



S.N.A.I.L. News

Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor, Including LaLinda
PO Box 62072, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 | Website: <http://www.snail.org/>
Representing over 1,400 households | Established in 1995



January 2022



GENERAL MEETING

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

SNAIL Community Meeting via Zoom

NEW Zoom Login:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77234164334?pwd=c1NHY2Q4QWdtRy81ZHpMOTIjL2REdz09>

Meeting ID: 772 3416 4334; Passcode: 94085

One-tap mobile: +16699009128, 83434073523# (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128 (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: 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2

SNAIL 2022 EVENT CALENDAR – SAVE THE DATES

Date/Time	Event Name	Organizer
Sat/Sun, June 11-12 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	SNAIL Yard Sale	TBD
Sat, June 11	SNAIL Dumpster Day	Barry Boole (408) 739-1420
Tues, Aug 2	National Night Out (TBD due to COVID)	TBD
Thurs, Sep 22	Candidate Forum	Valérie Suarès

COUNCIL DISTRICT MAP PROPOSALS DUE JANUARY 3rd



Sunnyvale’s current Council districts are not population balanced and must change. Redistricting occurs every 10 years after each census. It balances population counts within each district to ensure fair and equal representation. Right now, the population in District 2 is too large relative to the population in District 3. (The population count between the largest and smallest districts cannot be more than 10%.)

How would you balance Sunnyvale’s districts? What neighborhoods and communities should remain together to elect a Councilmember?

You can redraw Sunnyvale’s six Council districts for elections in Nov. 2022 through 2031. Mapping tools and instructions are available on our website:

<https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/government/redistricting.htm>.

MAP SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 3, 2022

For questions, contact redistricting@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

-Jaqui Guzman, Deputy City Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Happy New Year - here’s to an Amazing 2022!

As we just finished another year with COVID and its ever-changing variants, I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. The SNAIL board and event leaders are already planning for some spectacular activities for this year. We will:

- ❖ Celebrate the Chinese New Year in February with a community meal either at, or catered by, a Chinese Restaurant (date and location to be determined).
- ❖ Welcome Spring with our second annual Earth Day activities with, once again, organic soil available at a reduced rate.
- ❖ Select unwanted items for our Annual Yard Sale scheduled for June 11th and 12th (location to be determined).
- ❖ Clear out accumulated trash and throw it away in the city provided dumpsters on the Saturday of the yard sale.
- ❖ Plan to return to the streets for our National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2nd, (will have to wait for and see if the county health restrictions allow it).
- ❖ Host a Candidate Forum in September or early October prior to the midterm elections and hear directly from the SNAIL District 5 candidates how they plan to support us at the City Council. Elaine Manley will once again moderate the forum. Stay tuned for more information.
- ❖ Continue to publish our monthly newsletter online and in print a month prior to these events.

Let us support the SNAIL organized community activities. It takes a village to plan, prepare, organize and, most of all, attend outstanding activities.

Please bring along a friend to our online (and soon to resume face-to-face) monthly meetings; welcome your new neighbors, introduce them to our neighborhood. Walk your dogs together, and let all four legged companions become friends at the Columbia and Bishop parks.

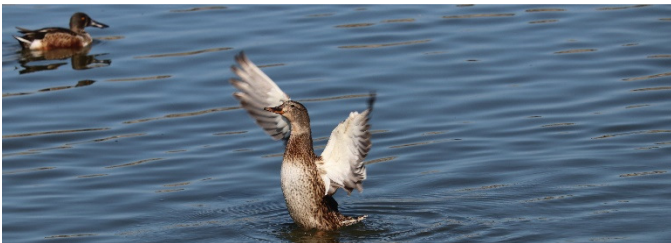
2021 was certainly not the year that we were expecting, but we have coped with many challenges and changes that occurred. I am incredibly impressed with everyone’s efforts to engage neighbors in these difficult times.

I have no doubt that the year to come will present similar and maybe different challenges than those we experienced these past two years. One thing is for sure, SNAIL is a caring community, dedicated to supporting our neighbors.

Looking forward to seeing you at all of our 2022 events.

