

May 2020 Newsletter

FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the 2020 Spring newsletter. Who could have imagined the crazy times we are all living through now? Let's all be grateful for the beautiful, safe and friendly "quarantine" spot we call home. All of us on your SMPNA Board are happy to be locked down with all of you!

We'll see you out walking our scenic streets... at a 6' distance of course! Stay safe, keep calm and please reach out to neighbors who may need assistance. We wish all of you a healthy and peaceful 2020.

Sincerely,
SMPNA Board



San Mateo Park Neighborhood Assn.

PARK TREE FUND LAUNCHED

Your Neighborhood Association now has a fund dedicated to conservation of our island trees. With an anonymous grant of \$5K given specifically "for the trees," we were off!

Building on that, two neighborhood families put out a challenge grant for the Fund, offering to match gifts of \$1K or more, up to \$10K. The aim was to encourage larger gifts than we ask for in annual dues and so enable us to undertake more ambitious tree-related projects.

Park neighbors stepped up and the challenge was met. We now have a balance of \$28,250 in The Park's Tree Fund. For fuller results of this and our regular dues fundraising for 2019 – also generously supported by many of our residents – please see Financials and Donor Recognition summaries inside.

Why are we raising money specifically for a Tree Fund?

Trees and islands define The Park! The City only prunes its trees when there is an imminent hazard or it removes dead trees. If we want our islands to look better than that standard affords, we need to fund the required work. It's that simple.

We've shown we can do that. Neighbors' regular, annual dues contributions will remain the backbone for our efforts, funding extra grounds maintenance for our islands, watering our young public trees, and enabling various improvement projects.

But it has been 15-20 years since the deadwood that accumulates in our island trees was pruned out. (The SMPNA funded that work too, during five years in early

(continued on page 3)



Cool poppies and warm wishes along Occidental

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Virginia McIsaac

Secretary: Margaret Miley

Treasurer: Dave Pearson

Trees & Islands: Linda Bogue

Web & Newsletter: David Long

TOO SOON?

Do not call the police on suspicious people in the neighborhood: those are your neighbors without makeup or haircuts!

2019: Avoid negative people

2020: Avoid positive people

You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people home-schooled by day drinkers.

Quarantine has turned us into dogs: we roam the house all day looking for food; we are told "no" if we get too close to strangers; and we get really excited about car rides.

Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen." You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have NO clue how this place is still in business.

SMPNA BOARD NOW HIRING!

What would this newsletter be without another plea for volunteers? We have been "beating the bushes" as it were for several years now and the response has been, frankly, nothing. Let's change tactics and ask instead what is keeping you from getting involved. Community spirit and an interest in pitching in are all that's needed. And remember, if you would like a better understanding of what it is we do, please let's arrange to have you attend one of our monthly meetings. We promise no pressure, no guilt...you might even enjoy it! So thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

REMINDER:

The City of San Mateo reminds us that home rentals of less than 30 days are illegal here.

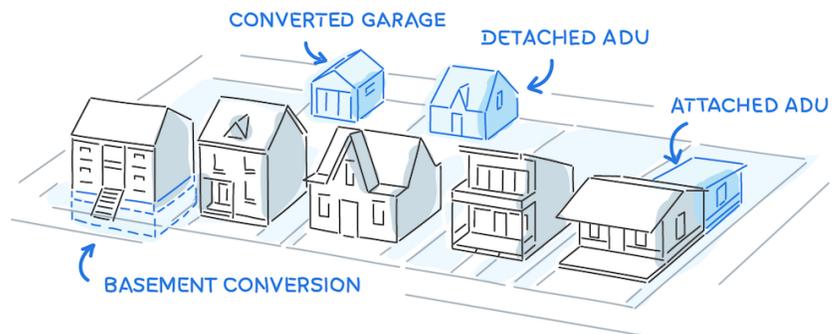
WHAT'S NEW? ADU

In the past few years and notably during 2019, the California legislature passed several housing reform bills aimed at alleviating the State's housing crisis. Legislation that took effect 1/1/20 is designed to increase construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling units (JADUs) – easing local zoning controls over these structures by reducing regulation and development fees and expediting permitting. Areas zoned as single family will not be able to enforce zoning restrictions where ADU additions are concerned.

The Planning Department and City Council are now addressing those few areas where some local control over ADU development remains.

