



# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

## Notes From the President

*It seems summer just started and already it is August! Our July meeting was a potluck and bingo night. On a hot summer evening we enjoyed each other's company in air conditioned ease thanks to the organizing efforts of Board member Michael LaRocca. Our Parks and Rec staff had cup stacking games lined up as well. If you missed it, we hope you join us for National Night Out when SONA joins other neighborhoods. This is a great evening of fun that includes a movie and barbeque. If you have some time to spare, contact Michael LaRocca and he'll put you to work that night on the food serving line.*

*SONA's board will be providing input to the City Council regarding the reduction of fire stations in District 6 that would put a greater burden on the remaining stations.. We are concerned that "our" fire station will be asked to fill in for other areas at a time when there are a number of high density residential projects underway and on the books for the future. We want to make sure that the City doesn't solve budget issues with short term solutions that create long term problems. If you have concerns about this issue, please contact our Council office now. Pierluigi Oliverio's office number is 535-4906.*

*I don't want to nag, but SONA is in need of dues paying memberships. Your dues support our newsletter, which is our main method of communication throughout the neighborhood. **Dues are \$15 per year and can be mailed in.** We also encourage you to reward a local business by buying a business card sized ad for only \$20. If you want to help support local businesses or acknowledge somebody for exemplary service, spread that news to 1500 local residents. Our dues pay for our newsletter (which runs just under \$300 per month), our meeting materials, website and the office supplies it takes to keep an organization running. If you have experience and a couple hours a month to donate, we could use your help on our website. Thanks to our new and renewing members: **Can & Lien Thai, Marlene & Dennis Bird, Patricia & Larry Wolf, Mary Angelo, Adrienne Nowell, Carolene & Anthony Giluso and Carol & Kenneth Cooper.***

*Hope to see you all at the National Night Out Celebration or at our September meeting! Enjoy the rest of your summer.....Randi*

**SONA  
General  
Meeting  
Cancelled  
This  
Month**

**Join Us At  
National  
Night Out  
On Tuesday  
August 5  
At The  
Luther Burbank  
Elementary  
School  
See Flyer  
Inside for  
Details**

## Notes and News

The City's Department of Transportation and the Public Works crews have been out in force lately with the cycle of street re-paving. Some of the streets in the area around Sherman Oaks Drive have already received new surfacing. Other streets in the area have been marked for the preliminary work that happens prior to the project going out to bid. Contractors will be back to replace the striping on Fruitdale that is obviously not in a straight line. While it is somewhat amusing to see the wiggly white lines and wonder why they were laid that way, this will become a dangerous situation during the evenings and winter months when visibility requires using those markings to keep in your own lane. All streets in SONA should be completely repaved by the end of 2009.

If you've visited the SONA website lately, you'll see that it is in need of a little TLC. As volunteers, our board members are spread a little thin right now. We're looking for somebody with some website experience and a few hours to volunteer who can manage our site. We don't want anything fancy, just a way of communicating with our residents. If you are interested, please contact Michael LaRocca.

Back to school time is coming up at the end of the month. Remembering this can help save lives. Trim the hedges that don't allow cars to see pedestrians, make sure your shrubs are clear of the sidewalks, and practice driving slower now. SONA needs to have safe pedestrian and bike routes for all our neighbors, but our school kids are especially vulnerable. **SLOW DOWN, PAY ATTENTION.**

With summer getting ready to wind down, it's not just back to school time, it's clean up your home for fall time. This is the time of year to think about those gutters that leaked, the cracks in your driveway or all the other problems around the house that we put off last winter.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management Board (BAAQMD) has sent out reminders that our air quality has been exceptionally bad this year with the early onset of wildfire season. Those grey skies you see are full of harmful particulate matter that affect all residents, but especially the very young and very old, those with respiratory problems and those who are ill. We've all walked outside this summer to find fine ash on our cars, so you can imagine what this does to lungs. You can help by not contributing to the problem by reducing your use of gas lawn mowers, barbeques and back yard fire pits. Mow less frequently. When using your barbeque, plan ahead and cook more than one meal. You can then relax when dinner rolls around the next time! Burning of any material should be curtailed, so, close up those fire pits and fireplaces for now.

SONA plans upcoming meetings months in advance to allow us to line up speakers and address specific topics and issues. We want a balance between "fun" and "interesting". One meeting will include the "Vial of Life" program. We hope to bring speakers in to talk about energy conservation around the house and other "hot topics". If there is a subject you think others would enjoy, let us know.

PRESIDENT, Randi Kinman	835.2881	randikinman@yahoo.com
ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRES, Marlene Bird	288-9727	mbird@cbtnorcal.com
SECRETARY, Nancy Moritz	993-1059	
TREASURER, Michael LaRocca	564-2374	mlrool@yahoo.com
AREA CAPTAIN, Sheila Cvitanich	292-2690	
AREA CAPTAIN, Roberta Emerson	297-9093	
AREA CAPTAIN, Jussi Rajna	291-0202	
AREA CAPTAIN, Lisa Steingart	666-3287	
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: **Help Needed**

## San Jose City College

While residents along the west side of SJCC were happy after attending a Board of Trustees meeting, they have since discovered that the long awaited sound wall is still on hold.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) called for a sound wall to mitigate noise and nuisance caused by the new construction on the campus. Each time an administrative change is made at SJCC residents have had to remind the college of it's previous commitment to be good neighbors. The current status of the sound wall is in question again.

