

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 167 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Greetings to you all and wishing everyone a great start into 2015. If you're like me...and I suspect there are a few out there... I spend the first part of the year figuring out 1) what I **should** do, 2) **could** do, and 3) **would** do for the coming year. This can get me stuck in the "shouda-coulda-woulda" cycle which ends up with me lamenting about the past, worrying about the future and making an utter mess of my present! The only path that makes sense is to deal with the present because, really, that's all that you can control!

While that's all well and good, but it's not a very good model for leadership. Let's modify that parable. We, hopefully, learned a thing or two from the past and although our present is our reality, it is the playground for new ideas and plans. It pays huge dividends to plan for our future. That's what I'd like to see us deal with at our upcoming meeting. 4 questions:

1. Where do you see SONA heading in the near future?
2. How can we get there?
3. What would you like SONA to do for you?
4. What can you do for SONA?

Working together in groups or collectively, we will have an opportunity to plan the new direction that we'll take in 2015. Please be a part of that discussion. Your voice is so important. Let it be heard.



SONA's boundaries run from Bascom Avenue to the west, Los Gatos Creek to the south, Highway 280 to the north, and Meridian Avenue to the east. We welcome the inclusion of all residents, businesses and interested people that are around us. Please join SONA as we work in concert to make our community a better place in which to live, work and play.

AND to all those new comers that have moved into our areas – we would love to have you join us. Meet your community.

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

SONA General Meeting

****NOTE TIME AND DATE****

Saturday, February 7, 2015
Bascom Library, 2nd Floor
Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Ave

- ❖ **10:00am - Coffee Talk**
- ❖ Come meet your neighbors before the meeting.
- ❖ Have a Cup-of-Joe and a pastry or bagel. (All refreshments are calorie and guilt free)

- ❖ **10:30am - Meeting Starts!**
- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Reports from elected officials and/or staff updates.
- ❖ Honoring our newsletter carriers
- ❖ SONA 2015: What are the issues, what is working, what are your questions, ideas or concerns?

- ❖ **Noon - Time to Wrap Up**
- ❖ Door Prizes
- ❖ Final comments/questions

- ❖ **Get Home Safely!**

Special Saturday Meeting

This special daytime meeting was planned in response to several requests for a time slot that was not in the evening.
If you haven't had a chance to attend an evening meeting, please join us for a Saturday meeting. This is a chance for you to meet other SONA residents and help set the plans for next year.

Kids are welcome.

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

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 latest.

Thank you to new members: Bruce Bardell, Dennis and Marlene Bird, Lois Silva, Barbara and Joe Meininger, Mario Montes, Nancy Moritz, Paul Owens, and Maureen & Eric Walstra.

Upgrade finally coming to the Moorpark/Leigh intersection. Over the last few years we've watched the signal at this intersection get knocked over, propped up and knocked down again. It's been held in place for the last few years with sandbags and hope. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has obtained funds to install a new fixture, it's on order and will be installed in the next few months. The new signal will be installed on the opposite corner and extend over Moorpark. We have asked that drop signs indicating the freeway is left two lanes only be installed and lane markings in front of San Jose City College. Hopefully this will cut back on those who aren't familiar with the area wining up in the "Moorpark only" lane when they really want to be heading onto the freeway.

Friends of Los Gatos Creek is a non-profit volunteer organization that works with residents to keep our creeks and riparian corridors clean. To help on a clean up day or to ask for a specific area to be targeted for clean up contact Steve Holmes, friendslgcreek@yahoo.com or call him at (408) 529-4460

San Jose Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department has discounted the yearly passes for fitness centers and exercise classes. For \$139 per year you can have full access at any of the fitness centers in the city. For \$209 you can also attend Zumba, Yoga, dance and other classes at any of the centers. This is a great bargain. For more information, drop by the Bascom Community Center at 1000 S. Bascom Ave or call them at (408)794-6282. You can also visit the city's website at www.sanjoseca.gov/prms to see schedules, locations and other information.

SONA will be using some of our BRICC funds to help our residents develop a step by step emergency preparedness plan. Stay tuned!

SONA Contact List

President, Layne Kulwin	408.256.0761	LayneKulwin.SONA@gmail.com
Administrative VP, Vacant		
Secretary, Lisa Steingart	408.666.3287	
Treasurer, Michael LaRocca	408.564.2374	mlrool@sbcglobal.net
Past President, Randi Kinman	408.835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
Member at Large, Marlene Bird	408.288.9727	marlenebird@att.net
Member at Large, Sheila Cvitanich	408.292.2690	
Member at Large, Steve Kline	408.768.4154	slkesq@me.com
Member at Large, Jussi Rajna	408.291.0202	jussirajna@att.net
Website Administrator, Patrick Solomon		patrick.solomon.2008@gmail.com
Del Mar High School Liaison, VACANT		

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.

Valentine's Day...what to do?

Bypass the crowded restaurants, malls, card shops and candy stores this year and turn Valentine's Day into a special time that lasts all year.

The first thing you can do is pick up a bag of books, CDs or DVDs at the **Friends of Bascom Library Book Sale**. The sale runs at the Bascom Library from 10:00AM to 2:00PM and you'd be surprised at the volume and variety of gently used materials available. Give your special Valentine the gift of reading, music and movie "together time". These gifts and the memories last longer than a box of chocolates.

The Friends are a group of volunteers who work throughout the year to bring programming to our library. They have proudly raised thousands of dollars to pay for special enrichment programs at our local library. Funding is raised through the book sale and from donations throughout the year. If you want to donate materials, purchase items or donate funds, you can do so any time the library is open by visiting the Friends corner on the left side of the entryway to the library. Your donations stay with us locally. If you want to help at any time, contact Steve Kline (see page 2).

