



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 144 of your local neighborhood newsletter.

Notes From the President

I'm not sure how we can top last month, but we'll try! After a dozen years our residents were finally able to walk into our local library. With our community center still growing, we at last are enjoying the fruits of our labor. Based on the stacks of DVDs, books and other materials checked out that day, we are going to be one of the more popular branches. The computer rooms were used on opening day, kids were enjoying story time, teens found the room just for them and people were using all available space.

A special thanks to Board members Jussi, Sheila, Marlene, Michael, Rebecca and Lisa for volunteering that day. Layne was home recuperating but sent Steve to document the day and run the Friends section of the library.

While this is "our" facility, Bascom also serves our neighbors in Pamlar, Buena Vista, Burbank and other neighborhoods. This is probably why we beat all opening day records with a whopping 5860 people logged through the library doors in four hours.

The opening ceremony was brief with the usual collection of elected officials and dignitaries. Former Councilmembers Yeager and LeZotte were on hand in the audience along with former Supervisor Jim Beall. The seats at the podium were reserved for currently elected officials and staff members. Council members Campos, Constant, Khamis, Liccardo and Nguyen joined Pierluigi Oliverio and Mayor Reed in the ribbon cutting.

I couldn't help but think of the countless hours residents put in on these projects. One community member in particular stands out for her commitment to this project. Susan Price-Jang organized parents at Sherman Oaks to lobby for services in the late 1990s. Their kids are now either in high school or grown. During the years she has participated in every group, attended countless meetings, donated time and money and kept families involved in budgets, attending council meetings and choosing the art for the site, making sure our residents with limited English are front and center in the process. She is one of a small army of volunteers who deserve our thanks.

Since the community volunteers, organizers, parents, kids and activists weren't mentioned during the opening ceremonies, I will say what should have been said: ***Thank you for devoting your time and energy to making sure the families in your neighborhood are able to access this site. You deserve the applause today because it was your work, your tenacity, your determination and your drive that pushed year after year to make this happen. You are the ones that deserve the thanks from all of us because your work ensures this portion of San Jose will be a better place to live, work and play in than before. Your names may not appear on a plaque, but your legacy will be felt. On behalf of the City of San Jose we thank you and congratulate you.***

See you at the meeting...Randi

General Meeting March 14, 2013

6:30pm

Meet and Mingle

Come meet your neighbors over coffee and snacks.

7:00pm

Welcome

San Jose PD (if available)

7:15pm

James Crawford, Deputy Superintendent

Campbell Union School District
What's the latest news and schedule for the construction projects at Sherman Oaks Community Charter School? What is our timeline and what can we expect?

8:00pm

Announcements

Upcoming Meetings

Door Prize Drawing

April Elections

What do you want this year?

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association general meetings are open to all and held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Bascom Community Center. Board meetings are held on 2nd Monday of each month at Sherman Oaks Community Center small office at 6:30pm. Board members are listed on page 2.

Notes and News

SONA E-mail List: We are looking to add you to our list of online members for several reasons. First of all, it's expensive to deliver newsletters and our grant funding for this has been drying up. Second, it's the right thing to do. We need to reduce the amount of paper we use and become a leaner, greener community. Third, we need to expand our ability to contact each other and stay in touch. Because our newsletter is delivered monthly, we miss sending you vital information about your neighborhood. We also miss the general "chat" that makes life interesting and fun, so we'll be sending you requests to join our Yahoo group as well. Who's having a garage sale, who needs a gardener or plumber, who's looking for a babysitter, who's having a block party, who's selling their home? Online forums will allow us to build these neighbor-to-neighbor ties. **At no point will your information be given out or sold to anybody, at no point will your info be published.** If you have the skills and are interested in helping us grow our e-presence, contact Layne Kulwin (see below).

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.

One of the advantages to inviting people to an opening event is touching base with the entire team that helped build our new Bascom site. The architectural team was there and they were dismayed to learn we have issues with the acoustics in the community room. They promised to fix it and immediately contacted their acoustical team and the center staff.

Congratulations to San Jose City College! The college learned that they have successfully completed their accreditation process and are no longer on academic probation. This is truly a great step in a long process. The campus recently had to shut down open public access to the track and field portion of the campus so we can no longer enjoy walking laps. They were experiencing too much damage through vandalism and graffiti. SJCC is also planning on installing new gates and security features such as cameras around campus. They also needed to reduce the liability of having people who are not students, staff, faculty or part of a sanctioned outside group using the facilities. We can help reduce the damages the campus sees by reporting all suspicious activity. If you wonder who is on campus or want to know what events are coming up you can find out who is an authorized vendor and who is going to be on campus by going to <http://www.sjcc.edu/community/doing-business-with-sjcc/index.aspx>.

SONA Contact List

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| 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 1200 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 Community Center

The Bascom Community Center opened quietly last spring and has been ramping up ever since. Kids from our neighborhood enjoyed a full day program during the summer, teens have been using the gym during open hours, leagues have formed, weddings have been held and the facility is growing with each quarter.

