



Dear member,

Here's the December 2015 edition of the Upper East Association's monthly newsletter. Happy holidays!

Upcoming Events

- **UEA Board Elections**

Just a reminder about the election notice we sent out recently. If you would like to cast a ballot for any or all Board nominees, the polls will be open until midnight **Saturday, December 26, 2015**. Remember, please cast only one ballot for each household. Here's the [link](#) to the ballot. Thanks for your participation.

FYI

- **City of Santa Barbara Emergency Preparedness Newsletter**

With what we hope will be a very wet winter rapidly approaching, here is a link to the City of Santa Barbara's monthly newsletter dedicated to providing disaster preparedness information for city residents from the City's Office of Emergency Services. May you all be safe, secure, and very wet.

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/news/publications/getready/default.asp>

- **RV Parking**

UEA members have been using the reporting system we created to document the RVs parking in our neighborhood. Analysis of the data shows that there are five vehicles that have remained in the neighborhood for at least one month, plus 12 others that have been reported 1-4 times. UEA President Fred Sweeney provided a preliminary version of the results at the November 24 City Council meeting. At that meeting Council voted 5-2 to have the Ordinance Committee prepare a proposed revision to the RV parking ordinance to allow the Chief of Police and Public Works Director to specify discretionary restrictions on RV parking. The board will continue to monitor the ordinance committee's progress and plans to attend its next scheduled meeting.

- **Safe Passage – Mission Heritage Trail Association**

While the City and County continue to search for funding for the next phase (design, environmental review and permitting) of the Mission Park to Mission Canyon Westside Corridor Project, those involved in the Safe Passage Project have been busy forming a new non-profit organization named the Mission Heritage Trail Association. The Upper East Association recently became an official member of the Mission Heritage Trail Association and will be joined over the next few months by the other institutions and organizations that have been involved with the Safe Passage Project. The Mission Heritage Trail Association's specific purposes are to:

- Educate the Santa Barbara community about the historic, cultural, and environmental resources within the Mission Heritage Trail area and support efforts to preserve, enhance, and interpret these resources;
- Support efforts to enhance opportunity for residents and visitors to have access to these resources, to enjoy and appreciate them;
- Improve the safety of people coming to and through Mission Heritage Trail in motorized vehicles and on bicycles or by foot, and ensure that traffic improvements are designed in accordance with the area's historic, cultural, and environmental values.

In addition to forming this new non-profit organization, we are working with the Santa Barbara Garden Club to support their project to restore the Memorial Olive Grove in Mission Historical Park above the intersection of APS and East Los Olivos Street. We will be looking for other projects like this that can be accomplished while we wait for the City and County to secure funding for the major Westside Corridor Project.

- **Vacation Rental Update**

Last summer the City started the enforcement process to eliminate short-term rentals (less than 30 days) in homes and apartments in the areas of the City zoned only for residential uses. In other words, short-term vacation rentals which have been operating in the City are being eliminated. During that discussion, the City Council authorized the City staff to explore how "home sharing" rentals could be allowed and regulated in residential zones. Home sharing is like a vacation rental but the regular resident is also on site during the rental period. About two weeks ago, the City Council received the report from City staff which concluded that enforcement and regulation would be extremely difficult and recommended against home sharing. The City Council, after hearing from a number of persons wanting to provide or continue to provide home sharing, unanimously voted against home sharing. The current status is that vacation rentals and home sharing continue to be contrary to the zoning ordinance of the City of Santa Barbara and enforcement will continue.

Out and About in Upper East

- **Upper East History – Winter Solstice at the Santa Barbara Mission**

On December 22, 2011, a new rose-shaped window was installed on the Mission's façade to replace one with a cross design. So why should this minor event pique our interest?

Santa Barbara Mission, along with many structures built during Spanish colonial rule, had a "calendar based" architectural feature, in this case a round illumination window located in the center of the façade. Our Mission is oriented in such a way that at dawn on the day of winter solstice a beam of sunlight streaming through that rose window would illuminate the central aisle and the altar. In the past the beam illuminated the 1790 Chumash tabernacle, whose abalone inlay and three mirrors reflected back the beam. Over the years the window's solstice-related function was slowly forgotten. In the 1950's the church's pipe organ, donated in 1905 by Andrew Carnegie, was moved in such a way that the window was blocked. By that time, the original rose window had been replaced with one with a cross, not a good design for directing a beam of sunlight.

The replacement of the "cross" window with a replica of the original rose window is but a first step. The pipe organ, which now blocks the window, needs to be reconfigured—a very costly project. For now, the beam of sunlight is let in through the open doors at dawn on December 21.

- **Walking with Mo**

Well it was bound to happen. Mo encountered his first experience with real on-the-street violence. While walking recently, we observed two large dogs on the loose running at full speed down Anacapa Street. At the speed they were going, I assumed they would be running all the way downtown, but within a few minutes they reversed themselves and came up the opposite side of the street Mo and I were walking on. Then out of the corner of my eye, I saw one dog charge directly across the street and within seconds it was on the top of Mo (Mo is a very small black dog). At that same moment a Good Samaritan driving down Anacapa slammed on her brakes, jumped out of her car and helped me chase off the dog. She then put Mo and me in her car and offered to drive us to the vet's office. After closer inspection, it turns out Mo was ok; I'm sure I was more shaken up than he was.

The lessons learned are be very aware of your surroundings as you walk, and be ready to act either by making an alternative move and/or using your cell phone to call the authorities. I called 911, but the Good Samaritan, after leaving Mo and me at the house, tracked the owner and the dogs to a location just the next block over. The owners are temporary residents of the neighborhood and were very apologetic. Nevertheless, it is a reminder to all of us to watch our animals carefully and leash them when they are away from our yards.

Now Mo and I are back walking and enjoying the beginnings of one of the best holiday seasons of the year, observing the work of many of neighbors, as they dress up their homes to share their joy of the season. So Mo and I wish you the best of the holiday season and we look forward to a great and fruitful New Year.

And finally a heartfelt thanks to the Good Samaritan who stopped to help us. I did not catch her name, so hopefully she will read this and know that Mo and I are most grateful.



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Happy Holidays
and all the best for the
New Year!