



S.N.A.I.L. News

Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor, Including LaLinda

PO Box 62072, Sunnyvale, CA 94088

<http://www.snail.org/>

Representing over 1,400 households Established in 1995

January 2016

SNAIL General Meeting Thursday – January 7th

Location: Columbia Middle School Staff Lounge

Time: 7:00pm – Look for the SNAIL sign

Partial List of General Meeting Agenda Items:

- A vote on the bylaws
- A discussion on what we will be doing in the coming year

SNAIL typically 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 2016!** All SNAIL area homeowners, residents and guests are invited. Children are welcome. Membership in SNAIL is always free.



SNAIL 2015 Event Calendar

Date	Event Name	Organizer
Jan 6, 13, 27	SNAIL to Volunteer at the Cold Winter Shelter	Valérie Suarès (408) 390-3335
Friday Jan 15	Dinner Night Out w/ 2016 SNAIL Officers Seto Restaurant 511 Borregas Ave, 7:00pm	Bonnie Lloyd RSVP by Jan 13 (408) 747-1949
Saturday Feb 20	Chinese New Year Dinner Chef Yu 163 S. Murphy Ave, 7:00pm	Bonnie Lloyd RSVP by Feb 18 (408) 747-1949



Brief Summary of December General Meeting Minutes

2016 SNAIL Treasurer Election: Kirstin Sims was elected as our new Treasurer by a unanimous vote of the membership.

SNAIL Bylaws Changes: There was a discussion of the most recent proposed bylaws changes, specifically regarding: the wording of when the monthly general meeting would be held; the voting method of electing officers – secret ballot vs. the raising of hands; the use of the word “Membership” vs. “Committee members”; and whether or when new Standing Rules should be published in the newsletter.

Guest Speakers: Nupur Hiremath, Sustainability Coordinator and Bailey Hall, Environmental Programs Fellow from the City of Sunnyvale spoke about energy efficiency. Since the 1970's, California's efforts to be energy efficient have kept the average home billing 25% lower than the national average. Sunnyvale is one of 50 semi-finalist cities in a competition for a \$5 million prize awarded to the community that is able to reduce their energy use the most over the 2015-2016 two-year timeframe, relative to the 2013-2014 energy usage as a baseline. The Energize Sunnyvale team is hoping that the SNAIL community can help by reaching out to friends, families and other people in our neighborhood and other neighborhoods to spread the word about energy efficiency.

Street Parking: A concern about the number of cars parked in the neighborhoods was discussed by several members. Many vehicles are not parked legally and some are left for extended periods of time. The police are notified frequently, but not very responsive.

For full minutes, please visit the SNAILorg Yahoo Group website:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNAILorg>

Denise Perez for June Valenti, SNAIL Secretary

Sunnyvale Onizuka Cold Weather Shelter

The shelter finally opened, a week behind schedule. Eleven wonderful SNAIL members volunteered their time and resources on Wednesday Dec 9th to serve meals, assist with immediate needs, and provide warm beanies to those staying the night.

We had a busy night and will continue to be there on the following dates: Jan 6th, 13th, 27th; Feb 3rd, 10th, 24th and March 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th. If you are interested in helping out on any of these days, call Valérie at (408) 390-3335 or send an email to vsuares@gmail.com.

Additionally, the shelter is looking for volunteer couriers to pick up excess food to take to the Onizuka Shelter. We would greatly appreciate your help if you can spare an hour or two a week by doing a few runs and picking up excess food from local businesses and restaurants and then dropping off the food at the shelter. Learn more by visiting the Peninsula Runners website, which connects nearby tech businesses that have extra lunch food for the shelter. Hours of pick-up are generally between 2:00-4:00pm. This helps to avoid the worst of the Silicon Valley traffic.

