



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Community Center Meeting

Our November meeting will be dedicated to the Bascom Avenue Community Center and Library design and construction issues. SONA residents have attended previous community meetings and have taken the opportunity to let city staff know what SONA needs are. While several SONA residents sit on the advisory board, the city needs to hear from you directly to make sure that the project we complete is the project we need.

In previous meetings residents have spoken out on everything from a desire for quiet areas to computer rooms to childrens' play areas. The architects will take this information and begin initial work that will try to fit our needs into the site while maintaining a strict budget.

At our November meeting this information is presented in the format of "bubble" diagrams that show the size of specific amenities (e.g. meeting rooms) and how they might fit into the site. This is the last chance to help staff and the architects make any major changes to the design requirements before the project goes into formal design phase.

Along with the need to fit many activities in a small site, SONA residents will have input on the exterior building design. What kind of frontage will it have on Bascom Avenue? How will it fit into the neighborhood along Del Mar Avenue? How will we make sure the entire site is safe and inviting for everyone in our neighborhood? What kind of landscaping will we use? Where will parking be located? How will we incorporate art? And, finally, will the library and community center provide the services you want or need?

This facility will be in our neighborhood for decades, providing necessary services and amenities. This is your chance to make sure your dreams come true on this site. This is a child friendly meeting, so feel free to bring the kids. There will be assistance in child care along with language translation services.

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

**Special Community Meeting This Month
Thursday
November 9, 2006**

6:30 p.m.

-Meet Your Neighbors

7:00 p.m.

- *Welcome and**
- *Announcements**
- *Councilman Yeager**
- *City Parks & Library Staff**
- *Community Center & Library Advisors**

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

A special thanks to neighbor Mark Kovich for a donation that has helped keep SONA in the black. Mark and his partner Sonya Paz have been busy opening a new studio and business in Santana Row that opened Oct 24 (next to Brooks Brothers) and features Sonya's artwork on many items ideal for holiday gifts. The timely donation helps us reach out to other residents this month..thanks neighbors.

Notes and News

The City of San Jose is conducting a series of meetings to determine what residents want and need in the way of parks, traffic and aquatics programs. SONA hopes you can make some of the meetings listed on Page 3.

We know you all voted in this last election, right?

SONA residents are beginning a new outreach to **seniors in the area**. We are helping to arrange for seniors in our area to visit the Sherman Oaks Community Center for the lunch program held there. While the daily menu features Korean food, the Korean American Community Services (KACS) staff has made sure that at least once a week there will be "standard" fare on the menu. KACS provides a variety of senior services and programs at little or no charge, has a van that can deliver and pick up and is part of the service programs offered by the city. If you are interested in attending one of our luncheons, contact Susan PriceJang at 287-0769.

Thanks to this month's new and renewing members: **Kinyon Family, Tornow Family, Evelyn Osborne, Saffett Brackmann, J.E.Carter, and Nhut Tran**. Your dues checks help us maintain our organization.

Congratulations to those who have worked on our **city parks funding issues** for the last year or so. The updating of ordinances that determine the park fees paid by developers was heard by City Council on October 24. **Michael LaRocca and Randi Kinman** have been working with a group called **Citizens for a Livable San Jose** (CalSJ) to ensure fees were brought up to date. The changes in the ordinances will also include wording that will allow greater flexibility in using these funds on school sites if the public has guaranteed access. Last minute changes included lowering the minimum amount of land that could be dedicated for parks

from 1 acre to 1/2 acre. Residents pointed out that areas like ours, with few opportunities, welcome the smaller parks (like St. Elizabeth) because we do not have available tracts of land. **Susan Price-Jang** testified that evening that some neighborhoods are in a crisis mode because we lack amenities. If you are interested in working with people from around the city to help bring more parks to our neighborhoods, visit the CalSJ website at www.calsj.org. Next steps will be to look at the master plan (called the Greenprint) that was approved in 2000 to see where we stand on bringing the required amount of parkland to everyone in our district.

Aquatics programs in San Jose have been severely cut due to budget issues with the city. Now that things are looking up, there is a master aquatics plan being developed. City staff is looking for information from all residents. What do you want? While we cannot expect to have a city run pool located near us at any time in the near future, we can ask that they enter into joint use agreements with Del Mar High School or San Jose City College to provide programs nearby. If you want basic swim lessons for kids, adult free swim times or senior water activities, attend one of the meetings posted on page 3.

