



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 2021

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 7th, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, SNAIL Members!

You're invited to join in the SNAIL Community Meeting via Zoom

Zoom Login: <https://pausd.zoom.us/j/91023222644>

Meeting ID: 910 2322 2644

One-tap mobile: +1 669 900 6833, 91023222644# (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)

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.

Next SNAIL Meetings: 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6, 6/3

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we are waiting for 2020 to come to a close, it seems like the New Year, with new promises, can't come fast enough. I wish for each of you good health and a better 2021 and hope that despite this trying year, you enjoy the holiday season or at least some relaxing downtime.

For everyone, this year's holidays are bringing even more video conferencing than normal as we connect with relatives and friends nearby and around the globe. Who would have guessed that a year ago?

- ❖ Thank you for staying with the SNAIL community.
- ❖ Thank you for checking on and connecting with your neighbors.
- ❖ Thank you for contributing articles to the newsletters and taking the time to decorate the streets with red bows.
- ❖ Thank you all for your involvement and dedication to keep this community whole.

See you again on January 7th, 2021, starting the year with Chief Ngo as our January guest speaker!

Happy Online Holidays! Stay safe and well!

All the best,

-Valérie Suarès



January 7, 2021

Department of Public Safety Chief Ngo

Topics

Public Safety

Post-Election Hostilities

We are looking to invite City staff to address the following topics in the next few months in 2021:

- Budget process
- Maude Ave Bicycle Lane Study
- Sunnyvale's New Housing Policy
- El Camino Real Corridor Specific Plan

Link to Speakers' Corner Presentations:

www.snail.org/docs/speakers.shtml

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST MONTH'S SNAIL ZOOM MEETING

- **Stronger Together** campaign sponsored by the SDA (Sunnyvale Downtown Association) to encourage shoppers to support small businesses on and near Murphy Ave. See newsletter article for details and rules. Brochures (game cards) should be next to registers in stores. It's a Win-Win! The small businesses need all our support during this difficult economic time.
- **Discussion to Donate SNAIL Funds to Local Organization:** Support the Columbia School "Desk for Students Program" with the purchase of desks for students. Since many families do not have desks for their kids to use for the "study at home program", for \$50 each child can receive a solid maple desk and office chair to take home, once they complete a 6-week literacy program.
Motion to Support the Columbia School "Desk for Students Program"; approved by all.
Motion to donate Support the Columbia School "Desk for Students Program" with \$1,000; approved, 8 yes; 1 abstain.

For full minutes, please visit: <https://nextdoor.com/login>

-Diane Gleason, SNAIL Secretary



SNAIL Members voted to donate funds to support the Columbia School "Desk for Students Program" which will cover the cost of 20 workstations and chairs for the students studying from home.

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

A GIFT TO US ALL, TIED WITH A BRIGHT RED BOW



Every year, a short time after giving thanks in November, my entire neighborhood becomes decorated with large red bows, fastened with ribbons tied around our curbside trees. Across our diverse ethnicities and faith traditions, my neighbors and I are part

of something that brings cheer to us and to those just passing through at a time of year when the skies are often gray.

Without a doubt, the biggest challenge for the elves who decorate our trees is the one at my curb: a cork oak that the city inherited when our neighborhood was built over farmland in the mid-1950s. Its girth is far too large for someone's arms to reach around. This tree is a two-person decorating challenge. But it is also the recipient of the hugs it takes to affix the bow and ribbon.

These are not the only hugs that our cork oak receives during the year. Its deeply creviced bark captivates young children, who pet it, poke it, and embrace it while their parents look up through the branches to appreciate just how majestic it is. The littlest visitors lean carefully out of their strollers, extending a hand to our neighborhood's gentle giant.

This time of year, the tree's year-round residents scurry from base to branch, over the ribbon and on their way. In the past, the elves have not always anticipated just how strong a squirrel's claws will be, and the ribbon has come loose. My job has been to refasten the ribbon, then to step back and let the western gray squirrels get back to their busiest season's work: harvesting acorns from the street's other trees, digging a spot for some in my gardens, and nibbling away at others from the safety of a branch that is thirty to fifty feet above. They scarcely notice the ribbon that straddles their thoroughfare; they've dealt with this seasonal inconvenience for generations.

