

HI Neighbors,

Please see below the (long) report from our meeting on Monday evening. There is a LOT of information here and lots of good stuff. I did my best at recording accurate facts!

Topics include:

- Speciality Solid Waste and Recycling- including upcoming plans for zero waste!
- 49er Stadium traffic update
- Sunnyvale Amateur Radio Services
- A request from SNAP for groups to register for training
- El Camino Grand Boulevard information and concerns
- Submit your feedback on leaf blowers!

Thank you,  
Reid Myers

## **Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting**

Monday, November 17, 2014

### **Announcement:**

Dan Wax, City of Sunnyvale: This Thursday evening 6-7:30pm there will be a public meeting to provide input on on policies related to park use and permitting of park facilities. Please come give your input! Location is the Neighborhood Room at the Community Center.

### **Speciality Solid Waste and Recycling Jerry Nabhan, Nick Nabhan**

This is a 100 year-old family run business! We watched a short video on sustainability, recycling, and all Speciality is doing in these areas.

In 1989 a law was passed determining that we need to recycle 50% of garbage. By 2020 we must recycle 75%. We are now at 66% recycling here in Sunnyvale.

We are doing paper, plastic, cans, bottles, etc. and have gathered all the low-lying fruit, but we need to work harder. The city voted to go zero waste which means we need to work to get organic materials and food out of the garbage can.

Lots of the recycling is done by hand on a conveyer belt! 17 tons an hour of organic waste (food waste) goes by the conveyer belt.

Challenge: some of the composting has glass in it from broken bottles so that makes it hard to compost. Compost with glass is hard to sell. A company in Hollister will dry the material and then blow the material so the glass falls out. They charge \$66/ton. Not the best solution.

Speciality's trucks are all compressed natural gas since 2001! Carbon footprint has been reduced by 22%. They make their own natural gas to fuel the trucks from organic material by converting methane to natural gas. San Jose converts methane to electricity!

Joined climate registry, an outside company, to measure their carbon footprint. A spinoff of Tesla is making electric garbage trucks. May look at that in the future.

Trucks have GPS and they are tracked all day. Each can is RFID tagged so they know each garbage can that was emptied and that it is the correct can for that residence.

Compost/Food Waste: They will be doing a food waste composting trial program in early February. They will give 500 residents new cans divided by garbage/composting in five different areas of Sunnyvale for 6 months. Then they will move to another 500 homes! This will be a test to ensure it's not too difficult.

Commercial: Carribean avenue at Sunnyvale— working to ensure big bins don't overflow. Zero litter committee meeting is a county wide group who has been meeting to ensure trash doesn't get into our bay. Overloaded bins are a problem.

In July 2015 a law will kick in requiring companies to take back mattresses at mattress stores (they will charge \$10 more when you purchase a mattress).

Speciality gets \$125 per ton for clean paper. All paper goes to China to become recycle paper products. China has put all the local companies out of business as they do it so much cheaper there.

AB341 legislation- all businesses/buildings must have some type of recycling. Consumers must work to recycle all recyclable items!

Question: It looks like both bottles and paper go into the same truck- can you explain?

Ans: There is a divider in the truck that separates paper from the bottles. It's important to keep them separated.

Question: Delphine Ng, Braly Corners

I put food in plastic bags in my garbage- what will I do?

Ans: You can't put plastic bags in with food! Only a compostable bag would work. They would give us a little container for food collection.

Question: Jennifer Wong, Sunnyarts

Are there any local businesses that handle the recycling of paper, glass, aluminum? It seems harmful to the planet to send those materials all the way to China just to be recycled there.

And: No paper recycling plants can compete with China- they all go out of business. We need to do our best to keep glass bottles in recycling. Glass goes to Hayward.

Specialty gets \$5 million in revenue selling recycling, but the cost of getting rid of concrete, dirt, etc. is 3.5 million— so the net is about 1.5 million. Organic recycling costs a lot and it will become a negative number.

For more information go to <http://www.sswr.com>

## **Update on 49ers Stadium and Traffic: Lt. Ryan Yin and Captain Hunter**

There have been 10 events since the opening of the stadium. This is the population of Mountain View coming into a small space and population of Mountain View (75,000 people) leaving. It takes approximately an hour and 20 minutes to leave the stadium.

Four Sunnyvale officers at each event and additional as needed. There has been some parking at Lakewood Village and they are trying to monitor but can only enforce illegal parking.