For example, they will decide whether ADU heights will be limited to the state mandate of at least 16 ft. or allowed up to San Mateo's current single-family housing height limit of 24 ft. They may choose to require certain standards for exterior details for side and rear facing elevations, or window glazing to insure privacy with neighbors. To see what is under consideration please refer to item #10 on the agenda of city council meeting held March 2, 2020.

For [complete information](#) on these new provisions or to link to the [March 2 City Council meeting](#), please click the links found on our website.



Graphic courtesy Murray Lampert

WHAT'S AN ADU? WHAT'S A JUNIOR ADU?

An **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)**, also known as a granny or in-law unit, is a smaller living unit. An ADU is an attached or detached residential dwelling unit which provides independent living facilities for one or more persons. The ADU unit is located on the same property as the primary residence, is accessory to the primary residential building and is required to be smaller than the primary residence. An ADU is required to provide permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking facilities, and sanitation, as well as, meet other requirements as stipulated by applicable life and safety code requirements from the Building Division, Fire and Public Works Departments.

A **Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit (JADU)** is an additional, independent living unit created through the conversion of an existing legally permitted bedroom in a single-family dwelling.

TREE FUND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

2000s.) We need to do it again. But it’s expensive, so we work at the pace we can fund. We also would be well served by some structural pruning on young island trees and we might want to plant more trees than the City allots us. The Tree Fund gives us means to accelerate or undertake efforts such as these.

We will announce projects funded out of our new Tree Fund as they are planned and carried out. Meanwhile, we welcome new, major donors as well as friends of the Tree Fund to join in! Don’t forget that your annual dues come first, as they support ongoing programs. But for those who are passionate and able, we now have this Tree Fund as a tax-deductible way to make significant, near-term improvements in our trees and islands.

These donors contributed to the Tree Fund

Founding gift:

Anonymous \$5,000

Matching Fund Challenge Grants:

Stephanie & D’Arcy Roche \$5,000
 Don & Linda Bogue \$5,000

Park Conservators:

The Macy Family \$2,500
 Vince & Jean Anicetti \$1,000
 Laura Bryant \$1,000
 Meg & Marc Galletti \$1,000
 Cindy & Ray Reinertson \$1,000
 Daniel & Zoe Scheinman \$1,000
 Greg & Liz Vaughan \$1,000
 Lauren Weaver & Bradley Klingenberg \$1,000
 Steve & Patty Mayer \$1,000

Friends of the Tree Fund (various amounts)

Andrea and Stephen Dover
 John & Amy Mendez
 Linda & Steven Monosson
 Tom & Liz O’Connor
 John & Melinda Adams
 Gary & Nancy Steele
 Eleanor & Stephen Yuen
 Isaacs-Mailliard Family
 Gordon and Cynthia Lewis
 John Schulz & Barbara Eisenhauer
 Alden & Marianne Briscoe
 Claus & Karin Rehder

Total Raised to date: \$28,250



CURB APPEAL

Ever notice the iron bands on curb faces of a few neighborhood driveways? These are relics from the days when horse drawn carriages plied The Park. They protected the curbs from damaging collisions by wagon wheels. If you have these, you are a guardian of Park history.

Iron banded curbs are the oldest in The Park and often the concrete behind them is in poor shape. If you are replacing one of these curbs or your drive’s concrete apron, why not salvage those bands and have them reinstalled after the repair is complete. Or, if Public Works is doing curb and apron repair, you can insist that happen. These curbs are one more unique feature of The Park that’s worth preserving.



Vintage iron guard protecting curb

STREET TREES & ISLANDS

Over the past year we continued our regular, annual programs of watering young trees during the dry season and funding extra care for our island grounds. These are ongoing commitments, made possible by the dues contributions of neighbors, and once again we are able to continue them for the coming year.

Loss and renewal continues among our street and island trees. Where trees have died, the City removes and replants for us. This planting season the Park received thirteen new street trees and four new island trees – all replacements, as is expected among the venerably aged trees in our landscape. The aim of the master plan for the Park’s reforestation is to replant established species or, if that’s not feasible, species that will mature to replicate the feel and significance of the trees in McLaren’s original plan for the Park.