Shortly after the first of the new year, the elves will return to gather the bows and ribbons for safe storage until that time when we pause again to give thanks. Between now and then, our cork oak will serve as a way station for migratory birds, an outlook for crows, and a point of interest for hummingbirds. More children will stop by, unable to crane their necks nearly enough to see just how grand a tree they've found, only to see (and feel) how magnificent each crevice and ridge are at the foundation.

And I will smile as I look on these scenes because I know a gift when I see one, even when it is not wrapped in a bow.

-Patricia Collins

STRONGER TOGETHER: SHOP AND WIN!

Sponsored by the Sunnyvale Downtown Association. Shoppers are encouraged to support Sunnyvale businesses on and near Murphy Ave and to win prize money in monthly raffles! A total of \$400 will be given away to four \$50 winners and two \$100 winners on the last day of each month until March 2021. Email receipts to StrongerTogether@SunnyvaleDowntown.com or mail them to Stronger Together Entry, P.O. Box 70785, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 along with your name, email, physical address, and phone number. Gift certificates must be redeemed at any participating business by June 20, 2021. For more information on the program and participating business groups go to: <https://www.SunnyvaleDowntown.com>, pick up a blue Stronger Together pamphlet in participating shops or see the full article in the December issue of the SNAIL newsletter at <http://www.SNAIL.org>.

Our Sunnyvale businesses need our support during this difficult economic time. Please follow all the health safety guidelines while shopping: wear a face mask, keep a 6-foot social distance and follow capacity limits in shops. Contestants may enter multiple times with unique receipts from different businesses.

-Barbara Brunasso Oliver

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL HELPERS!



At a time when connections and community were simultaneously more important and yet more difficult to build, the following neighbors and their households volunteered their knowledge, time, and support to help put up red bows around our neighborhood street trees, continuing a special annual SNAIL tradition dating back to 2001:

Valerie, John C., Diane, June, Patsy, David C., Heidi, Dave M., Chuck, Les, Tony, Jim, Barbara, Tarik, Katie, John F., Georgina, Cristina, Thomas, Jenny, Leah, Saurabh, Alan, Kai, Niru, Marco, Gavin, Fran, Nenuca, Craig, Tim, Elaine, and Lisa. *Not all volunteers are pictured.

Thanks to funding for new supplies, we were able to support helpers who crisscrossed all of SNAIL this year, combining to provide coverage for over 700 of the approximately 1,000 street trees in the neighborhood. The helpers included:

- ✦ A father and daughter who have put up bows for their block for the past 15 years, starting when the child was only four;
- ✦ A family that juggled a baby as they worked around street trees for the very first time;
- ✦ A family new to SNAIL, moving in during a difficult time to meet more neighbors, but jumping on their first opportunity to participate as community helpers; and
- ✦ A long-time volunteer who uses the annual tradition as an opportunity to measure and record the growth of the street trees.

Other highlights of the impact from this annual collaboration:

- ✦ A neighbor shared her story of how she was swayed by the red bows when house-hunting to move to the SNAIL neighborhood;
- ✦ Another neighbor blogged about how much the SNAIL red bow project brings cheer to all at a time when the skies are often gray; and
- ✦ People who have moved away offered to return to SNAIL specifically to put up bows, while others have been inspired to launch red bow projects in their own neighborhoods.



The bows will come down from the trees in a few weeks, but the community will extend beyond the season and neighborhood boundaries. To join the helpers and share new ideas of what to do, please contact Sophia at library@toths.info or (206) 395-8732.

Stay safe, and stay connected.

-Sophia Sasaki, Red Bow Coordinator

(See more Red Bow Day photos on page 4.)





COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER (CNC) NEWS

For current information on programs, call CNC at (408) 730-7800 or email CNC@sunnyvale.ca.gov or visit: <http://tinyurl.com/SVCNC>.

