



UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION SANTA BARBARA

Upper East News

April 2020

www.sbuppereast.org

A Slow-Moving Disaster: How UEA Adapted “Map Your Neighborhood” to Novel Coronavirus Readiness

[Map Your Neighborhood](#) is a program to help neighbors prepare for disasters. While we have a database of all households in the Upper East, it was through our MYN training of over 100 households in the Upper East in 2018 and 2019 that we learned how we can work together in small groups (blocks) led by [block captains](#) to save lives and property during the hours or days before first responders or outside help reaches us

Needless to say, the emergence of the novel coronavirus was not the disaster we trained for. Nonetheless, it provided us with an opportunity to test our readiness in what could be called a slow moving disaster. In the early stages, we developed emails addressing some of the critical information needs. But how did we know if neighbors in our blocks were actually OK? Through MYN, we had been instructed to put a sign saying “OK” that is visible from the street and assemble in a predefined location. However, we found ourselves in uncharted territory because the magnitude of the disaster was not urgent enough to activate the “OK” signs, and, of course, someone who was “OK” today would not necessarily be OK a few days later. The Board held a teleconference to discuss what to do, but we could not agree.

In the end, our block captains ended up solving the problem themselves. They checked on people who they had not been in contact with by phone. In some cases, for neighbors who were not trained in MYN the captains checked them visually or

asking someone visiting the house (an appropriate social distance) if the occupants were OK. In one case, where a block captain saw unopened newspapers accumulating, she further investigated to confirm everything was OK.

Not everything went perfectly, though. One block captain did not respond to our phone calls or emails (although we knew he was OK), and another decided she was no longer able to lead her block response team.

Thanks to these block captains for “stepping up” and checking-in on their neighbors: Lisa Burns, Dan Fishbein, Mary Forsell, Kathryn Hinsch, Mary Micallef, Fred Sweeney, and Martha Townsend.



Welcome Barbara Harley –Upper East Board Member 2020-2022

Barbara Harley settled in the Upper East in the Fall of 2018, after 30 years in Palo Alto, CA. Her career has focused on assisting universities and government agencies to develop entrepreneurial support programs (business incubators and science parks) for The World Bank in developing countries such as Tanzania, Kazakhstan, Romania, and Brazil, and government agencies in Japan, China, South Korea and South East Asia. She is keenly interested in the growing entrepreneurial community in Santa Barbara as well as many good-government issues. Her daughter and her family recently bought a home in the Eucalyptus Hills area.

Anacapa Street Traffic

UEA co-president Rod Hersberger regularly witnesses ‘near misses’ at the intersection of Los Olivos & Anacapa streets, so he contacted city staff and our District 4 Councilmember Kristen Sneddon over concerns for vehicle and pedestrian safety. A site visit and data evaluation resulted in city transportation staff recommendations for:

- Increase intersection visibility to provide side street traffic with a longer line of sight of approaching vehicles. This will be accomplished by extending the existing red curbs on Anacapa Street and by removing the vegetation in the parkway on the southwest corner; and
- Replacing the existing “cross traffic does not stop” sign for the eastbound approach with a larger sign to match the westbound approach.

“The collision history at this intersection falls well short of the State and Federal requirements outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for all-way stop installations.”

Derrick Bailey
Principal Traffic Engineer
City of Santa Barbara, Public Works
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However, the UEA board does not agree that simply counting the number of accidents addresses broader safety issues at this intersection. When City Transportation Director Rob Dayton contacted us to introduce the City’s Vision Zero program, a suggestion by UEA board member Cynthia TinOo for pedestrian crossings at Anacapa and Los Olivos resulted in city transportation staff conducting a pedestrian count. Transportation staff will make their recommendations to the City Transportation & Circulation Committee.

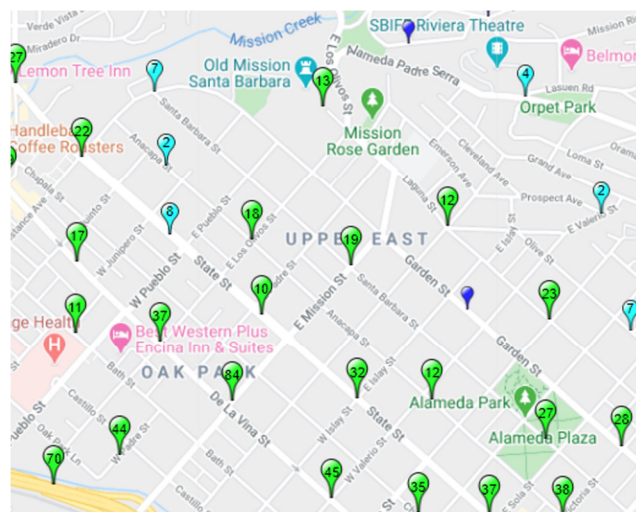
At the March UEA board meeting, Board members learned of city’s “Vision Zero” program to eliminate serious traffic accidents. One goal is to

slow traffic speeds on Anacapa Street, below Mission to Micheltorena Street. Traffic speeds can be more effectively controlled with perception of a more narrowed street, as occurs when parking is allowed on both sides. Conversely, when two lanes are available, cars tend to speed up and pass. Therefore, the city’s transportation design solution proposes to allow parking with sufficient space to allow parallel parking, safely open car doors on both sides of the street, additional space for bicyclists, while allowing for the flow of cars in one lane, located in the middle of Anacapa Street. This proposal is in its preliminary design phase.

We expect to learn more at upcoming meetings scheduled by the City Transportation Division so they can receive feedback from the neighborhood. UEA members will be informed as we get more information.

It was also announced that the City Council approved funding for installation of the following new traffic signals:

- Sola Street at Anacapa Street
- Sola Street at Santa Barbara Street
- Sola Street at Garden Street.



Collisions in and around UEA, 2009-2018