



UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION SANTA BARBARA

Upper East News

June 2020

www.sbuppereast.org

To borrow from Thomas Paine, these are the times that try people's souls. When we first heard of the coronavirus in China, we may have wrongly thought it would be isolated to that country. It quickly became a pandemic. Against this unknown and unseen enemy, neighborhoods and cities like ours came together to help each other understand and cope.

One positive we see is many more people exercising and enjoying the beautiful Upper East. We have become tourists in our own city. If we had to isolate and change some of our daily habits, we are indeed fortunate to be able to do so in such a setting.

The Board has continued meeting by Zoom. You will find some of our initiatives and actions elsewhere in the Newsletter. Please continue to share your ideas and concerns at ueacomm@gmail.com.

Rod Hersberger
Steve Forsell
Co-Presidents

Become a Board Member

For various reasons, three Board members resigned in May. The Association needs leadership from some neighbors who are willing to help. The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Any additional time commitment depends on the Board member's interest, but it would not likely be more than a couple of hours per month. Please express your interest in becoming a Board member to ueacomm@gmail.com.

Results of Anacapa Street Traffic Survey

Our Fourth District Councilmember Kristen Sneddon and Traffic Engineer Rob Dayton examined UEA member survey responses and took them to heart. Anacapa Street will be reduced to one lane to slow traffic from Mission Street to Micheltorena Street. A separate bike lane is not part of this plan. The Anacapa and Los Olivos intersection has been striped for pedestrian crosswalks. We will continue to monitor traffic on Anacapa and Los Olivos Streets after these improvements. The Board is still pursuing a 4-way stop at this intersection. Thank you to all who participated.

Upper East Association Donates to Pandemic Relief

On behalf of our membership, the Board voted to send \$500 to the United Way of Santa Barbara County's Emergency Child Care Fund. This fund is to support childcare needs of health care workers and others who are staying on the job during the pandemic. Additionally, former Board member Dr. Dan Fishbein donated \$500 to the Bucket Brigade on behalf of UEA to support its useful work.



City of Santa Barbara Historic Element

The first hearing of the City's revised Historic Element occurred at the Historic Landmarks Committee on May 27th. Board member Fred Sweeney, working with local historic preservation experts, prepared testimony which can be viewed along with the Historic Resources report of 48 pages [here](#).

The UEA Board appointed a subcommittee, chaired by Fred Sweeney with members, Joan Jameson and Lisa Burns, to review how the policies contained in the Historic Element might be applied to properties in the Upper East. Input for the UEA subcommittee on specific policies or concerns about how policies would be applied to properties should be sent to: ueacomm@gmail.com with subject line Historic Element.

Councilwoman Sneddon on State Street Reconfiguration

Your Board met with Councilmember Kristen Sneddon via Zoom on the closure of State Street during the coronavirus phased opening guidelines. We supported implementing the ideas from downtown revitalization manager Jason Harris. However, Steve Forsell noted that he expected a more European style where restaurants flowed outdoors. Instead, sidewalks were left open with restaurants on streets. Councilmember Sneddon said this might be a consequence of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues. She suggested a possible workaround with ramps up to businesses, but research would be needed. UEA Board member Frank Paolino recommended initiating a hashtag as a way for people to comment. Councilmember Sneddon would like to see the ramifications of State Street closure to be addressed from a wider city viewpoint, including traffic issues from outer State Street and how tourists find their way around our convoluted one-way street couplets.

Yard Signs

Local retired architect and longtime Upper East Board member Fred Sweeney designed yard signs to thank all who are helping keep us safe. We had ten signs made and the signs are deployed strategically around the neighborhood.



We want to recognize and thank all those who are helping keep us safe and functioning as a community.