-Valérie Suarès





A WALK ALONG THE LEVEES

Patricia's Reflections

A few minutes' drive from here on a typical January day, northern shovelers, teals, gadwalls, ruddy ducks, and mallards float amidst the ponds and along the Charleston Slough. Male and female pairs paddle toward a shoreline or simply take a meandering path in the water. American coots--easy to spot with their black bodies and white beaks--float among their distant genetic relatives. Even more distinctive are the common gallinules, whose bright red beaks are tipped with yellow and whose legs are lime green. I cannot imagine why their name includes "common."

From the grassy banks of the channels, snowy egrets and great blue herons keep one watchful eye on human passersby; great egrets take to graceful flight. Large ravens stand their ground along the trailside, with a don't-you-dare bully's stare. White-tailed kites and peregrine falcons soar above in search for prey. Turkey vultures soar low and search for carrion. A stretch of a levee is blanketed with white pelicans.

This is an ecosystem that appears to thrive on tolerance. The coots weave through a flotilla of mallards without so much as a skirmish. The raptors have the same goal, and it's not each other's demise. The cormorants look down from their perch on a high-voltage electrical tower with a seeming disinterest in what's happening below and above.

Each time I walk there--often for as long as two hours--I am heartened by my ability to focus on all of this natural wonder and to forget that the ecosystem includes much that would not naturally occur without the presence of a dense human population: a far-reaching water pollution control facility, towering landfill mounds, and a string of high-voltage power lines that span the south end of the San Francisco Bay. Along the water's edge, a Lockheed-Martin campus, Moffett Airfield, Shoreline Amphitheater, and, to the south, Santa Clara high rise offices assert another kind of power.

But look beyond them and the Santa Cruz Range appears. Look north along that ridge to see fingers of white fog over shallow gaps. Think back on the history of this area while walking past a salt pond--one that remains of the many that were part of a booming salt industry before California became part of the United States, before the discovery of California gold.

Across the bay, the Diablo Range begins its winding path that reaches all the way to Salinas. The Lick Observatory is visible, perched on Mount Hamilton as if it were observing the valley and not the universe beyond our planet. The hillsides' native grasses have changed from gold to green, marking the season's change in this peculiar land where rain falls from mid-autumn to mid-spring, only to yield to month after month of bold sun and dry air.

The term "barrenness of winter" has no place here. It is winter's bounty that displays itself just a short distance from our homes.

-Patricia Collins, patricia@patriciawrites.com



INVITATION TO JOIN THE SUNNYVALE ART CLUB



During the pandemic, two art clubs (Sunnyvale Art Club and Iizuka Art Association) in the Sister Cities of Sunnyvale, CA, and Iizuka, Japan, have connected to complete their first collaborative art project. Andrea Catura, the organizer, is a member of both the Sunnyvale Art Club and the

Sunnyvale Sister City Association and has been leading this trans-Pacific effort with the help of the Chamber of Commerce in Iizuka, Japan. This project is part of the Sunnyvale Art Club's membership in The Big Draw organization's year-long international art-as-learning, expression, and awareness project.

<https://thebigdraw.org>

For the last one and a half years, Sunnyvale Art Club members have been participating in several collaborative art projects with the goal of battling the effects of pandemic isolation by keeping members engaged, involved in art and the club, despite being unable to meet in person. Since that time, the club has maintained membership and added many new members. These projects have been a major source of encouragement and community for SAC. If you are interested in learning more about or joining the SAC, please visit our website.

<https://www.sunnyvaleartclub.org>

The piece will be a tribute to bringing together two cultures in friendship. My hope is that this project will promote goodwill and will mark a new friendship between our art clubs. The final compiled art piece will be completed in January of 2022 and will hang in a public location in Sunnyvale.