Free, Virtual Basic Computer Literacy Classes: Next session starts on Jan. 20 (Spanish) or week of Feb. 1 (English and Spanish). A grant-funded education program for adults with a goal of closing the digital divide. Program provides 8 hours of basic computer literacy education in English or Spanish. Participants that complete the program will “earn” a Chromebook to take home. Must be a Sunnyvale resident with children on free/reduced lunch program or receive public assistance. Registration required. Call or email CNC, (408) 730-7800 or CNC@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Free Food Distribution, Family Harvest: Families in need of food are invited to register for the Family Harvest Program, a monthly food distribution program that takes place on the last Wednesday of the month. Families drive through the CNC/CMS parking lot and volunteers load about 100 pounds of food (dry, can and fresh food) into each car with no contact. The next distribution is scheduled for *Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 3:20 - 4:10 p.m.*

Register for “ShapeUp” Sunnyvale (Free): Session 2, Jan. 16th – Feb. 13th. A new active living and healthier eating program funded by El Camino Healthcare District. Any Sunnyvale resident is invited to sign up with priority given to residents on public assistance. Once registered, choose to participate in both components (physical activity and healthier cooking) or just one. For getting active, choose from a menu of activities, virtual or in-person, offered through Recreation Services such as aquatics fitness, yoga, Zumba, etc. and participate in a minimum of one activity weekly. For the cooking component, pick up a cooking kit weekly, from CNC or the Community Center, prepared by a professional caterer and make the dish at home. There will be a recorded video of the caterer making the dish and an optional weekly Zoom meeting for advice or questions. Registration required, forms available at: <https://tinyurl.com/SvaleShapeUp>.

Free, Virtual Healthy Eating Program in Spanish (Veggie Rx): Mondays, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. from Feb. 1st to March 22nd via Zoom. Program by Fresh Approach and includes: 8 nutrition classes with cooking demos, free vouchers for fruits and veggies at local farmers’ markets (over \$400 for a family of 4) and help with monitoring your weight and health. Register at: <https://forms.gle/dzYhDbetp3PQ8GRs8>. For questions, call (510) 646-3518.

-Angela Chan, CNC Manager

DAVID AND DORIT - KEEPING SNAIL CLEAN



Our neighbors, the Chapmans, have a personal mission - to help keep the SNAIL community clean! When Dorit was furloughed from work in March of 2020, she and husband David decided to take daily walks, since gyms and golf courses were closed. After taking a few walks in the neighborhood, they quickly decided to take grabber sticks and plastic bags to clean up as they went about their walks. They expanded their equipment to include an unused shopping cart and a converted golf

pushcart to port their clean-up bags, collected recyclables, and ‘treasures’. Their collected recyclables are converted into cash and donated to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Chapmans report that many times they are stopped with a friendly wave and a “Hello!”, “Thank you!” or “Can we take your picture?” as other neighbors see them out doing their good clean-up deeds on their routine walk. Their route might include Fair Oaks to Mathilda and E. Maude to Ahwanee, but their focus is on Columbia Park, Bishop Elementary School, and Columbia Middle School out near the back gate.



The Chapmans started noticing cigarette butt litter and decided to strategically place five pails and coffee cans, appropriately labeled “Cigarettes Butts”, near Columbia Middle School and along Ahwanee Avenue. They excitedly report that their cigarette butt receptacles are

being used and are making a difference!

David, a retired high school PE teacher, also regularly donates platelets and serves in a visiting ministry at El Camino Hospital. Thank you to David and Dorit Chapman for making a difference in our SNAIL neighborhood and Sunnyvale! We all can make a small difference in our corner of the world when we do a thoughtful deed for our environment or another person. When you see David and Dorit out and about, give a friendly wave, say “Hi”, or shout out “Thank You, Chapmans!”, and maybe they’ll inspire you to hold on to that throw-away item until you get to a trash can.

-Barbara Brunasso Oliver

SNAIL 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, January 16th**. Send an email to SNAILeditor@snail.org.

SNAIL BOARD and CITY of SUNNYVALE SUPPORT STAFF

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