

Sunnysider

News From the Sunnyside Property Owners Association

Message from the President

Hello Sunnysiders,

Changes are coming to our Sunnyside area! Our volunteer board members are trying to promote and fight for better changes to the Sunnyside we love and call home. Let's make sure we support and thank them by becoming members and by doing our part to contribute to SPOA financially or physically. This board will listen to all Sunnysiders fighting for what is treasured!

Spring has sprung making our Sunnyside a very special place to live. We live among the majestic landscape of Oak and Eucalyptus trees lining our Fancher Creek Trail. The smell of orange blossoms throughout our neighborhoods reminds us of Spring.

So, what makes Sunnyside so special? We have our own Sunnyside Garden Club that has been in existence for many years. In fact, they are having their Flower Show on April 10 showing the amazing talents of their members. We have our own Citizens' Patrol whose members canvas the streets to ensure safety of the residents through watchful eyes. We have scholarship awards given to high school students from the Sunnyside area. We have area representatives who assist with problems within our Sunnyside boundaries. We have the Sunshine Gardens on Temperance where you can hand pick your own produce!

We have gained new places in Sunnyside too. Fancher Creek shopping center is adding new stores. PetSmart has a very tentative opening date of around July 15 or sooner. Michaels, Home Goods and Chipotle, which is very close to final paperwork, have yet to announce opening dates. Tractor supply has been very convenient with nice, helpful employees.

SAVE THE DATE OF MAY 8 AT 5:30 PM for our Spring Social. The event will be held on the front lawn at 5673 E. Butler (The old Richter home), now the home of Ralph and Christina Rendon, just East of Clovis Ave. on the North side of Butler. **THANK YOU** for your gracious hospitality.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for your support and your memberships. Please pass on information to neighbors who may not be members. Until our next newsletter, I hope for good events in your lives, good health, and lot of happy moments.

Very Sincerely,
Debbie Christian-President

Historic Street Signs Coming Back!



On March 19, Fresno City Council voted unanimously to begin the process of removing all Cesar Chavez street signs and return the streets to their original, historic names of Kings Canyon, Ventura and California Avenues. Stay tuned for more developments.

Baseball & Family Movie Night!



Bakman Field is back in full swing with 37 baseball/softball teams and more than 400 players! Games are nightly starting at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, April 25, come out for a family movie night on the field, bring your blankets & lawn chairs. Starts at dusk. Baseball-themed movie TBD. Check the SSSL Little League Facebook page for updates.



Southeast Fresno Sports Complex COMMUNITY MEETING

Construction is underway on our new 49-acre regional park located at 2155 S. Peach Ave. Learn more about the proposed addition of a community gym and other info.

May 4th | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Ayer Elementary School
5272 E. Lowe Ave. Fresno, CA 93727



Questions? Call 559-621-7529

Good Food, Great Company

Free Meals for Adults 60+ in Fresno & Madera Counties

Did you know there's a wonderful local program helping older adults stay healthy, connected, and supported?

The Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging offers free nutritious meals for adults aged 60 and older through their community Nutrition Programs.

Older adults can enjoy healthy meals, nutrition education, and meaningful social connections at welcoming congregate meal sites throughout Fresno and Madera Counties. It's a great opportunity to share a meal, meet others, and support overall well-being.

For those who are homebound due to illness, disability, or isolation, home-delivered meals are also available. Priority is given to individuals with the greatest social or economic need.

If you or someone you know could benefit from these services, trained staff are ready to help connect you with resources, including nutrition programs, healthcare support, transportation, housing assistance, and caregiver services.



Information & Assistance Resource Line:

559-214-0299 or 800-510-2020

A healthy meal and friendly connection could be just a phone call away!

Sunnyside Citizens Patrol



If you see something, say something -- a simple concept foundational to Sunnyside Citizens' Patrol (SCP). Since reforming, your traveling "neighborhood watch"

group has logged 54 volunteer

hours! And, for the most part the streets and neighborhoods were quiet. However, for every 10 quiet streets, there may be one suspicious looking activity that's called into the Sheriff's department -- and according to Sheriff Zanoni they appreciate the additional eyes and ears.

One of the perks of patrolling is meeting with deputies and detectives assigned to our area to discuss crime activity within the county areas of Sunnyside. In turn, patrollers share information received from neighbors, which is then relayed to deputies on patrol.

If you would like to join the SCP, contact Debbie Christian at 559-287-3019. The commitment is merely two hours a month, time well spent keeping Sunnyside safe.



