

MAIDU NEIGHBORS

A monthly publication of the
Maidu Neighborhood Association

December 2024



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Santa Rode Through Our Neighborhood on December 10th!

The evening of December 10th was another in a string of dry, cool evenings, and Santa found his way to our neighborhood once again, thanks to help from the City of Roseville Utilities, Police and Fire departments. They arrived about 6:55 p.m. at the park by Sargeant School. Was it ever was exciting to hear the parade of



vehicles coming with the Police sounding sirens or horns and having flashing lights on their motorcycles. Then came a fire truck and Santa's elves, handing out candy to neighbors. Then came Santa himself, in a biplane.



There were about 110 neighbors out to see Santa arrive. The Maidu Neighborhood Association volunteers had candle-lit luminaria lining the path into Willard Dietrich Park, and hot cocoa, cookies, and activities for Santa fans of all ages who were waiting for Santa to arrive. We hope Santa will be able to visit us again next year!

We do not meet in December. Our next Maidu meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m.** During the school year, we meet at the **Sargeant School Multi-purpose Room** which is **to the left side of the front of the school on the Ridgecrest side.** Join us for a police report and catch up on neighborhood goings-on. Bring any questions or concerns you have.

*The Maidu Neighborhood Association (MNA) is a member of the Roseville Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (RCONA). Search for **Maidu N.A.** on Facebook and "like" us. Feedback or Questions? Email us at [feedback\(at\)maiduna.com](mailto:feedback(at)maiduna.com).*

One Neighbor's Opinion on the Maidu Park Trail Story Walk

by Shirley Brown

[Editor's Note: You may have seen the new "Story Walk" along the Maidu trail in the natural area. Many people like it, but others do not. Here is one neighbor's take.]

In November I was walking on the interior nature trail at Maidu Park when I came upon 22 poles installed along the trail with a signboard attached to each pole showing a children's story. I was quite shocked to see these as I frequently use this path to decompress and enjoy nature. The story boards were jarring to my experience. I later discovered they were installed by the City Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Department with funding provided by Friends of the Library.

If you've seen them, then you know they contain a charming children's story. I have no issue with them per se. My concern is when I am in nature, I want to see oak trees, California poppies, birds, etc. I don't want to see man-made structures. There is enough development in this area with all the exercise equipment and memorial benches that have cropped up.

I would like to see this trail free from development. The story walk is too much. My firm belief is that story walk needs to be placed where children are; for example, by the big playground or along the soccer field fences. There are so many other locations that would be suitable. I have contacted the City Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department by telephone at (916) 772-7529 and by email to let them know my concern about story walk and my goal to have them moved to a better location. I can be reached at (916) 955-1909 if you wish to share your thoughts.



The trail, with Story Walk signs at right, line part of the trail in the natural side of Maidu Park.

Working at the Voting Center

By Michaela Babb

[Editor's Note: The following comes from one of our neighbors, Michaela, who, along with neighbors from across Roseville, decided to volunteer to work at the Martha Riley Library to man the 11-day voting center there for the November election. Here's why she did it.]

As our country has been at political odds for several years now, I jumped at the opportunity to volunteer as an election aide for Placer county. My goal was to learn more about the election process as a whole, encourage others to get out and vote, and support our free and fair election process. My experience sparked conversations between people around me who have chosen not to vote in the past. I felt obligated to explain that change starts at the local level and it is our responsibility as citizens to choose how we want to be represented. I'd like to think I was convincing as these people chose to vote this time around.

