

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 189 of Your Neighborhood Newsletter

We kicked off 2017 by hosting newly elected Councilmember Dev Davis at our January general meeting. We look forward to working with Cm. Davis in the coming years to make sure our community receives the attention it deserves from City Hall.

Residents had many questions about safety, libraries, traffic, development, the community center and our homeless population. Future development will also play a big part in our community's future. By connecting with us and establishing what our concerns are, the Councilmember can fully represent all residents of our district.

You can speak directly with Councilmember Davis by calling (408) 535-4906 or emailing her at dev.davis@sanjoseca.gov. In addition, all of her staff members can be reached at that phone number or via email.

Mary Anne Groen, Chief of Staff Maryanne.Groen@sanjoseca.gov
Christina Garavaglia, Council Assistant Christina.Garavaglia@sanjoseca.gov
Philip Fernandez, Council Assistant Philip.Fernandez@sanjoseca.gov
Christina Mauro, Council Assistant Christina.Mauro@sanjoseca.gov
Jude Massaad, Council Assistant Jude.Massaad@sanjoseca.gov

Our meeting schedule right now is to hold quarterly meetings, so the next one will be in April 2017. This is also our annual meeting where we elect a new board. **We are actively looking for a few volunteers to sit on our board.** We hope to see people from all corners of our neighborhood join this year. This allows us to work on issues specific to your area. Board members arrange for guest speakers, help organize our ice cream social and other events and help track issues and needs of our residents. We meet once per month. **If interested, please contact Layne Kulwin (info on page 2).**

In upcoming months we hope to bring in the various county and city agencies who are working on resolving issues with homeless encampments in our area. We are also working on crime and safety issues. With recent flooding in San Jose, it's time to re-visit our neighborhood emergency plans and make sure that we are prepared for any event that comes our way. Join our board and help make our neighborhood a great place to live and work in.

Home and auto burglaries are on the upswing in our area. As usual, we are seeing specific areas targeted over and over again. You can help by reporting any and all crime or suspicious activities immediately to the police, not just to social media. It takes awhile, but eventually all of the attention moves crime away from that spot. It often moves to another neighborhood, but until the police are aware of how big the problem is, they can't react. Make sure that you get report numbers if you are a victim of crime even if you aren't filing an insurance claim. This creates a database that allows us to pressure for more patrols.

Notes and News

Remember those care kits we packed up? Not all of them were off loaded to the VMC outreach team this winter so there was a good sized stash available during recent floods. All of them were taken to the various evacuation sites and shelters and received with gratitude by those displaced in the floods. Many people fled with little but the clothes on their backs and the first 24 hours in the centers were hectic. Having basic supplies was a comfort to many.

Many of our fellow San Jose residents will not be able to return to their homes ever. A number of buildings will be re-tagged, some will require extensive repair work and thousands have lost all their belongings. Below is a short list of ways you can help. It is by no means complete, but it's a start.

- A general fund has been set up for flood victims at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. You can go to siliconvalleycf.org or send a check to 2240 W. El Camino Real, Ste. 300, Mt. View, CA 94040-1498. These funds will be distributed to agencies like Catholic Charities, Red Cross, Salvation Army.
- The Elks Lodge at 444 W. Alma is accepting donations to provide for flood victims and will be working directly with families and the shelters to provide specific items as needed. They will be accepting donations through March 9th and expect to make their final distribution March 10th. Items needed: Underwear all sizes, socks, shirts, formula, baby clothes, etc. For more information contact Lorie at (408) 298-3880. They will also be collecting items for pets.
- San Jose Animal Shelter can always use supplies. They have taken in the pets that were either lost or unable to accompany their owners during evacuations. There is a drop off site at 2750 Monterey Road, SJ CA 95111. Towels and bedding are used year round. Please do not drop off opened food. They take monetary donations that will go to overall expenses. [Sanjoseanimals.com](http://sanjoseanimals.com)
- South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition has been asked to help organize clean ups of the Coyote Creek Area. As waters recede, there are expected to be more clean ups. They also organize clean ups in our area. You can stay updated and join them at <http://sbccleancreeks.myevent.com> or join them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsLGCreek/>

SONA Contact List

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| President, Layne Kulwin | 408.256.0761 | LayneKulwin.SONA@gmail.com |
| Past President, Randi Kinman | 408.835.2881 | randikinman@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer, Lisa Steingart | 408.666.3287 | |
| Member at Large, Marlene Bird | 408.288.9727 | marlenebird@att.net |
| Member at Large, Anne Kearney | | akearn456@gmail.com |
| Member at Large, Jussi Rajna | 408.291.0202 | jussirajna@att.net |
| Website Administrator and Member at Large, Patrick Solomon | patrick.solomon.2008@gmail.com | |

Facebook: Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association (San Jose)
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherman-Oaks-Neighborhood-Association-San-Jose/151383304945052?fref=ts>

Nextdoor Neighborhood: www.Nextdoor.com

Website www.sona-sj.com

SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 1000 residences. Newsletter editor is Randi Kinman. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation. Feel free to contact any of us with ideas or questions.