Sunnyside Property Owners Association

DONATION DROP-OFF EVENT

SATURDAY MAY 9th, 2026

9AM - 1PM



Bring your donations to this location:

Vons Parking Lot

5638 E. Kings Canyon Road
Fresno, California 93727

For more information, please contact **Pennie Mitten**, Donations Coordinator at **(602) 501-8405**



For a complete list of items we are able or unable to accept, please scan the QR code.



YOUR DONATIONS TRANSFORM LIVES!

Spring Fling

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH | 5:30-8:00

5673 E. BUTLER AVENUE
(EAST OF CLOVIS AVE. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF BUTLER)

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS ON THE FRONT LAWN
OF THE BEAUTIFUL SUNNYSIDE HOME OF
CHRISTINA & RALPH RENDON

MINI CAR SHOW – SEE SOME OF THE HIDDEN TREASURES STORED AWAY IN SUNNYSIDE
LIMITED PARKING AVAILABLE, PLEASE WALK, OR SHARE A RIDE IF POSSIBLE. BYOB.

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING
STEVE NANCE | GUITARIST



TACO TRUCK & SOCIAL HOUR
\$25 MEMBERS

\$35 NON-MEMBERS

RESERVATIONS MAY BE PAID ONLINE AT
SPOAFRESNO.ORG OR BY CHECK.



Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reservations may be paid online at s孢afresno.org or by check.

Dinner Reservation(s) \$25 member quantity _____ \$35 non-member quantity _____

Renew your Membership \$40 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail completed reservation form and check to: SPOA, Attn: Spring Social, P.O. Box 8096, Fresno, CA 93747-8096

SPOA Supports the

SPOA was established in 1954 by a group of concerned citizens fighting to preserve their quiet family community, which was being threatened by offensive odors coming from the Gallo Winery. Seventy years later, the Sunnyside area continues to attract both young and old who appreciate its history, serene character, and tree-lined streets. This enduring appeal has also meant that new challenges continue to arise.

SPOA works to address the issues and concerns affecting city and county property owners by closely monitoring and collaborating with local agencies and elected officials. Recently, a few Board members met with Supervisors Nathan Magsig and Buddy Mendes, as well as City Councilmember Brandon Vang. These meetings were constructive and well-received. Some of the items shared included:

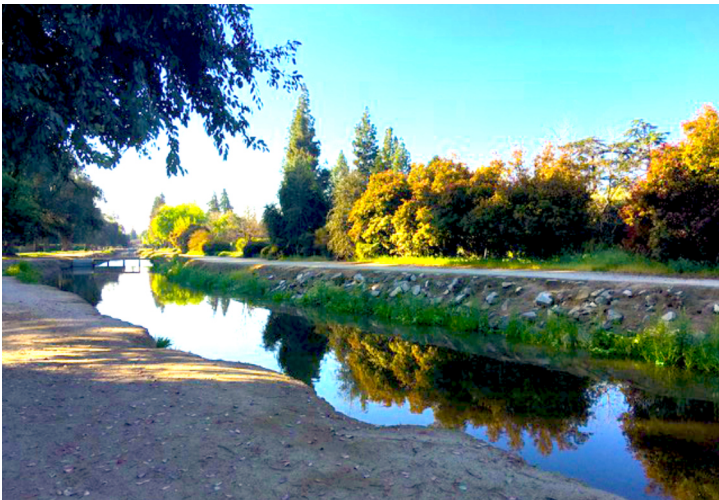
Code Enforcement

Unruly loud parties, unlicensed home businesses, group homes, food vendors, garbage containers, fireworks, dumping, abandoned vehicles, and big rig/trailer parking continue to be complaints. SPOA supports the new County noise ordinance, which allows individuals to anonymously report excessive noise, and has

