



S.N.A.I.L. News

Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor, Including La Linda
PO Box 62072
Sunnyvale, CA 94088
www.snail.org

Representing over 1200 households Established in 1995

April 2012

SNAIL General Meeting Thursday – April 5th

Location: Columbia School • Time: 7:00 p.m.
The meeting will be held in the Staff Lounge.
Look for the SNAIL Sign.

Our speaker shall be Leonard Dunn, Urban Landscape Manager of Sunnyvale Street Tree Services, to discuss the trimming of trees near power lines and to answer any general questions about trees in the neighborhood.

Partial List of General Meeting Agenda Items:
Vote on budget for Cinco de Mayo party.
SNAIL float for Sunnyvale Centennial parade.

SNAIL always meets on the first Thursday of the month. The rare exceptions are when the first Thursday is also the same date as a big holiday. **Mark your calendar now for the rest of the year!** All SNAIL area homeowners, residents and guests are invited. Children are welcome. Membership in SNAIL is always free.

Message from the Chair

Occasionally a frustrated neighbor contacts me about a complaint they've made to the City or a utility that still is not resolved. Sometimes I'm told by the neighbor that they've called many times and have gotten no results. While gathering information so that I can help the person, I usually ask the same questions: When did you call? What were the dates? Who did you speak to? What did you speak about? What did they say they would do for you? Rarely do I get past my question number one.

Making complaints by telephone (and email) can be effective if it is done correctly. Number one, you must keep an organized and detailed record of each call. Do not make the assumption that your first complaint will be the end of the issue. Keep a call log. Note the date and time. Note the name of the person you spoke to. Note what you spoke about and especially what the person said they would do next. If they said they would call you back, make a note of it. If you need to call again, mention most of the details from your first call so the second person who takes your call can positively follow up on the first call. Again, write down the same information as your first call – date, time, name, subject, action items. If you need to call a third time, mention the details from the first two calls. And again, write down the same information the third time as well -- date, time, name, subject, action items.

If you still get no action, it's time to escalate. Maybe you can speak to a manager in the organization. If it's a City issue, you can contact our Neighborhood Resource Officer (listed in every issue of this newsletter). Whatever it is, you can call the SNAIL Chair. If you call me, you already know the questions I'm going to ask you!
Jim Quaderer - Beechnut Avenue

Yard Sale Update

Hello Fellow Snails! Well, it is that time of year again... Time to get rid of the old and make room for the new. Donate to our annual garage sale!

We will come by and pick up your whatever you would like to give. Please contact Samantha Donovan at 408-734-8334 (home) or 408-313-1834 (cell) for donations or more information. We look forward to seeing you there!



In Bereavement

Condolences go out to June Valenti and her family in the passing of her father on the 18th of March. He was very Irish and lived to be 89 years old. She flew to Chicago to be with the family.
Bonnie Lloyd – Borregas Avenue.

SNAIL Survey Results

The main reason for issuing our survey in December was to determine if there was a better night of the week, other than Thursday, to have our general meetings. We received just 16 responses. The survey respondents indicated that the most popular meeting times were: Tuesday evening, Saturday morning, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon. Those meeting times were all tied at six respondents each. This means that six people said that they could make it at each of those times. Unfortunately, we determined that we would lose more regular attendees, some of them event organizers and officers, if we met at those times than we might gain in new attendees. While it looked like we might get some new people to attend the meetings (the respondents) we knew we would definitely lose some regulars. There was not a compelling case to change the meeting day of the week. We voted for several meeting times other than Thursday but none of the times garnered enough votes to pass. So the meeting day will not change; it will continue to be the first Thursday of the month.

Jim Quaderer - Beechnut Avenue

Dinner Night Out at the Rok

April 2, Monday, we will gather at the ROK Restaurant (124 S. Murphy Street, Sunnyvale) for our SNAIL Dinner Night out. The date was changed because it would have been too close to May 5's. Please be there by 6:45 p.m., we'll eat 7-8:30 p.m.

The ROK n POT menu compliments the Hot ROK entrees -- around \$19.00; the entrees are from \$20-\$30. This would give you entree, salad, cheese fondue and dessert. One item ok. I have the menu if you have any questions!
Let me know by April 1 how many are coming: Bonnie Lloyd 747-1949. Let's eat!

