

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

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.

Issue 163 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Greetings and ghoulish Halloween wishes to all of us in the mysterious and enchanted land of SONA! Just a friendly holiday greeting from the your president and resident Friendly Ghost. Please note: there is a new SONA ruling that was unanimously passed at our last meeting – all left over chocolate candy from Halloween must be delivered to the President’s home within 48hrs. (*Honest...would I lie to you?*)

On a more serious note, with the passing of the “Autumnal Equinox” the days are now getting shorter and darkness comes earlier than we expect. Kids have a great time, as they should. ***My hope is that we all take heed of the changing season and be very watchful for the children as they make their way to and from school or just outside to play.*** Kids aren’t all that mindful about their own personal safety, which is all the more reason for us (adults) to watch out for them.

So, I ask you to PLEASE - slow down in the school and residential areas and pay attention to your driving habits. I witnessed a near miss just the other day as a young lad ran out into traffic right in front of all the cars, trucks, busses. By the way... the driver who was paying attention this time and was able to hit the brakes with nary a moment to spare was...ME!

Just a couple of short notes concerning the “problem areas” in SONA. (1) RLEI has moved very aggressively and the landlords in the Richmond-Menker area are working towards compliance in their apartments; more details to come. It’s still early in the game, but I am very encouraged! (2) The Del Mar-Rexford-Randolph area is on my docket, too...as it is at RLEI. So, please be patient. (3) I and several members of the SONA community will be meeting with PRNS staff, Friends of Los Gatos Creek and others to outline the issues and problems along Los Gatos Creek between Leigh and Meridian and to develop an agenda for presentation at a future SONA general meeting. Well, I guess things are looking up, after all!

See you at the meeting! Bring a neighbor with you! - LK

SONA General Meeting

**Thursday, October 9, 2014
Bascom Library, 2nd Floor
Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Ave**

6:30pm Cookies and Conversation.

Come meet your neighbors before the meeting.

7:00pm Meeting Starts!

Welcome

Reports from elected officials and/or staff updates.

Police Report (when available)

**Guest Speaker: Anna Coulter
Veterans Administration
Palo Alto Health Care System**

For veterans, families of veterans or caretakers. Learn what services are available, how to access them and what your rights as a veteran or spouse of a veteran are.

8:15pm Time to Wrap Up

Door Prizes
Final comments/questions
What’s next
Clean up

Get Home Safely!

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Notes and News

Get up to date SONA news online. SONA is online via a Yahoo group, NextDoor and Facebook. You don't need an invitation to join any of these groups. When information comes in we post to all three groups at the same time. You can join the Yahoo group anonymously by just going to the link. NextDoor is run by a third party and you simply "like" our Facebook page to get our feed on your page. Traffic alerts, West Nile fogging, school news are all things that happen quickly. Choose your platform and stay on top of the late

Thank you to new and renewing members: (in no particular order) Daniel Swiney, Jean & Jack Reed, Sheila Cvitanich, Matthias Steffens, Lynn Sisson, Ted & Rachel Santos, Elizabeth Harris, Karina, Todd & Aleksey Marshall, Jan & Jim Hawkins, Judith Sepeda/Morrison & Ed Morrison, Elaine Raasch Ferris, and Jacqueline Schooler. If you are receiving this newsletter and haven't joined, please do. We are moving from a yearly formula to a fiscal year formula but will take your dues anytime. You can mail a check or pay online.

Got cans? Or bottles? Jussi and Lisa are still collecting cans and bottles for recycling; give them a call for home pick up and help SONA.

Sherman Oaks Community Charter School has regular programming on CreaTV, our local public access station. The programs are produced by students thanks to a grant they received. You can see a list of episodes produced and the schedule at <http://shermanoaks.campbellusd.org>.

Speaking of schools, if your school is hosting or conducting a fund raiser, please let Randi know and we'll post it on our social media and in our newsletter. Many of our local residents would love to support our local schools, but we don't have school age kids and aren't in the "school loop". We'd love to donate to your science/math/band camp or any other project but you have to let us know. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a neighborhood to support our local schools. And, feel free to post happenings on our Facebook page or any of the other online options.

October 20 is the last day to register to vote! While we don't have a district election, your mailbox should tell you that there is a hotly contested mayoral race and school board races for us to vote on here. Register online at <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Register/Pages/Online.aspx> The Registrar of Voters page also has the complete list of items on the ballot. You can visit the League of Women Voters page at www.smartvoter.org for an unbiased analysis of bonds, taxes and candidates.

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>

Nextdoor Neighborhood: www.Nextdoor.com

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1000 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.

San Jose City College

Our thanks to SJCC for the update at our last meeting. And to Trustee Dr. Jeffrey Lease for being there as well. While we are outside the boundaries of the school district, we are adjacent to the campus and it impacts us on a daily basis.