Anyone interested in driving can sign up on the PFR website <http://www.pensinsulafoodrunners.org/wp/> and following the path Volunteer > Volunteer Signup. In the registration process, choose Sunnyvale Cold Weather Shelter from a drop down menu. From there, daily runs are listed online (or via text) and volunteers can choose as many food runs as they would like. The more drivers we have, the more frequently we can provide food to the Shelter.

Thank you very much and I hope you will consider volunteering!
Valérie Suarès

The publication of our newsletter and SNAIL Neighborhood Association sponsored activities are supported through our annual yard sale, newsletter sponsors and donations.

Columbia Neighborhood Center (CNC) News

For current information on programs, call CNC at (408) 730-7800 or email CNC @ sunnyvale .ca .gov or go to the CNC web page at <http://CNC.InSunnyvale.com>.

Bilingual Storytime Returns to Columbia Neighborhood:

Beginning in January, the Sunnyvale Public Library will be expanding their Children's Storytime program to the Columbia neighborhood. Bilingual librarian Karina Bermudez-Yepez will present Spanish and English stories and songs at the Columbia Middle School Library every other Wednesday at 3:30 pm starting on January 6, 2016. All families welcome.

FREE Kindergarten Readiness Workshop: Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6-8pm in the Sunnyvale Library Program Room, Brandy Vanderheiden from Community Health Awareness Council will be presenting on the emotional and social support children need from their family in preparation for this transition. A panel with representatives from the Cupertino, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale school districts will also be available for a Question and Answer session. To register (required), call (408) 730-7807 or email childcareresources@sunnyvale.ca.gov. Child care will not be provided; please find other accommodations.

English Conversation Classes for Adults: Free English language classes offered by Vision Literacy. Practice listening, speaking, reading and writing English in small groups, led by a trained volunteer. All levels of adult learners welcome, no childcare available. New students can enroll on Tuesday, January 5th at 6:30 pm at Columbia Middle School Staff Room. Classes take place on Tuesdays from 7-9pm, January 12th thru May 3rd, 2016 in Columbia Middle School.

Angela Chan, CNC Manager



Columbia Middle School Upcoming Events

Jan. 14 – UPP* Information Night @ 6:30pm

Jan. 18 – NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Day)

Jan. 20 – ELAC / PTSA @ 6pm

Jan. 21 – UPP* Parent Tours / Shadow Day

Jan. 21 – UPP* Information Night @ 6:30pm

Jan. 25 – Fremont High School Shadow Day

Jan. 28 – UPP* Parent Tours/ Shadow Day

*Columbia Middle School's University Partnership Program (UPP) offers students direct experience with some of the most innovative instructional techniques coming out of Stanford University's renowned School of Education. UPP allows us to leverage our own best practices with Stanford's most promising research-based strategies for maximum benefit to our students. Please contact CMS for more information at (408) 522-8200.

Jennifer Aufang, CMS PTSA



SUFA Announcement



Rhonda Berry, Founder and President of Our City Forest in San Jose, will speak at the first of several talks about the urban forest sponsored this year by SUFA. Ms. Berry has been working in San Jose for the last 20 years helping

to promote and care for the urban forest in her city.

Her topic for the evening is "Trees and the Drought: A contradiction in terms?" Not at all! She will explain how trees actually help during a drought! One will find out why it's important to plant trees during a drought, how to select the "right tree for the right place" and how to care for young and mature trees during a drought. The talk will take place at 7:00pm on Monday, January 25, 2016 at the Sunnyvale Public Library (665 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, 94086). Join SUFA (Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates) for an interesting and enlightening evening as to the wonders and care of our urban forest!

Deborah Marks, SUFA

Neighborhood Preservation



Did you know that it is unlawful to permit any solid waste or recycling container to remain in public view from any public right-of-way unless the container is stored in the side yard of the premises behind the face of the house? For scheduled curbside pick-up, containers are permitted in public view during the fifty-four-hour period commencing at 12:01am on the day preceding the day of scheduled pick-up and terminating at 6:00am on the day following such pick-up. For more information, visit:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/SunnyvaleWasteContainers>.