SONA has received questions lately about nearby parks. For those of you who live near St. Elizabeth and Curci, that small park on the corner should be developed in 2007. Plans include a small grass area and a small play area. On October 31 the city agreed to purchase property at Scott and Clifton (across Hwy 280) for another park. Public meetings will be held once purchase has been completed and soil is determined to be free of toxins. In the meantime, enjoy the tot lot at Menker and Scott street or O'Connor Park (old Saddle Rack site) which has play equipment, tables and lots of space.

PRESIDENT, Michael LaRocca	564-2374	mlroo1@yahoo.com
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRES, Randi Kinman	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
COMMUNICATIONS VP	Vacant	
TREASURER, Marlene Bird	288-9727	mbird@cbtnorcal.com
AREA CAPTAIN, Sheila Cvitanich	292.2690	
AREA CAPTAIN, Carl Lindner		
AREA CAPTAIN, Jussi Rajna	291.0202	
AREA CAPTAIN	Vacant	
AREA CAPTAIN	Vacant	
Website	www.sona-sj.com	

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

Oct 18 SJPD Action

Residents on the 800 block of Kingman Avenue were surprised to walk outside on a sunny afternoon and find a growing contingent of San Jose Police Department on the scene. A quiet fall day turned into an episode of "COPS" quickly.

Captain Fairhurst tells us a vacant apartment on Deland Avenue was being used as a site by gang members for illegal drug sales. When the trespassers were confronted, some of them vacated in a rush. One of the runners was seen by SJPD carrying a weapon and the chase was on. Units rolled in to surround the area, then search for and flush out all parties involved.

Some neighbors were startled to find SJPD officers in their backyards, but everyone was grateful that the entire incident was handled professionally and quickly. Suspects were found under cars and hiding in yards with the final "capture" a rooftop event mid block. Four suspects were arrested for multiple felony counts. None of them live near SONA; they had simply taken advantage of a vacant unit in our neighborhood.

While crime has dropped in our area, this is a good reminder that we all need to keep an eye and ear out for suspicious activity. Report anything that doesn't look or feel right. If you don't think people live in your apartment, call your manager. If you think that there is illegal activity going on anywhere, call SJPD.

A special thanks to **officer Joe Campagna** who spotted the first criminal and called in the troops. Officers on site handled this incident well and kept neighbors informed of what was going on. Thanks to all for a job well done.



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

Call Me...

Marlene Bird
408-491-1627
1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

Public Meetings, etc.

November 8 1:30-4pm

Study Session with City Council in Council Chambers at City Hall to discuss the closing and re-use of community centers.

November 8 11:45am

Senior lunch at Sherman Oaks Community Center (baked chicken) for more information contact 920-9733

November 8 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cahill Park Planning session. Billy de Frank Center, 938 The Alameda. Contact Ken Yeager 535-4906

November 9 7pm

Bascom Ave Library/Community Center Public meeting; see page 1

November 10 Veteran's Day observed

November 13 6:30-8:30pm

Aquatics Master Planning meeting to discuss the future of pools, water features and all aquatic programs city wide. City Hall Council Chambers. Contact Mary Beth Carter at 535-3500.

November 14 6:30-8:30pm

Aquatics Master Planning (see above) at Moreland West Community Center

November 15 11:45 a.m.

Senior Lunch (Roast Beef) See 11/8 for details

November 22 11:45 a.m.

Senior Lunch (Baked Chicken) See 11/8 for details

November 23 Thanksgiving

Enjoy!

SONA DUES

SONA request dues from businesses and residents to help offset expenses and to build up funds for projects. We will be mailing out reminder notices to residents who have previously paid dues, but do not mail to each household. If you are new to the area or have never joined, use the form on page 5. This will help us carry on making our neighborhood the greatest! This is strictly voluntary on your part and we appreciate your support.

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.



Nicole Morrella

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408 781 3093



Hallmark Realty
www.morrellahomes.com



Marlene Bird

408-491-1627 Direct

mbird@cbnorcal.com

www.marlenebird.com

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1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

Mary Velez
REALTOR



Referral Realty

"Distinguished Quality Service"

452 E. El Camino Real
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Dir. (408) 733-2200 Ext. 147
Cell. (408) 489-3014
Fax. (408) 733-6707



E-mail: mvelez@referralrealty.com



Kristin Gist

Living and working in your
neighborhood to help
you successfully meet your
real estate goals!

Direct: (408)998-9003

Mobile: (408)499-4280

Email:

kristingist@gistrealestate.com

Website:

<http://www.gistrealestate.com>



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