



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.
Issue 143 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

The Bascom Library is opening!!!! Whew, who thought it would take this long? There will be a community celebration for both the library and the community center on February 23 (see page 3) so don't miss it. When I made a vow to follow the process from beginning to end I didn't ever think it would be more than 13 years in the making. If you ever voiced your opinion, attended a meeting or wondered just when the heck this was going to happen...the wait is over! SONA wants to set a record for attendance at this event, so mark your calendars.

I attended the Mayor's neighborhood budget gathering this month and while things are looking up, we still have a long way to go. Residents had a list of revenue generating options and a list of spending options and depending on how much they generated, they set priorities for spending. This led to some lively discussions. Some of the revenue generation options were cutting fire personnel or cutting community center and library hours along with approving bonds, parcel taxes and business taxes. The spending options were centered on increasing community services, adding more police and road repair. My table voted for local taxes (business and property) to pay for more police, increased library and community center hours and retain senior nutrition programs because, as one person put it, it costs us less and we get more out of our money when we do this locally. They also voted for a bond measures to repair local roads because our youngest driver pointed out it costs more to repair the car than the assessment of the bond.

There will be opportunities for you to voice your opinion on budgets, so make sure that your voice is heard. This is the season when we have to fight for our own centers and libraries, ensure our city is safe and at the very least get the same level of service that other parts of the city enjoys.

I don't know about you, but having a campus closed down due to a report of a person with a gun then having our streets shut down because a distressed person decided to confront police naked with a samurai sword left me wondering what else the new year has in store. The one thing that I was truly grateful for was the quick online response of our neighbors who kept each other informed. I know a lot of you want to keep your online business private, and we all do our best in that area, but our online forums are a must these days. During the lock down of San Jose City College I could post the latest updates directly from the campus.

It would be impossible for me to thank all of the people who worked on the Bascom site for the last 13 years. But you know who you are and we owe all of you a big thanks. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a big wonderful neighborhood to open a new facility. Thank you to everyone. *See you at the meeting (and the opening!)...Randi*

General Meeting February 14, 2013

*****6:30pm- 8:00pm*****

**Community Room
Bascom Community Center
1000 S. Bascom Ave
San Jose CA 95128**

**6:30pm
Mix and Mingle
Meet Your Neighbors**

**7:00pm
Welcome
San Jose PD**

**7:15pm
Madeline Walton-Hadlock
Senior Librarian
How Bascom Library will
Be Launched and How You
Can Get The Most From It**

**7:45pm
Open Discussion on 2013
Meetings**

**8:00pm
Drawing
Announcements**

**8:15pm
Get Home Safely**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association general meetings are open to all and held on the second Thursday of each month at the Bascom Community Center, 1000 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128. Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Board members are listed on page 2.

Notes and News

SONA Online! Because we only deliver our newsletter once a month, your best chance at receiving or dispensing the most up to date information is online. SONA's website is a complete archive of previous newsletters and current projects. If you want to **receive updates or newsletters via email, contact Layne Kulwin**. The email list is a general list that is only used once a month to send newsletters out. Having a garage sale, need a referral, noticing some suspicious activity or want to let people know of an upcoming event? Then join us on our **Facebook** site or join our **Yahoo group**. This allows you to post and receive the most current information that doesn't make it to our newsletter. Recent postings have included information about Del Mar High School events and public meetings on the proposed 40% rate to your water bill. All of our sites are moderated and monitored so you will not be getting spam or other unwanted mail. While you and your neighbors may have a small email list that allows you to communicate easily among yourselves, this doesn't reach out to those who live just a few blocks away.

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.

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.

Newsletter carriers needed. If you have an hour or so a month, SONA needs somebody to deliver newsletters each month. Great community service project or simply a way to make sure your neighbors are well informed. If you would like to help or know someone who want to help please contact board member Sheila Cvitanich at (408) 292-2609. We thank you in advance for any help you may be able to provide.

Paid summer internship positions are available at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for both college and high school students. While the college position will most likely be at the MTC headquarters in Oakland, some of the high school internships will be here in the South Bay. For more information, go to www.mtc.gov. MTC is the regional transportation body that coordinates programs and disperses some of the State and Federal transportation funds. While we have been represented through our county reps, San Jose recently gained it's own seat on the commission this year. Councilmember Sam Liccardo is the current appointee to the commission.

Thanks to New and Renewing Members: Deborah & William Moore, Mary & Daniel Graham, and Joshua Gordineer

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	mlrool@sbcglobal.net
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 Chat Group		http://groups.yahoo.com/group/talk2sona/
Facebook: Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose)		
		https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherman-Oaks-Neighborhood-Association-San-Jose/151383304945052?fref=ts
Website		www.sona-sj.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.

Bascom Library Community Center Grand Opening Ceremony February 23, 2013 2:00pm 1000 S. Bascom Ave

If the saying "Good Things Come to Those That Wait" has any relationship to our community center and library, then this isn't just a good thing; it's a great thing. On a Saturday in the near future the doors to our local library will open. The community center has been opened on a part time basis for almost 8 months and we will finally see a joint celebration for both units.

The City of San Jose is staging a series of library openings this winter, beginning with the re-opening of the Seven Trees Branch in January. Bascom is next!

The community center was the number one priority for multiple neighborhoods in our district. Along the planning path we picked up a branch library intended for the residents of District 1 when no site could be found within that district. This is one of a handful of joint facilities designed to optimize activity for residents while minimizing the staff needed to run the sites. It is the only one built for two different council districts.

