



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

Summer has come and gone much too quickly for me. School started up again fall arrived and with it came Halloween. By the time you receive this newsletter Thanksgiving will have come and gone with Christmas just a few short weeks away then before you know it will be a New Year. My how time passes us by so quickly. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a *HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON* and say that it has be my pleasure to serve as your president for the past 8 months. I look forward to filling the remainder of my term which before I realize it will probably have come and gone too quickly.

Your Board has been very busy this year and could really use some additional resources. We have positions and activities that we could use your help with

- vacant secretarial position
- 2 vacant area captain positions
- content for monthly newsletters
- newsletter distribution
- research and schedule monthly meeting speakers
- planting of trees on the freeway side of Moorpark Avenue
- working with local businesses to obtain advertising

These are just a few which we need your help with or just general brain storming on how to improve things where we live. If you have any time, even if it is an hour a month, please let us know. The more help we have, the more services we can provide. If you would like help or have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to let me or any of your board members know. Michael

NO SONA GENERAL

MEETING IN DECEMBER 2006!

Since we won't be getting together, here are some things you might want to enjoy doing.

- Get your tires rotated for free by donating to Second Harvest Food Bank at Big O Tires on Meridian at Parkmoor.
- Visit the Circle of Palms Ice Skating rink Mon-Fri 5-10pm or Sat noon-midnight and Sun 12-10pm.
- Visit Christmas in the Park at Cesar Chavez Plaza 9am to Midnight. There is also a carnival nearby.
- Take a carriage ride or visit the holiday train in Los Gatos.
- Visit one of our local regional parks. Crowds are light at them and we still have good weather to enjoy.
- Meet neighbors you don't know. Now's the time to bake a batch of cookies and deliver them with best wishes.
- Donate old coats and sweaters that are just sitting in the closet.
- Take old towels and blankets to the Humane Society for those pets waiting for new homes.

Good Neighbor Corner

Thanks to all our neighbors who reach out to others during this season. Whether you are volunteering at a club, working at the food bank, donating to turkey drives or buying gifts for people on the giving trees, you are making a difference one person at a time. Each person can make a difference and you never know if something that seems so small to you actually makes a big difference for another.

Notes and News

SONA seniors have begun a weekly lunch meeting at the Sherman Oaks Community Center. Joining the seniors who attend the Korean American Community Services (KACS) program, they've had a chance to sample Korean fare or enjoy tasty traditional items like baked chicken. This is a great way for local seniors to spend some time with each other in the area. Lunch starts at 11:30am in Room 1. You need to make reservations for either American or Korean food by noon on Tuesday of the week you are participating by calling 920-9743. Cost is \$2.00 for those over 60 and \$5.00 for those under 60. The Nutrition site manager can be reached at 920-9733 between 10am and noon Monday through Friday. It's important to also call to cancel if you've made reservations and can't make it. Come join us!

Speaking of KACS, there are free programs you might be interested in. On Wednesdays after lunch there is an hour long Falun Gong exercise program. This low-impact form of exercise is similar to Chi Gong and stresses slow rhythmic stretching. The instructor will gladly walk you through the paces.

More than 70 residents turned out for the community meeting on November 9 concerning the Bascom Avenue Library and Community Center. Working with staff and the architects, folks addressed how the building should be positioned on the site. There was also a lot of discussion about the long term sustainability of the building; could it be constructed to add stories at a later date, can we design it for solar power in the future, etc. Neighbors recognized we have limited space and need to make the most of it now and in the future. Other concerns were traffic patterns and how to minimize the impact on adjacent neighborhood streets. Residents also asked for adequate kitchen facilities to allow for on site event cooking.

New and renewing members are plentiful this month! Thanks for your dues **Bill & Lea Adams, Mary Kay and Michael LaRocca, Paul Gonda, Yoka Diron, Lynn Sission, Marlene & Dennis Bird, Roberta Emerson, Florence Roat, Eileen & Joe Mosher and new member Gary Thibodeau.**

SONA will need a new representative on the **Burbank/Del Monte NAC** because long-time board member **Carl Lindner** is retiring. Carl is a founding board member of SONA and has served on the NAC from day one. Carl and his wife Elaine have lived in the neighborhood for more than 50 years. The Burbank/Del Monte NAC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. It is a group of different neighborhoods and business interests who develop long term plans for our area that stretches from Fruitdale/Bascom past W. San Carlos, down to Diridon Station, over to Del Monte and back up Hwy 280 to Meridian/Fruitdale. We work with a number of other neighborhoods to ensure we are all receiving services from the city and planning joint projects (traffic calming, parks, development) in a manner that makes sure we aren't pushing a problem from one neighborhood to another.

