



# Sunnyhills Times

1421 Yellowstone Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: (408) 262-0420

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## SPOOKY FUN!

by Wiley Rankin

Everyone, children and adults alike, are invited to attend a free Halloween Party. This popular annual event is for all Milpitas residents. Show up and you can enjoy a costume parade (with prizes for all costumed kiddies), snacks, and live music. Children can participate in a variety of art projects and learn safety precautions for Halloween. Adults will hear from a Milpitas Police Department officer about the benefits of joining a Neighborhood Watch group. Jump for Joy Music will perform family-fun music.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and to give our children a chance to show off their costumes. Adults are encouraged to come in costume too! We encourage our neighbors to participate in this great annual event. Please feel free to bring snacks to share with the children.

**Date:** Saturday, October 28, 2017  
**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
*(Children's Costume parade & prizes at 3:15pm)*  
**Where:** Augustine Park at Coelho Street, Milpitas  
**Price:** Free!



The Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association and County Supervisor Dave Cortese are sponsoring this event to highlight the Neighborhood Watch program and build our community. For more information, please contact us at [SNA@electric-bikes.com](mailto:SNA@electric-bikes.com) or The-Vu Nguyen at (408) 386-6115 or [the-vu.nguyen@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:the-vu.nguyen@bos.sccgov.org)

## SUNNYHILLS APTS AT RISK

by Allysson McDonald

What does home mean to you? For residents of the Sunnyhills Apartments, home means a safe place to live, to welcome friends and relatives, to erect an altar to worship the ancestors. These neighbors are very anxious about losing their homes and having nowhere to go.

Behind the Lyon supermarket on Sunnyhills Drive is the 171 unit apartment complex called Sunnyhills Apartments. This is a HUD project - the tenants, who have very low

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## Community Events Calendar

<b>SNA Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>10/26/17</b>
<b>Halloween Party</b>	<b>10/28/17</b>
Community Breakfast	11/4/17
Fall back clocks	11/5/17
SNA Monthly Meeting	11/30/17
Community Breakfast	12/2/17
SNA Monthly Meeting	12/21/17
<b>Community Breakfast &amp; ELECTIONS</b>	<b>1/6/17</b>

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## Sunnyhills Apts (Continued from page 1)

income, pay 30% towards their rent and Federal Housing and Urban Development pays a subsidy to the landlord. In August of last year, the landlord submitted a pre-application to the city, and then resubmitted a different conceptual site plan in December which depicts 221 townhouses, which they intended to build for sale at market rate.

In January the tenants were given notice that the landlord does not intend to renew the contract when it expires Feb. 28, 2018. Instead, tenants would receive tenant-based Section 8 assistance - known as Section 8 vouchers - if Congress continues to make the funds available. They would have the right to stay at the property, using their vouchers, if the property continues to be rental housing. However, if the property is redeveloped according to the conceptual site plan submitted to the city, the tenants would need to move out and use the vouchers elsewhere. The problem with Section 8 Vouchers, even if funded, is that there aren't enough rental properties in the Bay Area that accept them, and wait lists for affordable housing take years.

In March the developer submitted a conceptual landscape plan, indicating that he was planning to move forward with redevelopment. Tenants and advocates began to reach out to the media and to government agencies and organizations to find help with their plight. Many began looking for housing alternatives to no avail. Finally, realizing that we cannot afford to lose any affordable housing in this area, Milpitas City Council passed an urgency ordinance on June 20th that placed a moratorium on the demolition of any existing affordable housing in the city for 45 days.

Tenants invited the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley to present a renters' rights workshop to the Sunnyhills residents in early July, and the tenants formed an association. An active group has been meeting frequently ever since to discuss their options and plan strategies. Tenants and supporters have attended multiple meetings and events and have had discussions with council members, Supervisor Cortese, and others, seeking a solution to the crisis.

On August 1 City Council passed an extension of the demolition moratorium which will last until next June. But this is only a temporary solution. The landlord has until November 1 of this year to make a final decision about renewing the HUD contract. In the meantime tenants are hoping that the City and the County will reach an agreement with the landlord that will preserve the rental units and allow the residents to stay in their homes!

The tenants of Sunnyhills ask that you join in their cause to save their homes and submit a letter on their behalf to the Milpitas City Council. (See attached sample letter.)



### Community Breakfast



Please join SUMC & SNA for a **FREE** breakfast from 8am-9:30am on the first Saturday of most months, at Jones Hall, SUMC, 355 Dixon Road (across from Weller School Playground). Past breakfasts have included a candidates forum, the Milpitas Police and Fire Departments, and the Milpitas Post.

**November's breakfast will be held on Sat, 11/4 with a keynote presentation by Cheryl Jordan, MUSD Superintendent.** *"Our Culture of We in MUSD....Where we are Today & What's on the Horizon"*

Ms. Jordan has served 28 years in the Milpitas Unified School district where she began her career as a middle school and alternative high school teacher. Her work as the first aVid teacher and coordinator in MUSD fed her drive for equity and social justice.

### SNA Fundraising—We NEED You!

Once a year the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association asks for your financial support with a donation to our group. Without donations from our neighbors we can not put on or help support special events like Be an Artist Day and the Halloween party. As a qualified Non-Profit your donations are 100% tax deductible. Attached to this newsletter is a membership form—please consider filling it out and sending us a donation so that we can keep helping our neighbors.

