



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes From The President

Neighbors & Friends,

We have scheduled the following training through the City of San Jose Neighborhood Development Center's Community Leadership Academy to help our neighborhood with emergency preparedness. Space is limited, so please let me know if you want to attend this training and I will make a reservation for you to attend the training.

Home and Family Disaster Preparedness (Mobile Academy)

Presented by: Teri Allen – City of San Jose, Office of Emergency Services

Thursday, November 8, 2007, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sherman Oaks Community Center, 1800A Fruitdale Avenue, Room 1, San Jose, CA 95128

Are you prepared for an emergency? This is a brief look in to the San Jose Prepared Program. Find out what you and neighbors can do to ensure that you're prepared for any type of disaster when emergency services cannot reach you right away.

We thank you in advance for your help to make this a successful training class which I am sure will be beneficial for your individual household and the neighborhood by participating in this training.

Respectfully,

Michael

AGENDA

SONA GENERAL MEETING

Thursday

November 8, 2007

NOTE

Time change for this meeting due to the fact it is a training!!

See Article to the Left.

Reservations for Training Required

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

Many homeowners and residents within the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association's boundaries take the time, care, and energy to keep up or improve the appearance of their front yards and it goes without saying that it is appreciated. One special person is Lois Silva who owns the home at 776 Sherman Oaks Drive. It has been pointed out to us that Lois continually puts in the necessary time, care, and energy to keep front yard and garden area looking beautiful. Take the time to enjoy this asset to our neighborhood.

Lois Thanks for Being a Good Neighbor

Notes and News

Neighbors attended a community meeting on October 16 to view preliminary plans for the Leigh/Kingman signal.

The idea of a u-turn on Leigh has been eliminated. Residents want a 3-way crosswalk (2 on Leigh, 1 on Kingman) at this new signalized intersection. Residents also asked for a center road divider on Kingman leading to the intersection to discourage jay walking that occurs. Staff pointed out that there will be new curb cuts to allow strollers, walkers and wheelchairs at all crosswalks. The current "driveway" onto the SJCC campus will be eliminated to remove the problem of groups using the existing driveway to load and unload for special events. Funding for this project is a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Redevelopment Agency monies. The project will be completed late spring/early summer of 2008 as some funds must be spent by that time.

The DO NOT CALL REGISTRY hold on incoming marketing calls only lasts for five (5) years. For many of us it's time to update again. Once your number ages out past the 5 year limit you are open to those solicitation calls again. If you do not wish to be bothered by these phone calls you can register your home or cell phone number at www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 toll free. The registry is operated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). If new to the system, it will take up to 31 days to be effective. If you have complaints about violations, contact the same numbers.

No Newsletter or Meeting in December! Enjoy your holidays, enjoy your families, celebrate the completion of another great year for SONA residents. We look forward to coming back in January 2008 with new energy, new ideas and new SONA friends.

Free Conference for SONA Residents

On November 17 the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County will hold their annual conference and training sessions at San Jose City College. Because SONA is a sponsoring neighborhood we can send 20 residents to the conference for free. The conference will kick off with a presentation on the county's preparations for pandemic flu and continue with workshops. The current list of workshops is:

- **Leading the Solar Revolution in Your Neighborhood** by Bruce Karney, Community Programs Manager of SolarCity.
- **Put the Community Back into Community College** by Charles Montgomery, Marketing Specialist, San Jose City College.
- **Event Insurance and Risk Management** by Ken Podgorsek, Executive Director, UNSCC
- **Planning in San Jose; A Community Guide** by Juan Borrelli, Senior Planner, City of San Jose.
- **Working With Your Elected Officials and their Staffs** by Kathy Sutherland, Policy Advisor to Councilmember Nancy Pyle and Randi Kinman, Planning Commissioner, City of San Jose.
- **Code Enforcement 101** by Michael Hannon, Deputy Director of Code Enforcement, City of San Jose Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.
- **Home and Family Disaster Preparedness** by Ken Foot, Emergency Planning Coordinator, Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services.

To sign up for free admission to this conference, call Michael LaRocca at 564-2374. A complete list of workshops can be found on the UNSCC website at www.unscc.org along with workshop time lines.

PRESIDENT, Michael LaRocca	564-2374	mlroo1@yahoo.com
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SECRETARY, Jussi Rajna	291-0202	
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AREA CAPTAIN, Sheila Cvitanich	292-2690	
AREA CAPTAIN, Carl Lindner		
AREA CAPTAIN	Vacant	
AREA CAPTAIN	Vacant	
AREA CAPTAIN	Vacant	
Website	www.sona-sj.com	

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. It is partially funded by a City of San Jose CAP Grant. 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

San Jose City College Facilities Update

Many of you have noticed the rapid changes along the Leigh Avenue side of San Jose City College. Besides those changes, the campus is undergoing a drastic change in other places. Michael LaRocca and Randi Kinman met with the President of San Jose City College, Michael L. Burke, Ph.D. and Robert Dias who oversees the campus facilities.

The existing soccer field is being removed to make way for a new baseball field. This has meant the removal of many large trees, but they will be replaced when this portion of the project is completed. This will allow the campus to upgrade the current field. The new field will not be equipped with lights for night games and SONA reps requested no sound system be installed. There is no plan for large scale bleacher systems for the new field.

