



## 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. A Community Action & Pride Grant from the City of San Jose supplements newsletter funds. General meetings are open to all and held on the second Thursday of each month. Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Board members are listed on page 4.

*Issue 139 of your local neighborhood newsletter.*

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

Wrapping up a great summer I am more appreciative than ever for neighbors who step up. I have watched people volunteer for activities, host events, clean up our neighborhoods and keep look out for each other.

There is no doubt crime has continued to rise around the city, but thanks to your efforts, we are holding our own here. Recently a handful of stolen vehicles were moved out of our neighborhoods by SJPD who did a complete sweep of our streets. Report suspicious vehicles and call in all abandoned vehicles. There are a couple of opportunities for some free crime related workshops on page 2.

SONA's board has been busy lining up our meetings for the next few months. We are moving up our San Jose City College annual update to September. Please forward any questions that require research so we'll have answers for you. SJCC is busy getting ready to move forward with a new development plan so please make sure you pay attention. We need all eyes on this.

October will be our campaign night. We are hosting a debate between the candidates running for State Senate District 15's seat. Both Jim Beall and Joe Coto are local politicians who have held a variety of seats here and at the State level.

November will be our potluck night. We finally get to use the brand new kitchen at the Bascom site! Stay tuned for more details.

On a personal note, I attended a recent vigil for a homeless woman who was familiar to many of us from her years of living on our streets. To see the parking lot of Walgreens roped off and filled with residents was an inspiration. To realize her assailant was in our neighborhood before being arrested was frightening. But, I have to think that if 250 people can band together to ensure this woman is buried, we as a neighborhood can do just about anything.

The Naming Ceremony for the Carmen Castellano Fine Arts building will be held at San Jose City College on September 6, 2012 from 2-4 pm. The ceremony will be held in the courtyard. This is a good time to see what the latest new building looks like.

I'm going to ask all of you to do me a favor: Slow Down. Slow down when you are driving down the street because it's getting kind of scary during peak times. Slow down and take a walk around the block because the more you're out there, the easier it is to spot what doesn't belong; that makes our neighborhood safer. Slow down and take a moment to appreciate a neighbor's flowers or listen to the kids playing. Slow down before reacting to the craziness of an election year. Slow down and just give yourself a few minutes to enjoy yourself. It can all wait for just a moment or two. *See you at the meeting...Randi*

### **General Meeting September 13, 2012**

**Community Room  
Bascom Community Center  
1000 S. Bascom Ave  
San Jose CA 95128  
(Next to Streetlight Records)**

**6:30pm**

**Mix and Mingle  
Meet Your Neighbors**

**7:00pm**

**Welcome  
Updates from Electeds  
San Jose PD**

**7:15pm**

**San Jose City College  
Greg Nelson, Admin VP  
Updates and Info**

**8:20pm**

**Drawing  
Announcements**

**8:30pm**

**Get Home Safely**

## Notes and News

### Bascom Community Center

Hundreds of local children enjoyed summer programs at our new community center. Many of them attended for about \$20 per week (including lunch!) thanks to a Federal grant. With school back in session, however, programming at the center has been drastically reduced.

When opened, the facility did not receive adequate funding (or time line) to set up long-term programs. According to city policy, programs must be fee based and must be set up to recover enough funds.

What is working and what is running full bore is the fitness portion of the site. The fitness center is opened daily, accommodating people who want to use a state of the art facility. Classes run in the evenings and the gym is opened. There is a host of “mommy and me” programs you can sign up for.

Friday night teen open gym is still running, but the teen center, however, will remain closed for now.

An attempt was made to outsource the day-to-day operations of the facility recently, but the bids that came in were not sufficient to meet the community needs or to operate the site as a whole.

This raises the question of how does the site remain viable and open if it's never funded enough to run a complete program. If you haven't been by, join us for a meeting or just stop by on your way home. You paid for it; it's time to use it.

### Free (or nearly free) Fall Activities

**Master Gardener Free Plant Clinic** runs the first Sunday of each month at the Guadalupe Community Garden. Have a question about all things green? Want to get advice on landscaping and gardening? Have a plant you want identified? This is the place to be.  
[www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org)

**Night Market** is an Asian themed market place set up on Saturday nights across from the Berryessa Flea Market. There are dozens of vendors selling a wide array of goods, food trucks and more. This is a temporary weekly event through September that is based on the night markets in Asia and is collaboration between San Jose Made and Moveable Feast. This event drew more than 20,000 people the first few weeks and is revamping to include more when the re-open on September 8. [www.nightmrkt.com](http://www.nightmrkt.com)

**September 14 from 6pm to Midnight is (e) Merge: Zero1 Street Festival** in the SOMA area. See emerging artists and the merging of art and technology. [www.zero1.org](http://www.zero1.org)

**October 13 – Pumpkins in the Park** Enjoy a free day of family entertainment at Discovery Meadow. There will be scarecrow-making contests, kids costume parade, apple cider tasting, entertainers, musicians and a host of fun things just a quick light rail ride away. Oh, yes, and plenty of pumpkins. [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org)