### Prescription Drug Take Back Event

*by Lieutenant John Torrez*

The Milpitas Police Department will be taking back unwanted prescription drugs on Saturday October 28, 2017 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Milpitas Police Department.



## SNA Elections

by Melanie Lewert

WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT YOU. For those who believe that holding our community together is important during the challenging times ahead, we ask you to consider a role on the Board—executive and members at large positions are available.

Come to our **January breakfast (1/6/18)** and see the SNA family that you could be supporting. Then stay to help set the future direction of SNA. If you can't commit to being a board member please at least consider attending our monthly meetings (held on the 4th Thursday of the month) to keep SNA going strongly forward. SNA needs you!

If you wish to run for office contact Rob Means at 408-262-0420 or by email to [SNA@electric-bikes.com](mailto:SNA@electric-bikes.com). Nominations will be accepted at our November meeting and also on the day of elections.

Please give thought to the events that you would like SNA to help sponsor over the coming year or issues that affect Sunnyhills residents that you think SNA should be championing. WE NEED YOU—please help SNA make your neighborhood a better place to live.



## HELP!

Can you help us distribute this newsletter? If you can't deliver a newsletter on a regular basis, how about as an occasional fill-in? Sometimes for one reason or another a person can't deliver their regular route, and we need fill-ins to help.

ALL volunteers are welcome—just give us a call (408-942-1418) or drop us an email to [mlemail@mindspring.com](mailto:mlemail@mindspring.com) (title: Newsletter Help).

We can help your child earn community service hours too. The average number of homes on a route is 50 and takes about an hour to deliver.

## Your Opinion

**Doing Our Part** by Rob Means

Our City, County and State representatives are working to reduce the carbon footprint of Milpitas residents. This is an "all hands on deck" moment. Learn what you can do as an individual at [2020orbust.org/](http://2020orbust.org/) where they are "Mobilizing the world to end the climate crisis."



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A community foundation-sponsored organization and member of United Neighborhoods

### SNA 2017 Board Members

<b>President</b>	Allysson McDonald
<b>Vice President</b>	Guy Haas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Melanie Lewert
<b>Secretary</b>	Rob Means
<b>Members at Large</b>	Carmen Montano Voltaire Montemayor

The Sunnyhills Times is a community newsletter serving the homeowners and residents of the Sunnyhills neighborhood—SNA is a volunteer group of local people who are actively working to improve our neighborhood, and thus the city of Milpitas, through positive activities and programs.

Melanie Lewert—Editor  
Inquiries & summations to this newsletter can be sent to: [mlemail@mindspring.com](mailto:mlemail@mindspring.com)



# Your Community Advocate

1421 Yellowstone Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: (408) 262-0420

Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) is your local neighborhood association. We are a volunteer group of local people who are actively working to improve our neighborhood, and thus the City of Milpitas, through positive activities and programs.

## Your Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association has:

- Transformed the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way into Pecot Park. After 7 years of work, the park opened on 12/4/99. What was once a blighted corridor through our neighborhood was transformed into a beautiful linear park, which extends all the way to Town Center (via a bridge over the creek).
- Sparked the re-development of a derelict gas station into Crescent Center (Walgreen's).
- Delivers the Sunnyhills Times to over 2000 neighborhood homes – bringing news of events and issues of civic and community interest.
- Sponsored the Milpitas Community Breakfasts, a monthly gathering for presentations and dialog that promotes civic responsibility, builds community cohesion, and bridges cultural gaps.
- Refurbished Al Augustine Park with better design, new play sets, and many tree plantings. Efforts begun in 1997 led to City Council approval in June 1999 and completion/opening in May 2002.
- Produced events such as:
 

* International Potlucks	* Halloween Party	* Bike & Roller Fest
* Music in the Park	* Be An Artist Day	* Drumming Night
* National Night Out	* Community Breakfasts	* Neighborhood Watch Events

## With your help we will:

- Continue to solicit and secure grant funding—thanks to our non-profit 501(c)3 status.
- Support K-12, affordable housing, and a safe and friendly Sunnyhills.
- Continue bringing you programs and newsletters, while being an activist voice in City and area matters.

**This ambitious program needs your support. Because most program funding comes from grants, it's critically important to demonstrate local support to the grant makers. Your SNA membership demonstrates that local support. At only \$10 per year, it's a bargain & it's tax deductible. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.**

## Membership Form

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone

Tax Deductible Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations are not required to become a member*

I can help SNA by:

Delivering Newsletters

Becoming a Board Member

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to "**Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association**" and mail it to: 1421 Yellowstone Avenue, Milpitas, CA 95035

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Milpitas City Council**  
**455 E. Calaveras Blvd.**  
**Milpitas, CA 95035**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Everyone deserves decent, safe, affordable housing, especially the seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children like those who live in the Sunnyhills Apartments.

Please act now to **SAVE THE SUNNYHILLS APARTMENTS** by meeting immediately with JMK, the US Department of HUD, the Count of Santa Clara, the Housing Authority of Santa Clara County, Congressman Ro Khanna, and non-profit housing providers. Honor your promise of NO ADVERSE IMPACT to the tenants of the Sunnyhills Apartments.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

A personal note on why this is such an important issue to me:

Sunnyhills Tenants Association