



**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 117 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

### ***Notes From the President***

*Happy 2011 to all of you, we hope your holiday season was fun, filled with family and that somehow, somewhere along the line you had some time to relax and enjoy yourselves.*

*Our January meeting is going to be an open forum to discuss plans for the year and to set some goals. We want to make sure that what is planned is what you want.*

*This is also going to be our time to get caught up on what's happening with San Jose City College and the Bascom Library / Community to name a couple.*

*Additionally the Mayor's office always holds a budget meeting for the community in January. What are your thoughts on services you feel are absolutely necessary and what services could be cut? In this time of financial meltdown, the city needs to continue to cut expenses. Your voice should be part of that process.*

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

### **General Meeting January 13, 2011**

**6:30PM**

- ❖ **Coffee and Cookies**  
**Come meet your neighbors and let us know what's happening in your part of the neighborhood.**

**7:00PM**

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Staff Reports**
- ❖ **San Jose Police Department if Available**
- ❖ **Public Comments**
- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **Updates on Local Issues**

**7:30PM**

- ❖ **2011 Schedule of Activities and Meetings Discussion**
- ❖ **What Are Our Goals for 2011**
- ❖ **What's on Your Minds**

**8:00PM**

- ❖ **Door Prize Drawings**

**8:05PM**

- ❖ **Next meeting**

## 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. **The SONA website is located at <http://www.sona-sj.com/>**

**Newsletter Deliveries** - SONA needs 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 to 30 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. **If you are willing to help deliver newsletters please contact Sheila Cvitanich our newsletter coordinator at 408.292.2690.**

City crews were out and about during the holiday season answering our reports of graffiti. The new system that uses your smart phone to report problems allows them to instantly download a picture of the problem along with the address. Your report is confidential as always. You can download the application on your phone by going to [www.citysourced.com](http://www.citysourced.com) or report graffiti and other problems by using the 24-hour city line 535-3500.

You can help keep our waterways clear and our streets safe by checking your storm drains. If the drain near your house is clogged, take a few minutes to rake out the leaves and debris for street sweeping. Make sure that the debris is well out of the gutter or it will just wash back in. If the drain still doesn't run clear, call the 24-hour city number. Several residents have reported seeing neighbors pouring cooking and auto fluids down the drains. This is not only a disregard for the watershed, wildlife and local pets; you can be cited and heavily fined.

We are lucky that our neighborhood isn't seeing a lot of foreclosures and abandoned homes, but there are a few here and there. If property looks abandoned or if it is in disrepair, you can report this to the City. San Jose is taking a pro-active approach to making sure that bank owned properties do not degrade into disrepair.

SB183 goes into effect this month, requiring all "dwelling units" be equipped with a CO2 (carbon monoxide) detector if being sold or transferred if the home burns fossil fuel, has a fireplace or an attached garage. This bill affects all homes, dorms, apartments, condos and hotel rooms. Existing homes must have a detector installed by July 1, 2011 and all other units (dorms, apartments, etc.) must be upgraded by January 1, 2013 or the owner can face a fine if cited and not corrected within 30 days of receiving the citation. Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of death of accidental poisoning in the United States, accounts for 30-40 preventable deaths each year in California along with 175-700 emergency room visits or hospitalizations. A CO2 unit can be purchased inexpensively at a local hardware store, does not need to be hardwired and can operate on batteries if it emits a sound that alerts residents.

### **SONA Contact List**

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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.

## January Events

**Our January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a planning meeting** to discuss our 2011 activities and meeting schedule – **It's your opportunity to let us know what you want or would like us to work on.**

The **San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant** is undergoing a complete master planning process for updating the facility and use of the 2600 acres it sits on. This is your chance to give input on how you want this large tract of shoreline developed or maintained for the next generation. Suggestions range from mixed use development (retail and housing) to building high tech offices and, on the other end of the spectrum, creating a natural wildlife and recreation buffer on the shoreline. What would you like to see there? How would you like this land used? There are a series of evening meetings being held in January along with a Saturday morning meeting (29<sup>th</sup>) that you can attend or you can visit the website at [www.rebuildtheplant.org](http://www.rebuildtheplant.org) or you can call 408.945.5182 for more information.

Winter Spare The Air Days will occur when our air quality is poor enough that we need to cut back on the pollution. Spare The Air Days are called in advance and on these days you should refrain from all fireplace (wood and alternative) use, outdoor barbeques and other things that add to the pollution index. It may not bother you, but it does and will bother your neighbors. A little consideration on your part means your neighbors can literally breathe easier. For more information go to [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org) or call 800.435.7247. You can research what Spare the Air means, receive notice when a day is called or report problems. In the meantime, if you use a wood burning fireplace, make sure it is working properly and that you are using local wood only. The spread of sudden oak death disease has been attributed to wood for fires being transported from an infected area to a non infected area.

## San Jose City College Update

December 2010 saw San Jose Councilmember Nancy Pyle conducting the swearing in ceremony for newest Trustee, Dr. Jeffrey Lease. With a full Board of Trustees in place, one of their first actions was to approve the appointment of a new president for San Jose City College to replace Interim President Doug Treadway.

Dr. Barbara Kavalier begins her tenure with the campus on January 24 of this year. She has a three year contract with a salary of \$188,211 per year.

A recent article in the San Diego Metro notes that President Kavalier served 15 years as an administrator with the Dallas Community College District (Dallas, Texas) and served as an associate vice president of student services with the Tacoma Community College (Tacoma, Washington). She was Vice President of Student Services at Mesa College with the San Diego Community College District until June of 2010. At this point she was appointed to Interim President, expecting to hold that position until the next school year began in July 2011; the district was to begin a search for a permanent President in the fall of 2010. Ms. Kavalier replaced Rita Cepeda who had taken the position of Chancellor with the San Jose Evergreen Community College District.

With a new bond authorized by the voters, a capital improvement plan in the works and continuing economic turmoil, the board and the administration will have their hands full from day one. Per our long standing custom, SONA board members will be contacting the new administration and asking for a "getting to know you" meeting to break the ice. While administrations come and go, SONA residents are the one constant in the neighborhood. We hope to continue developing friendly ties with our neighbor.

Winter break has ended, the Student Union opens January 10 so be forewarned that you can expect the usual traffic confusion for the first week or so of the semester. Drive carefully and be aware of others.

### **Guadalupe River Park and Gardens**

It's not too late to sign up for classes in dormant fruit tree pruning, landscaping planning, vegetable gardening and a host of other things, including free clinics on rose pruning. Kids can earn badges from the Guadalupe Park Conservancy, go on field trips or have a green birthday party. Classes are year round and are tailored for whatever is going on in the garden.

Volunteers are always welcome

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**For more information, contact Michael at**

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### **AlertSCC**

Ever wonder how you can be notified of emergency conditions? While home and business numbers are already in the emergency data base, a new service offered by the County of Santa Clara lets you list any cell phone, PDA, TTY device or email, allowing you to receive text and phone messages when an emergency arises. Used by San Diego County to advise of evacuations and wildfires, this will help your family stay updated even if you aren't at home. You must register cells, emails, etc. You can sign up online by going to [www.alertscc.com](http://www.alertscc.com) or call the City's 24-hour line at 535-3500.