

Hello,

Below you will find the notes from the April 30th meeting. A big thank you to Reid Myers for putting them together!!

Michelle

It was another good turnout at the Neighborhood Association Leader's meeting on April 30th, 2012, with about 25 people in attendance. We received a lot of great information that we'd like to share with you. Those present heard from Chief Frank Grgurina, learned about the upcoming Sunnyvale "Bag Ban", and got an update about the Sunnyvale Centennial Celebration scheduled for August 25th and 26th (join the parade!).

PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION – Chief Frank Grgurina

Chief Frank Grgurina gave us some crime statistics and answered questions relevant to Public Safety. Some info as follows:

- * There were 15,810 traffic stops made last year by public safety.
- * 20,000 citations were handed out (the number includes bicycles and accidents in addition to vehicles).
- * Police responded to 2,135 urgent events, and they try to keep their response time under five minutes.
- * There were 1,866 fire inspections last year (businesses and apartments).
- * There were 1,307 hazardous material inspections.
- * The total emergency and fire calls were 7,096.
- * The average number of SNAP volunteers trained per year in Sunnyvale is 300.
- * The total number of animal service calls last year was 1,212.
- * There are 150-200 alarms (business and residential) per month that the police respond to and 95% of them are false.

We have 200 public safety officers (Sunnyvale is unique in that officers are trained as firefighters and police officers).

Some crime rate comparisons (2011- violent crimes per 100,000 residents):

Sunnyvale 1704

Cupertino 1635

Los Altos 1080

Palo Alto 2259

Morgan Hill 2360

Mountain View 2419

Santa Clara 3104

Campbell 4555

For all crimes, Sunnyvale went from 2839 cases in 2010 to 2532 in 2011.

Questions:

What do I do about solicitors? You should have a "no soliciting" sign if you don't want people knocking on your door as it is unlawful for them to knock if you have the sign. Solicitors should have a license except non-profits just need to be registered with the IRS (but they typically let public safety know they're going to be knocking). If someone is a political candidate or representing one, they don't need to adhere to the "no soliciting" sign and they can leave flyers as long as they are secured and can't fly away.

What should I do if I see graffiti? You should always report graffiti quickly to the non-emergency number which is 408-730-7180. When graffiti is left and not cleaned up quickly it can greatly increase. Officers will identify if the graffiti is gang related or not. Let them know whenever you encounter it because it helps them to track what's going on. Public safety keeps a log of graffiti, and sometimes later can link it to other criminal behavior.

Are there gangs in Sunnyvale? Yes, and Sunnyvale has a dedicated gang enforcement team.

What do NROs do (Neighborhood Resource Officers)? They cover our neighborhoods, the 31 schools in Sunnyvale, and business associations. They work in schools and neighborhoods since crime often stems from one and goes to the other. We have a list of each neighborhood's NRO for your reference if you are interested in viewing it.

What are the top 5 things that can be done to help prevent crime in Sunnyvale?

1. Secure your home and make it uninviting to criminals. Don't have valuables in plain view. Walk around the outside of your home and figure out where you are vulnerable for a break-in---then secure it. Lock all side gates.
2. Mark and record your property-- you can make a video with your iphone for example. This can also be useful for insurance claims.
3. Be aware of crime trends. One way to do this is with crimereports.com.
4. Lookout for each other! Get to know your neighbors (that's what neighborhoods are for!).
5. Report all crime. Don't hesitate to call the emergency number 911 or the non-emergency number 408-730-7180. You know better than anyone else what is wrong or out-of place in your neighborhood. Since the series of robberies in the Cherryhill Neighborhood, the police have gotten a lot more calls of this type and they *appreciate* them! We're all part of slowing crime in Sunnyvale.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PRESENTATION ("BAG BAN") – Kathryn Cooke

Kathryn Cooke let us know about the upcoming single use bag ordinance or "bag ban":

- * Goes into effect June 20th, 2012.
- * No more plastic bags in the large grocery, convenience, liquor or drug stores.
- * Paper bags will be available for a .10 charge but they must be made from 40% recycled material.
- * Price will go up to .25 per bag in 2014.
- * Produce and meat bags will not be affected.
- * In March 20, 2013, the ordinance will expand to 700 retailers, affecting smaller stores.

Why the Bag Ban?

- * We spend 25 million a year in clean-up costs of plastic bags.
- * At our local Smart Station, employees spend 3,000 hours per year unclogging the systems due to plastic bags
- * 267 species of wildlife are affected by plastic bags
- * 14 billion trees are killed for paper bags
- * 12 billion barrels of oil used to produce plastic bags/year
- * These bags cost stores 4 billion that is passed on the the consumer

Suggestions for adjusting:

- * Keep reusable bags in your car, by your door, or near your keys.
- * Keep foldable bags in pockets, purses, or backpacks.
- * Clean your bags with soapy water or machine wash.
 - ** If you are concerned about bacteria, know that your sponge and cutting board have many times more bacteria than your reusable bags!! **

Follow-up Information:

- * Kathryn, BringYourBags@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us, will be very happy to attend your neighborhood meeting, give her presentation, and hand out reusable bags and other items to help people remember to bring their own bags.
- * The website is <http://www.Bringyourbags.insunnyvale.com>.

SUNNYVALE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – Melinda Hamilton

Melinda Hamilton told us about the upcoming Sunnyvale Centennial and Parade on August 25th and 26th

- * Kids art/writing contest already kicked off (memories of Sunnyvale)

- * Parade route from Fremont HS to Remington to the Historic Museum on August 25th
- * We need parade participants and volunteers, too! Check out www.sunnyvale100.com for all the info!
- * They would be very happy to have Sunnyvale neighborhoods enter floats – nothing fancy, can be something as simple people in the back of a pickup truck with some signs.
- * Will be a great two day party to celebrate Sunnyvale!

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Possible Topics and Speakers for the Next Meeting in August:

- * Presentation on Sunnyvale gang activity and information.
- * Jim Griffith update on what is going on in Sunnyvale (non-political).
- * Grace Leong discussion and review of the city budget.
- * National Night Out recap from Neighborhood Associations (event will be the first Tuesday in August on the 7th).

Neighborhood Association Grants:

Nathan Truitt announced that the deadline for applying for Neighborhood Grants is coming up quickly, May 18, 2012. For more information, go to <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/IntheCommunity/NeighborhoodAssociations.aspx>.

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