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Sustainable Solano holding virtual talk on strengthening neighborhoods

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The camaraderie of neighborhoods can vary. Some neighbors will invite their entire blocs over for barbecues, while others will never get to know their neighbors at all.

Sustainable Solano will be offering ideas on how to strengthen neighborhoods in its virtual talk, “Reimagining the Neighborhood: A Placemaker’s Journey,” with Mark Lakeman of the City Repair Project in early July.

Lakeman will be hosting a virtual conversation through Zoom to discuss community-level strategies to empower and connect neighbors, partially drawing upon Sustainable Solano’s Resilient Neighborhoods program in Vallejo. The program seeks to create robust and regenerative urban ecosystems within neighborhoods.

“The need for strong communities where people know and care for their neighbors is more apparent than ever,” Sustainable Solano officials wrote in a news release. “There is a demand for solutions that allow neighbors to support and rely on each other. Part of that comes from working together on common goals and reclaiming the commons for the people who live there.

“With the United States possessing the lowest number of community gathering places of all developed nations, it’s time for communities to reimagine what public spaces can look like and work together to transform neighborhoods into vibrant, inclusive and engaging places where life can thrive.”

Lakeman will discuss his City Repair Project, which seeks to facilitate artistic- and ecologically-oriented placemaking through projects honoring the interconnection of human communities and the natural world, officials wrote. The project started in Portland but has supported numerous communities.

A major focus of the discussion will be community building at the street level that can transform an entire block, ranging from intersection paintings to little free libraries and mini pantries. Lakeman will follow it up with a question and answer session.

Lakeman's discussion is part of the Solano Sustainable Backyards program and is made possible through support by the Solano County Water Agency.

The discussion will be held at 4 p.m. July 2. Participants can register at [eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-the-neighborhood-a-placemakers-journey-with-mark-lakeman-tickets-107614646304](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-the-neighborhood-a-placemakers-journey-with-mark-lakeman-tickets-107614646304).

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