



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 paid for through dues and advertising.

Issue 137 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

For those of you who haven't dropped by yet, this is your chance to see our new Bascom Community Center and get out of the July heat at the same time. Our summer ice cream social will be held in the community room. Spend an evening playing board games, tour the facility and take a break. The summer day camp and evening Zumba classes were full on the second week the center was open. More classes are being offered and the center is expanding each week. Friday nights are youth nights with an all "18 and under" drop in gym program.

Sherman Oaks Community Charter School is moving at a rapid pace with the construction of all new playground areas this summer. The pad for a new multi-purpose room will also be laid. Expect construction to last through the summer.

San Jose City College will also be experiencing some major summertime renovations with the refurbishing of the track and field area. The expected reconfiguration of the light at Moorpark and Leland has been delayed due to concerns from the city, so stay tuned.

Metering lights on southbound Highway 280 were turned on with little fanfare and evidently few problems. There is some difficulty in access in the evening from Moorpark and College, but freeway traffic and the dreaded interweaving at Meridian seems to move a little smoother. We'll see what happens when school is back in session.

Neighbors on Corlista awoke a few weeks ago to find all of their tires stolen and their vehicle up on cinder blocks. While our home burglary rate has decreased to some degree, the amount of petty crimes like auto burglaries is not slowing down. I'm on email lists across the district and you can see waves of these types of crime moving around the neighborhoods. When one neighborhood reports half a dozen autos being rifled in the night, you can bet you'll see the same type of crime moving down the block. This is not a warning that we live in an unsafe area; it's a reminder we all need to be vigilant.

We want to hear from you. What's going on around your block? What are the things that concern you? Join us over the next few months at our meetings. They are going to be casual drop in events. With summer here you don't have to worry about it being a school night; bring the kids.

See you at the meeting...Randi

SONA General Meeting

July 12, 2012

Bascom Community Center!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

6:30pm Meet and Greet

- ❖ **Get to know your neighbors**

7:00pm Welcome!

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

We'll get business out of the way then take some time to get to know each other, tour our new facility and take advantage of a cool place to play games on a hot evening.

8:30pm Time to Wrap Up

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

Notes and News From The Neighborhood

Want to stay in touch with neighbors online? Join our Facebook page. We post issues and concerns there along with announcements of upcoming events. Just go to Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association.

We also provide online delivery of our newsletter. You can sign up for online delivery by contacting board member Layne Kulwin. Thanks goes out to Layne and our new website administrator Richard Anderson.

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.

We are very pleased to announce that **Rebeca Montano will be our youth liaison with Del Mar High School (you can contact Rebeca at youth.sona@gmail.com)**. This allows SONA to develop a stronger relationship with students and faculty while keeping you apprised of the activities there. We look forward to working with her and other Del Mar students to build programs at the community center among other things. You may remember Rebecca from a couple years ago when you donated blankets and towels that she collected for a local animal shelter. Rebeca will be letting us know what's happening at Del Mar, provide us with the youth perspective in our neighborhood and work with us on ongoing projects.

Our local **Farmers Market on Hanchett Avenue at The Alameda operates every Saturday from 9am-1pm**. This is a great way to get your weekly supplies of local fresh produce. This market also encourages the use of Food Stamps and EBT cards by giving you an extra \$5 in credit at the market for every \$10 you spend.

If you missed the Rose, White and Blue Parade on the Alameda on the 4th of July, you can spend an evening strolling The Alameda at the second annual Stroll the Alameda event on August 19, 2012 from 2-5pm. Businesses will be open, entertainment will be provided and there will be wine tasting and special events going on. This event is sponsored by Shasta/Hachett Park Neighborhood and the Alameda Business District.

Looking for something different to do for dinner? Join neighbors at one of our VTA Light Rail stops for a food truck extravaganza. Moveable Feast and VTA have partnered for the rest of 2012 to create an ever changing food event. While it may seem odd to plan to have dinner in a parking lot, the event is free, family friendly...and has plenty of parking as well as being accessible by light rail. You can enjoy Peruvian, Thai, Korean and Mexican meals (or sometimes a combination of them!) in bowls, salads, sandwiches or wraps. You can finish up with cupcakes, sweets or try your hand at karaoke ice cream. Trucks rotate in and out of the events and there seems to be a good mix of "that's my favorite and I come here every time for this" and "wow, I've never eaten this before" experiences. You can enjoy your meal there or take it home with you. Moveable Feast Southside runs every Monday from 5-9pm at the Blossom Hill station. Friday nights you can join neighbors at the Curtner station from 5-9pm. For an updated list of vendors or to learn more, contact www.mvblfeast.com and VTA will help you plan your trip via transit if you call their customer service line at 321-2300.