The publication of our newsletter and SNAIL Neighborhood Association sponsored activities are supported through our annual yard sale, newsletter advertisements, a grant from the City of Sunnyvale, Cookbook sales, and donations.



SNAILS enjoying the annual Chinese New Year Dinner, Shanghai Restaurant, Feb. 27

Letter to the Editor

Just as the Wednesday night Summer Music Series is posted in the SNAIL Newsletter, I believe anything involving Sunnyvale's beautiful Murphy Street or City Hall, needs to be included in the SNAIL Newsletter. Attendees of Nathan Truitt's Quarterly Sunnyvale Neighborhood Association Meetings realize how all of the Neighborhood Associations work together to share ideas and knowledge of what is happening in the various areas of the city, in order to make situations better for all City residents. We (SNAIL) are not an isolated block of loners, but rather citizens of a larger master plan. We need to be aware of what is happening, not only within SNAIL boundaries, but in the other areas of Sunnyvale as well, including City Hall. I believe we should use every available means of having this news reported in the Newsletter to bring it into the homes of all SNAIL members, where it can be easily accessed.

Jeannie Biddle - East Eaglewood Ave.

Free Sunnyvale Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7th 10am -2pm at 450 N Sunnyvale Avenue (Bishop Elementary Campus), Sunnyvale CA 94085. There will be Free Face Painting, Free Balloons, Free Jump House, Free Snacks, Free Prizes, Lots of Free Candy. Fun for the whole family and an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages. Event hosted by Beautiful Day.

Annette McClure

Parents and Kids

My husband and I used to live in a different Sunnyvale neighborhood. The homes in our old neighborhood were priced at least a few hundred thousand dollars more than our SNAIL neighborhood. Not surprisingly the schools in our old neighborhood have better test scores. We have a young daughter and will need to decide about school soon. As families with small kids can probably relate, "The days are long, but the years are short."

I started listening to NPR not too long ago and noticed a lot of education discussions. The discussion about Diane Ravitch's book, "The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education," made me think with so much emphasis on test scores and other statistics, is this causing us to not see the forest for the trees?

I grew up in a California farming town with many immigrant families, including ours. If they did state testing as they do now, my elementary school probably would not have been either the best or worst. Many kids were English-language learners, which most likely would've affected test scores. This is probably similar to where Bishop Elementary School falls, not the best or worst in Sunnyvale.

It seems to me that it would be beneficial if more kids went to schools in their own neighborhoods, leading to communities knowing their neighbors better, and kids wouldn't have to spend time commuting.

I would like to start a dialogue in SNAIL on whether kids in our local public schools are being successfully educated and challenged, and are in healthy, happy, well-rounded and safe environments. Feedback from administrators and parents with kids in our local public schools would be greatly appreciated, as the topic of preserving public education seems more relevant with each passing day.

Cindy P. - Waite Ave

Note from Editor: Link to the NPR Forum topic referenced in article: <http://www.kqed.org/a/forum/R201201180900>. Respond either to the newsletter or to the SNAIL yahoo forums.

SNAIL 2012 Event Calendar

Date	Event Name	Organizer
Apr 2	Dinner Nite Out	Bonnie Lloyd
May 5	Cinco de Mayo party	John Cordes
Jun 9	Dumpster Day, 8am to 2pm	Barry Boole
Jun 9 & 10	Yard Sale	Samantha Donovan
Jun	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
Jul	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
Aug 7	National Night Out	Michael Rose
Aug 25	Sunnyvale Centennial Parade	Connie Cook-Turner

THANK YOU Volunteers!

We have been informed that there will be a VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BBQ to give thanks to all the volunteers who served the homeless their meals this year. It will be on March 25 at the Armory.
Bonnie Lloyd - Borregas Avenue

Note from Editor: This event has already occurred.

Centennial Parade

- August 25th is the big day, but our entry application must be in by May 31st.
- Float applications must include a photo, sketch or rendering of the float, preferably in color, so it is time for our float committee to get working.
- Please call Connie, 739-8490 as soon as possible to be a part of S.N.A.I.L. parade entry committee.
- No more than 40 entries will be accepted so we want to get our application in early.
- First committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 18th at 7pm at Connie's house.

