



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From the President

DUMPSTER DAYS ARE COMING!!! Gear up because March 10 will be our next dumpster day. Locations to be announce, but this gives you time to get to work organizing. Separate metals from wood, dry out those old paint cans, and this year gather up the things that are still usable. Salvation Army and Hope Services will be part of the event, allowing you to donate what can be used and dispose of the rest. As usual, no flammables or toxic waste.

Clean up San Jose will happen the next weekend. This is your chance to help the city do a one-day sweep for graffiti and trash in our area. Think of it as your chance to help say thank you and pay back for the free dumpsters. Announcement regarding time and location will be in the next newsletter. This is also a great opportunity for students to clear some of their community service hours.

It's pledge drive time for SONA. Dues are due by the first of April. This newsletter, our website and materials for potlucks, ice cream socials, etc. all are paid for with your dues. Rather than remind you every month, we are concentrating on collecting over the next 90 days. Support your local neighborhood organization and help the volunteers by paying dues using the form on the back page or by going to our website www.sona-sj.com and using the PayPal button. **The first 10 people who chip in an extra \$10 also receive an official SONA baseball cap.**

SONA residents are looking forward to potlucks, ice cream socials and other family events later this year. Following our January meeting, the board has been putting together a list of events and meetings that will allow people to attend functions at different times. We still have some openings for meeting topics. Do you have a speaker you think others would like to hear? Is there a subject you would like us to bring to the neighborhood meeting? Let us know.

See you at the meeting...Randi

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 paid for through dues and advertising.

Issue 131 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

SONA General Meeting February 9, 2012

6:30pm Meet and Greet

- ❖ **Get to know your neighbors**
- ❖ **Coffee and Cookies**

7:00pm Welcome!

- ❖ **Reports from Council Office**
- ❖ **San Jose Police Department Updates**
- ❖ **Reports from San Jose City College**

7:20pm SONA Energy Program

- ❖ **James Cameron from San Jose/Evergreen Community College District will speak on the district's Workforce Institute's Clean and Efficient Energy Program and how this program can help you.**

8:00pm Time to Wrap Up

- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **Drawing**
- ❖ **Have a safe trip home**

Notes and News From The Neighborhood

Susan Price-Jang and Victor Jang hosted a second meeting on Goodwin recently to continue the efforts started by **Jamie Buckmaster** and **Cindy Dellas** to launch Neighborhood Watch programs on a block-by-block basis. Getting to know neighbors is the first step in fighting crime and being prepared for emergencies. While we have seen a reduction in home burglaries, we still have a problem here and in adjacent neighborhoods. If you want to help start a program contact Cindy at 294-7133 or Jamie at 885-9363. If you have already formed a Neighborhood Watch program on your block, let Randi know so SONA can maintain a list of block captains. This allows us to stay connected.

Thanks to **Bill Todd, Michael LaRocca, and Jussi Rajna** the office at the Sherman Oaks Community Center is coming right along. Michael donated the paint, Bill provided the labor and the city is taking care of plumbing problems. We will soon be using our newly painted and cleaned up office space to store materials for neighborhood clean ups and other events. We share this space with the after school program, the Burbank/Del Monte NAC and other programs.

Want to know more about the **Bascom Community Center and Library**? Ask board member Marlene Bird. Budget discussions are under way in the city and it will take some effort to ensure our local community center and library is part of the process. It will take all of our voices to make this happen. Marlene's contact info is listed below.

Metering lights on Highway 280 are due to be turned on in the southbound direction in the next few months. This is a Caltrans project that reduces the amount of pollutants in the air by controlling the flow of traffic onto the freeways. When surges of vehicles enter the freeway at the same time, the back up causes delays and higher levels of local pollution. Freeway traffic also slows down. We are working with Caltrans and VTA for a public meeting before this happens, so stay tuned. If you have questions you want answered at the meeting, contact Randi. **They can also answer questions about the project due to start this spring that will realign the 17/880/280 exchange around Valley Fair.** This two-year construction project will create new ramps into Valley Fair while widening Stevens Creek and creating new pedestrian and bike access in the area.

Want to stay in touch with neighbors online? Join our chat group on Yahoo. This ensures you can find out what's going on even if you are at work. Residents who are home during the day in both the Shasta/Hanchett and Willow Glen areas were able to use their online forums to track in real time people who had committed burglaries or stolen packages dropped off by delivery services. While waiting for police, they alerted each other as to where the suspects were headed. Neighbors tracking suspects (without confrontation) could keep an eye on them and kept police alerted to their exact locations. We also provide online delivery of our newsletter. You can sign up by contacting board member Layne Kulwin.

