood. We took complaints about student parking on residential streets and converted some areas to permit parking. We identified important pedestrian routes that needed upgrades to allow our disabled to move safely through our streets and curb cuts were installed on various streets. We identified a hazardous situation at Leigh and Kingman, worked with City staff to alleviate the problem and a new signalized intersection was installed.*

*SONA has plans in the coming months to work with our Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio and other stakeholders to open the Bascom Library & Community Center during the second half of 2011.*

*These things are possible because you, as residents, have made the decision to work together. Pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself.*

*I look forward to see you at the meeting...Randi*

## **General Meeting November 11, 2010**

**6:30PM – 8:00PM**

**POTLUCK!!!!**

**Your favorite night to mingle with neighbors is back. Grab the kids and bring something to share.**

**We'll provide turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and coffee.**



## Notes and News

**PayPal is now available on SONA's website!** You can pay your yearly dues with just a few clicks, make donations and contribute to SONA's success. We simply cannot afford to mail out reminders to people, so we are hoping that you will use the PayPal option on the website's front page and make your contribution count. This is a secure and easy way to pay your dues each year and you can also opt to have your dues deducted every year from now on. What a great way to support your neighborhood from the comfort of your own home.

**Cash for Cans** is still operating. If you want to help contribute to SONA's success, join us in our next can and bottle drive on **November 11, 2010**. Jussi and Lisa will be picking up cans and bottles. You need to give them a call and let them know where to pick up the materials. They will be cruising through the neighborhood gathering recyclable materials to turn in for SONA's newsletter and website funds.

Your 2011 Recycling and Garbage calendar was sent out in October. If you haven't received it yet, you can call the customer service number at 535-3500. **Note that you can no longer recycle polystyrene (those foam containers) or the plastic bags you get from stores.** Foam and packing peanuts are now supposed to go in the garbage container, but you can also contact any shipping store and they will usually take the peanuts. Grocery bags should be returned to the recycling center at your grocery store. Take the time to do this and not full up our landfills with materials that can be reused. With the holiday season upon us, many of you will need extra garbage pick up. You can buy stickers that will allow you to place a large garbage bag out with the rest of your weekly "offerings". The stickers cost \$6.25 and can be bought at any library, Safeway, Lucky and Save Mart store in San Jose. Holiday wrapping paper can be placed in recycling as long as it's not foil wrap. Read the materials sent to you for more information and see how much you can cut down on what we send to the landfill.

**A big thank you to Carol Cooper and Sal LaBarbera who are retiring from SONA newsletter deliveries after many years of service.** Carol and Sal are some of our longest serving delivery people who have taken time out each month to make sure you get your local news. We can't thank you enough for your service.

Speaking of newsletter deliveries, would all the carriers please check in with Sheila this month? There has been some overlap in deliveries and we need to make sure we're all on the same page (no pun intended). SONA also needs a couple more people to help deliver newsletters. This simply means walking around a couple blocks once a month and placing newsletters in doorways. Your donation of 15 minutes each month could mean we reach out to hundreds of people. Quite often SONA newsletters have information that affects you directly that you might not find in a local newspaper.

Congratulations to Board Member Steve Kline who was elected President of the Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee. While the Strong Neighborhoods program is without funding, that doesn't mean that residents across the district in SONA, Shasta Hanchett, Buena Vista, Del Monte and Burbank aren't still working together to make sure we are supporting each other in our common goals to reduce blight and crime while increasing our ability to lobby for better streets, parks and other services. Michael LaRocca turned in his pen and checkbook duties as the NAC's treasurer in October also. Congratulations to both of them for their service.

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SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletter editor is Randi Kinman. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation. Feel free to contact any of us with ideas or questions.

## November Events

**Our November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a potluck!!!** We do not have a December meeting because we want people to enjoy holidays, but that doesn't mean we don't celebrate the holidays. Get a jump on them and try out a new recipe or simply pick up a treat from the grocery store. This is an evening to bring the family and meet your neighbors.

**San Jose Classic Chevy Club is hosting their 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show and Toy and Food Drive on Saturday, November 20, rain or shine.** The event returns to the Cathedral of Faith at 2315 Canoas Garden Avenue in San Jose. Kicking off with a pancake breakfast from 8-10am, this day long family event has something for everyone. Your entry "fee" is a donation of one new unwrapped toy or non-perishable food. The alcohol free event is perfect for a day of family fun and the raffle prizes include a 3-night trip to Hot August Nights in Reno. All donations benefit local charities. All types of vehicles are welcome. For more information, contact Dennis Bird at 286-6246.

**San Jose's Christmas in the Park celebration kicks off with the tree lighting ceremony at Caesar Chavez Park on November 26<sup>th</sup> this year.** Celebrating 30 years of fun this year, you can visit the site from 9am-midnight daily until the end of the year. This is a great way to spend a few hours with the family and learn about the dozens of schools and non-profit organizations serving our community. There are always some great displays. The annual parade will be December 5<sup>th</sup> this year, so plan to hop on light rail and enjoy yourself.

**The Guadalupe River Park Conservancy** has a variety of programs throughout the year, including some great winter programs. Just because gardens are dormant in winter, that doesn't mean the staff and volunteer worker bees aren't busy designing programs for you and your kids. There are walking tours, kids activities and a wreath making event all coming up in the next few weeks. To access the online calendar go to [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org) or you can call them at 298-7657. The office at 438 Coleman Ave. is open from 8:30am-5pm Monday through Friday. Take a nature break this winter and learn more about the great offerings this park has.

## San Jose City College Update

Board members have been attending meetings at the campus regarding the facilities master plan update. The staff and faculty have been busy prioritizing projects for the future. A preferred scenario has been developed that outlines a series of construction projects as a conceptual plan.

**A community meeting is planned for November 10, 2010 at 6:00pm in room SC204 on the campus.** This will be the first and only opportunity for you as neighbors to weigh in on the proposals before they go to the Board of Trustees for approval. If you want to know where new buildings, a baseball field and gyms might go, this is the time to show up. If you are concerned about parking and traffic problems, this meeting will outline some of the proposals.

While board members have been trying their best to represent you, it is really up to you to take a look and voice your opinion.

With recent safety issues around the campus, there is also a push to enhance safety around the district. Some of the recommendations made by staff are to increase the "blue poles" that have a direct line to district security. It goes without saying that having somebody who can respond is also needed. Some of the new plans include lighting and landscaping that will help provide better security.

Staff is also investigating the ability to implement student patrols that are common on other campuses. Students are screened and trained, given bikes and communication gear and act as ambassadors as well as the eyes and ears on campus. This allows a highly visible and mobile presence. Students would not be responding in the same manner as security or police, but they would be able to report problems and provide a higher level of watchfulness.

In the meantime, recent reports of assault on campus are still under investigation. Campus security has been doubled. The district has agreed to take a second look at how they can notify the neighborhoods when problems arise. There is currently an online notification available to students, but residents have requested a system that would allow immediate text messages to be sent out.

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