

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 182 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the Board

From Lisa Steingart: The Dancing Cat, a non-profit organization located in downtown San Jose, has re-opened and joined with Silicon Valley Pet Project to save at-risk shelter cats. They showcase adult cats that are looking for forever homes. The Dancing Cat is a place to visit with cats in a relaxed café type setting. They have organized activities including art classes, lectures, yoga classes, and other events, you can even rent the space for a private event. On July 14th from 3:00 to 4:00 PM they are hosting a Reading with the Cats event with the San Jose Public Library. Children are invited to practice reading skills with library books and the cats. Check the website for other events, more information, fees, reservations, and cool photos.
www.thedancingcat.org

From Anne Kearny: A big thank you to the folks from many neighborhoods who have worked to clear the freeway on-ramps of some dangerous situations. The inhabited and abandoned encampments have created major health and welfare concerns due to trash, fires and pedestrians on vehicle right of way. The freeway rights of way are state concerns and should first be reported to Caltrans (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/msrsubmit/> or phone at (916) 654-2852). Then contact one of your local state representatives. Assembly Member Evan Low's Cupertino office number is (408) 446-2810. Senator Jim Beall's Campbell office number is (408) 558-1295.

From Randi Kinman: A big thank you to all who donated supplies over the last few months that allowed volunteers to pack up almost 90 care kits for the outreach workers who work with our homeless population. Basic grooming and hygiene supplies were augmented with energy bars, raisins and other quick snacks. Our Pack-a-Thon will happen again in the fall.

From our Neighbors: Join Burbank, Buena Vista and others for the Back Alley Block Party on July 23, 1-3pm at the Business Circle on the corner of Bascom and W San Carlos. Free activities, ice cream, games and a bike safety event along with BBQ from Time Deli. Transforming spaces through urban geurillaism is great fun and will leave you excited about hosting your own event.

SONA General Meeting

July 14, 2016 6-8pm

Ice Cream Social

**Sherman Oaks KaBOOM! Playground
Corner of Leigh and Fruitdale Ave**

Join your neighbors for a relaxed evening and free ice cream!

Grab your neighbors, pack up the kids and come join us for our annual summer get together. Come early and enjoy dinner or just stroll in for dessert. There is plenty of on street parking along with the parking lot at Sherman Oaks school and the playground is within walking distance of most of our neighbors.

With this year being an election year, we are also inviting those running for local offices, including School Boards, City Council and State offices. This is an opportunity to have an informal chat with those who wish to represent you.

Lisa is coordinating this event and could use some helping hands around 5pm to help unload and set up. Please contact her if you are available (pg 2)

Great time to toss a frisbee or let the kids run around. While dogs are not supposed to be on site, the rules are somewhat relaxed if you keep your pet on leash and off the playground.

Clear the Shelters July 23, 2016

The second annual Clear the Shelters event is just around the corner, allowing you to adopt an animal at no cost. In 2015 NBC paired with Telemundo and the SPCA to coordinate with more than 400 animal shelters from around the country to help place almost 20,000 pets in forever homes over two days. Locally this means most of our rescue organizations and all of our shelters waive adoption fees that allow us to place dogs, cats, kittens, rabbits and more in homes at no cost.

Last year, many local bay area shelters were cleared the first day, allowing those animals housed with foster families and rescue organizations to be brought into the shelters for adoption. This cut down on the wait time for many pets in the pipeline for forever homes.

All animals are fully vaccinated, chipped, spayed and neutered. If you've been thinking of adopting a pet, this is a prime time. Get to a shelter early because even if it's free, there is still paperwork to fill out. You can find a local participating organization by going to cleartheshelters.com or nbcbayarea.com.

Along with our shelters, there are currently half a dozen local rescue organizations that are participating this year. Rather than try to list them all, we urge you to contact the two main shelters nearby.

Our local City of San Jose shelter at 2750 Monterey Road can be reached at sanjoseanimals.com or by calling (408) 794-7297.

The Humane Society of Silicon Valley can be reached at hssv.org or by visiting their facility at 901 Ames St. Milpitas or call (408) 262-2133. The Humane Society is currently running a kitten adoption program on a low cost basis.

SONA Contact List

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<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.

SONA Safe Fire and Earthquake Safety at Home

You have a go-bag ready by the bed or in your car. You've established your communications lists and know where your meet-up locations are, where your kids might be sheltered. How can you make your home safer?

Fire Safety

- **Reduce risk.** Never leave food cooking or candles burning unattended. Keep flammable materials safely stored.
- **Check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.** All homes and apartments are required to have these installed. Are yours old, do they need to be replaced? Do you even know what they sound like? Each room should be covered.
- **Plan your evacuation.** Each room should have two routes of escape. Diagram your house and know the routes out. Make sure each family member can escape each room. Include the kids and make sure they know the way out of every room. Practice, practice, practice. Most people who draw up plans don't practice the escapes. Run drills in daylight and dark. Run drills as if the house is full of smoke.
- **Escape first.** Do not stop, do not rescue "stuff", just get people out first. If you have a minor kitchen flare up and decide to extinguish it, smother it. If you have a fire extinguisher, know how to use it and make sure it's not expired.
- **A house fire doubles every 30 seconds.** Look around and figure that it takes just a few minutes for a home to be almost fully engulfed.

