



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

# Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 7: NUMBER 4 – APRIL 2004

## CALENDAR

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday Apr 7  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday May 5  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday May 19  
6:45 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday Jun 2  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday Jul 7  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office

The Board Meeting  
agenda is posted on our  
website

## UNSCC NEEDS YOU!

by Ed Rast

**Changes:** The new UNSCC Board has planned major revisions of our newsletter and web site. The web site will feature both important recent neighborhood news, as well as member services information. The newsletter will include news items that are scheduled or announced at least 30-45 days prior to the event, as well as longer neighborhood issue articles.

**Volunteer Participation:** To accomplish all of our 2004 goals and those action items important to your organization, we need your ideas, suggestions, and participation. United Neighborhood's Board is looking for a few good volunteers to expand our membership services. We offer numerous projects, and many ways in which to help. Contact us at [volunteers@unsc.org](mailto:volunteers@unsc.org) to find out how you can help on projects you want to see succeed.

Here are some examples:

- Our new Planning and Land Use Committee is focusing on communication and information. We need help contacting member associations, identifying important local issues (for P&LU and Traffic issues), developing our P&LU Issues database, and designing better update methods for both print and web publishing.
- Our Newsletter Committee is considering a neighborhood news service and article archive (a central archive for local neighborhood association newsletters and a central news service we all can access) and a neighborhood newsletter editors group. We are working to generate higher-interest content as well as electronic publishing (i.e., email or groups) of the newsletter for those who don't need or want the printed copy. Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen or Perry White, contact us!
- The Conference Committee is already in high gear — save October 16 for our Annual Fall Conference. Help us develop conference tracks and contact potential speakers, sponsors and donors, and recruit, organize and train conference volunteers.

**Other Opportunities:** We want to establish a treasurers' group to increase the effectiveness and training of all member organization treasurers, to review and customize accounting software, and to develop training workshops. We also want to work on fundraising (providing grant-writing workshops and developing a central list of fundraising sources for member organizations) and finding out what new services, training or information can best serve our member organizations.

Your participation is your vote for the services you want UNSCC to provide. Without your volunteer assistance, these projects will be delayed or not get off the ground. If you have an interest and some time to volunteer, or if you have additional member services projects for which you would like to volunteer, contact Ed Rast at [volunteers@unsc.org](mailto:volunteers@unsc.org) or 408-297-2800.

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## UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County is a coalition of neighborhood associations. Our mission is to promote the creation, preservation, and enhancement of healthy neighborhoods through education, resources, and outreach.

*UNSCC DOES NOT ENDORSE POLITICAL CANDIDATES*

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Thank you to the following people and businesses for supporting UNSCC with donations, volunteer hours, and advertising. If you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact UNSCC at [unsc@pacbell.net](mailto:unsc@pacbell.net) or 408/286-8661.

## IN THE NEWS...

*In The News* items are intended to inform UNSCC's member organizations about interesting or important neighborhood news items.

- The March 16, 2004 issue (page 76) of *US News & World Report* reported that the cities of Sunnyvale and San Jose were recognized for designing attractive **low-income housing**. They, along with 16 other cities, are also featured at the National Building Museum in Washington DC: "Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset."
- **The spring 2004 General Plan Amendments meetings** examine developer proposals. These meetings are usually the first indication to neighborhoods of proposed neighborhood development activity. For more information, visit [http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/gp/gp\\_2004\\_general-info.htm](http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/gp/gp_2004_general-info.htm)
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is developing the countywide long-range **Valley Transportation Plan 2030 (VTP 2030)**. For meeting details, visit [www.unsc.org](http://www.unsc.org) and look for *UNSCC News*. UNSCC will attempt to obtain plan information for our member organizations and to schedule additional public outreach community meetings.
- **Evergreen** residents will have the chance to spruce up garages and backyards on Sunday, May 8, 2004, from 8-11 am (or until dumpsters are full) at the McDonald's parking lot located at 3221 S. White Road, near Aborn. Watch for more details in the April issue of the *Evergreen Times*.
- The Traffic Safe Communities Network (TSCN) of Santa Clara County will hold the next **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Work Group** meeting on April 13, 2004 from 12 noon to 2 pm at 4 North Second Street in San Jose. The meeting will be in the Second Floor Conference Room.

