



# 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 2019



### GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Columbia Middle School Staff Lounge

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – Look for the **SNAIL** sign

**Guest Speaker:**

**Kent Steffens, Sunnyvale City Manager**

- What is the study issue process?
- Why should we/citizens care about the study sessions?
- What are the current 2019 proposed study sessions?
- When are the various review meetings for study issues scheduled during 2019?
- How to get involved and what can we expect in 2019?

**Kent will also give an update on outreach that the City will be doing for the consideration of district-based elections.**

SNAIL typically meets on the first Thursday of the month. The rare exception is when the first Thursday is also the same date as a big holiday or our usual meeting venue is not available. All SNAIL area homeowners, residents and guests are invited. Children are welcome. Membership in SNAIL is always free.

**Mark Your Calendar Now:**

**2/7, 3/7, 4/11, 5/2, 6/6, 7/11, 8/1, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5**

### Stay Informed and Be Heard!

#### Highlights of SNAIL General Meeting – DECEMBER

**City Report (John Cordes):** Sunnyvale is under the threat of a law suit because a plaintiff contends that our current at-large (city wide) numbered seat election system is discriminatory to minorities. This would violate the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). On Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunnyvale voted to make changes to our municipal election system to comply with the CVRA. On Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, the City will vote on the outreach plan to inform and engage Sunnyvale voters in replacing the current election system. There will be numerous public outreach meetings next year and then a vote sometime in 2020 to change how Sunnyvale elects its city council. The most likely outcome is we would change to district elections instead of numbered seats. The number and borders of the districts is to be determined during 2019.

**Summit School:** The Planning Commission will vote on December 10<sup>th</sup> whether or not Denali School will be allowed to move forward with their plans to put their school on the San Aleso property.

**Social Secretary's Report:** Our January Dinner Night Out will be at our neighborhood Seto Restaurant. The date is Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/SNAILorg>

-Minutes taken by June Valenti, SNAIL Secretary

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

#### SNAIL 2019 Event Calendar

Date/Time	Event Name	Organizer
Fri, Jan 18 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Night Out with our New 2019 SNAIL Officers Seto (Japanese) 511 Borregas Ave.	Bonnie Lloyd (408) 747-1949 RSVP by 1/16
Jan 9, 16 Feb 6, 13 Mar 6, 13 Apr 3, 10 May 1, 8 Jun 5, 12	Homeless Shelter Please call Valérie to Volunteer to serve dinner; two-hour shift, two Wednesdays a month.	Valérie Suarès (408) 390-3335

#### Message from the Chair



Welcome to 2019! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is looking forward to the coming year.

I would like to introduce your SNAIL officers for 2019:

- ♥ Diane Gleason is our Vice-chair
- ♥ June Valenti will continue as our Secretary
- ♥ Sharon McKnight is our Treasurer

I am sure many of you have already met this year's all-women officers: Diane has been our National Night Out coordinator for the past three years; June is our extraordinary secretary and host of our monthly meetings – she takes great pride in planning for delicious snacks; and Sharon is our gracious baker who, week after week, bakes her cookies and sweet treats and distributes them at the homeless shelter.

Two events for you to look forward to this month:

1. Come and meet all your new officers at the Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> dinner at Seto, our local Japanese restaurant on Borregas. Call our Social Secretary, Bonnie (408) 747-1949, who will need a head count by Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.
2. Join us for our January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Columbia teachers' lounge where we will plan the year's activities for children, young adults and older ones alike, international dinners, community events, block parties to welcome our newest neighbors, little free library reading events, and so much more. Every new idea is welcome and will be considered, whether serious, crazy, far-fetched or creative, and together we will build upon our already strong community. If you cannot make it to the meeting, send your ideas to [SNAILchair@snail.org](mailto:SNAILchair@snail.org).

Happy New Year everyone!

-Valérie Suarès, SNAIL Chair

## Columbia Neighborhood Center (CNC) News

For current information on programs, call CNC at (408) 730-7800 or email [CNC@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:CNC@sunnyvale.ca.gov) or visit our new webpage at:

<http://tinyurl.com/SVCNC>.

**Free Legal Clinic at CNC:** Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – noon. Receive a 20-minute consultation on legal matters by licensed attorneys offered by South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (SABA-NC). No appointments. Customers are attended to on a first come, first served basis.

**Columbia Neighborhood Storytime:** Starting on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, every Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Columbia Middle School Library (739 Morse Ave.) Stories, songs and activities for children are provided by volunteer story time leaders. Snacks for children will be provided at the end of the program. All are welcome.

**Free Healthy Eating and Cooking Class, VeggieRx:** Bi-weekly English classes on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.; bi-weekly Spanish classes on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January through April 2019 in the CMS Staff Room. Healthy eating classes for the entire family, with cooking demonstrations and weight monitoring. To register, call (925) 771-2290 or email: [veggierx@freshapproach.org](mailto:veggierx@freshapproach.org).

