



## Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

*Issue 153 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) general meetings are open to all interested parties. General meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Bascom Community Center, 1000 S. Bascom Ave beginning at 6:30pm. SONA board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center at 6:30pm. Newsletter is partially funded with a Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant from the City of San Jose.

### Notes from the President

Sorry to have missed last month's meeting but I heard that it was a great event! I'm glad to see that so many people showed up and a big thanks to Layne for getting things organized.

This month we are going to have a strategy session about the **Urban Village Plan for Bascom Avenue**. What message do we want to send to the City Council about the placement of 1500 housing units, retail and commercial space all in the area between Southwest Expressway and Highway 280? What would happen to traffic? Where would we put parks? How can we protect our existing neighborhoods?

The San Jose City Council is scheduled to have a study session on the Urban Village concept in general on November 12 but our Village plan will not go before them for approval until after the first of the year. We still have time to agree on what we want as well as join with other neighborhoods to ensure our voices are heard.

**A big congratulations to our own Michael LaRocca** for being awarded the Founders Award at the Maintenance Superintendents Association at their 45<sup>th</sup> annual conference in September. The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter nominated Michael for this award. Based on Michael's significant contributions to his Agency, his community and particularly to MSA," noting his 29 year career with the Town of Los Gatos, his ongoing work with the association and his many, many community service activities. It is great to see Michael being acknowledged for the many contributions to our community and others.

With the holidays closing in on us, it's time to re-visit safety measures for the home and while you are out and about. Remember that it takes very little time for somebody to break into your car or home. With the shorter days, watch out for pedestrians. And those first rains will bring out floods and slick roads, so take your time and be safe

*See you at the meeting... Randi*

## General Meeting

**November 14, 2013**  
**Bascom Library - Community Room**  
**1000 S. Bascom Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**San Jose CA 95128**

### 6:30pm

- ❖ **Mix and Mingle**
- ❖ **Meet the Neighbors**
- ❖ **Coffee and Cookies**

### 7:00pm

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Report from Elected Officials**
- ❖ **Report from SJPD (If available)**
- ❖ **Featured Program**

### 8:15pm

- ❖ **Door Prizes**
- ❖ **Announcements**
- ❖ **New Business**

*Have a Safe Trip Home!*

## SONA Recipe Corner

*Tasty treats shared by your neighbors.*

This month's contribution is from  
**Beverly Mazzola**

### PICKLED ONIONS

#### Ingredients:

- 2 large red onions
  - 1-1.5 pound each
- 1-1.5 cups red wine vinegar
  - (I use Luigi's Pride)
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar

Peel onions and cut in half lengthwise. Put the onions cut side down on a cutting board and slice lengthwise into 1/8" thick slices. (*Cutting with the grain of the onion rather than across will help the onions soften more quickly in the pickling liquid.*) Pack the onions into jars; reserve any slices that don't fit.

Combine the vinegar and sugar in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Pour the hot vinegar mixture over the onions. Once the onions begin to wilt, you can add any remaining onion slices to the jar, gently pushing them down into the liquid to submerge them. Let cool to room temperature, then cover and refrigerate for at least 24 hours, or for up to 1 month.

#### Note:

I use small onions and quarter them and I use pint or 1/2 pint jars and I have kept mine refrigerated for up to 3 months. If you decide to use more onions than the recipe calls for just remember the pickling liquid is 2 to 1 vinegar to sugar

## Bascom Community Center and Library

### Visit With Santa

Saturday, December 7, 2013

11am - 1pm

1000 S. Bascom Ave

Staff is still looking for groups or businesses to sponsor food or activities. A visit with Santa is always better with cider, cocoa, coffee and cookies. If you have a school or other group who can perform, let them know. Have decorations or other materials to donate? Want to set up an info booth? If so, contact Librarian Maddy Walton-Hadlock at the library or email her at :

[Madeline.Walton-Hadlock@sjpl.org](mailto:Madeline.Walton-Hadlock@sjpl.org)

If you want to volunteer the day of the event or any other time, contact Shirley Tanase at the library or email her at:

[Shirley.Tanase@sjpl.org](mailto:Shirley.Tanase@sjpl.org)



### Bascom Library and Community Center Needs Holiday Volunteers

San Jose Branch Libraries host a variety of events throughout the year with the help of volunteers and donations. For instance, the Friends of Bascom Library, through the sales of donated books has been able to fully or partially funded a lion dancer for the Lunar New Year celebration in September, paid for holiday craft supplies for the November and December programs and a harpist for the holiday season. Your donations directly help, so visit the Friends nook at the Library.