Connie Cook-Turner - Carolina Avenue

SNAIL Cinco De Mayo Party May 5th

SNAIL will be holding a Cinco De Mayo party from 4-8 PM on Saturday May 5th at 550 E Arbor Ave, on the corner of Worley Ave. Children are welcome. We need some of our neighbors' help to make this a successful party. SNAIL will provide some of the food, but we are also asking some neighbors to bring food as well. (This is a no alcohol party)

Help needed:

- Loan Mexican Flags and other Mexican decorations
- Provide live Mexican music or provide CD's of Mexican Music
- Loan folding chairs
- Loan portable covers or umbrellas in case it is hot or rainy
- Bring food. We are looking for salads, rice, beans, dip, chips, salsa, tamales, desserts

Snail will be providing tacos, enchiladas, horchata, iced tea, soft drinks and 3 Piñatas for 5,6,7 pm

If you are interested in being involved in party preparation or to RSVP to attend, please contact John Cordes @ either email johncordes@yahoo.com or phone 650-288-9645. The party is limited to 50 people, so please RSVP early.

John Cordes & Diane Gleason

Sunnyvale City Employee Pension Reform

Last month we read a letter from SNAIL neighbor and City Council member, Pat Meyering, detailing the extraordinary salaries paid to city employees, and how these salaries have resulted in cuts to (city) staff and public services.

Yet there is another issue not mentioned, that of pensions and how these pensions are paid for. Simply put, if CalPERS (California Public Employee Retirement System) does not get its expected return on their investments, ...we the tax paying public must make up the difference.

As Councilman Meyering noted, the previous (Sunnyvale) City Manager, Amy Chan, receives a pension of \$216,000.00 per year, PLUS cost of living increases, PLUS benefits.

That is a whopping \$18,000.00 per month. Of course, there are other city retirees making enormous sums, in the \$100K plus range.

Currently there is a group in Sunnyvale committed to addressing and fixing this problem. It is Sunnyvale Pension Reform, <http://www.sunnyvalepensionreform.com>.

If you are concerned about this issue contact them.

Michael Rose - Morse Avenue

Brief Summary of SNAIL Meeting Minutes – March 1st Meeting

1. Chinese New Year's Dinner was organized by Bonnie Lloyd on Feb. 27th at the Shanghai restaurant.
2. Yard sale updates: Yard sale is Jun. 9th and Jun. 10th
3. Dumpster day is Jun. 9th.
4. Sunnyvale Centennial Celebration by Connie Cook-Turner. The event is 2 days, August 25th – 26th. More information can be found at www.sunnyvale100.com
5. April SNAIL dinner shall be hosted by Bonnie Lloyd on Apr. 2nd.
6. Cinco de Mayo party on May 5th hosted by John Cordes
7. Discussion about March "Message from the Chair" on the Columbia NRO (published in the March 2012 SNAIL newsletter).
8. Armory update by Malcolm Lloyd
9. The rest of the meeting was run by Guest Chair – John Cordes.
10. Discuss SNAIL survey regarding moving of the SNAIL monthly meeting to another day.
11. Discussion: Newsletter content and priorities by Jeannie Biddle (letters read by Jim Quaderer)

Bishop Elementary April Events

Date	Topic	Location
Tue April 3	Teacher Learning Day	Early Release – All Grades – At 12:30
Thu April 5	Spring Pictures	Say cheese! Your child's spring pictures are today
Thu April 5	PTO Meeting	Teacher's Lounge 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Fri April 6	Coffee with Principal	Teacher's Lounge 8:15 – 9:00 am – NEW FAMILY informational meet and greet
April 16 – 20	Spring Recess	NO SCHOOL this week for students

Open Enrollment and New Student Registration continues all month for Sunnyvale School District. New families can check with Bishop's front office for New Student Registration forms until June 1. Please come Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 2:00. Thank You.
Sue Johnson - Manzanita Avenue

Columbia Neighborhood Center Updates

Columbia Neighborhood Center Fair and Grand Reopening May 5!