**Moveable Feast Food Trucks** are becoming a permanent part of our urban landscape. The Friday night events at the light rail station on Curtner quickly became a great place to hang out and meet friends while enjoying an ever-changing array of food trucks.  
[www.mvbl.org](http://www.mvbl.org)

**San Jose's Public Libraries not only have free in house events, they can connect you to free passes elsewhere.** While our local library remains shuttered, you can still access a variety of programs at other branches. From knitting classes to children's story time, book clubs to teen activities, our branch libraries offer a wide assortment of free programs. You can learn about computers, learn another language, polish up your English skills or polish up a resume. SJPL has now launched a program in partnership with local museums that allows you to download free or discounted tickets each month. The closest branch libraries are in Willow Glen and the Rose Garden. This is a great way for you to figure out what you want to see when the Bascom Library is finally opened.  
[www.sjpl.org](http://www.sjpl.org) Enjoy all that San Jose has to offer.

**A Senior Crime Stopper Workshop** is being held on Thursday, September 6, 2012 at the Alma Senior Center, 136 W. Alma in San Jose. Brought to you by State Assembly Member Nora Campos (District 23), this workshop will help you identify scams directed at seniors. The workshop runs from 10:45am-11:45am. You can make reservations by calling her office at 277-1220.

**Do you know how to secure yourself in the workplace, a church or public place?** Sadly in this day and age we all hear on a regular basis about somebody who takes a gun and simply starts shooting. Afterwards, you hear two things: (1) Victims stating they didn't know what to do, and (2) Speculation on what the victims' could/should have done. Why not be prepared? San Jose City College's Police Chief Raymund Aguirre is conducting two half-day workshops on how to deal with active shooters on September 27 and 28 (2-5pm) that will give you both information and hands on training. Day one will be spent learning survival skills and understanding how first responders institute lockdowns and other processes. Day two will be working directly with San Jose and District Police. Seating is limited. For more information, contact Chief Aguirre directly at [ray.aguirre@sjcccd.edu](mailto:ray.aguirre@sjcccd.edu) or call (408) 590-4595.

**Want to learn how to prune roses, looking at putting roses in your yard and wonder what will work best or just want to hang out with people who love to garden?** San Jose is home to two stellar rose gardens that are always looking for volunteers. The Heritage Rose Garden at the Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens is home to hundreds upon hundreds of roses from around the world. Think of this site as a rose library with every shape and size. On Wednesdays and Saturdays volunteers are welcomed between 8:30-11:30am to help prune, clean and mulch. [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org). Our other site is the Municipal Rose Garden in the Rose Garden neighborhood. This site is a showcase for many varieties and is an example of how the community and city can partner to maintain this award-winning site. The non-profit Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden have several volunteer events coming up in September. [www.friendsjrosegarden.org](http://www.friendsjrosegarden.org).

**The Burbank/Del Monte Neighborhood Advisory Committee** will be holding a "History of the NAC" meeting on September 27 6:30pm at the Bascom Community Center. Organized more than a dozen years ago during the Strong Neighborhoods days, this coalition of neighborhood and business interests has continued to function even in the post-Redevelopment area. Portions of SONA (south and east of the Fruitdale/Bascom area) were incorporated into this redevelopment area. The signal at Leigh/Kingman is a direct result of this group. All are invited.

**SONA Online** is an easy way to stay in touch in between newsletters. You can visit our website or like our Facebook page Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose). We've used this page to update people on crime, promote school car washes and keep people posted on activity in and around the neighborhood. We are currently working with the city on a new program, but frankly, all of the bugs aren't worked out yet, so stay tuned. We want to make sure that an online forum is inclusive but still protects our privacy. Meantime, if you've got an event or activity you want put on Facebook, you can pop in yourself or ask one of the board members to do it for you.

**PayPal is 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/>.** You can also sign up for easy to use yearly renewals or add a little extra to support SONA

**New and Renewing Members:** Richard & Susan Ryzinga, Beth & Riche White, John & Gloria Carter, Bill Rike, Jack & Gloria Barone, Jean & James Reed, and Lea & Bill Adams. We thank you for your new and renewing memberships and donations it is appreciated.

**SONA Board members Jussi and Lisa will be conducting another recycling pick up day soon.** Save your cans and bottles! Give either of them a call and let them know you want to be on the pick up route. We won't publish the date of these pick ups because we don't want people scouting the neighborhood and taking the items off your front porch.



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## Fall Check List

While we are enjoying Indian Summer, it's time to get ready for winter. Around the yard it's the season to clear out, clean up and mulch the beds. Take advantage of seasonal sales and get spring bulbs in the ground. Around the house, check your heating system, change filters if needed, check window and door seals. Walk the perimeter of the house and replace, repair and clean drains, gutters and downspouts. This is also the time to do a pavement check. If sidewalks and driveways have cracks, grab the caulking gun and fill them in before rains hit. Check exterior walls for wear and tear; you may not be able to get a wall painted, but you can seal it with a coat of primer. What is the one thing you'd hate to be doing mid-winter in a downpour? Fix it now.

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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.