

*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 177 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter*

***Notes from the President***

Welcome 2016! Santa and his reindeer have returned to the North Pole, Auld Lang Syne has been sung as many of us watched the new year being ushered in through the magic of television. In many different cities around the globe we watched some fantastic fireworks announcing that 2016 had arrived. Many of us watched the Rose Bowl and countless football games, too. Now we prepare to get ready to forge out and begin our new year with high hopes and good wishes for the next 12 months.

This is also true at SONA. We are working diligently to safeguard our community and keep a vigilant eye on our neighborhoods. Neighbors watching out for each other and reporting any and all oddities to law enforcement (of which we still have too few) and most importantly to one another – either by word of mouth or through one of the many digital social networks like NextDoor and Facebook. We keep our eyes wide open to ensure that any government proposals that could impact our area is compliant with the rules and regulations in our city and county.

But there is much work still left to be done and perhaps at the commencement of this year you might take pause and think about what you can do to further the quality of our neighborhoods. SONA can truly use additional assistance in a number of areas. We need newsletter delivery people, hospitality helpers; there are board member positions that warrant your talents and skills.

Talk to one of the current boards members and see how you can be of assistance, what's available and greatly in need of someone how can spare an hour or two each month toward making the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association a better place to live, work and raise a family.

***See you at the meeting. Bring a friend!***

**SONA General Meeting**

**\*\*Cancelled\*\***

**Please Attend this Meeting:**

**Thursday  
January 14, 2016  
7:00-8:30pm  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1710 Moorpark Ave  
(Corner of Moorpark/Leigh)  
San Jose CA 95128**

**The City of San Jose's Police and Housing Departments are holding community meetings to discuss crime and safety around multi-unit rental buildings and the adjoining neighborhoods. They will also be discussing a nationwide Crime Free initiative and local proposals to help us all work together to make our neighborhood safer. This is your chance to speak directly to the departments about issues.**

**For more info call the Crime Prevention Unit 408-277-4133. Because parking on site is limited, alternative sites are being established. If you require ADA parking please call this number.**

**SONA will reschedule our meeting with the Bascom Community Center Staff and the Housing Department Staff to discuss operations at the community center and the city sponsored warming center at Bascom. As of the first of the year the center was only used two nights. While reports stated the gym would be used, it is the community room that will be available for 30 people. SONA will be working with staff on outreach as well as addressing needs of the users.**

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

### *Notes and News*

**Beware the scammers....** Online forums have pointed out a large number of scams over the holiday season. From door to door “cable” people to the old “I’m from the IRS and you owe us money” calls. Do not let strangers in, and do not let them distract you. Never give out personal information. Report all suspicious actions to the police first then post it on social media. It’s important for the police to know who is in our neighborhood. Phone calls and online approaches can be reported through the FCC.

**Richmond Avenue** between Fruitdale and Kingman is undergoing a six month project on the water mains. Parking is restricted weekdays during this period so other streets may see some overflow parking. Be patient.

**Keep our drains clear.** For those of you who walk the neighborhoods or live near one of the storm drains, you can help keep them clear and save us some taxpayer dollars. Keep them clear. Make sure lawn clippings, yard waste and Christmas trees are placed in the street outside the gutter lines. Also, cut those Christmas trees down to 5’ lengths.

SONA is working with adjacent neighborhoods to organize a meeting with police, social services, mental health and other departments at Valley Medical Center to address the ongoing issues of people who leave the hospital and somehow never leave our neighborhoods. Neighborhood representatives from around the area, along with business owners, will be meeting in January to discuss these issues. We are all committed to ensuring that patients who leave the hospital, whether discharged or who leave against medical advice, are not simply left fending for themselves. We strongly believe that with all of the services necessary to treat people located in one spot, there should be a greater emphasis on ensuring people in need are helped and are safe. Thanks to Brian Darrow at Supervisor Ken Yeager’s office for facilitating these meetings.

The corner of Bascom/Stevens Creek has a proposal for development that includes a 7/11. SONA welcomes the development and opposes alcohol sales on the site.

### **San Jose City College**

**San Jose City College** is still working on the construction route for the new PE building. SONA has repeatedly supported a preferred route that allows access through the gate at Kingman/Leigh as the most efficient way to keep our neighborhood safe and to ensure vehicles reach the freeway along the shortest route possible. SONA declined to comply with the onerous requests of the D6 Council office and DOT to conduct online and door to door surveys, feeling that was an expensive and unnecessary burden on us for simply saying “make our streets safe”. Construction is slated to begin in a few months.

A new Chancellor for San Jose Evergreen Community College District was welcomed at a reception in December. Welcome Dr. Deborah Budd!

SONA also opposed a request for the installation of temporary lights along the Leigh Ave multi-use field for evening soccer. The youth league that rents the field wanted to continue play after sunset. They have been moved to the football field.

Campus police, neighbors were kept advised of a VMC safety incident. Thanks to them!

### **Family Dues Now Available**

For a limited time we are offering family memberships for \$25/family. Join SONA now at this great rate! Dues help offset costs of websites, newsletters, etc.