We also took a risk – in confidence that our neighborhood would back this effort and replenish our treasury – and committed the bulk of our discretionary funds to cleaning out deadwood from trees on six of our islands. The City does not perform ‘aesthetic’ pruning so if we want those trees to look their best, we need to fund the work. We chose islands that had significant, visible accumulations of deadwood and in February, Advanced Tree Care gave these a thorough cleanout:

- Plums, mid-block on Warren, west of Crescent
- Magnolias, mid-block on Clark west of Crescent
- Italian stone pines, Clark & Hurlingham
- Coast live oak, Warren & Costa Rica
- Coast live oaks, Warren & Dorchester
- Coast live oaks, Warren, east of Crescent

Now, thanks to neighbors’ generous responses to The Park’s new Tree Fund (see article, pg 1), we are able to go ahead with cleaning out the trees on six more islands. In June, Advanced Tree Care is scheduled to work on these:

- Coast live oaks, Costa Rica & Westmoreland
- Coast live oaks, Clark & Midway
- Coast live oaks, islands at Warren & Occidental
- Coast live oak, W. Bellevue, west of Hurlingham
- Coast live oak, Crescent & W. Bellevue

The work on these twelve islands costs \$30,000. Our aim is to provide similar pruning for all our island trees that are made less attractive by their buildup of deadwood. We plan to move forward with this program as our funds allow.

PLEASE DON’T RAKE THE DUFF!

The ground cover for most of our islands is mulch of one sort or another. This treatment is easiest to maintain – ground cover planting requires hand weeding of the island, which the City cannot sustain -- and focuses visual interest on the trees themselves. A good mulch cover suppresses weeds and retains moisture for those trees.

The best possible mulch is a tree’s natural leaf or needle fall, called ‘duff.’ A tree’s own foliage contains exactly the nutrients it needs from the soil. For example, pine needles are acidic, pines like acidic soil, so needle fall from pines creates a virtuous cycle. Perfect!

The City also uses wood chips to mulch our islands. But depending what type of tree those chips come from, they could be ‘wrong’ (or less beneficial, anyway) for the island where they are spread. Where duff is accumulating well, the City gives this natural mulch preference over imported chips. A well-intentioned island cleanup by neighbors that includes raking up the natural duff is actually a setback for the health of its trees.

Aside from helping contain moisture, new, pristine-looking chips are not beneficial to our trees. In fact, although many people think fresh chips look best and want them replenished frequently, new chips actually take nitrogen from the soil in the process of decomposing. It’s only when they are breaking or broken down, and so perhaps less appealing aesthetically, that they begin to contribute nutrients back into the soil. Please remember, the City does not authorize neighbors to spread chips – or to plant – on our islands. Pick up litter? Fine. Pull a weed here and there between City visits? No one is complaining. But the City will spread those mounds of chips, eventually. And the ‘good stuff’ – duff – is perfect right where it is.



Pauline and Janet Chapman home on Clark

FINANCIAL UPDATE

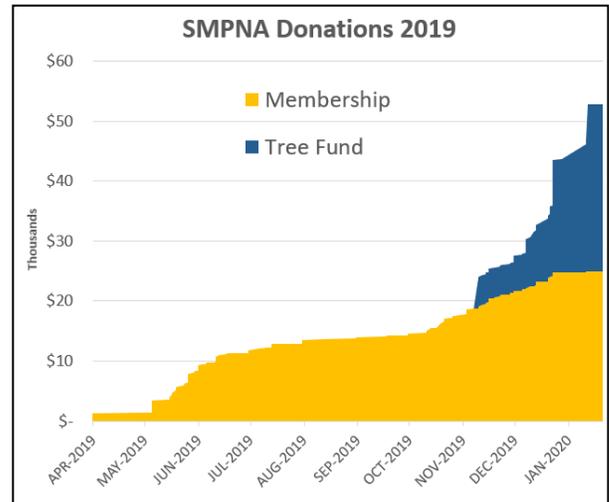
Your generosity and that of your neighbors have replenished our resources as we ramp up our expenditures. Not only did we fund the deadwood trimming of 6 major islands, but you came through to establish our new, dedicated Tree Fund.

Our annual fundraising from the neighborhood begins with this, our Spring newsletter, with a follow-up in the Fall. In the last few years, we've had dramatic response from our residents to fund our programs.

2019 was particularly impressive, setting a record for regular dues donations. An even greater amount was raised for The Park's new Tree Fund, with half of its initial funding coming from 3 donors.

