



S.N.A.I.L. News

Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor, Including LaLinda
 PO Box 62072
 Sunnyvale, CA 94088
www.snail.org

Representing over 1200 households Established in 1995

March 2011

SNAIL General Meeting

Thursday – March 3

Location: Columbia School • Time: 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Staff Lounge.

Look for the SNAIL Sign.

The speaker will be Sunnyvale Senior Planner, Steve Lynch. Steve will talk to us about the City planning and approval process so that we can better understand what to expect over the next few months regarding the San Aleso study. Steve will answer your questions about what the Planning Department will do now that the study has been approved by the City council. SNAIL always 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 the rest of the year!** All SNAIL area homeowners, residents and guests are invited. Children are welcome. Membership in SNAIL is always free.

Message from the Chair

On February 15th, the City Council voted to initiate a General Plan Amendment study to consider changing the zoning for the seven industrial parcels on the east side of San Aleso. That is the side which faces the Madrone, Ferndale, and E. Eaglewood backyards. Council members say this is "just a study". I was told that the study will probably take 3-6 months. Some questions that come up now are: What's the study going to cover? What is the timetable of the study? What kind of development could be proposed if the area were to be rezoned? What's the best way to let City Hall know what we want and what we don't want? There are many more questions. To provide answers to these questions, Steve Lynch, the Senior City Planner on the the San Aleso issue, has agreed to come to our next meeting after his son's baseball practice and help us understand the "mechanics" of City Hall. The agenda, minutes, and a video of the Feb. 15th City Council meeting are now online. Before watching the video or reading the minutes, it is necessary to read the "Staff Report to Council", RTC 11-037. The RTC is at this web link: <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Portals/0/Sunnyvale/CouncilReports/2011/11-037.pdf> At their Feb. 15 meeting, our Council members spoke of good reasons for residential development, but also good reasons to keep light industrial in that area. Listen to both arguments by watching the video and by reading the minutes. To watch the video, go to this web link: http://sunnyvaleca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&cli_p_id=661 and skip directly to agenda item #3 (San Aleso), click on: "3. RTC 11-037". Those without internet access can go to the library or call me at 737-9479 and I'll print paper copies for you. Any future SNAIL activity on this issue will depend entirely upon how much neighborhood interest there is -- especially from our neighbors who live closest to San Aleso. SNAIL's board will not presume to know the wishes of the neighborhood and so will take

no further action without their request. If those neighbors show an active interest, we will surely help!

Jim Quaderer

Guest Chair

I believe that we need more people with the practice and confidence to potentially step in as Chair and lead a meeting. I shall be handing over parts of future general meetings to be run by "Guest Chairs". Our first Guest Chair shall be our Vice Chair, Craig Black. After that, I'll be asking others to give it a try. I ask for everyone to support our Guest Chairs because for many, it will be the first time they've ever done such a thing.

Jim Quaderer, Chair

SNAIL 2011 Event Calendar

Date	Event Name	Organizer
Mar 1	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Mar 3	General Meeting	
Mar 8	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Mar 22	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Mar 29	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Apr 7	General Meeting	
Apr 16	Progressive Dinner	Connie Cook-Turner
May 5	General Meeting	
May 7	Cinco de Mayo Party	Michael Rose
June 2	General Meeting	
June	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
June 11	Dumpster Day	Barry Boole
June 11/12	Yard Sale	<i>Still needed</i>
Jul 7	General Meeting	
July	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
Aug 4	General Meeting	
Aug	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
Sep 1	General Meeting	
Sep	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
Oct 6	General Meeting	
Oct	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
Oct	Factory tour bus trip	<i>Still needed</i>
Nov 3	General Meeting	
Nov	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Still needed</i>
Nov	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Dec 1	General Meeting	
Dec	Feeding homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Dec 3	Red Bow Distribution	Connie CookTurner
Dec	Holiday party	Georgina & Mark Aubin

The publication of our newsletter and SNAIL Neighborhood Association sponsored activities are supported through our annual yard sale, newsletter advertisements, a grant from the City of Sunnyvale, coupon book sales, and donations.

Typewriter For FREE

Hello. I'm a neighbor over on Manzanita, recently I cleaned out my home office and have a typewriter that I am willing to give away. FREE: IBM Wheelwriter 6 (some memory capability). Had been used in a home office setting and is still in very good condition. Comes with original manual, various printwheels, ribbons and lift-off tapes. Call 734-8780. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you very much.