Our first movie night is scheduled for March 29, 2013 at 6pm. Join your neighbors for a fun evening and the classic Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory. This is the first in what we hope is a multitude of outdoor movies. Low cost refreshments will be offered. If you sign up for a class or camp you'll earn a golden ticket good for a slice of pizza and soda at the event. If you need assistance with parking or access, please notify staff in advance.

Our Recreation Supervisor is Hal Spangenberg who has been busy getting new classes and activities going. If you are interested in renting any of the facility, contact Hal or his staff.

Bascom offers a fitness center with state of the art equipment. Fitness classes are expanding and currently offer Zumba, hula, yoga and other activities for all ages and abilities. The gym hosts drop in times and organized leagues. Because all facilities must generate income to cover the cost of operations, fees are charged, but they are the best buy in town. You have the option of paying per event or class or you can pay a flat fee that gives you access an open pass to everything.

There are a number of summer programs coming up, including the extremely popular summer program offered last year. Programs have been expanded to include a cooking camp, sports leagues for all ages and abilities, science, gaming and more.

While the office is open during specific hours, there are activities and events that occur (like the popular Friday teen gym) that run outside office hours. Current office hours are:

- Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
- Friday 9am-6pm
- Saturday 9am-1pm
- Sunday Closed

Phone: 408.794.6289

Website: www.sanjoseca.gov

Go to the drop down menu for parks

Facebook: Bascom Community Center

If you wish to donate to the community center to support programs, you can do so through the Friends of Bascom Library Community Center. See article on page 4.

Bascom Library

Do you have your library card? If not, it's time to enjoy this free service. Whether you are looking for "real" books, e-books, music or videos, your newly opened local library is waiting for you with some great hours:

- Monday-Tuesday CLOSED
- Wednesday 11am-8pm
- Thursday-Saturday 10am-6pm
- Sunday CLOSED

The Library offers a quiet study room along the Del Mar side, a reading area with a fireplace, a huge children's area, fully stocked computer room, teen center and meeting rooms. Classes are already scheduled for ESL and parenting along with regularly scheduled story times. Upcoming events include a St. Patrick's Day crafting event and Battle of the Bands.

This public facility is also available for your community events and meetings.

Our librarian is Maddy Walton-Hadlock who was tasked with opening our site immediately after returning from maternity leave. She is a great resource for us.

One of the great things about our library system is your ability to order materials from other branches. Can't find that book or DVD? You can go online and have it transferred from other sites.

There is a TeensReach program for those 13-18 who are interested in the library and its services. This group builds leadership potential in our youth while ensuring they are at the table as programs and services are developed. This program meets Wednesdays at 4pm and qualifies for community service requirements.

Adult volunteers are also in demand. Do you have a program or class you are willing to supervise? Want to help out in the library itself? There are a variety of options open to you.

Libraries also depend on financial support outside the budget process. There is non-profit Library Foundation that can accept donations. You must make sure you flag donations for Bascom if you want them dedicated to the site. There is also a Friends group (see page 4) that oversees local fundraising and volunteers.

Contact information for the library:

Phone: 408.808.3077

Email: bamail@sjlibrary.org

Web: www.sjpl.org/bascom

Facebook: Bascom Branch Library

<https://www.facebook.com/BascomBranchLibrary?fref=ts>

Donate/Volunteer:

www.sjpl.org/donate

San Jose Public Library Foundation

www.sjplf.org

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Friends of Bascom Library Community Center

All of our libraries have a Friends group that helps bring in local volunteers and funds for branch libraries. At Bascom you will see a space dedicated for our FOBLCC group just to the left of the library front doors. The difference between our group and others is we have a community center on site also. Our Friends group will be organizing in a manner that allows us to devote time and energy to the promotion and sustainability of both sides of our site.

For those of you who are book shopping, the Friends section offers a wide selection of materials at reasonable prices. You are on an honor system if nobody is there to attend to your purchase. If you have books to donate for the book sales, you can bring them to any SONA meeting, a FOBLCC meeting or drop them off directly with library staff. Staff will stock the materials until they can be sorted for the Friends booth.

Besides the daily sales in the Friends corner you will find the group promoting periodic big sales of gently used books. These sales are always a big draw and you can purchase books by the bag. And, they'll even sell you the bag that you can proudly use at the grocery store.

Friends groups also organize volunteer time at the library and promotional events.

Our Friends group started years ago while the library was still in the design stage. They helped lobby elected officials to make sure that when the City budget started to improve all libraries would open. Our Friends group promoted an "Open the All" program and worked to make sure that all libraries received equal open time.

With the opening of the new library, the Friends group will begin regular meetings. All are welcome to join and nobody has to contribute financially. The Friends group wants a wide variety of people to help be the voice of the community. **Friends of the Bascom Library and Community Center will have regular meetings on the third Saturday of each month at the library. The next meeting is Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 10am.**

If you have questions, you can contact Steve Kline or visit the Facebook page Friends of Bascom Library Community Center. While the Friends group is getting their non-profit status organized, tax deductible donations can be directed through the San Jose Parks Foundation, PO Box 53841, SJ CA 95153 or via their website www.sanjoseparks.org. Make sure you note where you want your money to go.