

Sunnyside News

Winter 2011

The Voice of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Volume 12, Number 1

Next SNA
Membership
Meeting

May 2

St. Finn Barr
Church Hall
415 Edna (at
Hearst)

SNA meets the
first Monday of
February, May,
August, and
November.

Meet your
neighbors and
hear what's
going on in our
neighborhood!

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It's Always Sunny in Sunnyside



Okay, this isn't exactly true.
But you'd never know it from
this picture taken during the
very odd winter heat wave we
saw recently.

It's been an odd winter,
weather-wise, as you know.
Just days after the warm
weather went away, San
Francisco was buzzing about
the possibility of the first snow
in the city in decades!

President's Message

by Bill Wilson

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is a strong viable association. I can assure you that the board puts much thought into how to keep it that way. How can we best involve you in activities that you want to participate in? As importantly, how can we motivate you to help organize and plan the events you want to see happening?

We need your help. Please participate in organizing whatever event you want to see happen.

Our annual Halloween block party on Marston Avenue has been very successful and grown each year. With enough interest, we could revive the neighborhood garage sale and the SNA picnic.

The garage sale involves picking a date, producing a map of participating households, and advertising the sale in advance. It would attract people to the area and it would provide another opportunity for people to get to know their neighbors.

When the final surplus monies are spent and the entire Sunnyside Park project is complete, perhaps we can again enjoy a community picnic there.

SNA also could sponsor a candidate forum for mayoral and district attorney hopefuls that would bring attention to our neighborhood and the concerns you have about the future of our city.

So please, don't hesitate to contact me if you can help in any way with these events, or you want to propose an activity for our neighborhood. We NEED YOUR HELP!!

Sunnyside News

Sunnyside News is published four times per year. SNA encourages members to submit news items, features, or letters to the editor.

All letters must be signed.

All items are subject to editing.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed in **Sunnyside News**.

Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of SNA.

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Bike Lanes on Phelan in Planning Pipeline

by Rita Evans

Bike lanes on Phelan Avenue, the subject of some spirited debates, may be coming sooner than later. Identified as part of a city-wide bicycle network in 2005, the Phelan bike lanes were put on hold, along with every other bicycle project in the city, pending an environmental review. With the review completed, the city's bicycle plan was approved in 2009. Sixty projects will be implemented and the network will have 80 miles of lanes.

No specific plan for implementation is in place for Phelan and the city wants community input before it proceeds. James Shahamiri, an engineer with the Bicycle Program at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), was invited to speak at the February SNA membership meeting and he solicited comments about proposed alternatives.

Shahamiri provided background information and noted that Phelan's multi-lane configuration has encouraged speeding, endangering pedestrians and discouraging bicycling. At the same time, City College anticipates an increase in cross-Phelan traffic with the college building on the reservoir property. SFMTA, as part of its larger effort to encourage safer, more livable neighborhoods, wants to apply traffic calming techniques to Phelan to make it safer and more pleasant for all users rather than maximizing flow-through for vehicular traffic.

Adding north- and south-bound bike lanes requires a loss of either a traffic lane or parking: remove a total of 120 parking spaces, 60 on each side; remove one of two southbound traffic lanes, adding left turn pockets.

Neighbors voiced a number of objections and pointed out that traffic already backs up at Ocean Avenue. Shahamiri responded that the city estimates the increased waiting time to be no more than 45 seconds. SNA has long advocated bike lanes on the Lee Avenue extension where it would be separated from buses and most vehicular traffic as an alternative to Phelan. Shahamiri said SFMTA is working with CCSF to route bikes on Lee, but the Phelan route makes more sense for the city-wide bike lane network since not all cyclists are going to City College.

When asked for a show of hands, most meeting attendees expressed a preference for removing the southbound traffic lane rather than losing 120 parking spaces.

SNA will continue to monitor the project and inform residents of any developments.