1 hour parking in commercial district in the Reamwood area. Written about 300 citations from the first events.

Calls for service— only two related to stadium events. One was a collision the other was a hit and run. :(.

Biggest adjustments have been made where Santa Clara is releasing traffic. There were initially too many cars down Tasman and this has been reduced. There is a bottleneck at Lawrence and Elko post game. Seems to be getting better.

There is a good plan for getting public safety into the stadium, etc. when/if needed.

Banner Planes: Encourage people to complain to banner plane companies. There are strict FAA regulations they must adhere to. There haven't been planes at every game since the big Santa Clara community meeting. 49ers and City of Santa Clara let the banner planes know the neighborhoods weren't happy and it seems to be improved.

Superbowl 50 is upcoming at the stadium. Started planning phases. This will be a 2 week event. There will be significant closures around the stadium. Info will be forthcoming over the next few months.

Communications hierarchy is 49ers <-> Santa Clara <-> Sunnyvale. Sunnyvale works through Santa Clara. Sunnyvale DPS is down 10 officers at the moment.

Question: Delphine Ng, Braly Corners

Friends near the stadium dread game day as it's really hard for them to get in and out and they worry in an emergency public safety wouldn't be able to get through.

Ans: They had a community meeting to talk about these issues. There was an issue upfront (games 3, 4 and 5) where parking lots were locked but shouldn't have been and that backed up a lot of traffic. Lots are opening up 90 minutes earlier than they were before. Has really made pre-game traffic much better. Post game still has traffic.

Jennifer Wong, SunnyArts

Comment: She forwards the nixle announcement tha there is game upcoming and people appreciate it! **Join Sunnyvale Nixle at <http://nixle.com/city/ca/sunnyvale/>.**

Question: Hinkmond Wong, SunnyArts

Will there be concert events at the stadium and how will that affect the stadium?

Ans: Yes, there are a lot of concerts upcoming. Biggest concern for now will be Kenny Chesney in May. Wrestle-mania in March.

Question: What is the noise ordinance?

Ans: 11:30pm

Neighbors have had more of an issue with lights than with noise.

Question: Haruko Matsuda, Cherry Chase

It sounds like we are putting in more resources than we expected.

Ans: Santa Clara reimburses us for 4 officers/event but we do have more resources than that at the events. We may re-negotiate with the city of Santa Clara later. DPS is going out of their way to do extra now in order to be well prepared for future events.

Question: Luis Angulo, San Miguel

How many officers do we have over the four that are reimbursed? Is it affecting our department negatively?

Ans: We don't have more than 4 officers in the stadium but we have put more resources to traffic, etc. Extra officers are voluntary.

Public Safety handles a lot of questions, comments, etc which takes added resources. They monitor all the traffic before and after games. Social media feeds are monitored. They have a good feel for what's going on at the stadium.

## **Jerry Thalls: SARES**

Sunnyvale Amateur Radio Emergency Service- national program since right after WWII. Goal is to provide support to agencies, fire, etc. in an emergency. In Santa Clara County, each city has a amateur radio emergency service. 50 active participants in Sunnyvale - every Monday at 7:30pm is an on air meeting. 30-40 people check in each week.

They do role call and test radios to ensure they are ready if needed. They work with local groups like Lakewood holiday parade and help with communications. They also help with the Sunnyvale Art and Wine Festival. For the last year they have been working with SNAP. Part of SNAP graduation is an event and SARES helps with communication services. There are training classes every month- 3 hour training sessions usually in the DPS building.

Q: John Ray, Gavelo Glen- do you work with Nasa Ames? The Red Cross?

Ans: There is a group that works with other groups but our focus is on Sunnyvale.

Q: Hinkmond Wong, SunnyArts

If you wanted to get an amateur radio license, is there a way to work with that on the SNAP side?

Ans: Yes, you can choose where you dedicate your time and service. The SARES organization gives you an opportunity to train, etc.

2 meter band and 440 as well.

Q: Luis Angulo: How do I know where to find you in an emergency?

Ans: Depends on the scope of the disaster. In a large disaster like an earthquake, SARES employs some staff to man fire stations and schools where they will transmit information. For emergencies fire stations are the point of contact. If your neighborhood is organized for SNAP, SNAP has a procedure for sending notices from the neighborhood to the fire stations in order to get information in and out over ham radio.