Earthquake Safety

- **Plan your escape.** Your escape routes are the same as in a fire; what's in your way, what's liable to fall? Do not have pictures or other objects over the bed that can fall on you. Are mirrors fully secured? Are there objects or furniture that can fall between you and an escape route? Secure free standing furniture, bookcases, hutches, etc. to walls securely. Make sure your water heater is secured. Hardware stores are great resources for necessary materials.
- **What can go flying?** Even small things send objects flying. Vases, pictures, lamps, televisions and computers can be easily secured, reducing your risk. There are some great, low cost products (like Quake hold) that allow you to secure objects without it requiring permanent anchors. Make sure cupboard doors and drawers will hold against the contents shifting and upgrade latches if necessary.
- **Know where your utility cut offs are and know how to turn them off.** Water and gas lines should not be turned off unless there is a breach or rupture. If you have broken pipes or smell gas, you should know where the main cut offs are. There is a simple tool for both that you can purchase and attach outside.

Assume The Worst Financially

- **Plan for the worst and hope for the best.** If your home is damaged significantly, will your insurance cover it? Do you have an itemized list? The easiest thing to do right this moment is take your cell phone and walk through your house room by room taking pictures. Then make a list. Include what's in those drawers and cupboards as you go. Update the list as needed.

SONA Prepared – July Checklist

Emergency Preparedness Supplies

Assume that a natural or man-made disaster has happened and you are suddenly without power, shelter or the ability to live in your home. If you don't need rescue, if there is no urgent medical need, what do you need to get through a minimum of 72 hours? Whether it's your house or your vacation spot, you should plan on at least that long, if not a week, while first responders are dealing with urgent situations. Assume that weather will be a factor and pick a storage container (garbage cans on wheels work great!) to store your supplies in. Then plan to store the following:

- **Lights.** Flashlights with extra batteries, or better yet, able to be hand cranked to operate. Tape to the lid of your container for easier access. Glow sticks, bracelets and other disposable items are inexpensive at Halloween and can be used to light up paths, target trip and fall areas or keep track of your kids. Grab a box of solar outdoor path lights when they are on sale and put them at the edge of your property so they are easy to grab.
- **Water.** Each person needs at least one gallon of water per day minimum for drinking and sanitation. Nursing moms, people with medical conditions, kids and pets will need extra. If you are storing food that needs reconstituting, add more water to the list. Water barrels or pools may be available but that water will need to be run through a filtration system.
- **Shelter.** Tarps for the ground and over your head. And rope to secure them. Plastic sheeting and tape in case you are sheltering in place inside.
- **Clothes and blankets.** Plan on needing a change of clothes. Toss in those old shorts and shirts along with long sleeve shirts and pants. Add several pairs of socks and an old pair of shoes. Infants will need diapers and multiple changes of clothes. Don't forget hats. Make sure there are work gloves for warmth and for protection. Toss in a rain poncho. Add blankets or sleeping bags or emergency wraps.
- **Food.** Non-perishable food that will feed each person. No skimping and toss in a box of snacks for comfort and extra calories. Can opener, utensils, plates, etc. Infant formula.
- **Communication and power.** A crank or battery operated radio with a NOAA weather alert (don't forget extra batteries). A whistle to alert people or call for help. An extra crank, battery or solar charger for phone. If you have medical equipment that needs power, plan ahead.
- **First aid and medical.** A basic first aid kit along with medical supplies (check your go bag) and a list of mandatory medications, pharmacy information and medical conditions. If you can't read without glasses, toss a cheap pair in. Add dusk masks and goggles.
- **Sanitation supplies.** Not just soap and disinfectant. A bucket, plastic bags, ties and wipes will work for a temporary bathroom.
- **Document File.** A paper version that includes insurance, bank and personal records in a waterproof container. Toss in a map of your area...a paper one. Pen/paper to leave notes.
- **Pets.** Toss your pet supplies in their carrier.
- **De-Stress.** Games, cards, puzzles, etc. will keep you and the kids occupied.
- **Practice.** Make a game of it with the kids; put them in charge. Turn off the lights and pretend. Spend a night outside in your yard. Walk through it step by step. Adjust your plan. If it's the first thing you need, re-pack after your test run.
- **Take it step by step.** Buy a day's worth of food a week. Check your camping supplies; you may have most of what you need on hand. Beach shelters, tents, cooking gear, etc. can all pull double duty as vacation things and emergency supplies. Make a list and check it off.
- **Be your own first responder.** Take a first aid or CPR class. Practice. First responders aren't abnormally calm people, they are people who have drilled and practiced.