



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



May 2021



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 6th, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, SNAIL Members!

You are 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.

SNAIL Meetings: 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST MONTH'S SNAIL ZOOM MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Otto Lee's Deputy Chief of Staff, Mark Tiernan, was Dave Cortese's staff member in 2008. Email him at Mark.Tiernan@bos.sccgov.org. Please contact Mark if he or Otto Lee can be of service. We encourage people to contact him to get Otto Lee's newsletter or to go to Otto Lee's website to sign up. Mark shared the current COVID-19 restrictions which have lessened due to county moving to Orange Tier. He reminds us to stay masked and socially distanced.
- SNAIL is looking for a treasurer as John will be stepping down. He and Diane, our secretary, will be retiring. Barbara has gracefully accepted the step in the role of secretary. Patsy gracefully accepted to pick up the Treasurer role for the rest of the term. Patsy has a Zoom account which can be used, starting with our June meeting.

SNAIL EVENTS

- NNO may not be happening again this year. Valérie and Barbara met with city staff and too much is still unknown. (Valérie)
- Update on Dumpsters. All 6 dumpster monitors agree to June 12. (Barry)
- Barbara asked for volunteers for Yard Sale. Patsy will help, Tarik will volunteer during the event and will provide his yard again.
- Desks for students report and photo. In December SNAIL contributed \$500 to the program. 20 students graduated, so SNAIL's donation provided 10 desks and 12 chairs. (Valérie)
- Ideas for COVID-safe Earth Day Clean-Up Project using pick-up sticks. (Barbara)

For full minutes, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/SNAIL202104>

-Diane Gleason, SNAIL Secretary

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



With the arrival of effective vaccines that can protect us from COVID-19, we should have a great opportunity to put this pandemic behind us. Is it to be too hopeful to think we are on the way "back to normal", or unrealistic as we are possibly "expecting too much" from the uncertainty of knowing the impact or efficacy on the world population?

The facts are that these first COVID-19 vaccines may not be perfect, but let's say half of the people receiving them make a protective response strong enough to stop them from transmitting the virus. This will certainly help the efforts to control the virus. But from what science is sharing about their studies, it is clear that at least 70% of the population will need to have a strong and lasting immune response for the SARS-CoV-2, virus to die out altogether.

(Source: [https://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453\(20\)30154-7/fulltext](https://www.journalofinfection.com/article/S0163-4453(20)30154-7/fulltext)).

Science also doesn't know yet, how long a vaccine-induced immune response might last, there are other factors that will make achieving this a challenge.

The sad reality is also that vaccines do not "take" in some people; others cannot be given them due to existing medical conditions and unfortunately, some people will refuse to be vaccinated.

So what's in our future?

All we should really expect from the first vaccines is that they will provide temporary cover to some people.

That, of course, will help a bit, but only as part of a suite of measures.

We will have to keep up with the social distancing and hand hygiene for a while yet. We should also expect masks to be featured in fashion collections up to and until at least autumn/winter 2021, so "they" tell us.

Please continue to be safe; and if you have the opportunity, the will, and the health to do so, get vaccinated.

Happy Spring everyone!

-Valérie Suarès





In honor of Earth Day, on Sunday, April 25th, from 1:00-3:00 PM, SNAIL hosted its first outdoors activity, with “Little to No Contact” in compliance with the County Public Health Orange Tier restrictions.

Forty adults and 11 children walked the streets in SNAIL with the intent to collect trash. We looked for any paper items, fast food containers, drinking cups, bottle caps, can pop tabs, plastic lids with straws, cigarette butts, clothing items, or as one of our SNAIL leaders noted, “anything that did not fall from a tree”.

- Equipped with a handheld grabber, AKA “pickup and reach tool” for litter removal, and “Do and Don’t” Safety Guidelines.
- A map with defined sectors and teams of 1, 2 or 3 people, walked every block and every street in SNAIL, looking for the unwanted trash that paved the sidewalks. SNAIL residents paired by household, looked everywhere for unwanted trash, and collected ~30 bags. Recyclables are estimated at 75 lbs.

At the end of their walk, and after submitting photos of their collection, adult participants received a small, thank-you bag made of recycled material that contained:

- A silicone reusable straw with carrying case, a mini hand sanitizer bottle, a pack of pollinator seeds/bulbs, and a power bar.
- A 15% off coupon to a newly opened Falafel Flame.
- A gift card to either Philz Coffee or Trader Joe’s.
- A coupon for a “free” Thai Tea from Pho Lovers.
- A reusable mesh produce bag donated by Patricia Collins.