CCSF Wellness Center Passes Offered

Starting at the next membership meeting, which is Monday, May 2, the SNA will provide a sign-in sheet for passes for the summer or fall semester, depending on whether there is summer school this year. The first 30 people who sign up will get passes.

You Can Participate in Local Parks Projects at March 23 RPD Meeting

by Bill Wilson

Dan Mauer, Recreation and Parks Department (RPD), will return to Sunnyside Park Clubhouse on Wednesday, March 23, from 6:30-8:00pm to review the list of items to be purchased with approximately \$100,000 from the original capital budget for the park.

You are urged to attend this extremely important meeting. It will complete a long process community members and RPD have engaged in over the years.

RPD's budget is strapped and it is seeking every opportunity to sell permits to use park facilities. An RPD first-of-its-kind kitchenette installed at the Sunnyside Conservatory has proven to be very popular for private parties as well as events, concerts, and workshops provided by Friends of Sunnyside Conservatory.

A similar version at the Park off the Plaza (below the Clubhouse building) is proposed to provide the ability to have hot food and beverages with access to electricity, hot water and counter space. The Plaza is a beautiful outdoor space for gatherings and particularly those more adult, teenager and community civic group oriented.

Instead of having to rent both the Plaza and the Clubhouse to access kitchen facilities, a small food preparation space would provide the convenience of having everything on the same level.

With this facility, RPD would have another unique space to promote for the sale of permits and the community would have an outdoor recreation space that is removed from the noisy child-oriented playground on the field level. The General Manager agreed to its inclusion and drawings were developed to utilize half of an existing extra storage space.

Discussion at the March 23 meeting will include what can be funded by capital dollars, the recommended items for purchase, confirmation of costs, and actions needed for RPD to bring this project to conclusion.

As president of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, I urge all residents to attend. Please lend your support to the efforts of many years of neighborhood volunteerism that has made this project and its unprecedented two surpluses possible.

Sunnyside Park Clubhouse is located half way up or down the hillside park at the corner of Teresita Blvd. and Foerster Street. There is ample parking at four entrances: two at the top of the hill on Teresita and Mangels and two at the bottom of the hill on Foerster and Mangels.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance:
10/29/10

\$4739.53

Income:

\$548.11

Income includes
membership dues,
donations, interest

Expenses:

\$1149.81

Expenses include
newsletter
postage, meeting
postcards, St. Finn
Barr Hall rental,
Halloween party

Closing Balance:

1/30/11

\$4137.83

Ray Kutz,

SNA Treasurer



Construction of a new Whole Foods outlet continues along the Ocean Avenue site where Kragen Auto Parts once stood. Photo by Ray Kutz.

New Whole Foods from Old Kragen Site

by Rita Evans

A Whole Foods Market will be the retail centerpiece of AvalonBay's \$50 million development on the former Kragen site on Ocean Avenue. The 26,000 square foot supermarket will open in late 2012.

The development will include two apartment buildings, one four floors and one five floors. The Whole Foods will be located in the ground floor of one of those buildings. Construction is under way and the 173-unit apartment complex is scheduled to take 18-21 months to complete.

AvalonBay has been the lead in redeveloping several projects in the Bay Area, including 154-unit Avalon at Diamond Heights. They also own apartment buildings in Mission Bay, Nob Hill, Sunset and South of Market. Pyatok Architects is working with developer AvalonBay.

Now You Can Follow SNA on Twitter and Facebook

That's right, now you can keep up with what's going on in Sunnyside instantly on Twitter and Facebook.

To follow your neighborhood news on Twitter, we can be found at "SunnysideSF." We don't tweet often, so you should search under the "People" tab. You can also join us on Facebook - we have a page called "Sunnyside Neighborhood Association," and we'd like you to like us!

AT&T Installing New Network Cabinets



An AT&T utility box on the corner of Flood and Genessee. Photo by Bill Wilson.

by Jennifer Heggie

We might have more green boxes popping up around our neighborhood very soon - a new form of greening.