Total 2019 membership donations: \$25,875

Total Tree Fund donations: \$28,250



The City of San Mateo controls our islands and street trees. Our timing of spending is dependent on: 1) our confidence that we will have funds (continued on page 7)

BEE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

Have you noticed that some of The Park's trees house thriving colonies of honeybees? These bees are indeed busy, not only making honey but pollinating our neighborhood trees and shrubs. With bee colonies nationwide mysteriously dying, cities and counties – including San Mateo – are taking a more protective stance toward honeybees.

Park neighbor, Nickie Irvine is a bee expert and member of the Beekeepers' Guild of San Mateo County. As founder of the Guild's Site Evaluator program, she can be counted on to evaluate whether wild bee colonies here pose a nuisance.

In most cases, bees are benign and pose no threat to neighbors. Honey bees don't sting unless their hives are threatened. And passersby don't trip that wire. For those very few who are truly allergic to bee stings— of course keep a cautionary distance.

Recently, a Park neighbor noted a lot of honeybees flying alongside a sidewalk area. Nickie identified the cause: a swarm was 'launching' from its nest to re-produce a colony. She explains: a new queen is raised and then some in the colony accompany the old queen in search of a new home. These emigrants land somewhere in a beardlike clump and hang out



An active bee swarm looking for a home in The Park

together for a few hours or days while scouts look for a suitable site. With new digs decided on, they swarm a second time and make a beeline straight there. The dramatic sight of honeybees swarming might be alarming, but in fact they are even less likely to sting in this configuration because they are not

protecting a hive. And sure enough, the Park's sidewalk swarm moved harmlessly off to a happy new home.

Honeybees and their colonies offer us opportunities to observe the busy actors that account for perhaps one-third of our food supply and much of the blooming splendor of our gardens. And who knows? Those hardy wild hives we protect here may harbor bees genetically resistant to whatever is

threatening their ilk -- making them the future of their kind. That's something Nickie and the S.M. Bee Guild are researching.

If you view a swarm, "Who 'ya gonna call?" Get free help to collect it from trained beekeepers on the Bee Guild's swarm list : www.sanmateobeeguild.org/swarm/. The site is also a good place to start for more honeybee info.

McLaren Park Patrons

John & Melinda Adams
Vince and Jean Anicetti
Bob and Alison Baumann
Mufaddal Bootwala
Kimberly Bottoms
Laura Bryant
Jennifer & Michael Buckley
Victor Carboni
Paul & Janet Chapman
Carol and Michael Cohen
David & Alexis Colker
John & Brideen Connolly
Ruthmary & John Cradler
Kurt & Julie De Grosz
Kirk DeClark
Angela Deng & Ye Li
Marc & Susan Desautels
Jeff & Rochelle Diodati
Andrea and Steve Dover
Barbara Engler
John Schulz & Barbara Eisenhauer
Nick & Jeffie Feakins
Gayle & Glen French
Cecilia Frew
Meg and Marc Galletti
Linda & John Gemello
Robert and Barbara Gilmartin
Mark & Martha Greenough
Jeff Heimbeck
Jerry & Sky Hill
Bruce & Patricia Hraba
Barbara, Jonathan & Patricia Huddleston
James Isaacs & Page Mailliard
Allison Keenan
Bill & Susan Kenney
Bradley Klingenberg
Don & Flo Kristofferson
Alice Kubler
Joe & Donna Lanam
Gordon and Cynthia Lewis
The Macy Family
Steve & Patty Mayer
Virginia & Peter Mclsaac
Stuart & Meg McLaughlin
Mike McCook & Vicki McWilliams
John & Amy Mendez
Alan & Linda Merrifield
Julie Montanari & Dave Pearson
Elizabeth & Roger Owner
Aubrey Obata
Andrea & Tim O'Riordan
Kim & Gary Palmer
Saswati Paul & Nathan Krishnan
The Pizzi Family
Scott & Lane Poms
David Pritchard
Anita & James Reimann
Stephanie & D'Arcy Roche

Zoe and Dan Scheinman
Douglas and Lee Shult
Ida Sim & Peter Karp
Doug & Judy Sobolik
Cathy and Sean Stannard-Stockton
Rich & Kimball Statler
Shannon & Paul Varunok
Liz & Greg Vaughan
Howard & Margaret Weiland
Bob & Marie Whitehill
Laura Winfrey & Doug Grigsby
Todd & Linda Zucker