We need delivery people who are willing to donate an hour a month. Our volunteers have recently resigned after years of service in several areas, including Princess Anne and Goodwin. Contact board member Sheila Cvitanich if you can help.

Save those cans and bottles for our recycling drive. Board members Jussi and Lisa will be conducting another pick up drive. Give them a call to be on the list. They offer front porch pick up and your contribution helps our bottom line.

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 15th 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.

Sherman Oaks

The Sherman Oaks school site is not just where our local kids learn in a bilingual setting, it's also the site of many other activities. There is an after school program for students and this is a Second Harvest site.

Part of the site is operated by the City of San Jose. The multipurpose room where SONA meets also hosts weekday senior nutrition and activities operated by the Korean American Community Services. This organization also runs the holiday gift give away for our local low-income families.

Parkway Child Development Center operates a pre-school for local low-income families. This provides a much needed service for our residents.

Sage Vista School is a new private school for elementary aged kids.

The Campbell Adult and Community Education services are now offering ESL classes at the Parkway site along with other adult education.

Watercolor classes are held on Friday mornings. Local resident Susan Price-Jang says she's enjoying her Wednesday yoga classes. CACE also offers a larger variety of classes at Blackford and Del Mar during the evenings. For more information, visit www.cace.cuhsd.org or call 626-3402.

Contractors and Permits

In one week our neighborhood saw more than half a dozen plumbers and contractors working at the same time on installing sewer clean out lines to the city's sewer lines. Please note that this work requires permits from the city and an inspection. If your contractor skips this part, you are liable. If your contractor skips this part, you have to ask yourself what else he's doing that isn't legitimate.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Smoke Safely:

Careless smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths and the second leading cause of injuries among seniors. For those who smoke it's important to remember:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Put your cigarette or cigar out at the first sign of feeling drowsy while watching television or reading.
- Don't leave your lit cigarette or cigar unattended.
- Use deep ashtrays and put your cigarettes all the way out.
- Consider switching to fire-save cigarettes (firesafecigarettes.org) that self-extinguish when they're not being smoked.

Cooking Safely:

Home cooking fires are the number one cause of fire injuries among the elderly. Tips that can help include:

- Never leave food cooking on a stovetop unattended. When leaving the kitchen, take a wooden spoon or potholder as a reminder to turn off the oven or burners or consider installing an automatic stove shut-off device as a safety precaution. Cookstop.com, homesensors.com, stoveguardintl.com and pioneeringtech.com sell them.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing with hanging sleeves when you cook and keep towels and potholders away from flames or burners.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house.

Heat Safely:

Alternative heating devices like space heaters, stoves and fireplaces are another potential fire hazard for seniors. Seniors who use these devices should keep these tips in mind:

- If you use a space heater, keep anything that can burn at least three feet away and always turn it off when you leave the house or go to sleep. Also, if you're buying a new space heater, look for one with a safety feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- If you use a fireplace that burns wood, be sure you have a glass or metal screen front to catch the flying sparks and rolling logs and have the chimney flue inspected annually and cleaned if needed.
- If you use a heating device fueled by gas, oil, wood or kerosene, purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors to alert you to potential toxic gas problems.

Yard Waste

The City of San Jose will not be responding to reports of people putting yard trimmings out early for the next month due to the high level of waste generated during the season. If you put out yard waste early, make sure it is not light enough to blow away. All trimmings should be placed in the street beyond the line where water flows down the gutters. For those who live with an adjacent street drain, take a few minutes to keep this area clear. What washes down the street winds up in the groundwater system and runs out the bay.



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SONA Dues are Due

SONA asks for yearly dues of \$15 per household. Dues pay for newsletters, flyers and special events. While we have augmented dues by obtaining grants, the grant sources have dried up. This year, more than ever, we need your dues. You can also pay dues online through PayPal and set up an automatic billing by visiting our website at www.sona-sj.com. Thanks for your help. Please note that at no time do we share or release your information.

YES! Our Family wants to support SONA with our dues payment.

NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Email/Phone: _____

_____ **Dues** **Make all checks out to: SONA**

_____ **Donation** **Mail to: PO Box 59146, San Jose CA 95159-0146**

_____ **Total**