According to Mark Blakeman, regional VP for external affairs at AT&T, the utility would like to install an Internet Protocol fiber optic network in San Francisco to compete with cable and satellite, providing higher internet speeds and Voice Over Internet Protocol, and enabling advances in television and video over the internet.

Currently there are ten phone boxes in Sunnyside, located at: 15 Staples, 98 Flood, 100 Flood, 299 Monterey, 198 Phelan, 500 Flood, 584 Flood, 200 Ridgewood, 595 Monterey, and 499 Mangels. AT&T's plan is to install new dark green cabinets within 300 feet of existing phone boxes. Existing conduits would be used to reach the 400 households serviced by each new box.

In return for neighborhood support, AT&T is willing to work with the SNA and possibly help fund a local project such as neighborhood signage. Additionally they would take responsibility for cleaning the boxes of any graffiti.

AT&T is still waiting for the appropriate city approvals. There will be neighborhood hearings before any final approval.

To learn more about the effort, go to: att.com/ipnetwork4sf.

Help Beautify Sunnyside with Your Neighbors

by Pat Moore

Chair, Greening Committee

The Circular Ribbon Park, in which we are clearing, cleaning, and planting the 6' x 3/4 mile parking strip on the freeway side of Circular Avenue, is our current active endeavor. This has been a neglected unofficial dumping ground for the last 20 or so years.

We have a small grant (\$1020) from Parks Trust for the purchase of plants. So far we have, with some help from DPW, done a lot of cleanup and tree trimming, and are now removing the spring weeds so that DPW can cover the area with mulch (to discourage further weeds). When that is finished we will be planting the entire strip with plants and flowers. As for the Monterey Median, we have received a good-sized community challenge grant for the upgrading of Monterey. It is my strong hope that we will be through with the major part of the work on Circular in time to phase over to Monterey when that has a go-ahead.

For that reason I'm hoping that everyone will give as much time as possible to the work on Circular, so that we can finish it as quickly as possible, and go on to the maintenance phase. I know not all can attend our Saturday greening projects, but **YOU CAN WORK ON THE CIRCULAR AVENUE WEED CLEANUP AT ANY TIME**. If you have free time during the week, or in the evenings, it is perfectly ok for you to go out on your own and clear any part of the Circular Ribbon of weeds.

If you need tools, I'll be glad to get them to you, and you should get a safety vest to wear. I will only be urging you to do this for our big cleanup push in the next month or so. So please give us all the time you can manage. Become a Steward and take care of a small public area (such as one block of the Monterey median). This entails very little work at present, and even on an ongoing basis. And of course cash donations are greatly appreciated - we can use help in many areas and at many times other than working on our parkland areas on Saturdays.

How to Get Involved to Fight the Blight in Your Area

by Jennifer Heggie

At our last two SNA meetings, Deputy City Attorney Jana Clark explained how we can effectively combat neighborhood blight or other violations of civil code.

Ms. Clark says to call 311 or the code enforcement team hotline (554-3977). Callers' names can be kept anonymous. Ms. Clark recommends calling 311 first to obtain a tracking number. The 311 call center then forwards the call content to the appropriate city/county department.

If that department isn't responsive, or the caller is unsatisfied with a response, the caller can call Ms. Clark at the code enforcement hotline, and her team will use the 311 tracking number to determine the status of your request, see who is responsible, and then help move things along. Neighbors should also attend the Department of Building Inspection hearings if there is a building code violation.

When the code enforcement team is contacted about a building violation, Ms. Clark can coordinate task force inspections from many departments, notify the owner of the property that they have been cited, and there are penalties for the violation; and subsequently begin litigation or negotiate a way to deal with the problem.

To be most effective, it's important that neighbors monitor the situation and continue to call 311.

Time to Renew Your SNA Membership

Are your dues due? If the date on your mailing label is March 2011 or earlier, it's time to renew your SNA membership.

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd and Ingleside Captain Louis Cassenego are regulars at our quarterly membership meetings. Other speakers at recent meetings have included engineers and planners from SFMTA, the city's code enforcement officer, Chief Barnes from City College, Safeway managers involved in the reconstruction project, and representatives from AT&T.