Speaking of VTA, don't forget that transit is an easy and affordable way to get around the Bay Area. Why drive to a day in San Francisco or fight traffic to Oakland for a ballgame when you can simply take transit? VTA is now integrated with the regional Clipper Card system, allowing you to use one transit card for almost every transit system in the region. You can purchase Clipper cards at Walgreens or online. Senior and Student cards must be purchased at the VTA office. VTA can help you plan a trip in Santa Clara County and trips around the Bay Area can be coordinated through the 511 system or by going to 511.org. Beat the heat, reduce your stress and lower your parking fees all while visiting your favorite local spots by using transit.

SONA Contact List

President, Randi Kinman	408.835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Marlene Bird	408.288.9727	marlenebird@att.net
Secretary, Layne Kulwin	408.256.0761	SONA@LayneKulwin.com
Administrative VP, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlarocca61@gmail.com
Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich	408.292.2690	
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	jussirajna@att.net
Member at Large, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Website Administrator, Richard Anderson		RichardAnderson.SONA@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison		youth.sona@gmail.com

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.

Summertime Safety

- Secure your vehicle; park it in the driveway when possible. Leave nothing showing that encourages people to break into your car. Lock it at all times when not in use.
- Keep an eye out for the kids. While we have a community center, there are few recreational opportunities for kids and they are out and about in our streets more during the summer. Take the time to double check before leaving your driveway and slow down while on the streets.
- Don't forget the helmets and safety gear. Kids are safer when out on bikes and skateboards when properly geared up. Besides, it's the law for anybody under 18.
- Lock up before you leave. We tend to leave windows and doors open during summer. It takes a few minutes, but better than coming home to a burglarized home.
- Hydrate. One of your best weapons to beat the heat is drinking more fluids. Avoid caffeine, sodas and sugary products.
- Cool the house down early. Use fans to draw in cool nighttime air while you sleep and close up the house on hot days. You can reduce indoor temperatures by leaving fans on and closing curtains and blinds.
- Don't forget the pets. Make sure they have plenty of water and places to go when it's hot.
- We do have wildlife like raccoons, possums and an occasional skunk, not to mention rats of various types. If they find that cat food you left out tasty, they're going to try to get in where the source of that food is. Bring in all food, including bird feeders at night.
- Spare the air. If the weather hits triple digits, you can expect a Spare the Air Day to arrive. This means minimizing driving and no barbecuing.
- Be a responsible outdoor cook. Is your smoke drifting into your neighbor's home? If so, this can create health problems for them. Make sure you douse that fire properly when done.

Transit and Increased Residential Development

According to General Plan 2040 the City of San Jose has designated several city-wide transit oriented corridors to restrain the urban growth boundaries and specify several promising urban locations to preserve spaces for natural city amenities. This goal will lead to the development of 2 to 3 story buildings near the Fruitdale and Bascom light rail stations and to improve residents' access to jobs and local services via walking, biking, or public transit. Soma Chatterjee a graduate student of Urban and Regional Planning Department will be conducting a survey in your neighborhood to know, how do you feel about the existing and future 2 to 3 story high-density buildings in your neighborhood.

Soma will be distributing surveys with some of our newsletters and will be collecting data throughout the summer. You can also pick up a survey at our meetings.

Data collected will be kept confidential.

The information gathered would allow an analysis of existing conditions and how the future might look. While the city as a whole looked at how we can grow over the next several decades, this process did not necessarily trickle down to the neighborhood level. So, while our area is targeted for high density growth patterns, those of us who live in the area have not been asked how we feel about it, what our concerns might be and how we can make sure that when growth happens it doesn't negatively impact those of us currently living here.

If you do not receive a survey at your door, you can come to the July ice cream social or attend the August National Night Out celebration and fill out a survey then. You can also find a link on our website.

This project is part of Soma's research and is overseen by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at San Jose State University. For more information, contact Soma at soma.urbp@gmail.com or contact Asha Agrawal, Chair of the department at 408.924.5453.



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www.LayneKulwin.com
DRE #00584323



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DRE # 00861180
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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**