Source: "Letters to Joan", San Jose Mercury News
Dec. 14, 2015

Dear Joan,

We used to see many ants inside the home and outdoors. They have been gone for the past two years. What has caused this? Do drought conditions have anything to do with this?

Gary – San Jose

Dear Gary,

As for the ants, count yourself lucky. The dominant species in the Bay Area, and all of California, is the Argentine ant. Their behavior is greatly influenced by the weather. They don't like the cold and wet, and they aren't happy with the hot and dry. Both of those things will drive them indoors looking for shelter, and often for food.

Your situation may change with all of this wet weather, so keep an eye out for the first scouts. If you can discourage them, you can stave off a full-scale invasion. Weatherizing your home by sealing up little cracks and openings will help. Scientists believe the ants are part of a massive colony that extends underground from Oregon down to Mexico, so for every one ant you kill, there probably are a billion to take its place.

Submitted by Connie Cook-Turner

February Newsletter Deadline

All SNAIL neighbors are invited to submit articles of interest to be published in our monthly newsletter. The deadline for submitting articles and photos for the next SNAIL monthly newsletter is Saturday, Jan 16th. Send an email to SNAILeditor@snail.org

SNAIL Holiday Party



SNAIL neighbors joined by present and former City Council members at the annual SNAIL Holiday Party hosted by Diane Gleason and John Cordes on Arbor Ave., December 6, 2015.

New Year's Day History

New Year's Day marks the start of a new year on the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was first introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. It is celebrated every year on January 1st.

Facts about New Year's Day

- The most common symbol, Baby New Year, is a baby boy wearing a diaper, a top hat and a sash across his torso that shows the year he is representing. The myth most associated with him is that he is a baby at the beginning of his year, but quickly ages until he is elderly at the end of his year. At this point, he hands over his duties to the next Baby New Year.
- The Romans dedicated New Year's Day to Janus, the pagan god of gates, doors, and beginnings, for whom the first month of the year, January, is also named. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past.
- The most popular New Year's Resolution is to improve physical well-being: eat healthy food, lose weight, exercise more, eat better, drink less alcohol, quit smoking, stop biting nails, and get rid of old bad habits.
- Less than 10% of people who make a New Year's resolution will be successful.

Letters to the Editor

I live on West Arbor Avenue. Today, Sunday, 12/13/2015 was a relatively rainy and wet day. At about 11am, I needed to clean the street gutters in front of my house because of standing water. I was on the street near the sidewalk with my rake and green recycling bin.

I am very concerned because a few of the cars heading towards me were speeding at about 35-40 miles per hour on the wet road -- none of them ever considered slowing down. I really did not feel very safe, didn't really understand their need to speed, and was at loss for words. I got splashed pretty badly.

We are a community and I believe that we need to support each other and care for our neighborhood; my other concern is that we have a lot of children and small creatures.

I am hoping that other community members will be more proactive in raising awareness and sharing concerns to the SNAIL Newsletter related to the increasing speed of drivers in the neighborhood.
Esther, West Arbor Ave.

SNAIL BOARD and CITY of SUNNYVALE SUPPORT STAFF

Chair	Tarik Peterson	667 San Diego Ave.	408-745-1241	SNAILchair @ snail .org
Vice-chair	Valérie Suarès	E. Eaglewood Ave.	408-390-3335	SNAILvicechair @ snail .org
Secretary	June Valenti	610 N. Bayview Ave.	408-497-0827	SNAILsecretary @ snail .org
Treasurer	Kirstin Sims	663 Madrone Ave.	650-759-9170	SNAILtreasurer @ snail .org
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Social Secretary	Bonnie Lloyd	802 Borregas Ave.	408-747-1949	
Neighborhood Preservation	Steve Frias		408-730-7613	Sfrias @ Sunnyvale .ca .gov
Neighborhood Resource Officer	Brian Gantt		408-730-7145	bgantt @ Sunnyvale .ca .gov

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