Original plans called for the wall to be erected inside the property line of SJCC which would have avoided any question of impacting existing structures related to the adjacent residences. Implementation of the promises made years ago is again being delayed while they now examine concerns that a wall could damage existing residential structures. Many residents consider this another stalling tactic and are disappointed that the promises made by several administrations aren't being kept. In the meantime, construction simply continues.

Residents along the Leigh Avenue side of the campus were surprised to see the installation of what will be 90-ft tall poles that will have netting attached to them. While the two-story fence and support poles were installed earlier this summer, there was never any communication from the campus that the design of a ball field would include the new amenities. When completed, the entire field will be surrounded by nets.

Residents have begun complaining that the project was described as a low impact field with no lights or bleachers and, thus, no crowds. All green aspects (trees and shrubs) were removed and the Leigh Ave sidewalk now abuts a fence and wall. Residents are upset with the creation of a nine-story structure that does not fit in with the neighborhood. They also feel that this project has been drastically changed without benefit of public input. SONA board members are in contact with the campus at this point and are asking some hard questions. While SJCC has stated in the past that the campus wants to be a good neighbor, residents remain disappointed at these ongoing actions.

## SONA Board in Action

SONA board members often take on the concerns of neighbors. Whether it is advising on how many garage sales you can have in a year, how to find important numbers for City services or addressing policy concerns that affect us all, your board members are a vital key to helping improve our neighborhood. Experienced board members help train new members and, thus, increase our ability to act on your concerns. Here are some of the issues taken on lately:

**Transient population along the creek trail.** This is a problem for several neighborhoods. The board is currently coordinating a meeting for all residents, along with residents of adjacent neighborhoods to ensure our creek trail remains a safe place for families and our transient population is directed towards services needed to better their lives. SONA's board doesn't want to just move a problem, it wants to solve a problem.

**Moving a bus stop.** Thanks to SONA, the bus stop on the "island" at Southwest and Fruitdale is currently serving a large number of people using public transit. This stop represents a safe and sheltered place that exists in that spot only because of SONA action. VTA is currently proposing to move the stop closer to Meridian. SONA board members are trying to ensure our transit riders (and those who are passing through) remain safe.

**Pedestrian Access.** There are a number of areas where it is not easy for our elderly or disabled when using public sidewalks. In response to complaints, SONA board authorized a letter to the City to address issues on Meridian and Fruitdale.

**Traffic calming and safety.** SONA board members are working with the Burbank/Del Monte NAC to prioritize traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures for our residents as part of the re-prioritizing of the B/DM NAC goals and objectives. We will be looking at how to make our neighborhood safer for everyone from the moment you leave your driveway. Some results from previous work will show up later this summer as ADA ramps and a new signal are installed in the Leigh/Kingman area.

If you have ideas, questions or suggestions you can contact any board member.

# SUPPORT SONA ADVERTISERS



## Marlene Bird

408-491-1627 Direct  
mbird@cbnorcal.com  
www.marlenebird.com

*Your Sherman Oaks neighbor for 40+ years...For all your real estate needs...CALL ME...I'm always here to help!*

1045 Willow Street, San Jose CA 95125

**COLDWELL  
BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

**PRIME Mortgage Funding, Inc.**  
Your Primary Choice in Home Loans

## Shane Costanza

**408 499-8221**  
**2001 Gateway Place 301E**  
**San Jose, CA 95110**  
**E-mail: shane@pmfloan.net**



## Nicole Morrella-Costanza

Moving people and places  
leaving happy faces!

**408 781 3093**

**Century 21**  
Hallmark Realty  
www.morrellahomes.com

## Quality Childcare right in your neighborhood!

Joanna S. Koomas

Childcare Provider

Mon - Fri, 7:30am - 5:30pm

Small group, ages 6 weeks & older

Excellent references & competitive rates!

License # 434409814



408-293-4453

## WANT TO SLEEP LIKE A KING?

**Do you need better sleep?**

**Is your mattress 10 + years old?**

**Want the best for LESS?**

**If you are in the market for a new  
mattress call Shane at 408 499 8221**

Be sure to mention the SONA ad

## Advertisers Needed

### How Can You Help?

SONA needs advertising dollars to keep our newsletter going. We have limited resources from our monthly dues and limited access to outside funding sources such as grants.

Our advertising rates are incredibly low and you can help us spread the word. Do you have a favorite restaurant, barber shop, salon or business that you do business with? Do you know of a new business just getting started or a hidden gem that nobody knows about?

You can help your favorite business and SONA by promoting our advertising. We can supply you with a rate sheet and all the information you need, or you can download the information from our website.

Our newsletters are delivered by hand to 1500 households every month. This is a great opportunity for a business (cheapest rate they'll find) and it is also a good way for you to thank or promote a business you enjoy. It's also a way for you to thank a neighbor publicly for going the extra mile and being a good neighbor. Does your service group, school or church have a special event? Are you looking for help or do you have skills that somebody might need?

Contact any board member or visit our website for information.