Participants also received a ticket to a random drawing. Prizes were generously donated by our wonderful sponsors:

- City of Sunnyvale, Environmental Programs
- Falafel Flame on North Mathilda
- Grocery Outlet on North Fair Oaks
- Pho Lovers on Maude
- Renna Shee, Realtor, who donated all gift cards to Philz Coffee and Trader Joe’s
- Vito’s Famous Pizza on Reed
- T-shirts and hoodies donated by Lenora Castillo

This was our first organized outdoor activity since the pandemic, and we did not expect many people to register. We were way off - 40 adults and 11 children responded to the call and, because we reached the limit that the City allowed us, we had to stop accepting volunteers. Registration for this event was closed 3 days prior to the actual activity. As a result of the demand being so great, we are planning to do another Neighborhood Clean Up project again, most likely in the fall of 2021. Well done SNAIL!

SNAIL Earth Day Team: *Barbara Brunasso Oliver, Project Organizer; Valérie Suarès; Marco Vasquez; Jenny Purushotma; Dorit Chapman; David Chapman; Thomas Leibold; Denise Perez*



INNOVATIVE EARTH DAY IDEA

S.N.A.I.L piloted a second Earth Day idea that complied with the COVID restrictions. A bulk purchase of Special Blend Organic Potting Soil was delivered to a driveway in the heart of the neighborhood. Reusable yellow sandbags of one cubic foot capacity were filled. The soil was made available at cost, including the delivery. Several neighbors and SNAIL members drove by to pick up bags and all have returned their bags. Participants have purchased between one and 40 bags. The creativity of the idea was praised in comments on Nextdoor posts. Sunflower seeds are being given out to children.

This project was not included in the flyer but was promoted in the Newsletter and on Nextdoor. Due to the likelihood of rain on Sunday, additional pickup times were made available on Friday and Saturday. We sold a total of 81 cubic feet of soil to 17 different people, mostly SNAIL residents. We collected \$405; all our bags were or will be returned so we can reuse them next year.

-Jenny Purushotma, SNAIL Earth Day Team

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>.

Outdoor Zumba @ CNC: Saturdays, 10 -11 a.m., May 1 – June 26 (no class on May 29). Using a variety of dance styles, including hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue, and mambo. A Zumba fitness workout mixes low and high intensity moves to create a fun, calorie-burning atmosphere. Participants (ages 18+) are required to wear a face mask and should wear appropriate clothing and athletic shoes. \$48 Residents; \$60 Non-Residents. Call 408-730-7350 to register or for more information.

Recreation Fee Waiver Program for Youth: Apply for the fee waiver program for Sunnyvale youth and if approved, your child(ren) can receive \$234 subsidy each to register for selected summer activities and subsidized rates (30% of resident rates) for additional camps and swim lessons. Must meet the eligibility criteria (Sunnyvale resident and maximum income limit, etc.). Application links:

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=23023> (English) or

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=23025> (Spanish)

Youth Tennis Grant Application: Two \$500 grants funded by the Sunnyvale Tennis Club are available for Sunnyvale youth, ages 7-17, approved in the Recreation Fee Waiver Program. Application deadline is May 14. Funds can be used for tennis lessons, camps, or equipment. Call or email CNC for more information or to request an application.

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, May 26th, 3:20 - 4:10 p.m.*

-Angela Chan, CNC Manager



A thank you to all participants 40 adults and 11 children who, despite the rain, went through with the cleanup activity and crisscrossed every street in SNAIL.

To our generous sponsors who contributed to the content of the thank you bags: The City of Sunnyvale, Environmental Programs; Falafel Flame on North Mathilda; Grocery Outlet on North Fair Oaks; Pho Lovers on Maude; Realtor, Renna Shee, donated all gift cards to Philz Coffee and Trader Joe’s; and Vito’s Famous Pizza on Reed.

But most importantly, thank you to our volunteers who spent over 150 hours planning this amazing activity:

- ✦ Barbara, for coming up with the idea of this clean-up project leading the organization and keeping everyone on task.
- ✦ Dave and Dorit for cleaning the SNAIL streets weekly during the Pandemic. Dorit, official mapmaker, systematically assigning clean-up areas and coordinating thank-you bags.
- ✦ Denise, our publisher extraordinaire for designing activity flyers.
- ✦ Jenny, for negotiating a great discount on a special blend of organic potting soil and making it available to every SNAIL member.
- ✦ Marco, for convincing the Harbor Freight store manager to let him purchase every grabber off their shelves and coordinating the bulk of our printing.
- ✦ Thomas, for creating the Earth Day email address and putting the survey on the SNAIL webpage, and
- ✦ Yours truly, to document these amazing successes and submit them to the City to show what can be accomplished by a dedicated neighborhood.

You are all truly, amazingly dedicated to our community.

-Valérie Suarès

SNAIL EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP PROJECT



**THANK YOU, SNAIL COMMUNITY,
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!!**

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, May 15th**. Send an email to SNAILeditor@snail.org.

SNAIL BOARD of DIRECTORS and NEWSLETTER TEAM

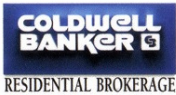
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