Among the things we learned is the pilot phase of the security plan has been completed. There are now security cameras in key places where larger groups congregate; in the parking garages and other prioritize areas. The campus is in the process of establishing a campus wide security master plan that will include all areas of the campus (and it's perimeters) to ensure safety on both sides of the fence lines.

The demolition of the wing building is on hold for now. While it was expected that two of the wing buildings would have their rehabilitation completed, this wasn't the case and the campus is still doing final punch list items, moving students around and storing materials needed when the repairs and upgrades are done. We will keep you posted. On a bright note, Gilbane construction has stated they may be able to do the entire demolition without using city streets.

A new training program is being initiated on campus with the Iron Workers union. This program will fully certify students, allowing them to earn a great salary starting at \$80,000 per year. The program is a combination of job site and school site activity. The course can accommodate several hundred students by combining course and off site work.

The speakers are being turned off on one side of the stadium during football games while we all work on sound issues. Staff is also working on passes for residents so we can enjoy supporting our local team without paying for tickets.

The new PE building is in the preliminary design phase and we will finally see a new facility along with rehab of existing facilities paid for with the 2004 bond. The pool is still on the master plan but not covered by any bond program.

Don't forget SJCC has a lecture series. Look for the fall line-up at <http://www.sjcc.edu/discover-sjcc/art-lecture-series>

SONA Wins

***Elizabeth Anabo Building Resourceful
Inspirational Creative Community
2014 BRICC Award***

On October 11, 2014 SONA will be presented a BRICC Award along with other neighborhood groups at the annual Silicon Valley Neighborhood Development Training Conference. This award recognizes SONA's long-term goals and ongoing projects that help build a stronger and more united neighborhood for those of us who live, work and play in SONA.

The BRICC awards were established in memory of Elizabeth Anabo, a former Silicon Valley Community Foundation member, by her family to honor her by supporting neighborhoods in their efforts to make each neighborhood a thriving and vital place to live, work or play.

It is humbling to be given this award because there is so much good work going on all around us. The former Rose Glen neighborhood was an early recipient of this award and SONA has not applied since then. In our application we cited how we started taking action on issues like light rail sound walls even before we formally developed our organization and how we continue to work on issues that affect all of our residents.

The annual conference is also an opportunity for those of you who wish to develop community organizing tools, meet with other neighborhoods and learn about programs that can make your neighborhood a better place. You don't have to be a neighborhood organizer to attend, you just have to have a desire to learn a little more, meet neighbors with similar issues around the county, talk to groups and organizations that provide support in a variety of areas or just dip your toes in any and all of these things. It is also a great venue for figuring out how your business or company can become part of the solution, how you can engage your work community with your neighborhood community. You can register for this conference at www.unscc.org.

Fall Family Fun

Westminster Presbyterian Church has an incredible and affordable music program lined up for the 2014-2015 season with everything from Celtic music to Broadway to Renaissance baroque programs. Concerts start at 7pm at the church, 1100 Shasta Ave. just off The Alameda. For more info go to westpres-sj.org.

Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens Conservancy has ongoing events, classes and programs for all ages. One of the favorites is **Pumpkins in the Park on October 11** at Discovery Meadow. This event is geared towards the family with music, face painting, activities and, oh, yes, pumpkins. An easy light rail ride away. For more info visit www.grpg.org.

The fall schedule is out for our community centers, including fall and holiday classes and events. You can drop by the Bascom Community Center at 1000 S. Bascom Ave for a list of programs and events or visit the City's website at www.sanjoseca.gov.

The **Friends of Bascom Library** also want to remind you that there are ongoing programs and rotating events. Donations from FOBL help pay for these events. You can visit their book nook at the library. The next major book sale will be **November 8th from 10am to 2pm**.

The **Children's Discovery Museum** wrapped up its fall sprucing up and is fully open. This is a hands on creative space for kids of all ages located in that big purple building downtown. You can also book group events! For more info go to www.cdm.org.

Happy Hollow Park and Zoo is a great place to take the family for a day or book a larger event. You can spend part of your day at the petting zoo, attending the hands on classes or joining in on any number of activities before breaking for lunch. Bring a picnic or purchase food on site. The zoo has viewing windows for kids of all sizes, the playgrounds are great exploration spaces for all ages and there is always Danny the Dragon to look out for! For up

SONA Dues are Due

SONA asks for yearly dues of \$15 per person. Dues pay for newsletters, flyers and special events like the upcoming National Night Out Celebration. While we have augmented dues by obtaining grants, those sources have dried up. This year, more than ever, we need your support. 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:

Make all checks out to: SONA

_____ **DUES**
_____ **DONATION**
_____ **TOTAL**

Mail to: PO Box 59146, San Jose CA 95159-0146