Celebrate wellness and bring the family to the **2012 City of Sunnyvale Fit & Fun Fair** on Saturday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for fun, entertainment & valuable health and wellness information. Admission is free and takes place on the grounds of Columbia Middle School and the newly expanded Columbia Neighborhood Center, 739 and 785 Morse Ave. Some of the planned activities include:

- 5 K Fun Run/Walk (Starting at 8:00 a.m.)
- Rock wall, obstacle course, jousting
- Columbia Neighborhood Center Grand Reopening Celebration & self-guided tours (starting at 10:30 a.m.)
- Fun on the Run, carnival games & prizes
- Free bike inspections & tune ups
- Health Screenings: diabetes, cholesterol, vision, BMI, blood pressure, oral health check for kids
- 65+ exhibitors showcasing health & family resources
- Nutrition information for the entire family
- Kids tours of emergency evacuation helicopter, fire rigs, squad cars & meet our K-9 officer
- Car seat safety inspections (by appointment only, call 408-730-7179)

SNAIL BOARD and CITY of SUNNYVALE SUPPORT STAFF

Chair	Jim Quaderer	302 Beechnut Ave.	408-737-9479
Vice Chair	John Cordes	550 E. Arbor Ave.	650-288-9645
Secretary	Kirstin Sims	663 Madrone Ave.	650-759-9170
Treasurer	Bonnie Lloyd	802 Borregas Ave.	408-747-1949
Newsletter Editor	Kirstin Sims	663 Madrone Ave. SNAILeditor @ snail.org	650-759-9170
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator	Connie Cook-Turner	810 Carolina Ave.	408-739-8490
Email	SNAILChair @ snail.org		
Neighborhood Preservation	Steve Frias	SFrias @ ci.sunnyvale.ca.us	408-730-7613
Neighborhood Resource Officer	Todd Fekete	tfekete @ ci.sunnyvale.ca.us	408-730-7153

For more information including downloadable exhibitor registration forms, visit FitandFunFair.inSunnyvale.com or contact Alicia Gonzales, Youth & Family Resources Program Coordinator, at 408-523-8150 ext. 19 or agonzales@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

Volunteers Needed!

Help your community as we celebrate wellness and the Grand Reopening of the expanded Columbia Neighborhood Center at the Sunnyvale Fun and Fitness Fair on May 5. A variety of volunteer shifts are available, from set-up starting at 8 am, to clean-up ending around 4:30 pm. Volunteers are needed for the fair itself, and to welcome visitors to the new center as they go through a self-guided tour. Volunteers should apply no later than April 20, and those volunteering during the fair who are over 18 are required to be fingerprinted. For more information, see Volunteering.inSunnyvale.com and click on the 'Featured Volunteer Opportunities' link, then go to Fit and Fun Fair. Or call Carolyn Luticken at the CNC, (408) 523-8150 ext 14.

Community Kidz Camp

During Spring break, April 16 – 20, the CNC will once again hold its award-winning Community Kidz Camp for second through fifth graders. The camp is open to students from Bishop, San Miguel, Fairwood and Lakewood schools, or students living within those school boundaries. The camp strives to provide a fun environment for participants to learn how to be safe, healthy and active in their communities, even at a young age. There are field trips to a fire station, City Hall to meet the Mayor, the Library and more! Campers will learn about pedestrian safety, bus safety and etiquette, volunteering in their community, in addition to games, art projects and presentations by Sunnyvale City Staff. In celebration of Sunnyvale's Arbor Day, which was selected to coincide with this camp, the campers will plant trees in Columbia Park.

Community Kidz Camp costs \$25 (cash or check only, no refunds) for the entire week. Registration starts at 8:15 am on Wednesday, March 28 and will continue from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday, with extended hours on Tuesday until 6:30 pm. For information, call Columbia Neighborhood Center, (408) 523-8150.

CNC Newsletter

Keep up with the activities and services at the CNC by reading the newsletter online at CNC.inSunnyvale.com.
Carolyn Luticken - CNC Program Coordinator

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles and photos for the SNAIL May monthly newsletter is Saturday, April 14th.

Some of what was posted on SNAIL Yahoo Groups last month:

Yahoo SNAILorg

- Armory site low income housing meeting.
- Sunnyvale Centennial Parade entry application.

Yahoo SNAILChitChat

- Full Circle Farm.
- Free tour of Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant.
- Sunnyvale pension reform.
- HSSV trap-neuter-return program.
- Sunnyvale Land Use/Transportation/Climate Plan.
- Drop off of veggies from High Ground Organics CSA.
- Charles Street Garden.
- Free sustainable landscaping classes.
- Sunnyvale Below Market Rate homes program.
- Events at Fremont High.

To join these Yahoo groups, send your name and address to: [SNAILgroups @ snail . org .](mailto:SNAILgroups@snail.org)

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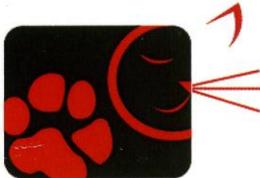
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