

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 186 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

Election Season

By the time you get this newsletter you will probably have your first packet of material from the registrar, your sample ballot. For many, this will be the first time you see just how much is on the ballot and how confusing it can be. Some of you will only pay attention to the top portion of the ballot, and not work your way down to the local races and initiatives. We encourage you to make sure at the very least you vote for those local races that affect your pocket book and who represents you.

If you are confused about the issues, one of the sources of unbiased info is votesmart.org.

It's not too late to register to vote. October 24 is the last day to register to vote and you can still request vote by mail ballots. If you are going to be 18 by Nov 8, you are eligible to vote, you can find registration forms at the library and other public buildings or go online to www.sccvote.org.

Early voting begins October 11.

There are already races that have been decided and under local rules, you won't see candidate names or offices on the ballot! To cut expenses during election season, the Board of Supervisors has taken a series of steps to reduce the cost and confusion. There are two ways you can be elected on November 8 and not have your name on the ballot. The first is carrying a 51% majority of the vote in the June primary. While candidates won't appear on the November ballot, they don't "win" until November 8. The second way occurs when a candidate running for office in November (without being part of the primary process) has no opponents. In that case, the candidate wins on November 8 and you never see their names. So, if you ever wonder why somebody got elected and you never saw their name, that's how.

Some of the folks elected this round without their names ever appearing on the ballot are returning Trustees Michael Snyder, Pablo Beltran and Richard Ngyuen from the Campbell Union School District. Trustees Kalen Gallagher and Lindsay Goytia return to the Campbell Union High School District. Randi Kinman will take a currently vacant seat as Trustee of the West Valley Mission Community College District. And, Barbara Keegan will retain her seat as a board member of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. These are some of your local representatives; more names are available from the Registrar of Voters.

NO SONA OCTOBER MEETING

In our commitment to bringing you meetings of interest, this quarter's meeting was held in September as a public forum for District 6 City of San Jose Council Office.

Co-Sponsored by the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, the Burbank/Del Monte NAC, the West San Carlos Business Association and our hosts at San Jose City College, the event was well attended by more than 50 local residents who had a chance to speak one on one with the candidates and to hear their views on issues affecting our neighborhoods. Moderated by Jennifer Wadsworth of Metro.

For more information on the candidates, their positions and links to other forums, you can visit them online at:

Helen Chapman
HelenChapman2016.com

Devora "Dev" Davis
Devdavis.com

Halloween Safety

Please make sure your children are accompanied, drivers, watch out for trick or treaters and please light up your homes and sidewalks.

Fall Clean Up Chores

Have bulky waste items? Need to get rid of patio furniture, sofas, beds, etc? Take advantage of the City of San Jose's twice a year free home pick up. The clock on this offer re-sets July 1st so we all get two free pick ups between now and next June. You can call as late as 5pm the day before garbage day and three items can be placed at the curb for free pick up.

Even though it is October one week is in the 90s and the next in the 60s, now is the time to prepare for winter. Caulk the cracks in sidewalks and driveways to make sure they don't expand during winter months. Check your windows and doors for weather proofing and make sure it's all sealed tight.

Don't wait until winter to test your heating system. Make sure vents are cleaned and, if necessary, stock up on filters. For those with radiant heat, now is a good time to have a pressure check done.

Check your roof for debris and drainage. You want to make sure that all gutters are cleared, all downspouts actually work and save yourself climbing up there in the rain. This is also a good time to add a rain barrel to your system and capture rainfall for future use in the garden.

Look at your landscaping and see what needs to be done. Better to trim things back now when the weather is nice and your plants are ready. Plant those fall plantings and veggies. If you compost, get your bin turned over and ready. Debris left at the street should be far enough from the curb to allow water to flow.

Please make sure you take special care if you have shrubs or bushes that grown along the sidewalk area. Keep these areas clear and visible. If you have trees or hedges along the perimeter of your property, check them now and have an arborist out if necessary. Take steps to ensure your property remains on your property and doesn't block streets and sidewalks or damage your neighbor's property. While we had a decent rainy season last year, many of our trees and hedges are still stressed.

Don't forget the outside shelters for pets that are out during the day. Clean, waterproof & add blankets.

And don't forget your car! There is nothing more dangerous than balding tires during those first rains when the oil rises onto the pavement. Windshield wipers can be swapped out now. If you are a bike, pedestrian or transit commuter it's time to lay in those rain supplies. And for those of you, who drive, go slow and be prepared to take a little extra time to save lives.

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Nextdoor Neighborhood: www.Nextdoor.com

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1000 residences. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Newsletter editor is Randi Kinman. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation. Feel free to contact any of us with ideas or questions.