



# S.N.A.I.L. News

Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor, Including La Linda  
PO Box 62072  
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[www.snail.org](http://www.snail.org)

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**March 2012**

## SNAIL General Meeting

**Thursday – March 1**

*Location: Columbia School • Time: 7:00 p.m.*  
The meeting will be held in the Staff Lounge.  
Look for the SNAIL Sign.

### *Partial List of General Meeting Agenda Items:*

- Decide if we should change our Thursday meeting day.
  - Planning for April Pot Luck Dinner.
  - Planning for Cinco de Mayo party.
- Discussion: March “Message from the Chair”.
- Discussion: Newsletter content and priorities.
- Further discussion: SNAIL involvement in “City” issues.
  - Our “Guest Chair” shall be John Cordes.

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.

## Thank you, Gianfranco!

Big THANKS go out to Gianfranco for putting our newsletter together for the past two years. He did a great job! Although he has resigned as Newsletter Editor, he shall continue to maintain our [www.snail.org](http://www.snail.org) web site.

Kirstin Sims, our Secretary, has volunteered to take on the job as Editor for a few months. In the meantime, we are looking for someone who is reasonably good with Microsoft Word and email correspondence to join us as Editor. It is not necessary that the Editor attend meetings. This would be a great time to step forward and help out your neighborhood without even leaving your home! Questions? Contact Kirstin at [SNAILeditor@snail.org](mailto:SNAILeditor@snail.org).



(L-R) Officers Brian Gantt and Todd Fekete at the SNAIL Feb. 2 meeting.



## Message from the Chair

We have been fortunate to have our new Director of Public Safety, Chief Frank Grgurina as a guest at our January meeting and our two recent Neighborhood Resource Officers, Brian Gantt and Todd Fekete speak to us at our February meeting. Why two? Officer Gantt started off by announcing that although he had just started as our NRO a few months ago, the reins were being passed over to Officer Fekete effective immediately. Officer Gantt did a good job maintaining continuity as he came to our meeting himself to announce the administrative change and to “introduce” his successor (even though this was the first time *he* was meeting us). It was a little bit odd but it worked. More odd than that, we learned that Officer Gantt would still be the main point of contact for matters pertaining to Columbia School and that Officer Fekete would be the main point of contact for some schools in *other* areas of Sunnyvale. What? But Todd Fekete is our NRO. Why? While I’m happy to see that the City is making Public Safety officers available to our neighborhood, it seems more straightforward to have just one officer for both local jobs. Even though I didn’t have any of my own issues to bring to our NRO in years past, it was nice to know where and when to find “Officer Jim” – out on the streets near Columbia School when the kids were walking to school. I felt just a little bit of that small-townishness even though I was living in a large city. It was good enough for me to just see our NRO there, smile at him, and wave. It seemed like I had just a little bit more of the best of both worlds.

*Jim Quaderer*  
*Beechnut Avenue*

*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, Cookbook sales, and donations.*

**Letter to the Editor ~ The City Council Has Lost Its Way**

The City Residents have concerns about graffiti removal. A councilmember stated graffiti cleanup can be provided, if other services are cut such as library, streets, parks, or taxes are raised.

But the facts are:

1. the city manager's annual compensation is \$360,000,
2. the city attorney's annual compensation is \$320,000,
3. the assistant city manager's compensation is \$300,000.
4. a city council member in Sunnyvale, receives the highest annual compensation for a councilmember for any city in Santa Clara County for a part time job - \$25,064 salary per year.
5. the recently retired city manager (age 61) receives an annual pension of \$216,000.

The City of Sunnyvale was created 100 years ago on December 24, 1912.

The city employees and council members were to be public servants. Residents/Taxpayers were to be the Masters. But, during the last 8 years the council has taken a 48 % pay raise and voted itself lifetime health insurance benefits. City employee compensation has doubled. The average city employee now makes twice the amount the average Sunnyvale resident makes.

Services to residents have been repeatedly cut. Street paving has been cut 50%. 10 police officer positions have been left vacant. The library has been closed 2 nights per week. The job match program at the Senior Center has been eliminated.

I asked that the city council place the following 3 proposals on the agenda.

1. Cut by 50 % the compensation for the 10 people who control city government: the city manager, assistant city manager, city attorney and the 7 council members (including myself).
2. Immediately cancel the lifetime health insurance benefits for former councilmembers.
3. File a lawsuit against the most recent downtown developer (who made thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to Sunnyvale councilmembers) to collect the \$5 million penalty, the developer owes for failing to complete the project.