Judy Voss • 622 Manzanita Avenue

YARD SALE -- JUNE 11-12

Remember that SNAIL will again host a giant neighborhood yard sale this year. Please hold on to your donations just a few months longer -- till June!

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all of our advertisers for renewing their ads for 2011. Keeps customers coming!

Bonnie Lloyd, Treasurer

St. Patrick's Day Event

There have been no calls or e-mails regarding the proposed event. The event has been canceled. Your friend and neighbor.

Michael Rose • 408-736-4811 • gastropod557 @ att.net

Yahoo Groups

Documents related to SNAIL meetings will be posted on our Yahoo SNAILorg newsgroup. SNAILs wishing to gain access should send an email to SNAILgroups @ snail . org.

2011 New Years at the Shanghai

Due to Connie's personal touches and Snails that just know where to find good friends and food the crowd was so great at the Shanghai restaurant two people walked in turned around and walked out as they didn't see any seats. Manny Alvarado was there looking wonderful. Jeannie took her nurse and Manny got a big kiss from her as she had been both Manny's and Neilo's nurse in the past. As always the food was incredible, a secret bunny provided wine for all who wished. 42 diners and not one complaint.

Jeannie Biddle



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

We are looking for volunteers to make a home-cooked meal and deliver it in the neighborhood once a month. If you would like to be a part of this team, please call 739-8490.

Tax Aid

Let qualified professionals assist you in filing your return. Learn about the Earned Income Tax Credit as well as other tax credits that may be available to you. The program is open to all families with total gross incomes less than \$49,000. Information on what to bring is available at www.tax-aid.org or at the Columbia Neighborhood Center. Columbia Middle School, Staff Room Saturdays, March 19 & 26 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Georgina Aubin

Special presentations

"How Money Works -- Secrets to Financial Success and Independence" will be held each day of Tax Aid at CNC (March

19 and March 26). Topics include: the importance of having a financial plan; techniques for cutting expenses and saving money; how to decrease credit card and other debt; how to maximize your tax returns. Sessions will be held at intervals throughout the day, in both English and Spanish at Columbia Middle School-739 Morse Ave, Sunnyvale (10:30am to 1:00pm)

Josie Paolozzi

Book Fair at Bishop

Hi, my name is Jennifer and I'm on the PTO board at Bishop School. We are having our annual Book Faire at Bishop School from March 2 through March 9 in the library at Bishop School. The faire will be open daily before, during and after school and in the evening on Friday, March 4. Watch for signs posted around Bishop School for more details. We appreciate your support.

Jennifer Aufang • cell 408-306-6295

20th Annual Evenings of Cultural Arts Season

March 26 - Naser Musa Ensemble - Music from Arab world countries including Egypt, Iraq, Persia and Jordan.

April 16 - Vagabond Opera - Neo-cabaret sensation will perform Paris hot jazz, Klezmer, Balkan and classic opera in theatrical style. Tickets are on sale through the Sunnyvale Box Office at the Sunnyvale Theatre (408)733-6611.

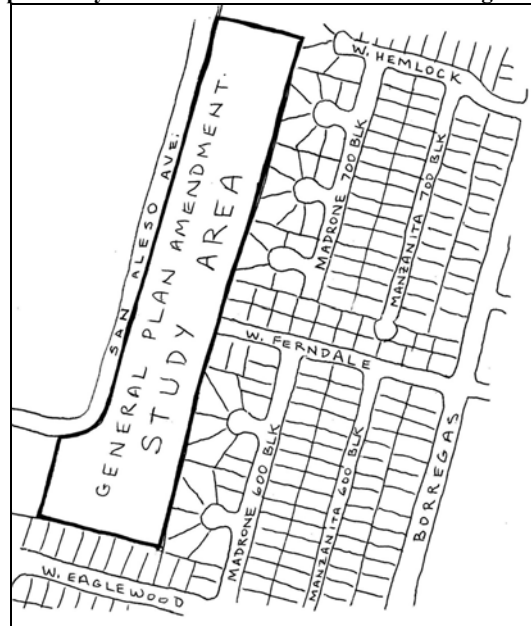
Pet of the Month



Star Tall Chief of Beechnut, she loves her backyard. Our very own fuzz ball, she is friendly but very shy.

We will publish, "Pet of the month" photos of pets living in the neighborhood, space permitting. Email your pet's portrait with you name, the name of your pet, your street name, and anything you would like to say about your pet to the editor at: SNAILeditor @ snail.org.