**Free English Conversation Classes for Adults:** Tuesdays, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 p.m. at CNC. Vision Literacy helps all levels of English learners practice speaking, listening, reading and writing in a small-group setting. **New students MUST enroll on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 p.m. at Columbia Middle School Library.** Call Vision Literacy for more information, (408)-676-7323.

**Youth Drop-In Gym at CNC: Basketball** on Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 7 to 10 p.m. Improve your game. Affordable prices: \$.50 residents, \$1 non-residents; middle school and high school students only. Bring school ID.

**Youth Drop-In Fitness Room at CNC: Morning hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:30 a.m.; Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 a.m.; Saturdays from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to noon. **Evening hours:** Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to noon. Come work out with over 15 fitness machines and free weights. Open to adults, high school students with a signed parent consent form, and middle school students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. \$1 per session/person. Bring a towel, water and wear athletic shoes.

-Angela Chan, CNC Manager



### The Gift of Giving!

Tears, smiles, joy and happiness were seen by all. On December 16<sup>th</sup> SNAIL volunteers brought homemade treats, and distributed over 60 teddy bears – generously donated by Nob Hill Foods (Santa Teresa) – to the many young and old residing at the Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Gilroy homeless shelters. Our very own SNAIL artist Shelley Capovilla came with her brushes, colors and sparkles and offered face painting to all. Santa came too, offering gifts to all, naughty and nice. What a day it was!

-Valérie Suarès, SNAIL Chair

## Planning Commission Meeting



On Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a hearing was held at City hall regarding the proposed Summit Denali Charter Public High School on San Aleso, in the Peery Park neighborhood. The hall was mostly packed with students, parents and faculty members of the proposed school. The headmaster of the school spoke and outlined the project; an architect as well as a lawyer for the proposed school also presented their case to the Planning and Development Commission board members.

Numerous parents and students spoke as well as a few SNAIL members and home owners. The biggest sticking point was the parking spaces allocated to the school. The school wanted to build a three-story mechanical parking garage on the property for some 24 or so parking spaces. Land use and some proposed vegetation mainly the planting of highly invasive species of Bamboo was another sticking point.

SNAIL homeowners spoke about and against the traffic, parking, and noise as well the schools wanting a variance to exempt them from following the parking space mandate.

At the end it was a very close vote of 4 to 3 to not allow the permit to the School and referred the matter to the City Council for the ultimate decision. The board gave the school 15 days to appeal the decision. Ken Rheaume voted **No**; Carol Weiss voted **Yes**; Sue Harrison voted **Yes**; John Howe voted **No**; Daniel Howard, Chair, voted **Yes**; Ken Olevson voted **No**; and David Simons, Vice-chair, voted **No**.

The school could appeal the decision and they have 15 days to do so. If this were the case, SNAIL owners and residents would be encouraged to attend that coming City Council's board meeting and voice their opinions and concerns when and if the matter were to come to an appeal hearing before the City Council. We will share any information as soon as we have it. Thank you

-Tewfik Mourad, SNAIL Block Rep and Home Owner

## Welcome to 2019!

The New Year tends to bring about feelings of new beginnings, and what better way to start the New Year than to focus on your health! To accomplish this – start out by making small changes in your routine as it pertains to physical activity, diet and stress management:

- 1) Ramp up your physical activity by increasing the amount you walk. In addition to actually walking for exercise, do small things that help to increase the amount of walking during the day: park further from your destination, take the stairs more often, etc.
- 2) Eat out less frequently. Eating out can be fun – but we tend to overeat while eating at a restaurant and the food that is prepared in restaurants tends to be higher calorie than what we would make at home. Try planning your meals in advance so that you can be more prepared at the grocery store in order to help avoid the temptation of going out to eat.
- 3) Shake-up your day to relieve some stress. Our schedules are so busy; it's hard to just get some "me" time. Even if it's for a short amount of time, make sure to block some time during the day for yourself: read a book, take a relaxing bath, get a massage, etc.

Cheers to a Healthy and Happy New Year!

-Leah Groppo, RD, CDE



**SERVICING DINNER AT THE HOMELESS SHELTER**

This has been a busy year for supporting the Homeless Shelter. In the summer, SNAIL received the 2018 Mayor's Award of Excellence for our continued support and for being a HomeFirst Feeding Partner. As it transitioned from a "winter only" shelter to being open all year around, we have continued to support the Homeless Shelter. This has put a greater demand on the existing SNAIL volunteers as we were serving dinner once a week. This winter we have reduced this to serving twice a month (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month). The goal is to serve a friendly meal to all that use the shelter and allow the staff to take care of their other duties. We usually add condiments and dessert and serve with a smile for everyone. This is a great way to get to know your SNAIL neighbors and to volunteer locally. If you're interested in joining us please contact Valérie [SNAILchair @ SNAIL .org](mailto:SNAILchair@SNAIL.org) and she will supply you with the necessary paperwork. There is no requirement that you come every time but only as you are available and it only takes couple of hours. So add this to your New Year Resolutions and become a volunteer.  
 -Sharon McKnight, SNAIL Vice-chair



The gift of a bear hug brightened the day for many on a Sunday afternoon at the homeless shelter. This happy recipient remarked, "It was just what I needed!"

