

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) general meetings are open to all interested parties. General meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Bascom Community Center, 1000 S. Bascom Ave beginning at 6:30pm. SONA board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Sherman Oaks Community Center at 6:30pm. Newsletter is partially funded with a Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant from the City of San Jose.

Issue 175 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Notes from the President

Though it was regarded up until the last few decades of the 20th century as primarily a children's holiday, in more recent years activities such as costume parties, themed decorations, and even trick-or-treating have grown increasingly popular with adults as well, making Halloween a celebration for all ages.

According to the best available evidence, Halloween originated as a Catholic vigil observed on the eve of All Saints Day, November 1, in the early Middle Ages. It has become commonplace to trace its roots even further back in time to a pagan festival of ancient Ireland. The prehistoric observance is said to have marked the end of summer and the onset of winter, and was celebrated with feasting, bonfires, sacrificial offerings, and homage to the dead.

The earliest documented customs attributable to Halloween proper grew out of the tandem observances of All Saints Day (November 1), a day of prayer for saints and martyrs of the Church, and All Souls Day (November 2), a day of prayer for the souls of all the dead. Among the practices associated with Halloween during the Medieval period were the lighting of bonfires, evidently to symbolize the plight of souls lost in purgatory, and souling, which consisted of going door-to-door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for "soul cakes" and other treats. Mumming, a custom originally associated with Christmas consisting of parading in costume, chanting rhymes, and play-acting, was a somewhat later addition to Halloween.

Again, however, despite the obvious similarities between old and new, it may be an exaggeration to say these medieval customs "survived" to the present day, or even that they "evolved" into modern Halloween practices such as trick-or-treating. By the time Irish immigrants brought the holiday to North America in the mid-1800s, mumming and souling were all but forgotten in Ireland itself, where the known Halloween customs of the time consisted of praying, communal feasting, and playing divination games such as bobbing for apples. The secular, commercialized holiday we know in America today would be barely recognizable to Halloween celebrants of even just a century ago.

See you at the meeting. Bring a friend with you.

**General Meeting
Agenda**

October 8, 2015

**Bascom Library Community Room
1000 S. Bascom Avenue
2nd Floor**

❖ **6:30pm**
Meet your neighbors. Coffee and conversation before the meeting.

❖ **7:00pm**
Welcome from President Layne Kulwin

SJPD Report if available

Reports from elected officials or their staff

❖ **7:15pm**

Pam Crider, Branch Manager | Bascom, Rose Garden, & Willow Glen Public Libraries

❖ **8:15pm**
**Wrap up
Raffle
Get Home Safely**

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association...the voice of your neighborhood

Notes and News

Join SONA at the Bascom Community Center and Library on Halloween! The community center will be hosting activities and crafts at 11:30am with a costume parade. The library then picks up activities with craft projects that include bleeding art. SONA will be handing out glow necklaces and sticks while they last. You can also get your ghouls on! We have engaged the services of a theatrical expert to staff a face painting booth. Get there early and take advantage of the free fun.

October 10 is Pumpkins in the Park! This free event at Discovery Meadow is just a few light rail stops away. A family focused event has arts, crafts, games, music and more. There is something for everyone in the family. Food and other vendors will be on hand. All proceeds benefit the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy. If you haven't been to GRP recently, there are always changes. GRP runs from downtown at Discovery Meadow, winding through the trail downtown that includes some great art installations. From downtown you make your way to Little Italy and then to the GRP headquarters on Coleman. You can walk the trails, play in the all access Rotary Play Garden and explore the Heritage Rose Garden and Orchard. Pass the bocce courts and hit the trail and you can wind up at the southern edge of the San Francisco Bay in Alviso.

McDonalds is withdrawing its request for 24hour drive through! Based on your comments, SONA sent a letter to the Planning Director regarding this project. Among the issues was an extension of operating hours including 24hour drive through. That portion of the application has been withdrawn.

Congratulations to the Pamilar area! Your new signalized intersection at Pamilar and Bascom is on the way thanks to grant money from the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program. This will create a safe pedestrian access and reduce traffic accidents at this intersection. The San Jose Department of Transportation added this as a priority based on our March 2015 visioning meetings.

SONA Saturday

**October 3, 2015 9-11am
St. Elizabeth Park
And
Creek Trail Area**

Walk over to St. Elizabeth Park and meet your neighbors. This is an opportunity to get to know others and come together for a conversation about what's going on in your part of the neighborhood.



We will have litter pick up materials to clean up anything we find along the way.

From St. Elizabeth Park we will make a loop around the creek trail. We will move from the park to St. Elizabeth Drive, circle around to Meridian to the entrance and head up the trail towards Campbell. It's just as important for us to know what is great about the neighborhood as it is to know what the concerns are.

Invite your neighbors...especially those neighbors you only chat with online... and get to know them and your neighborhood a little better. Pets and kids are welcome.

Family Dues Now Available

For a limited time (now until the end of the year) we are offering family memberships for \$25/family. Join SONA now at this great rate! Dues help offset costs of websites, newsletters, etc.