



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

City of San José staff will be doing a presentation this month to discuss community ideas regarding potential improvements to public streets **within the Midtown South Community Improvement Zone**, as a result of the new *Transportation Impact Policy* (a map of the various zones will be available at the meeting including background information on the policy and a list of possible offsetting improvements).

The new *Transportation Impact Policy*, adopted by City Council in June of 2005, establishes the process for developments that have impacts to Protected Intersections to provide offsetting improvements for non-automobile modes of transportation (e.g., pedestrian, streetscape improvements, bicycle, transit, and traffic calming). Such improvements would be constructed instead of widening rights-of-way or otherwise constructing improvements to vehicular traffic flow at the Protected Intersections. The *Policy* identifies certain areas, called Community Improvement Zones, as the areas that would be affected by level of service impacts to Protected Intersections, and should, therefore, receive benefit of the identified offsetting improvements. City staff is looking for input from community and stakeholder groups within these areas to create a list of potential offsetting improvements that would be installed by future developments that have impacts to protected intersections.

This is your opportunity to learn about the possible offsetting improvements for non-automobile modes of transportation (e.g., pedestrian, streetscape improvements, bicycle, transit, and traffic calming) for our area and to suggest additions to that list.

Representatives from San Jose City College will be at our October meeting to give us progress update on their Capital Improvement Program and answer questions about the program and other educational and operational issues that affect our neighborhood. If you are unable to attend the October meeting and have a question regarding the college, please let me know.

DIET & HEALTH TIP – Tofu & Cholesterol

Eating tofu and other soybean foods doesn't lower cholesterol as advertised, but they're still good for the heart and blood vessels, primarily because they replace less healthful foods like red meat, and deliver plenty of polyunsaturated fat, fiber, vitamins, and minerals and are low in saturated fat. So says the April 2006 *Harvard Heart Letter*. **Michael**

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday

September 14, 2006

6:30 p.m.

City of San Jose
Department of
Transportation:
Midtown South
Community
Improvement Zone

NOTE: Meeting starts early and will include our neighbors from Buena Vista, Shasta Hanchett St. Leo's and Midtown. Regular format resumes in October.

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave. SJ CA 95128

Good Neighbor Corner

Kudos to the ladies at 871 Richmond who collared a stray neighborhood dog last month and kept him safe. He managed to escape for the very first time and was excitedly exploring the 'hood, heading towards Fruitdale. They caught him, collared him and fed him snacks and water until the owner arrived. A good reminder that even pets who never leave the yard should have ID. Thanks ladies.

Notes and News

Dumpsters filled up quickly around the neighborhood on Saturday, August 26 when the City crews set up shop in seven different locations. Each Council District has periodic clean ups that rotate to different locations throughout the years. Thanks to **Councilman Ken Yeager**, SONA was able to get some end-of-summer-get-ready-for-fall chores done. Flyers were mailed to SONA property owners and many of the apartments, condos and duplexes were flyered by SONA volunteers.

SONA has been asked again to remind people: **IF YOUR CARS ARE BLOCKING THE SIDEWALK YOU ARE VIOLATING THE LAW!** Sorry about the "yelling", but there are any number of elderly residents who walk this neighborhood daily as well as disabled and moms with strollers. Every time they have to walk around your car they are in danger of tipping or losing balance. Even if it weren't the law, it's only common courtesy to keep the sidewalk portion of your driveway clear. What if you were trying to negotiate your wheelchair, walker or stroller? And, what if you were the person recovering at home from recent illness or surgery and walking the neighborhood sidewalks was what your doctor ordered? Thanks...

It's fall and time for everybody to double check their foliage at sidewalk level in the areas with parking restrictions. Make sure the hedges are trimmed back from city signs.

KACS (Korean American Community Services) is now offering meals each week that are a little more generic than the all-Korean fare previously offered. In response to requests from residents, there will be such things as **barbequed chicken, spaghetti and barbequed pork sandwiches**. This program is an official senior nutrition site for the city and you can qualify if you are 60 years or older. Sukkyung Edberg, KACS Nutrition site manager

notes that you need to sign up in advance by calling her at 920-9733 between 10am-1pm daily. Calling two days in advance is necessary due to the fact these meals are catered. If you want a menu, please contact them directly. SONA is very pleased to see these changes in senior services in our area and hopes you start using the center. **In addition, you are invited to attend the many classes offered**, including the 9:30am (Tues & Thurs) Line Dancing classes. These classes teach a **variety of dance techniques from around the world** geared for seniors who want to stay active and fit. KACS is located at the Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Ave. You can call them to find out what the class or meal schedules are by calling 920-9726.

Supervisor Jim Beall's annual Creek Clean Up Day is Saturday, September 16. Meet at the Campbell Inn, 675 E. Campbell Ave. Register at 8:45am, clean up begins at 9:15 and youth awards begin at 11:15am. For more information contact Andrea Villasenor-Perry at 299-5042.