One gift that lasts an entire year is very reasonable, benefits local park programming and is something you can't find elsewhere. The **Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens Adopt a Rose** program allows you to adopt a rose at the Heritage Rose Garden for an entire year. You can dedicate the rose to anybody and choose the size package you want to purchase. The most expensive package is \$60 and for that, you get to pick out a special rose (a gift that lasts all year!), a small box of Schurra's Chocolate, a gourmet cookie from Café Too (San Jose Museum of Art), and a red rose delivered each month from Citti's Florist. Your special rose will have an inscription plaque honoring your Valentine and your Valentine will receive a notification in the mail.

A portion of the funds raised is tax deductible. The Heritage Rose Garden has the largest collection of roses in the Western Hemisphere. You can find roses from around the world, roses that climb, mini roses, roses that smell wonderful and roses that look like they could be used as defensive fortifications. The HRG is located next to the Heritage Orchard where you can see why our area was previously called Valley of Hearts Delight. There are picnic tables and group areas so you can enjoy visiting your special rose throughout the year.

When visiting your rose, walk a little farther down the path to the Rotary all access playground that will be wrapping up construction soon. This all access playground is the first of its kind here and allows people of all abilities to enjoy a day of play.

For more information on the Adopt a Rose program or other events, programs and activities, go to www.grpg.org or visit the office at 438 Coleman Avenue or give them a call at 408.298.7657.

New Playground Coming! Fruitdale/Leigh Grass Area @ Sherman Oaks KaBOOM! Volunteers Needed

At press time we are still waiting to learn from KaBOOM! who our corporate sponsor will be which dictates our time line, but things are lining up! Sign up lists and other info will come out as soon as this is confirmed.

In mid-late February there will be a design day where kids tell us what they want in their playground and parents walk the site and discuss options for the playground and enhancement projects. The community will be presented with three design options a few weeks later and then we can expect construction sometime in April.

Build days can be held any day of the week so it won't necessarily be a Saturday event. We currently need a volunteer to handle all the food for prep days and build day and a person to organize fund raising for the build and to establish a maintenance fund. These tasks can be shared and you can co-captain with somebody else. Once a sponsor is lined up, donation letters will be drawn up, allowing you to ask for tax deductible food and financial donations. Don't let this intimidate you as KaBOOM! has been doing this a long time and there are great step by step tools for you to use. Visit their website at www.KaBoom.org for information.

There will be a need for 20-30 Build Captain volunteers who have flexible time and can volunteer for several days. Build Captains help inventory and sort components before the build, are in charge of a small group and are drilled in safety procedures to ensure the 200 build day volunteers work together safely.

Because this is a construction project, volunteers under the age of 16 will not be allowed in "the pit". Volunteers under 18 must have signed parental permission. Anybody over 18 is welcome and you don't need skills, muscles or construction experience. Previous builds have shown us that English isn't required to be a Build Captain and we scatter bilingual residents throughout the project to support non-English leaders. Experience has shown that wheelchair folks can help build and there are many tasks suitable for seniors.

On build day there is no "Team A Street" or even "Team Sherman Oaks" because volunteers are randomly assigned to different spots. You become part of "Team Slide" or "Team Rock Wall". As your team finishes its portion, you join the larger group or move to another team.

Volunteer coordinators are Randi Kinman and Mario Montes so we have leadership in two languages. If you have any questions, for now contact Randi (pg 2) and when we get our sponsor lined up we'll start putting out bilingual material.

Community coordinators for this project are Ramona Snyder and Campbell School Board member Michael Snyder who can be reached at ramonasnyder@aol.com. Check out our FaceBook page and website for the most current updates.

Creeks, Parks and Safety

Our January meeting we had a lengthy conversation about our parks and creek trails. We started off with a great presentation by Larry Ames who outlined the many decades long process it took to get public working with agencies and cities to establish the creek trail system we all now use and enjoy. As somebody who has patiently worked on this for 40 years, he had information our Park Rangers and staff weren't aware of. He also has the most up to date information on what the pending projects are, what our future looks like and where the gaps in the system are. Thanks to these projects, we can connect to other systems around the bay.

San Jose Park Rangers then outlined exactly what their responsibilities are and what they cover. Santa Clara Valley Water District has agreed to fund additional rangers to deal specifically with the illegal camping in our riparian areas. Keeping our waterways clear of garbage, trash and human waste requires constant monitoring and new encampments are moved out quickly.

It is stunning to realize that there are just a handful of rangers who are responsible for covering the entire city system. Covering Los Gatos, Guadalupe, Coyote and our other creeks is a huge task and they cover all San Jose Parks, including rescues and routine calls. Rangers are only on duty during the hours parks are open (daylight). Gearing up a new hire takes a year.

What we did discover is not all of the calls for service to San Jose PD to report problems along the creek in our area are being logged in a way that allows us to track problems. The rangers performed an extensive records search and there were less than a dozen calls identifying the creek trail. This means we need to start logging calls to the police ourselves and follow up with the rangers to make sure they are aware of the calls and patterns that develop. What we think has happened to the dozens of calls in the past is they are logged by the cross streets and don't identify in the police log as a trail matter.

Routine maintenance calls, questions and issues that are not crimes in progress should be directed to the Park Ranger office as should any new illegal encampment. Calls regarding crimes in progress (drinking, drugs, etc.) should be routed to San Jose PD via 911. SJPD should also be called for any after hours issues. Follow up your calls to SJPD by notifying the Park Rangers.

- **Emergencies/Crimes in Progress Call 911**
- **Urgent situations or Suspicious Circumstances Call 311**
- **Chronic or Non-urgent or Maintenance Issues call Park Concerns 408.793.5510**
- **Fish & Game Violations Call CAL-TIP 888.334.2258**

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