

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 170 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

### Notes from the President

We have destroyed water! Pay attention please. I say again, we have destroyed water! At least water, as we knew it then, growing up (for me in Chicago). When I was a child this was the simplest thing of all. Water was available anywhere and seemingly everywhere. We rarely ever thought about it, let alone running dry!

When thirsty, you could go anywhere in your house and find that there were at least 3 or 4 different rooms where you could get water. If I went into my basement; I could find water. In any of the bathrooms there was a sink, you could find water. Water was in the kitchen, too. Just turn the tap on and (yahoo) out came crystal clean water. Our country had water magically coming directly into our homes... and even if you were locked out you could still get clean water from the garden hose.

Water is the essence of life and its availability is dwindling. Sometimes I think that *Aquafina* must mean the end of water (as we know it). Now must use this natural resource very differently and this change in usage is causing all of us some pain as we struggle to rethink how we now will use water in our homes, our gardens, personal hygiene, etc. What used to be beautiful, pristine lakes, streams and rivers are now empty crevices leaving the terrain to look more like the moon than the verdant green hills of California. I used to joke to my friends and family back east: California has seasonal changes, too. There is the green season and the brown season. Now, we say that "brown is the new green." One color – that's it!

We have to make serious changes in our habits. Safe drinking water is essential to humans, all living things, even though it provides no calories or organic nutrients. Access to safe drinking water should be first and foremost in our thinking: "top of mind." Accordingly, SONA will be providing programs focusing on our water problems, conservation measures and how we as individuals can make a measureable difference in our communities. Faced with mandated reductions we are left with very little alternatives. The following websites may be very valuable for you:

1. City of San José New Rules: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov>
2. SJWater Co: <http://www.sjwater.com>
3. Santa Clara Water District: <http://www.valleywater.org>

**See you at our community events this month. Bring a neighbor!**

### NO MAY General Meeting!

Due to the large number of events this month, we will not be holding a May General Meeting. See you in June!

#### President

**Layne Kulwin**

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408.995.0991

#### Administrative Vice President

Vacant

#### Treasurer

**Lisa Steingart**

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#### Secretary

Vacant

#### Immediate Past President

**Randi Kinman**

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408.835.2881

#### Board Members at Large

One Vacant Position

**Marlene Bird**

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408.288.9727

**Sheila Cvitanich**

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**Michael LaRocca**

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**Jussi Rajna**

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408.768.4154

**Ted Santos**

Board members were elected at our April 2015 General Meeting for a two year term.

**SONA could use your help!**

**Ask us How!**

## Notes and News

SONA's board has sent the San Jose Parks Foundation a check for \$500 to help pay for the new playground at Leigh and Fruitdale. The Campbell Union School District is donating the land for daily use by our residents. You can help by donating to the foundation at [www.sanjoseparks.org](http://www.sanjoseparks.org) or mail a check to PO Box 53841, San Jose, CA 95153. So far our smallest private donation has been \$2 and our largest has been \$1000. We need to raise \$8500 for phase 1 (the playground and some seating) before we head to Phase 2 which is a more developed park. Thank you Campbell Union School District!

**Thank you to new and renewing members Dolores Montano, Geraldine Stewart, Clara & Paul Carney, Mary Ann Roa, Saffett Brackmann, Mike Khitrykh, Pamela Prober and Gary Enos.** And extra thanks to those of you who donated a little something extra. SONA's expenses are covered by your donations.

SONA's board has taken note of the inconsistencies in the development proposal to convert the property currently holding the St. Elizabeth Day Home and we have sent the Planning Department a formal letter regarding the failure to notice the public about the potential land conversion.

The closing of the St. Elizabeth Day Home was a surprise to San Jose City College since they underwrite 34 of the day care slots with money from the State of California. They are working with the Campbell Union School District among others to relocate these subsidized day care spots.

Fruitdale Station (aka the old K-Mart site) is still slowly moving along with the next phase. The 7/11 management is not sure when they will move to the new building or what part of it they will occupy. Meanwhile SONA board members have contacted VTA regarding the bus stop that was moved. Besides the fact it has been moved to an unlit location, people with mobility issues cannot access the light rail station.

The new signal at Moorpark and Leigh is finally being installed so we will be saying goodbye to the old pole that has been knocked down several times.

Upcoming general meetings will include speakers from the water district and other agencies that can help you find water wise solutions and rebates. We are also planning our summer ice cream social.

There was a rash of auto break ins across the freeway that has now moved into our area. Keep your vehicles locked and know that during the summer we always experience a rash of crime.

Join us on Facebook at Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose) or our Yahoo group [talk2sona@yahoogroups.com](mailto:talk2sona@yahoogroups.com) or join us on the NextDoor network to keep up with the most recent news. If you are trying to solve a problem, give our board a call and we'll try to help you find a solution.

## May Events

**May 5**

**Fundraiser at BookMark Café for the Sherman Oaks Playground build.** Ask Minerva about this great fundraiser. She is donating 15% of her proceeds that day. BookMark Café is our locally owned café adjacent to the Bascom Library and Community Center.

**May 8**

**Friends of Bascom Library Book Sale.** Stock up on old favorites or find new books, DVDs and more. Begins at 10am. You can also find out how you can join this group of volunteers who raise funds for library programming. Call Layne 408-995-0991 or Steve 408-768-4154

**May 9**

**Susan Yuen will be holding a garage sale at College and Kingman** to help raise funds for the Sherman Oaks Playground. Contact her to either donate items or to tie into her garage sale. What a great idea! Thanks Susan.

**May 13**

**Prep Day #1 for the Sherman Oaks Playground** at the corner of Leigh Avenue and Fruitdale Avenue. We can use a few more volunteers for this. Prep is from 8am-4pm and you'll be fed breakfast and lunch. We will be receiving, inventorying and prepping materials for the playground build. To volunteer contact Randi Kinman (see pg 1). Must register in advance.

**May 14**

**Prep Day 2** if we don't get finished on Wednesday. Same time and place. Must register in advance.

**May 15**

**Playground build day at Sherman Oaks!** We still need volunteers for this and you must register in advance. In six hours volunteers will completely erect a playground and other projects that will be available seven days a week for our neighborhood thanks to KaBOOM! the San Jose Parks Foundation and the San Jose Sharks Foundation. (You do have to wait a few days to enjoy it as the cement cures) Volunteers will be checking in at 8am. To volunteer contact Randi Kinman (see pg 1). Must register in advance. We also have a separate food committee (feeding 250 people breakfast and lunch is a big task!) so if you would like to join that group contact Susan Price-Jang at [sleeprice66@gmail.com](mailto:sleeprice66@gmail.com) or call her: 408-287-0769

**May 16**

**San Jose FestivAll is a free event at Discovery Meadow** (just a few light rail stops away) next to the Children's Discovery Museum. This event runs from 10:30am-3pm and has games, activities and free fun for all thanks to the San Jose Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) department. For more information go to [www.sjpl.org/SJfestivALL](http://www.sjpl.org/SJfestivALL)