-Andrea Catura, Sunnyvale Art Club Vice President, SNAIL Resident

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAST MONTH'S SNAIL ZOOM MEETING

Attendees: Valérie Suarès, Jenny Purushotma, Barbara Brunasso Oliver, Denise Perez, Dorit Chapman, Marco Vasquez, Thomas Leibold, Barry Boole, Peggy and Erik Brewster, Elaine Rowan

Guests: Eric Stroker, Supervisor Otto Lee's County Office; Richard Mehlinger, Chair of BPAC

Announcements

1. Thank You to Patsy Duke for stepping into the treasurer's role after John's departure and retirement.
2. There is a new Zoom meeting login beginning in December. Please be sure to sign in on the new site going forward.

Discussion Planning for 2022 SNAIL Activities

- **Suggestions:** Chinese New Year Dinner (Feb), Spring Earth Day (April), Yard Sale (June), Dumpster Day (June – same weekend as Yard Sale), National Night Out (Aug).

Guest Speakers

- **Eric Stroker, Supervisor Otto Lee's Office:**
 - It is important now more than ever to complete your vaccine, get your booster shot (mix/match available) and children ages 5-11. <https://COVID19.sccgov.org/COVID-19-vaccine-information>.
 - Redistricting Maps: Major changes to new maps include unifying Sunnyvale into one district. <https://countyexec.sccgov.org/2021-redistricting-process>.
- **Richard Mehlinger, Chair of BPAC:**
 - Council voted to create a buffered lane on Java Drive in the Moffett Park area. Java Drive will be reduced from two to one car lane and a painted buffered bike lane will be created.
 - Councilmember Fong resigned to work for Governor Newsom. The appointed replacement candidate will agree not to run for office in 2022 or 2024.

For full minutes, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/SNAIL2021DEC>

-Barbara Brunasso Oliver, SNAIL Secretary

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>.

The Columbia Neighborhood Center is hiring. As of Jan 1, 2022, the City has increased their minimum wage to \$17.10 per hour, and the center needs staff for Pre-School, After School programs, Camp Staff, Youth Basketball Referees and Fitness Room Attendants. If interested, please send an email to: cnc@sunnyvale.ca.gov.



Youth Drop-in Gym:

Drop-in for a quick game of hoops. Bring friends or join a game with other players. Activities will be canceled if there are no participants within the first hour of the program.

- Fridays, 7 to 10 p.m.
- Cost: \$1 per visit for residents, \$2 for nonresidents. Cash only.

Open to youth ages 11 to 18. Middle School or High School ID is required. A parent/guardian must sign a waiver.
-Jesus Raygoza, Recreation Services Manager

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES IN SUNNYVALE



SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Effective Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, the new minimum wage rate in Sunnyvale will be **\$17.10 per hour**.

In 2016, the Sunnyvale City Council adopted an ordinance increasing Sunnyvale’s minimum wage by \$2 each year until 2018. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, the rate adjusts each year based on inflation. Any potential increase corresponds to the prior year’s Consumer Price Index based on the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward regional index as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For additional information and wage posters for businesses, visit Sunnyvale.ca.gov and search ‘Minimum Wage’ or contact City staff at 408-730-7902 or minimumwage@sunnyvale.ca.gov.
-Contact: Jennifer Garnett, APR (408) 718-2601



CITY OF SUNNYVALE – UPCOMING MEETINGS

<https://sunnyvaleca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Name	Date	Time	Location
City Council	1/4/22	7:00 PM	Telepresence Meeting: City Web Stream Comcast Channel 15 AT&T Channel 99 Regular Meeting - 7 PM <i>Meeting online link:</i> https://sunnyvale-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/96111580540
Planning Commission	1/10/22	7:00 PM	Council Chambers and West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086 <i>Meeting Online Link:</i> https://sunnyvale-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/91827390357
Redistricting Commission	1/13/22	6:00 PM	Telepresence Meeting: City Web Stream Comcast Channel 15 AT&T Channel 99 Joint Meeting with the City Council: Review Maps, Then Redistricting Commission Narrows to 3 - 5 Maps (Hearing 4) <i>Meeting Online Link:</i> https://sunnyvale-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/99296718374
City Council	1/20/22	7:00 PM	Council Chambers and West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086 <i>Special Meeting of the City Council: Workshop - Map Feedback and Preferences</i>
City Council	1/25/22	7:00 PM	Council Chambers and West Conference Room, City Hall, 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086 <i>Meeting online link:</i> https://sunnyvale-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/96111580540

Watch the City Council meetings on television over Comcast Channel 15 at: <http://youtube.com/SunnyvaleMeetings> or <https://sunnyvaleca.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>

Submit written comments to the City Council up to four hours prior to the meeting to council@sunnyvale.ca.gov or by mail to City Clerk, 603 All America Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

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 **Friday, January 14th**. Send an email to SNAILeditor@snail.org.