***If people are interested in SARES, contact Jerry Thalls at [kg6hi@arrl.net](mailto:kg6hi@arrl.net).***

### **Lt. Vincent Mata, DPS: Emergency Services Coordinator**

Lt. Mata coordinates SARES and SNAP programs. Has lots of great volunteers in these programs. They would like to evolve SNAP to having groups of people who live near each other to train. Individuals sprinkled all over the city benefits that individual but not as good for the community as having groups train.

First Sunday of the month— PEP Personal Emergency Preparedness. How to care for yourself and your family. SNAP- 7 weeks, you are trained to help those around you as well. There also SNAP-2 classes in Sunnyvale to further prepare volunteers. In Sunnyvale, we have about 23 firefighters. 25 patrol officers. This isn't enough to get a good picture of what's going on in the city in an emergency situation. The vision for the Neighborhood Associations is to have groups— 2, 3, 4 people train. It's hard if only one person is trained in a neighborhood and nobody else knows what to do.

PEP:

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/PublicSafety/EmergencyPreparedness/PersonalEmergencyPreparednessPEP.aspx>

He would like a liaison from each neighborhood association to work with SNAP!

### **Jeff Fish, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Sunnyvale**

Working on a leaf blower study issue. Should the city ban leaf blowers or should there be some other type of restriction on leaf blowers? Right now restrictions are very minimal. Banned 8pm to 8am. 65db noise limit. There are traditional 2 stroke leaf blowers, and 4 stroke which are a little cleaner and there are electric and battery powered leaf blowers that don't emit as many fumes but still kick up dust particles.

People are concerned about noise, dust particles, local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

There are options for banning: you can ban them during certain times or certain days or specific areas. You can ban just gas powered. A few cities have all out banned leaf blowers.

Question: Jennifer Wong: Are they looking at banning gas blowers on spare the air days?

Ans- that is something they are looking at.

Question: Luis Angulo

How do they ban them and how do they enforce the bans?

Ans: Palo Alto has eliminated gas blowers, enforcement can be hard.

Do we ban lawnmowers too?

Will send out upcoming meeting notices as there will be an outreach meeting on this topic!

***Please email Jeff Fish if you have any feedback (positive or negative) on leaf blowers. He is collating information and is interested in your opinion!! [jfish@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:jfish@sunnyvale.ca.gov).***

COMMENTS FROM NEIGHBORHOODS:

John Ray, Gavello Glenn— VTA has a big project, \$233 million dollars to have a bus rapid transit system up El Camino (Grand Boulevard Project). They may take 2 lanes out of El Camino to add bus only lanes. Decisions will be forthcoming imminently

Mark Balestra, Business owner on El Camino -- El Camino Coalition, is a group of residents and business owners around El Camino who are concerned about the potential impact of rapid transit along El Camino. VTA has Measure A funding and they are looking at several options. Dedicated lanes and mixed use are two of them. 1/3 of traffic may bleed into neighborhood streets. It seems they are leaning towards using dedicated lanes. Every resident who uses El Camino has an interest in this issue. Wayne Amacher noted that so far in public meetings, dedicated lanes has been the strongly promoted issue. It is very significant that the dedicated bus lane option takes away one lane of automobile traffic in each direction – three lanes goes to two.

There was some conversation around this and people seemed to be concerned. We may host a future meeting (soon) with parties on both sides to help educate all of us on this issue!

Council will be voting on this soon. The 2nd environmental impact report has just been released. If you want to join concerned citizens, email Mark at: [elcaminocoalition@yahoo.com](mailto:elcaminocoalition@yahoo.com) or call him at 408-781-9443.

The VTA website for the project is at <http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/brt-el-camino-real-brt-project>. Note that there are several upcoming meetings where you may want to make your opinion known. VTA environmental report is at <http://www.vta.org/Projects-and-Programs/Transit/El-Camino-Real-Draft-Environmental-Impact-ReportEnvironmental-Analysis>. There has been an ongoing discussion on the Yahoo Group, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PutNeighborhoodsFirstInSunnyvale/conversations/messages>.

A community outreach meeting on park use policies will be held Nov 20, 2014, 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the Sunnyvale Community Center Neighborhood Room. Contact Nancy Grove, Community Services Manager, at 408-730-7363 or [ngrove@sunnyvale.ca.gov](mailto:ngrove@sunnyvale.ca.gov).

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Reid Myers**