This December there will be a Visit with Santa event for the first time so the Library is coordinating volunteers and donations. The entire facility will be part of the festivities with crafts and activities, snacks and games. While this will not be an event that features giving out presents, Santa will be on hand to chat with kids and finish up that holiday list of his.

## **Art Boxes Come to Sherman Oaks!**

If you've driven by Sherman Oaks School and glanced down the street you will now see a spaceship, an astronaut and a constellation of surprises. This is not part of the school's renovations but is a part of a program called Art Box Project San Jose.

Founded in 2011 by Tina Morill, this program allows people, businesses and groups to "adopt" utility boxes and become sponsors. For a fee (which can be processed as a tax deductible donation through the San Jose Parks Foundation), the artist creates a one of a kind installation that receives an anti-graffiti coating. The sponsors of the art box have some input but the design and installation is up to the individual artist.

Artists can apply to become part of the Art Box team and are placed in a pool of artists. The intention is to ensure a wide variety of art is scattered around town. The fees paid by the community helps pay for the artists' materials.

What started out on a small scale is rapidly growing with entire neighborhoods jumping in to turn all of their utility boxes into min-museums. This is truly public art at its best. You can find nearby installations at Fruitdale and Meridian, Parkmoor and Meridian and along West San Carlos. Themed installations can be found in front of the Rosicrucian Museum and other sites. You'll find floating coffee cups, abstract art and more by taking a virtual tour

Our local installation (the first of what we hope is many!) was created by Vanessa Callanta and sponsored by Ramona Snyder. You

can take a virtual tour of installations by going to <http://goo.gl/maps/4Xtv>.

If you are thinking of sponsoring an installation you can visit the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-Box-Project-SJ/138751916190793>

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## **Urban Villages**

More than 80 residents turned out each night for the Urban Village meetings held in September. At these meetings staff presented what was supposed to be a compilation of information gathered at previous meetings.

To accommodate the city's need for housing near transit, shopping and jobs, Urban Villages have been designated as high priority, high density development zones. One zone runs from Bascom at Southwest to West San Carlos and then down to Bird.

While SONA residents have repeatedly stated that the intersection at Southwest and Bascom must be redesigned to accommodate the plan, they were disappointed to see that this was not carried through on the design presented. Likewise, our request to have Fruitdale narrowed down to slow vehicles racing past schools and houses while still allowing for 2-way left turns and parking was missing.

Staff stated that a quick and easy method of turning Bascom into a walk able and attractive area would be to remove one lane in each direction and make sure there were consistent sidewalks, trees and lighting. Residents quickly pointed out that the parallel Del Mar Ave

was already highly used as a cut through, without adequate sidewalks for walking to school safety.

It will take decades to implement this plan, but the important thing now is that the ideas and opinions of those who live in the neighborhoods, which work here, which go to school here, are in place. We are the ones who know existing issues, which will allow for future plans to be successful. We may not be planners, but we know our neighborhood, we know the issues. This knowledge led residents to enlighten staff, for instance on the use of light rail by students, residents and those heading to Valley Med. They did not know that the Fruitdale station is the primary route for these riders and that the Bascom station was not a direct route.

All of this will, of course, depend on a You can read more about the Urban Village plan by going to <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1738>

You can also participate in a survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/urbanvillages>

### **REMINDER...**

**At our next General Meeting, to be held on November 14th we will be holding a strategy session about the Urban Village Plan for Bascom Avenue.**

**Let your voice be heard!**




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 Fax: 408-573-3829 License: 0H53498  
[jhunt3@farmersagent.com](mailto:jhunt3@farmersagent.com)

**SONA Contact List**

President, Randi Kinman  
 408.835.2881  
[randikinman@yahoo.com](mailto:randikinman@yahoo.com)

Administrative VP, Layne Kulwin  
 408.256.0761  
[Layne.Kulwin.SONA@gmail.com](mailto:Layne.Kulwin.SONA@gmail.com)

Secretary, Lisa Steingart  
 408.666.3287

Treasurer, Michael LaRocca  
 408.564.2374  
[mlrool@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlrool@sbcglobal.net)

Member at Large, Marlene Bird  
 408.288.9727  
[marlenebird@att.net](mailto:marlenebird@att.net)

Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich  
 408.292.2690

Member at Large, Steve Kline  
 408.768.4154  
[slkesq@me.com](mailto:slkesq@me.com)

Member at Large, Jussi Rajna  
 408.291.0202  
[jussirajna@att.net](mailto:jussirajna@att.net)

Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon  
[patrick\\_solomon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patrick_solomon@sbcglobal.net)

Del Mar High School Liaison  
[youth.sona@gmail.com](mailto: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/1513833049450522?ref=ts>

Nextdoor Neighborhood: [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com)

SONAWebsite: [www.sona-sj.com](http://www.sona-sj.com)

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