None of the other 6 councilmembers would support even putting any of the 3 proposals on the agenda.

This year the city's annual budget spends \$265 million of your tax money. There IS enough money to pay for services for residents if compensation is reduced to a usual rate paid by ordinary employers. Our predecessors in Sunnyvale designated you, the residents, as the Masters, councilmembers as the servants. It's time the Masters gave clear, unequivocal orders for the servants to follow.

*Pat Meyering*

*Note from Editor: A rebuttal has been posted in the Sunnyvale Sun, February 10, 2012 issue.*

**SNAIL 2012 Event Calendar**

Date	Event Name	Organizer
Mar. 6, 13, 22, 29	Feeding Homeless at the Armory	Malcolm Lloyd
Apr	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
May 5	Cinco de Mayo party	John Cordes
June 9	Dumpster Day	Barry Boole
June 9 & 10	Yard Sale	Samantha Donovan
June	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
July	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
Aug 7	National Night Out	Michael Rose
Aug 25	Sunnyvale Centennial Parade	Connie Cook-Turner
Sep	Barbeque?	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
Oct	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>
Nov	Dinner Nite Out	<i>Organizer needed!</i>

**Pet of the Month**



Bunny is the SNAIL pet of the month. She is a 1 year, 8 month old Ameraucana hen. She lays pale green eggs, and she is quite chatty. Even though she is smaller than our other hens, she fancies herself the queen. She lives on East Arbor Ave with owners Diane Gleason and John Cordes.

*If you would like to submit your pet for Pet of the Month, send a portrait with your 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.*

**Break-ins within SNAIL**

Early afternoon, Feb 9th, a Sunnyvale Police Officer knocks on the door and informs us that a house across the street has been broken into and robbed. We are asked if we have seen any suspicious strangers in the neighborhood today. Unfortunately we have not and cannot help the investigation. We later discover that an unlocked bedroom window was the point of entry and laptop computers and jewelry were stolen. This break in occurred between 8AM and 1PM - in broad daylight. Two weeks previous to today we heard of another neighbor who had what appeared to be a break in attempt as a chair from the patio was discovered placed under a window in the back yard. A police report was filed. Hopefully the police will apprehend the crooks, but in the meanwhile SNAIL neighbors - keep your doors and windows LOCKED!

*Cynde Bower  
East Eaglewood Ave.*

**Concern from a Neighbor**

I have always appreciated the fact that our Neighborhood Association was non-political and non-religious. I do not appreciate the direction it is now taking.

I believe announcements of City events should be welcome in our Newsletter. It gives us the opportunity to give service, participate, and enjoy those events.

I do not believe political opinions and controversies have a place in our neighborhood newsletter. These invite rebuttals and before long, we may no longer be a friendly, positive newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Connie Cook-Turner  
Carolina Avenue*

**Save Up Stuff for SNAIL's Yard Sale, June 9-10**

SNAIL's yard sale is our biggest fund-raiser event of the year. It is also arguably the biggest FUN event of the year. We manage to divert at least two dumpsters of stuff from the landfill into loving homes. With the low prices, it's more like a neighborhood swap 'n' trade event than a yard sale. But the event would not be able to raise so much funding nor would it be very much fun if it weren't for the donations from everyone in the neighborhood. Please look around your home and identify stuff that you haven't used for a few years. Start putting things to the side so you're all ready to donate it in June!

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2012 is AUGUST 7th**

SNAIL is now in the planning stage of our 2012 National Night Out (NNO) celebration. This year's Block Party will be held on Tuesday August 7th. SNAIL will be putting on a BBQ, with live music and dancing, and a jumping house for the children, providing an evening of fun right here in our neighborhood. We are hoping for a big turn-out and for that, SNAIL will need some volunteers: someone in charge of food purchasing, another in charge of set-up and clean-up, and others who will help them. Together WE can put on another fantastic event. While we are a few months away, getting started now will ensure we will have another record breaking National Night Out in SNAIL. Wanna help? Call me at 408-736-4811 or e-mail to [gastropod557 @ att.net](mailto:gastropod557@att.net) (put NNO in subject line).

Michael Rose - Morse Ave.