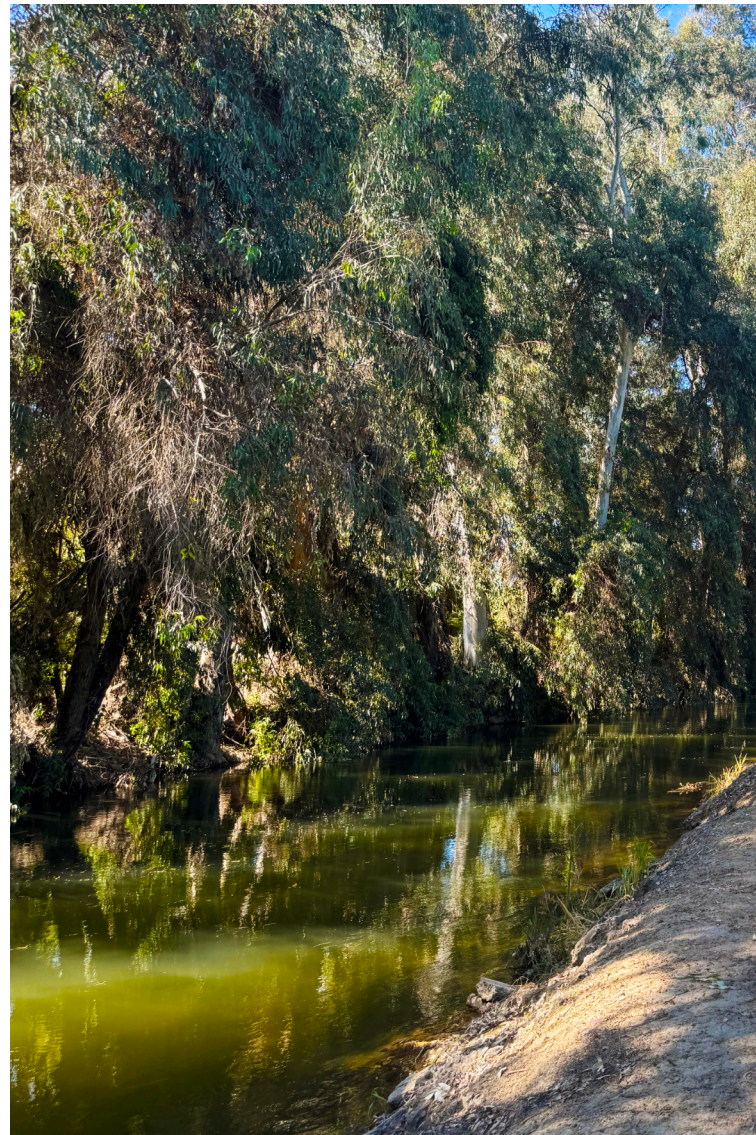
suggested Fresno City adopt the same. SPOA has also advocated for strengthening enforcement of code violations by adding penalties to property tax bills and cracking down on unlicensed food vendors. Finally, SPOA urges a more proactive and coordinated approach to illegal fireworks from both Fresno City and County.

Crime, Trash, and the Unhoused

More needs to be done to reduce the number of people living on the streets and the related crime, panhandling, and litter. Problem areas include the commercial corners



Sunnyside's trees on the west side of Fancher Creek, north of Butler, shown post tree-trimming. Thanks to past Sunnyside visionaries and recent generous donations from our members!



Sunnyside Fancher

e “Sunnyside Way”

of Kings Canyon and Clovis Ave., Balch and Phillips behind the Food Maxx shopping center, and the area around the Sunnyside Library. A more proactive collaboration between landowners and the city/county, requiring posted signage prohibiting loitering, camping, overnight parking, completely enclosed and locked trash containers, and the addition of video surveillance and/or private security, if needed. Increased monitoring by law enforcement would discourage unauthorized and illegal activity.



ther Creek Trail

The Clovis Median and Historical Treescapes
Years ago, the Sunnyside Garden Club, SPOA, and Tree Fresno worked together to plant the county median on Clovis Ave. from Park Circle Drive south to the railroad tracks. These trees have been hand-watered by members of the community for more than five years. In addition, the treescape on Butler Avenue from Peach to Clovis was placed on the County’s List of Historic Places in 2002. It’s time that the City and County work together to provide irrigation and maintenance for these public spaces and classify Butler, west of Peach, as a Scenic Drive and its olive trees as Heritage Trees in the City General Plan.

The Central Southeast Specific Plan (CSESP) Premature repeal of the Butler Willow Specific Plan and the Roosevelt Community Plan will leave almost 13,000 acres unprotected. Request these plans remain until new plans are in place.

One Fresno Housing Strategy/Rezoning and Infill
While the city pursues a pro-housing agenda, we ask for continued support in ensuring the public is well represented and the decision-making process remains open, transparent, and inclusive, respecting the opinions of those who are impacted the most.

Road Repair and Speeding
Sunnyside’s streets are in serious need of repair, and more patrols are needed to reduce speeding and reckless driving in school zones and on Minnewawa, Clovis, and Temperance Avenues.

Have a complaint and need help?

Contact your SPOA Area Representative
or email: spoa.info@gmail.com.

For emergencies, dial 911.