The grand opening ceremony will include our elected officials, activities, book sales, food and excitement. Because a large crowd is expected, we recommend getting there early and parking down the street if you don't ride your bike or walk to the event. If you are a senior or disabled, please let one of our board members know so we can be sure to reserve a parking spot up front for you.

Because the agenda for the opening ceremony hasn't been organized at press time, we suggest you check in with SONA online through any of our formats or keep checking with the library and community center. You can also check the websites and Facebook pages for both the library (www.sjpl.org/bascom) and center (<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=204>).

The Seven Trees opening had around 1000 people attending the event. SONA hopes to break that record and turn twice as many. So tell your friends and plan to make an afternoon of this once in a lifetime party.

There will be a need for resident volunteers during the event, so if you are interested, let one of the board members know.

There will be a donor's reception in February for those who wish to contribute to the Library Foundation. Visit the library website, find the foundation donation button and make sure you note your donation is for the Bascom Branch.

Come celebrate!

Around the Neighborhood

Our holiday season ended quite successfully when we joined the Korean American Community Services (KACS) in a toy distribution at the Sherman Oaks Community Center December 23, 2012. KACS did most of the work and preparation, gathering toys and getting food together. While the event didn't start until 9am, families were lined up outside by 7:30am. The KACS youth group works very hard to run activities, coordinate the visits with Santa, take pictures and pick out just the right gifts. In just about two hours almost 200 families representing about 350 or more kids ate, listened to music, played and visited with Santa. Speaking of Santa, a special thanks to Santas Michael LaRocca who started this with KACS five years ago and new Santa Layne Kulwin. They were assisted by Santa Helpers Jussi Rajna, Lisa Steingart, Steve Kline, Randi Kinman and Rebekah Parr who helped check people in and worked in Santa's workshop. A wonderful event that helped local families have a great Christmas.

Del Mar High School is offering a presentation of **Legally Blond, The Musical Feb 7-16**. You can buy tickets through the Performing Arts Department or visit the Seat Yourself website.

While **construction slowly progresses at Fruitdale Station**, there is news about the corner at Southwest and Leigh that has been sitting empty for so long. The developer has received a low interest loan to help finance the building of a low income senior residence on the empty lot. We'll keep you updated when we learn more.

Residents received notice that construction on the new multi purpose building at **Sherman Oaks Elementary School** would begin in December but that has been pushed back to at least mid-February due to scheduling and weather. Residents have expressed concern about what will happen when construction actually starts so we are working with the school district on a more comprehensive update.

Mark your calendars for the **Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County Spring Market!** On April 13 you can join thousands of residents who are filling their baskets, carts and wagons with all things gardening. This event features cuttings, seeds, bulbs and seedlings for your vegetable garden, landscaping or indoor collection. There are demonstrations, speakers and hands on "how to" areas along with vendors and gardening related sales. You can park your purchases at a special area, allowing your hands to be free to purchase more! This event runs from 9am-2pm at History San Jose, 1650 Senter Road. If you haven't been there, it's a wonderful chance to stroll through the historic buildings and grounds. Parking lots open at 8am and there is always a big surge to get in the gates to grab your favorites from the hundreds of varieties of heirloom peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs and more. You won't find some of these varieties anywhere else and there are always new plants that the MG group is working with to see how they do in our area.

Rumor has it people were lining up by 7:30am last year, but even if you get there later you'll find something you didn't know about or something you just have to take home. Gourmet food trucks will be on hand for your lunchtime enjoyment or bring a picnic basket and enjoy this venue. You can preview the sale and get parking directions by going to the website www.mastergardeners.org/spring-garden-market. This is a great event if you are a novice, encouraging kids to get involved or have been gardening for decades. The Master Gardener program is also available if you have plant or pest questions at (408) 282-3105.

If you have events that you think SONA residents would be interested in, post them on our website or Facebook page or give one of us a call.



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Guadalupe River Park and Gardens

Whether you want to walk along a quiet and peaceful path along the river, learn more about wildlife and gardening or enjoy our Heritage Rose Garden or Heritage Orchard, this park that runs three miles from downtown to the airport has something for everyone in the family. You can visit their website at www.grpg.org or head to the offices at 438 Coleman for more information, but here's a taste of what's available:

- It's not too late to buy your Valentine a most unique gift. For \$50 you get a plaque in the Heritage Rose Garden for your special someone in front of the rose of your choice along with a box of goodies that includes Shurra's chocolate.
- K-12 field trip programs are available, teaching about salmon habitat, local wildlife, geocaching and more. Programs are also specially designed for our home scholars.
- Scout badges can be earned through on site programs.
- Small group programs are available and there are programs designed specifically for special needs groups.
- February 9 is a gray water program that teaches you how to use your shower or kitchen sink water in your garden.
- How to build a successful birdhouse the morning of February 23.
- If getting into shape or walking more is on your list of New Year's resolutions, join others for a six-week spring walking series beginning March 9.
- Looking at new landscaping or a vegetable garden this year? Join the Master Gardeners for Sustainable Gardening workshops that begin in April.
- Frustrated with your roses or afraid to prune them? Join volunteers and learn how to take care of your roses at the Heritage Rose Garden on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 8:30am. You'll find a wealth of free information and hands on experience to take home.
- There are ongoing classes in composting and other gardening issues.
- In April there is a children's fair and a fantasy fair, in May you can celebrate Cinco de Mayo, there are a variety of events hosted by non-profits throughout the year.

This is your park...go enjoy it.