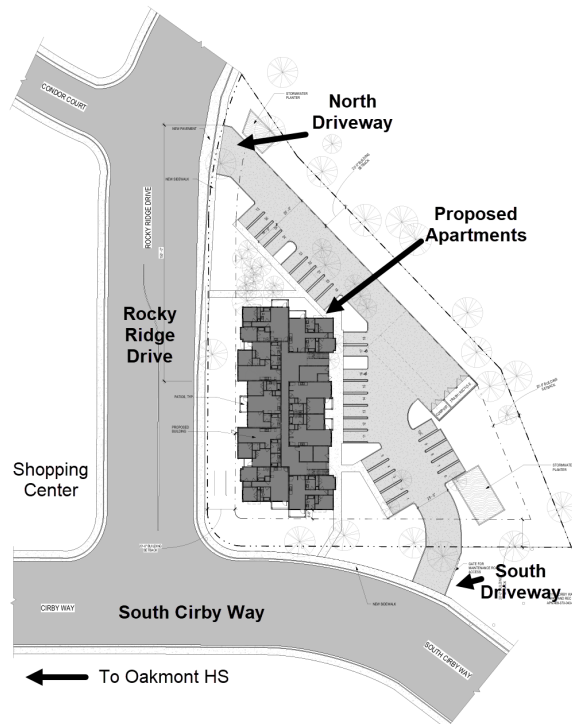
I do my best to respect opinions that differ than mine as we must remember that each person is entitled to vote however they want. I understand this is sometimes easier said than done. It was wonderful to see the diversity of people excited to exercise their right. Some people voted for their first time, many children attended with parents and the overall spirit within the polling place was both optimistic and patriotic. As someone who has only ever put my ballot in a drop box, I was very impressed with the "sign, scan and go" option, which only took a few minutes, and ensured my ballot choices were counted right away.

I was disappointed to hear from a handful of attendees that they were distrusting of the election. To this I say, "then get involved!" It is rewarding to see for oneself how our elections truly work and I can now further respect the time, energy and thought that is taken to uphold a system that represents us all.

Proposed Apartment Building Raises Concerns About Traffic

By Lance Hibben

The MNA November meeting included guest speakers Sara Lebastchi with D and S Development and the following City of Roseville representatives: Escarlet Mar, Associate Planner, Marc Stout, City Engineer, and Matt Todd, Traffic Engineer. The developer and City representatives attended the meeting to collectively present a proposed infill development of an 18-unit apartment complex at 1995 Rocky Ridge Drive (at the corner of Rocky Ridge Drive and South Cirby Way).



The developer and city staff presented an overview of the project and spent most of their time answering questions and addressing concerns from attendees. The project is on a 1.23-acre Medium Density Residential parcel with units ranging from one to two bedrooms. Two units will be considered affordable while the remaining 16 units will be available at market rate. A total of 27 parking spaces will be provided on-site. The project includes a Tree Permit (TP) to authorize the removal of 42 protected oak trees from the project site. Currently the project is creating Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documents and preparing to be presented to the City of Roseville Planning Commission (tentatively in February 2025). This is the second time the owner/developer has proposed development of this site. The first proposal failed to move forward due to poor economic conditions during 2007-2010. The current proposal included noticeable improvements to the architectural elevations.

Attendee questions and concerns were almost entirely focused of traffic and safety concerns generated by the project and the parking lot within the project site itself. Attendees were focused on roadway designs, entering/exiting the project's parking lot, the number of parking spaces, and the absence of visitor parking. In addition, concerns were expressed about the safety for Oakmont High School students, pedestrians, and residents living in duplex units across South Cirby and residents on Condor Court navigating the intersection of Rocky Ridge Drive and South Cirby Way.

Attendees' concerns increased when told by city staff the level of planned roadway improvements were minor. City staff explained the current roadway design based on the City's 2020 Base Travel Demand Model was adequate for mitigating the increased small amount of traffic generated by the project. But the model does not account for nearby projects built and planned by Placer County on Old Auburn Road in 2024. Residents at these new Placer County projects will also use South Cirby Way including this intersection.

There are no flood plain issues from Linda Creek affecting the proposed project. Neighbors who still want to express concerns should attend a future MNA monthly meeting, contact a MNA Board member, and/or write letters to city representatives. The MNA Facebook page has been updated to provide a link to the City's website which provides more project details.

Our Events—Our Association has developed a tradition of having the following events. We set the dates for each one as the time approaches to match the availability of the people who will help put them on, but they usually don't vary by more than a few weeks from year to year.

- April—*Neighborhood Garage Sale*
- August—*National Night Out*
- October—*Park Clean-up*
- December 10th—*Santa in the Neighborhood*

For More Information

Go to mna.rcona.com/2024-links. Or scan this QR code with a suitable app. There are links there to more story info and to our related sites including our Facebook page. Sometimes there are story updates as well as corrections