SNAIL BOARD of DIRECTORS and NEWSLETTER TEAM

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WINTER GARDENING

In Sunnyvale, January is winter gardening time—that short stretch of time between deciduous leaves on the ground and new buds on bushes and trees. Grab your gardening gloves and sharp pruning shears to...

- improve air flow through plant branches
- ensure sunlight reaches the inner leaves
- stimulate new growth along the main stem and branches
- eliminate plant material that drains the plant of energy

Here are a few tasks you can undertake to prepare your plants for the new year:

- (1) **Observe:** Are there dead branches? fungal or bacterial infections (perhaps, showing as discolored leaves)? Mite, spider, or insect infestations (which may also show as damaged leaves)? January is the time to catch these problems, before warmer weather encourages their spread.
- (2) **Deadhead:** Ideally, you've removed dead flowers throughout autumn. If that hasn't happened, remove any remaining dead flowers, cutting back to the base of each flower stem with *handheld pruning shears*. Hedge trimmers tend to leave behind damaged branches that will fail to thrive.
- (3) **Remove dead and diseased branches:** If there is no sign of greenery on a branch, try gently bending it. If it snaps and the wood inside is brown, remove that branch by cutting back to the node (the place where the branch "shoots off" from another branch or stem). Similarly, prune away branches and remove leaves that show signs of infection or infestation.
- (4) **Thin a bit:** Crossed branches can cause abrasion damage, making the plant more vulnerable to diseases and infestations. Prune these branches back to just beyond a node on each branch such that the branches no longer touch. Remove suckers at the base of plants that tend to grow them. Suckers drain energy from plants.
- (5) **Mulch:** Clear debris from under plants. Add organic mulch (tree bark is most common; avoid stones and plastic sheets) from the perimeter of the plant to within about 3 inches of the main plant stem. Build up a little of the mulch around the edge so that rain will soak into the soil in the area of the roots.

GETTING STARTED WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

California native plants give gardeners a head start: If they grow natively in the Santa Clara Valley, they will likely thrive in your gardens. Because we have mild winters, it can be kindest to add native plants after the last heat of autumn. However, many plants will thrive if planted in late March or early April, when they will still have a few months to develop deeper root systems before September's hottest days are upon them.

California includes diverse microclimates and terrains. Therefore, just because a plant is native to California does not mean it will thrive in Sunnyvale. Consider these factors:

- **Sunlight:** Choose plants that thrive in the amount of sunlight available where they'd be growing.
- **Water:** Almost all native plants need some water when they're first planted. Use a hygrometer (they're inexpensive) to check that the soil stays moist at a depth of a few inches while the plant is becoming established. A riparian plant (one that grows near rivers) is going to want a lot more water throughout its life than one that grows in our California chaparral areas (where plants thrive under the umbrella-canopy of evergreen oaks and receive little direct water) or in California's open inland valleys.
- **Space:** Take into consideration the mature size that a plant will eventually have when deciding how to space plants in your garden. When mature, the plants' branches should not invade each other's space.

Note: Once established, many California native plants want supplemental water no more than once or twice a month during months without rain (and no additional water when nature provides the rain the plants need). By watering infrequently but deeply, your plants will establish deeper roots and become more resilient while your total water usage will decrease.

Among the many native plants that thrive in Sunnyvale are ceanothus, manzanitas, coral bells, buckwheats, sages, and asters. Native birds, butterflies, and bees love these plants. For more information on native plants and their care, take a look at the Calflora.org, Calscape.org, and cnps-scv.org (California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter) websites.