With all the talk about **Code Enforcement** these days, there is some good news. The sidewalk sweep program (they drive through and look for violations that can be seen from the car) happened in the beginning of August. There were 51 cases opened with 59 violations. That's down from the hundreds we used to see, and that represents the entire Burbank/Del Monte NAC area. Good job neighbors!

Save the evening of September 27 (6:30-8:30) for a meeting concerning the parks master plan for D6. Site to be announced later. The purpose of the meeting is to look at the current plan for parks, trails and open space in our area and determine what our next step can be. For more info contact Ken Yeagers office at 535-3580.

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The SONA newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.

SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman
SONA Website Administrator: Sonya Paz

Park Impact Fees

The following article is excerpted from the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association's newsletter, written by Larry Ames

"Parks and openspace are critical for a livable city: they are part of the infrastructure, just like roadways, water and sewer, schools, power lines, police and fire, et. a. Whan developers build new housing, they pay their share of the infrastructure improvements as well: it is not right of developers to reap the rewards while burdening the residents with the costs. Accordingly, developers are required to put in reoadways and sewer lines, pay their share of the new library and fire stations, etc. Also, by State law ("the Quimby Act"), cities can require developers to provide 3 acres of parkland for every 1000 new residents. However, it is not practical to have hundreds of postage-stamp-sized parks scattered all over the place, one for each new condo or apartment building: it is much better to pool money from the various projects in an area and then build a decent-sized park. Accordingly, the City has a Parkland Dedication ordinance" (PDO) by which it charges the developers "in-lieu" fees: money given inliu of providing the park. There are varios rules and regulations on such fees, such as "the money must be designated to a site withing 5 years" and "the park funded by the fee has to be within two miles of the development" (nexus). Also, the City grants developers "partial-credit" for recreational facilities such as private swimming pools.

The issue at hand is that in-lieu fees are not large enough to provide the needed parks, and the developers' lobbyists are opposing the City's efforts to raise them. The fees are presently set at only 70% of the cost of land in the area, and also using 2001 land-values: costs are higher now. The lobbyists have used a number of delaying tactics, such as demanding a complete accounting of all previously collected funds. (They were all there, but about 1% of the collected fees hadn't been allocated within the 5-year time limit and have now been returned to the landowners). Now that the account has been "reconciled", the lobbyists are challenging the levels of partial credit given for the private facilities, also challenging the validity of the City's park strategic plan (the "Greenprint").

Several WGNA Boardmembers..have joined with other community activists in the area to for "Citizens for A Livable San Jose (CaLSJ). We have worked with the San Jose Parks Dept., the Parks Commission, and the City Council on the reconciliation. We are now also working with developers and their lobbyists to suggest refinements to the PDO as appropriate, and to raise the in-lieu fees to 100% of current land values.

Revisions to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance will be brought to the City Council on October 24, 2006. Support from the public is critical in order to balance out the efforts by the lobbyists. We invite you to write to your Councilmember, or email Matt Cano of Parks at matt.cano@sanjoseca.gov. For more information check out www.CaLSJ.org."

Michael LaRocca and Randi Kinman are also members of CaLSJ and will be glad to discuss this issue with you. SONA is in an area with few recreational opportunities. Future development could bring much needed play and open space areas to our neighborhood.



**Home VALUES are UP...
Care to know Yours?**

Call Me...

Marlene Bird

408-491-1627

1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

Free E-Waste Recycling

You can get rid of old telephones, computers, monitors, keyboards, cellphones, etc. on Saturday, September 16 from 8am-noon by taking them to the United Way Parking lot at 1922 The Alameda. For more info call Steve Ramona at 573-8573 or visit www.earthcarerecycling.com

School is back in session..drive safely!

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association is neighbors like you building a strong and safe community.

SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

Advertise Here!

You can reach 1500 households every month by advertising in the SONA newsletter. For as little as \$120 you can purchase a full year of business card size advertising.

Our newsletters are delivered door to door each month around the first week of the month. The date varies as it is times to reach our neighbors the week prior to our regularly scheduled meeting.

You can purchase a year of advertising or one time advertising. We also will add your inserts to our newsletter for a cost of \$50 per month. Whether you have a one time special event or want a year long advertising campaign, all you need to do is supply the 1500 copies. We'll insert them and deliver for you.

You can find out more about our advertising rates by visiting www.sona-sj.com. SONA does not accept ads for alcohol or tobacco products and reserves the right to screen all ads for appropriateness for our family neighborhood newsletter. For additional information contact Randi Kinman at 408.835.2881 or randikinman@yahoo.com.



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San Jose City College Police Department

The San Jose/Evergreen College District has a police department acting as security for the campus.

Hours of availability and contact numbers are listed below. If an incident happens outside these hours, call San Jose PD.

7am-3pm Mon-Fri	288-3735
7am-3pm Mon-Fri,Sat	270-6468
3pm-11pm Mon-Sat	270-6468
7am-3pm Sun	270-6468