The “new” parking lot that replaced the tennis courts is a temporary lot that will be removed when the new buildings on that side of campus are done sometime next fall. New parking spaces will be adjacent to the buildings and the major entry point will be either Bascom or Laswell. The previously designed parking garage on that side of campus will not be built as all projects are part of bond financing and bond money is running low. SJCC is still looking into making Laswell a two way street and enhancing the Bascom Avenue entrance. SONA reps again requested that the entrance on Kingman be closed as soon as possible. The “new” lots along Leigh will remain in place.

SONA also requested the campus return to the original design of the main entrance on Moorpark at Leland to allow people to enter and exit to/from the freeway. The intersection was originally designed to allow full access to the “main” entrance. The conversion of this signal was at the request of the Burbank Community Association. It has resulted in a heavy use of entrances on Leigh, creating numerous problems for SONA residents and users of SJCC. With the Burbank/Del Monte NAC moving forward with new funding priorities this might be the time for the campus to partner with all neighborhoods, the City of San Jose and the Redevelopment Agency to resolve traffic circulation problems once and for all without putting the burden on any one neighborhood.

Traffic circulation studies are being performed by an outside contractor to determine how traffic is (and should) flow around the existing and future lots. SONA reps asked to be allowed input as to how these studies should be conducted. With more and more traffic being routed across our neighborhoods we have seen an increase in speeding and illegal parking.

The removal of mature trees has affected the neighborhood dramatically during night events. SONA residents have noticed an increase in light intrusion as well as an increase in sound problems. Both of these issues are being addressed through the facilities upgrades. New lights and sound systems should be installed by fall of next year.

SONA has long complained about the lack of security on campus. Whether it's our annual Fourth of July fireworks free for all or trying to complain about the noise of an event, security has not been available. President Burke has had the unfortunate experience of dealing with violent crimes on another campus. This has made security one his priority issue in moving forward with plans for SJCC.

SONA requested better communication with the campus on changes coming forward. While many of us attended meetings years ago when the bond was approved, we have never had a real series of updates to let us know of changes moving forward. We were never notified, for instance, of the “temporary” parking lot at the tennis courts and never notified that there would be more parking and access along Leigh Avenue. With 10,000 students using an aging campus, SONA recognizes the need for upgrades. We asked that SJCC become better neighbors by notifying SONA with regular progress reports and also challenged the reasoning behind removing the additional parking structure and moving more parking adjacent to our problem area on Leigh Avenue.

President Burke was receptive to our ideas. He understands that a major problem has been the constant turn over in administration at SJCC. He pointed out that he just bought a home in the Rose Garden area and plans on being here a long time and looks forward to continuing to work with us.

SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS

Mark Your Calendar

November 23 is opening day for Christmas in the Park. This means lots of family fun, ice skating and food all a short light rail ride away. This annual event is held downtown at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez.

Sunday, December 2 is the Annual Holiday Parade in downtown San Jose. Our local parade has received international recognition as one of the top ranked parades in the country.

Community Sports Field Study Meetings—The City of San Jose invites you to attend meetings regarding community sports fields. Your participation will help shape their direction.

- ⇒ Monday November 5, 2007 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Willows Senior Center
- ⇒ Monday December 10, 2007 6:00pm-7:30 pm at the Almaden Community Center

Sept 29-Jan 26 is the Bodyworks 2 exhibit at the Tech Museum. You can explore the incredible world of the human body, how all the pieces fit together and how the body changes through age, growth or disease. Over 200 real human specimens are preserved through a Plastination process that allows you to view large muscles, tiny capillaries and the human brain. While not for everyone, it is a most unusual show.
www.thetech.org/bodyworld or 294-tech.

The City of San Jose maintains a comprehensive website with events and activities throughout the year. Whether you are looking for a unique park, festival dates or what's new at the Tech Museum, you can find it all there. Now, thanks to the efforts of many community leaders, you can also find out when meetings are being held around the city. Interested in tree ordinances, traffic calming, parks or budget hearings? Want to know when the airport commission meets? Want to know how to reach elected officials and staff concerning education, transportation or our gang task force? Then visit the City's website at www.sanjose.ca.gov and pick your topic. All departments and contact information are located here.



Marlene Bird

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Volunteers Wanted

SONA is currently looking for more volunteers who have a couple hours a month to give towards making our neighborhood a better place in which we live, work and play. One of our needs is for some temporary newsletter people who can fill in while regulars are on vacation or temporarily are unavailable. This only takes about an hour or so a month. We also need volunteers to help with newsletter articles you don't have to be an expert journalist, you just need to be willing to help out. If you are willing to help out do not hesitate to contact any board member. Just jump in and help it may be more rewarding than you ever imagined.

SONA is also looking for community volunteers who can sit on the Burbank/Del Monte NAC. This is the Strong Neighborhoods group that meets monthly and works with other neighborhoods and city staff to develop projects and priorities. Randi Kinman's recent appointment to the City's Planning Commission will mean she needs to avoid conflicts by stepping back from some of her duties. Commitment time varies. Contact Michael for info.