**Sunnyvale Changing How We Elect Our City Council**  
 The City of Sunnyvale is investigating how it elects our city council members in response to a possible lawsuit. Currently, Sunnyvale City Council has seven elected council members who are elected every four years. Each council member is elected by voters across the entire city. In 2016, Sunnyvale elected council members for seats 4, 5, 6 and 7. In 2018, we elected council members for seats 1, 2 and 3. This way of doing elections is called "At-large".  
 A plaintiff and his lawyers notified Sunnyvale on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> that they plan to sue Sunnyvale unless Sunnyvale changes its election system to comply with a California State law called the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). They are suing because they believe Sunnyvale's "At-large" election system violates the CVRA because this election system suppresses the ability of racial minority voters from electing someone to city council who would better represent them. It effectively is saying that our current "At-large" election makes it unfairly difficult for protected minority classes of voters like Asian and Hispanics to elect someone like them. The CRVA recommends that cities switch to district elections as the best method of complying with the CVRA. Almost every city that has been threatened with a lawsuit using the CVRA has settled by switching to district elections. The few cities that have fought the lawsuits in court have lost. Fighting a lawsuit would probably be very expensive, costing Sunnyvale millions of dollars, and no city has won yet.  
 Sunnyvale City Council has responded so far by voting on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> to send a letter to the plaintiff saying Sunnyvale plans to comply with the plaintiff's request to change our election system to comply with the CVRA requirements. Sunnyvale now has 90 days, until around Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, to submit a plan to the plaintiff on how it will comply. It will then be up the plaintiff to review. They can negotiate with Sunnyvale to give more time to comply with the law or sue. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunnyvale City Council approved the plan it intends to follow to comply with the CVRA. Effectively, Sunnyvale is going to reach out to voters, inform them about the why Sunnyvale is planning to change its election system, seek their input and then draft changes to our city charter to change our election system to comply with the CVRA.  
 The plan voted on December 11<sup>th</sup> has a three phases. The first phase in January-June 2019 is focused on telling voters why Sunnyvale is planning to change its election system and what the possible alternatives are; primarily focused on changing to district elections. The second phase is drawing, discussing and selecting final district maps. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final phase would be submitting the maps and necessary changes to the Sunnyvale City Charter and to the voters to approve in either the March 2020 primary election or the November 2020 general election. If the voters do not approve the plan, the plaintiffs can sue and then a judge will probably decide that Sunnyvale must comply with the CVRA.  
 -John Cordes

**Newsletter Deadline**

All SNAIL neighbors are encouraged 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. 19<sup>th</sup>**. Send an email to [SNAILeditor @ snail.org](mailto:SNAILeditor@snail.org).

**SNAIL BOARD and CITY of SUNNYVALE SUPPORT STAFF**

<b>Chair</b>	Valérie Suarès	E. Eaglewood Ave.	408-390-3335	<a href="mailto:SNAILchair@snail.org">SNAILchair @ snail .org</a>
<b>Vice-chair</b>	Diane Gleason	550 E. Arbor Ave.	650-353-1575	<a href="mailto:SNAILvicechair@snail.org">SNAILvicechair @ snail .org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	June Valenti	610 N. Bayview Ave.	408-497-0827	<a href="mailto:SNAILsecretary@snail.org">SNAILsecretary @ snail .org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sharon McKnight	629 Madrone Ave.	408-745-0373	<a href="mailto:SNAILtreasurer@snail.org">SNAILtreasurer @ snail .org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Denise Perez	564 Manzanita Ave.	408-738-3252	<a href="mailto:SNAILeditor@snail.org">SNAILeditor @ snail .org</a>
<b>Newsletter Distribution Coordinator</b>	Nenuca Syquia	738 Georgia Ave.		<a href="mailto:syquia.nenuca@gmail.com">syquia.nenuca @ gmail .com</a>
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Bonnie Lloyd	802 Borregas Ave.	408-747-1949	
<b>Neighborhood Preservation</b>	Steve Frias		408-730-7613	<a href="mailto:sfrias@sunnyvale.ca.gov">sfrias @ Sunnyvale .ca .gov</a>
<b>Neighborhood Resource Officer</b>	Amy Pistor		408-730-7146	<a href="mailto:apistor@sunnyvale.ca.gov">apistor @ sunnyvale .ca .gov</a>

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Cell (650) 823-8003  
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Fax (650) 947-3000



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