**Bishop Elementary March Events**

Date	Topic	Location
Thursday, March 1	PTO Meeting	Teacher's Lounge 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Friday, March 2	Coffee with Principal	Teacher's Lounge 8:15 - 9:00 am NEW FAMILY informational meet and greet
Tuesday, March 6	Teacher Learning Day	Early Release – All Grades – At 12:30
Thursday, March 8	Dine Out Nite @ School!	Bishop School Library: 5:00 – 7:00 pm during our Scholastic Book Faire. Grab a bite and grab a book!
March 5 – March 9	Scholastic Book Faire!	Our book fair is open to the public : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 7:30am – 8:30am and 2:00pm – 3:00pm</li> <li>• Tuesday 12:30pm – 1:30pm</li> <li>• Wednesday 2:00pm – 3:00pm</li> <li>• Thursday 7:30am – 8:30am, 2:00pm – 3:00pm , and 5:00pm – 7:00pm</li> </ul>

Open Enrollment and New Student Registration continues all month for Sunnyvale School District. New families can check with Bishop's front office for New Student Registration forms. Please come Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 2:00. Thank you.

Are you a new kindergarten parent for next school year? Come to our Fri Mar 2 COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL. Meet Mr. Eric Panosian, Bobcat PTO, and take a tour of our school. Ask questions and get to know Bishop better.

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

<b>Chair</b>	Jim Quaderer	302 Beechnut Ave.	408-737-9479
<b>Vice Chair</b>	John Cordes	550 E. Arbor Ave.	650-288-9645
<b>Secretary</b>	Kirstin Sims	663 Madrone Ave.	650-759-9170
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bonnie Lloyd	802 Borregas Ave.	408-747-1949
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Kirstin Sims	663 Madrone Ave. SNAILeditor @ snail.org	650-759-9170
<b>Newsletter Distribution Coordinator</b>	Connie Cook-Turner	810 Carolina Ave.	408-739-8490
<b>Email</b>	SNAILChair @ snail.org		
<b>Neighborhood Preservation</b>	Steve Frias	SFrias @ ci.sunnyvale.ca.us	408-730-7613
<b>Neighborhood Resource Officer</b>	Todd Fekete	tfekete @ ci.sunnyvale.ca.us	408-730-7153

**Sunnyvale Armory -- Feeding the Homeless**

The dates we are scheduled for the year end:

- Tuesday Mar. 6 & Mar 13
- Thursday Mar 22 & Mar 29

Remember to bring in your TB test results from last year or your new test results this year. We will meet at the armory around 6pm and we will finish around 8pm. Call Malcolm Lloyd by the Monday before the service date if you can serve. 408-747-1949.

Malcolm Lloyd  
Borregas Avenue

**City of Sunnyvale**

**Spring 2012 Parent and Child Care Provider Workshops**

**Managing Challenging Behaviors in a Child Care Setting**

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Columbia Neighborhood Center, 785 Morse Ave., Sunnyvale.

Janeen Rockwell Owens, seasoned child care professional, instructor, and preschool owner with over 35 years of experience in early care and education will discuss how to bring peace to your program with:

- Alternative strategies for managing difficult behaviors in the child care setting
- New and creative ideas on how to effectively work with parents with challenging children
- The best reactions to various situations and behavioral issues
- Understanding how our attitudes and responses will predict future behaviors

**Space is limited, please register early. For more information or to register, please call 408-523-8150 or email [childcare@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:childcare@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us).**

**To find out more about the City of Sunnyvale's Youth and Family Resources Program, visit [childcare.insunnyvale.com](http://childcare.insunnyvale.com)**

**Columbia Neighborhood Center Updates**

**FREE TAX ASSISTANCE**

Tax Aid, a non-profit organization staffed by qualified professional tax volunteers, will hold 4 sessions to help families with a total gross income of less than \$50,000. Clients will be served on a first-come, first-served basis between 10 am and 2 pm on February 25 and March 10, 24 and 31 in the Columbia Middle School Staff Room. Required documents: social security cards or ITIN for each family member; W-2 forms for all jobs held in 2011 and all 1099 or 1098 forms; child care provider information; landlord's name, address and phone number; a voided check for direct deposit; last year's tax return if available. For information, call (415) 963-8633 or to go [www.tax-aid.org](http://www.tax-aid.org)

**SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN AND TWEEN**

A free, 10 week support group for parents/guardians of children in Columbia Middle School will start March 5 from 6:30 – 8 pm in the Columbia Neighborhood Center. For more information, contact Eve Sheffield at 523-8150 ext. 28 or Orest Mytrofaniuk at ext.25.

**CNC NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

To see the current newsletter, and for other information on programs, go to [CNC.inSunnyvale.com](http://CNC.inSunnyvale.com)

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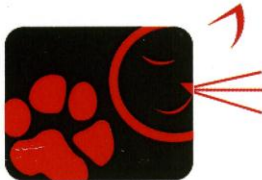
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