Matthew Schroth
Whitney Simonds
Cynthia Smith
Jack & Cathy Stanghellini
Ron & Faye Star
Michael & Regina Steele
Tom & Joanne Stodgel
Tim & Heather Stretch
Roger Testa
Cathleen & Chad Thomas
Craig Tigue
Susan Tiner
Brad & Lynn Tuthill
Mary Ann & Neil Waldo
Genie & Paul Watermulder
Bob & LeeAnn Weeks
Jim & Nancy Whelan
Andrea Willett
Megan Winters
Stephen & Eleanor Yuen

McLaren Members

Mary & Horst Adam
Laura & Inger Agorio
Tom Ames
Modell Marlow Andersen
Don & Louise Arata
Colleen Berube
Amy & Andre Bessette
Judy & Roland Bianchi
Virginia Blahut
Ron & Elaina Bland
Bob & Patricia Blee
Robert & Patricia Boesch
Linda & Don Bogue
Megan & Mike Bohnert
Alden & Marianne Briscoe
Tish and Jim Busselle
Anne & Paul Carrella
Juliet Dankmeyer
Wayne & Roxana Del Carlo
Michael Drennan & Linda Koo
Heather Falvey
Robert and Susan Fernandez
Sam & Mary Folsom
Mark & Suzanne Frappier
Shelley Frisbie
Christopher and Michelle Chaudoir
Michael Gehrke
Reinhard Weiser & Joan Grant
Debbie & Mike Harrison
Luis & Kathi Iglesias
Dominique Irvine
Roxanne Ivory
Donald & Helen Jaffe
Jane Kang and Lester Liu
Rick and Judy Kell
Bruce Kirschner
Marion Kullberg
Mark & Caroline Lowpensky
Sharon & Phillip Marson
Nancy Martin
Fred McDaniel & Liz Rieke
Brian & Eileen McKague
Greg Melvin
Margaret Miley
Carol Murphy & Bruce Blumberg
Margaret Miley
Tom & Liz O'Connor
Jim and Linda O'keefe
Frans Op den Kamp
Joan Haller Parmer
The Perks Family
Christine & Frank Regan
Cindy and Ray Reinertson
Nayla Rizk
Pam Royer

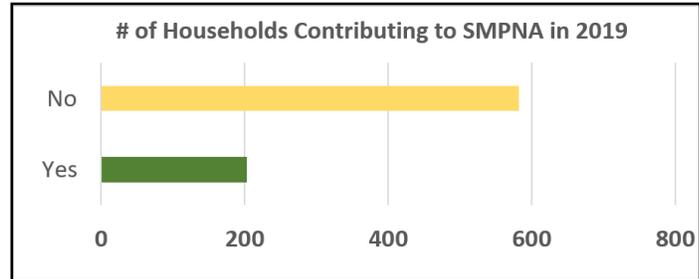
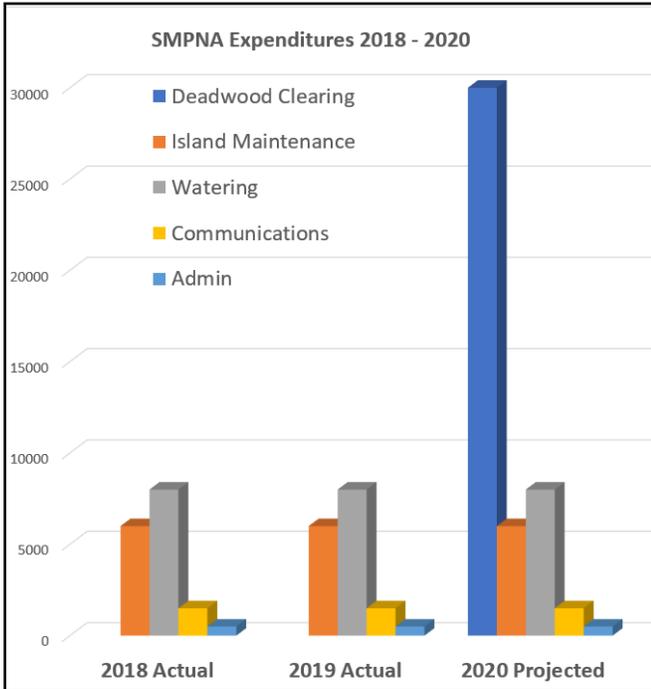
Park Supporters