Special Flyers Hand-Delivered to San Aleso Neighbors



Last month SNAIL learned that the proposal to re-zone San Aleso Ave. from Industrial/Service to that of "Low to Medium Density Housing" was again scheduled to be heard by the City Council. This is the same matter that was before the City Council in 2007, yet was withdrawn during the financial crisis.

The same owner, Dollinger Properties, and a new developer, Classic Communities, have joined together to petition the City once again to re-zone and build homes on 740, 750, and 760 San Aleso Ave. In 2007 the proposal included the re-zoning of adjacent properties, but only developing the three addresses (noted) at that particular time. Which, again, leaves open the possibility/probability of developing the remaining properties on the east side of San Aleso in the future.

The late notice of the Council agenda meant we couldn't wait for the regular monthly newsletter. SNAIL volunteers did a special distribution of flyers to the homes along Madone Ave, and adjacent streets that back up to San Aleso Ave., that would be most impacted/affected by development of that area.

Our Chair, Jim Quaderer, and other SNAILS, went to the Council meeting on February 15th. Jim's article appears in this newsletter. *Michael Rose*

Serious Water Conservation At Home

One Family's Solution: Saving water from our roof

California will continue to have dry years, wet years and multi-year droughts. Homeowners rely on massive state or federal systems for most of our water. But it would help everyone if residents relied more on local systems. Really local, as on your own property. Local water storage has advantages similar to putting solar panels on your roof; reduced dependency on distant sources.

A typical Santa Clara valley resident uses 100 gallons per day. The average household, with 2.3 people, uses 6,900 gallons per month, half of it outdoors. Summertime outdoor use can be five to ten times higher, so thousands of gallons need to be captured and stored to make a serious dent in residential outdoor water use. This is a serious challenge. To put a major dent in outside water use, the most important change is to get rid of the lawn and other high water usage landscaping. The 2nd is to use drip irrigation instead of sprinklers. In addition

to these improvements, you can to build your own on-site water storage system.

All homeowners have the beginning of a home water storage system because we all have roofs. A little rain landing on the roof equals many gallons: when one inch of rain falls on a 2,400 square foot roof, about 1,500 gallons runs off. The challenge is how to store it.

Some residents install rain barrels, which are an easy way to use rain runoff. Most rain barrels hold 50 gallons and cost between \$50 and \$350. However, 50 gallons is only enough to water a small garden once or twice. Even 10 rain barrels would make only a small dent (less than one percent) in residential outdoor water usage and they would take up a lot of room.

Cisterns are great for storing lots of water

In 2009, I installed two 1,700 gallon underground cisterns under my 4,400 square foot lot in SNAIL. Each cistern is 5 feet tall x 5 feet wide x 13 feet long. It is much cheaper to store water in a tank above ground, as is often done in rural areas. In a residential area like SNAIL, underground cisterns make the most sense. I hired professionals to dig the holes and lower the cisterns into place. You need to call the USA (underground service alert) **800-227-2600** at least

2 days before digging to mark where your sewer, water and gas lines run underground so you will know where it is safe to dig.



John stands in the hole where rain water will be stored in a cistern under the front yard.

Pipes connect all the downspouts and the patio to fill the cisterns. A pump in each cistern connects to the drip irrigation system, which delivers the water where and when it is needed. It is important to include a way to divert excess rainwater when the cisterns are full. My front yard has a reasonable slope; the cistern there overflow through an outlet pipe to the yard. The backyard cistern has a sump pump to pump overflow water to the street.

In Sunnyvale, no city permits are required to install or have a cistern, and this is probably true for most cities in the Bay Area. Local plumbing ordinances on how to connect the irrigation system up to the city water apply when also connecting to city water.

The 3,400 gallon system filled up quickly with all the rain we had in 2010. The expectation is that this system will reduce outdoor water use by 7,500 to 22,500 gallons per year. That's a lot of water that will not come from California reservoirs via the delta or be pumped from underground aquifers. It's our family's most important contribution to reducing demand and the stress on California's water systems. It is great feeling to know you are watering your garden and flowers with rain captured and saved on your own roof.



A backhoe lowers one of two 1,700 gallon cisterns into the ground.

To Learn More

For more information on installing your own cistern system, please contact me, John Cordes, at [johncordes @ yahoo.com](mailto:johncordes@yahoo.com) by *John Cordes*

SNAIL BOARD and CITY of SUNNYVALE SUPPORT STAFF

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