The Senator Ray W. and Marie C. Hays Home

By Michelle Gibbs

Tucked into Sunnyside, one of Fresno's most scenic and history-filled neighborhoods, the Senator Ray W. and Marie C. Hays Home (H.P. #310) is a unique piece of local heritage. Built in 1937 at 1616 S. Minnewawa Avenue, the home blends Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tudor influences. It was originally part of a much larger ranch, a reminder of Sunnyside's agricultural roots. The olive trees lining the property, along with others on South Minnewawa and East Butler, were recognized as a historic landscape on the Fresno County Landmark list in 2000.



The Senator Ray W. and Marie C. Hays Home

Ray Hays, an attorney, Army veteran, and California State Senator (1930 to 1942), and his wife Marie raised their family here. The home is believed to be connected to architect Charles Butner, though that remains unconfirmed.

Today, its historic designation helps preserve not just the home, but the character and story of Sunnyside itself. It is also a reminder that Sunnyside is full of special properties like this, true gems that deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

This excerpt is adapted from an original article by Ryan Eddings and Brianne Marriott, available at SpoaFresno.org



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School District**

**Valerie F. Davis, Member
Board of Education**

2309 Tulare Street • Fresno, CA 93721-2287
Phone: 559/457-3727 • Fax: 559/486-3213
Email: Valerie.Davis@fresnounified.org

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W: 559 472-3824 M: 559 283-4453

2025/2026

SUNNYSIDE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

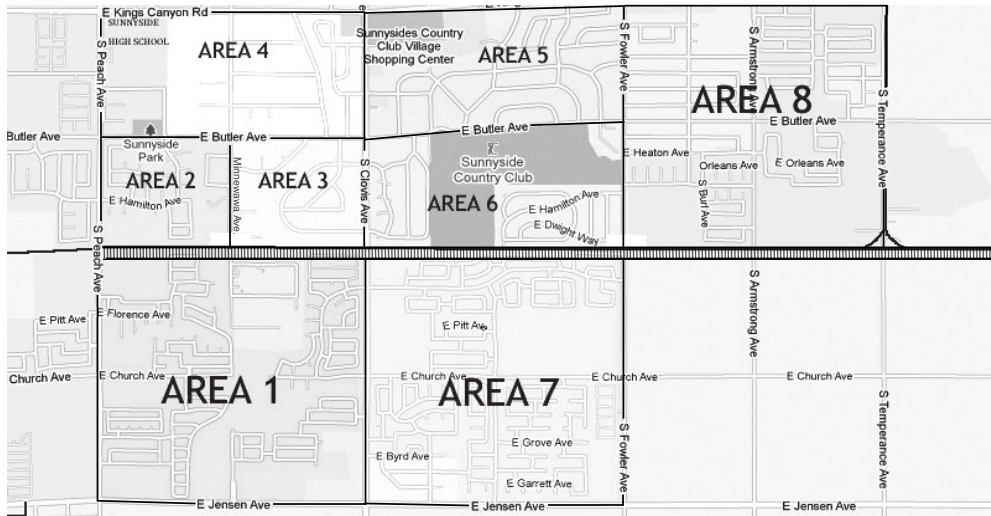
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- Treasurer: Randy Sakamoto
- Corresponding Secretary: Sue Williams
- Recording Secretary: Debby McCann
- Parliamentarian: Karen Musson
- Parliamentarian Pro Tem: Adam Hadjinian

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Preston Merlo
(559) 618-1817
Prestonmerlo1@gmail.com



Directors July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027

- Ron Johnson Stephanie Sherrell
- Steve Vasquez Michell Gibbs

Directors July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026

- John Carlson Mary Montgomery, Membership
- Aletha Lang

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 6 pm.
If you have an agenda item, please contact the President.





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PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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HELPFUL NUMBERS

- Emergency.....911
- Sheriff’s Department.....(559)600-3111
- Fresno County Fire.....(559)493-4300
- County Road Maintenance.....(559)600-4240
- County Zoning Issues.....(559)600-4540
- California Highway Patrol.....(559)705-2200
- Environmental Health.....(559)600-3357
- Fresno County Supervisors
 - Buddy Mendes, District 4....(559)600-4000
 - Nathan Magsig, District 5..(559)600-5000
 - FAX.....(559)600-1609
- Violation Complaint Forms/
 - Code Enforcement.....(559)600-4550
- Fresno City Call Center...(559)621-CITY(2489)
- Fresno City Council Members..(559)621-8000

Sunnyside Newsletter Ads

Advertising Rates (per issue):
Business card: \$100.00
Quarter page: \$175.00

Sunnyside Property Owners Association

**Open meetings second
Thursday each month at 6 PM.**

Join Today!
www.spoafresno.org

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