Four times a year, Sunnyside News delivers information you won't find anywhere else, all focused on our neighborhood.

Please join your neighbors in these efforts to make sure Sunnyside continues to be a great place to live.

Fill out the membership form below, and send it and your check in the self-addressed envelope enclosed in this issue. Renew your membership today!

SNA Annual Membership Dues

Dues are \$15/year for households, \$25/year for businesses. Make checks payable to SNA and send to SNA, PO Box 27615, SF, CA 94127.

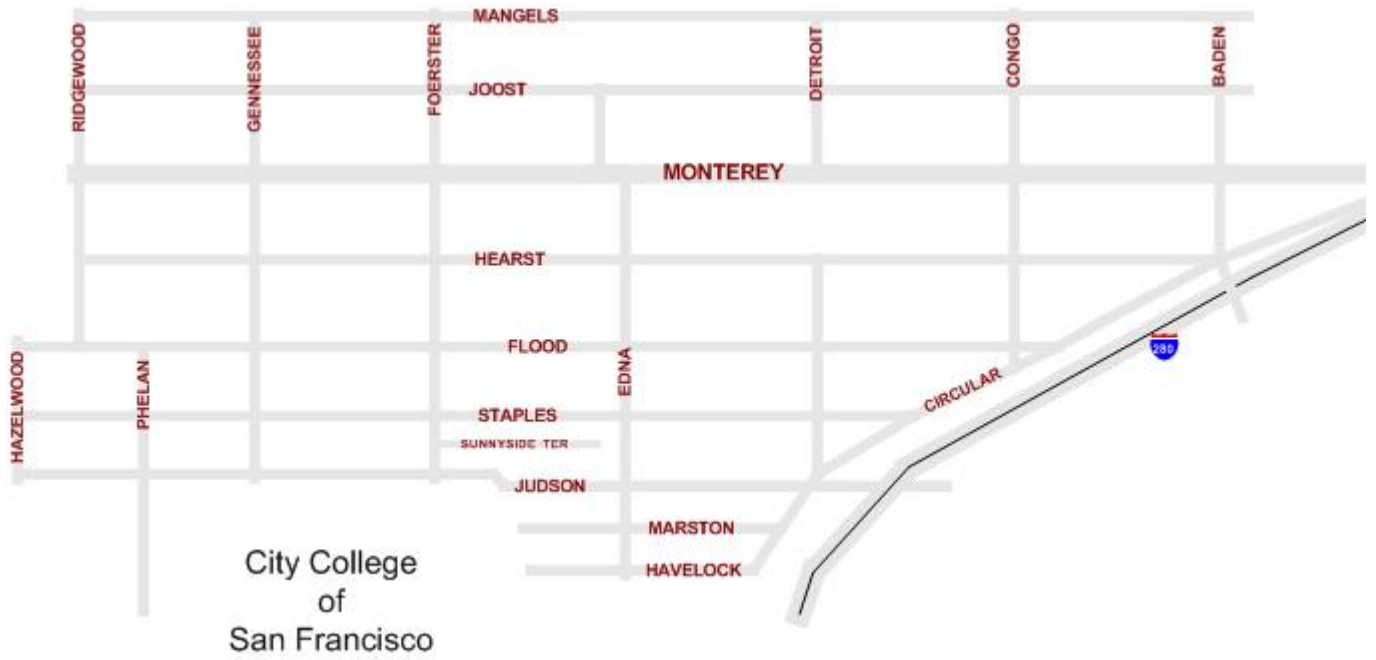
Name (Please print) _____

Street/City _____ **ZIP** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Household \$15 _____ **Business \$25** _____ **Donation \$** _____

Donations to SNA, a 501(C) 3 not-for-profit organization, are tax-deductible.



Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

PO Box 27615

San Francisco, CA 94127

Time to renew? Check the mailing label. Send your dues today!