Nancy Baleix
David & Mary Balestrieri
Betty Bernstein
Carlene & Allan Brasel
Tom & Brenda Carlson
Timothy & Karen Catlin
Anna Marie Cronin
Lois Crotty
Olga Dargham
Audrey D'Elia
Jacqueline Devgan
Shannon Durinn
Diane Elcan
Madalyn & Tom Fitzpatrick
Kirsten Garen
Robert Fucilla & Patricia Georges
Darren Gold
Steven Green
Ann & David Hayashi
Maria-Elena Healy
Tom Heaton
Lucy Heller
Ken & Patty Howarth
Jaqueline James
Mike and Sally James
Joanne & Richard Jordan
Tom & Tammy Kiely
Roger & Sally Krakow
Siuling Ku
The Latham Family
John D. Long
Melissa Matross
Al & Miek McCubbin
Carolyn & Allan McCune
McLain Family
Jean McLaughlin
Bob & Cindy Mendoza
Monica Pribuss & Dennis Moskovitz
Ann & John Murray
Pat Pepper
Claus & Karin Rehder
Diana Rilliet
Cliff Robbins & Margie Shafer
Mrs. Ruth Larsen Scammon
Connie Sevier
Robert & Lisa Stanton
Michael Strambi
Katie Tolve
David and Isabel Villongco
Bob & Lili Walker
Thomas J Weissmiller
Laurence Whitehead
Harry Yen
Hanna Zanon

FINANCIAL UPDATE

(continued on from page 5)

available and 2) the City’s timeline to approve our project proposals, solicit contractor bids, and oversee the work. With funding in place, we will be spending more on improving our landscape, beyond our normal maintenance.



A key goal of the Board is to increase participation by our community at large. Now, approximately 25% of the households in the Park contribute to SMPNA. All residents of the park are automatically members of the Association and while a financial contribution is not required, we would like to expand our engagement with missing members of the neighborhood.

Thank you for your generous donations and support!

SAN MATEO PARK 2020 DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS

Click on our direct link at: www.sanmateopark.org/contribute for PayPal. Prefer a check? Please fill out the form below and mail check payable to SMPNA to: **San Mateo Park Neighborhood Assn., P.O Box 1271, San Mateo, CA 94401**

My name and address on reverse are correct. Or, please indicate any changes below:

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ Phone _____

Email(s): _____

In addition to your annual membership donation, we welcome additional contributions to our new Tree Fund.

↓

ANNUAL DONATION LEVEL (check one)

\$200 McLaren Patron
 \$100 McLaren
 \$50 Supporter

↓

TREE FUND (check one)

\$5,000
 \$2,500
 \$1,000
 Other

All dues are voluntary and are not a condition of membership. Contributions, dues and Tree Fund, are tax deductible (Fed EIN 56-2631949) and are credited for recognition in the calendar year received. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Comments/Suggestions - email us at board@sanmateopark.org or mail in your comments below:

If your address label on reverse of this page is incorrect, please mail or email us a correction

THE SPRING OF HOPE?

*Wish I had
moved to
The Park...*

In 1859, before The Park was carved out of a family dairy farm and developed into the neighborhood we now cherish, Charles Dickens opened “A Tale of Two Cities” with words that resonate today:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...”

The times we’re in stretch the imagination, as we employ social distancing from our friends, our families, and our Park neighbors. But can anyone think of a better neighborhood in which to shelter in place? To walk, to bike, to gaze out windows at trees and islands? We’re so fortunate to live in The Park. But we knew that when we moved here. Though not one of us said “this will be the perfect place to quarantine during a pandemic” before moving here, it turned out to be one of the best choices we’ve ever made.

We’ll get through this. Hopefully sooner than we think. And, at the end of the tunnel, we’ll know our Park neighbors better. We’ll have new walking/biking routes explored. And we’ll have gotten the full value of our Netflix/HBO/Disney and wine club subscriptions.

Your volunteer Neighborhood Association Board wishes your families good health, safety, patience, wisdom, and enough paper products to weather the storm.



Thanks to: **Linda Bogue** for trees/islands/bees updates, **Dave Pearson** for financial updates, **Virginia McIsaac** for ADU, **Margaret Miley** for Board Letter, **David Long** for website & newsletter.

And special thanks to our **generous residents** who support the efforts of the SMPNA!

Cocktail gathering at the Clark / Hurflingham intersection