The Midtown LOS (Level of Service) traffic planning group will be meeting again on December 14, 2006 at 6:30pm at Sherman Oaks Community Center. This group has been looking at traffic improvements needed throughout our area. These improvements may come when developers are building in the area or in the natural course of events of city upgrades.

Don't forget to make it easier on yourself this holiday season. Whether going to a Shark's game, enjoying local museums, heading out for ice skating or shopping, you can ride Light Rail and save yourself the hassle of looking for parking spaces. The best light rail parking can be found on **Southwest Exp at Bascom. Happy Holidays!**

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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


Winter To-Do List


SONA 2006


While we in California don't have the harsh winter weather to deal with, we still need to take care of our homes and make sure we're prepared for the rainy season coming up.


 Clear out gutters and downspouts. Make sure all debris is off the roofline. You can divert water to plants along the house, but remember that Code Enforcement does not like to see piping, etc. in the front yard.


 Make sure your trees are trimmed and thinned for the season. This will cut down on how much you have to clean up during storms.


 Check windows, doors and around the fireplace for air leaks. Plug them now by weather stripping and cut down on heating bills.


 Check your heater and make sure it's operational. You may want to clean out vents. Stock up on filters and change them according to instructions on the panels. Clean filters reduce airborne dust and also cut down on heating bills.


 While we don't have snow, we do get frost that can kill off plants. Move them or cover them if you don't want to lose them over the winter.

 Many of our evergreen trees were stressed during this summer's heat waves. You can help your trees by deep watering them now. This allows the root systems to get healthy and set for those long drinks of water during the rains. Trees need a little more water this year to make sure that they have healthy sap flow. Using a soaker hose or small sprinkler, run water slowly for 12 hours to ensure water soaks slowly and deeply.

 Make sure your car is ready. Change the windshield wipers, make sure there's a good coat of wax to protect the surface and have your tires rotated, balanced and filled.

 If you've been feeding the birds, this is not the time to stop. While some of them may migrate away, we have many local birds who live here year round. They need clean water, too.

 Walk around the yard and see what needs to be done to set up for next year. You're not going to want to go out and weed or trim during the winter, so get it done now. Wait on the roses for a few months; they're not quite ready.

 Plan on staying healthy. Get flu shots if your doctor recommends them. Take time, especially during the holidays to take a rest and treat yourself to some "down" time. Put your feet up, enjoy and extra cup of cocoa..you deserve it!

SONA is a group of neighbors and residents who work and play together to make sure our neighborhood gets better each year. We sponsor activities, meet monthly and try to make sure we are addressing the needs of the neighborhood. Some of the 2006 accomplishments are:

- Publishing and delivering 1500 newsletters each month while keeping our online info updated.
- Obtaining a City of San Jose Community Action and Pride (CAP) grant to provide neighborhood dumpster day, National Night Out events and block parties.
- Advocated for perimeter fencing at the new park on St. Elizabeth and Curci.
- Worked with developers on new projects in the St. Elizabeth and Curci area.
- Continued working with Burbank/Del Monte NAC and MIRA (Richmond Menker tenants) on improvements in that area.
- Moved plans forward for a new light at Kingman and Leigh and other local traffic calming issues.
- Advocated for and obtained minor changes and improvements in the ongoing development at Fruitdale Station (old KMart site).
- Painted traffic poles along Moorpark and Parkmoor at Leigh.
- Partnered with Korean American Community Services (KACS) to bring local seniors into the programming offered at Sherman Oaks Community Center.
- Continued to represent community and advocate for a voice in the ongoing San Jose City College Capital Improvement Program.
- Advocated for services and amenities at the new Bascom Avenue Library and Community Center. Several of our members sit on the advisory boards for this project.
- Monitored land use developments in adjacent areas that will affect our quality of life.
- Successfully partnered with Citizens for a Livable San Jose to obtain Council approval for adjustments to park fees.
- Started a "book-a-month" donation program to Sherman Oaks Community Charter School.
- Continued to represent our neighborhood at city-wide meetings, commission hearings, etc.

SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

SONA 2007

What do you want SONA to do over the next twelve months? What would make an impact in your part of the neighborhood? What activity would you participate in? This is your chance to let us know!

I Want SONA TO:

Mail to: PO Box 59146
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**Home VALUES are UP...
Care to know Yours?**

Call Me...

Marlene Bird

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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 timed 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.