If you have news to share with other neighborhoods, please send it to: [newsletter@unsc.org](mailto:newsletter@unsc.org).

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# Neighbor to Neighbor

## DO IT ON-LINE, NOT IN-LINE!

by Blanca Alvarado, Supervisor, Second District

The County of Santa Clara continuously seeks ways to improve your access to our services. In the past, accessing County services meant a trip to one of our facilities to wait in line. The County's new website at [www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org) offers important County services as quick as you can click.

### COUNTY PARKS

[www.GoOutsideAndPlay.org](http://www.GoOutsideAndPlay.org)

The County Parks Department wants you to go outside and play! With a new online reservation system, booking a campsite, boat launch time, or picnic area is easy. The website provides 24-hours-a-day access for campsite availability and to make reservations online. You may choose from any of the following County park facilities:

- Anderson Lake
- Calero
- Coyote Lake
- Ed Levin
- Hellyer
- Joseph Grant
- Los Gatos
- Mt. Madonna
- Sanborn Skyline
- Santa Teresa
- Stevens Creek
- Uvas Canyon
- Vasona Creek

After making the reservation for your next outdoor adventure, make sure to also check out the County Parks main website at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). The website includes park reservation rules, local historical and cultural information, and volunteer and job opportunities.

### ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

[www.sccgov.org/ari](http://www.sccgov.org/ari) or [www.scc-assessor.org](http://www.scc-assessor.org)

Want to know the assessed value of homes in your neighborhood? The Assessor has developed an online tool to look up assessments for properties located in Santa Clara County. By entering the property address or parcel number, you may access information including land values, improvement values, and the net assessed value.

The search tool offers, from the comfort of your own home, the same information that is currently offered at the public counter of the County Government Center. Be advised that the website will not identify property owners or allow searches by the owner's name.

### TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

<http://payments.scctax.org> or [www.scctax.org](http://www.scctax.org)

Taxes made easy! The Tax Collector's Office now provides an online way to view and pay your property taxes. You may use your Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), Assessment Number, or your address to access upcoming due dates or show payment history. After reviewing your taxes, you can pay them with Visa, Master Card, or American Express. Note: you will be charged a \$39.50 processing fee for the online payment.

### SUPERIOR COURT

[www.SCCSuperiorCourt.org](http://www.SCCSuperiorCourt.org) or [www.SCCSuperiorCourt.org/Jury](http://www.SCCSuperiorCourt.org/Jury)

The Santa Clara County Superior Court makes it convenient for jurors to find out when they are required to report for jury duty. The page is updated every business day at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. With your juror group number (found on your notice), you can obtain your reporting time, location information, juror responsibilities, contact information, and any further instructions. Click on *Juror Status*.

*continued on page 4*

# Neighbor to Neighbor

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## GET COURT CALENDARS ONLINE

[www.SCCaseInfo.org](http://www.SCCaseInfo.org)

This site contains searchable case information for non-confidential cases. Confidential case types include adoption, confidential paternity, juvenile delinquency and dependency, and mental health. You may browse the calendar by case number, title, party name, department, or attorney. The information is updated each business day at 7:00 a.m. and contains the Court schedule for approximately the next three weeks.

## VISIT THE SELF-SERVICE CENTER

[www.SCSelfService.org](http://www.SCSelfService.org)

The Superior Court website also offers other useful information. The County Superior Court Self Service Center's page provides tips for those who are considering representing themselves in an upcoming legal case. In addition to providing a legal glossary, the Self Service Center can:

- Explain how to schedule your case.
- Give you information from your case file.
- Give you samples of Court forms.
- Answer most questions about Court deadlines and how to calculate them.
- Check your Court forms to make sure they are complete.

## FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT

[www.299-KIDS.org/fap/home](http://www.299-KIDS.org/fap/home)

Interested in becoming a foster parent? The County Social Services Agency now offers a quick prescreening eligibility questionnaire on its new website. After completing the 4-question questionnaire, qualified individuals are asked to create a USER ACCOUNT. Once registered, a user may access foster parent information and utilize the future or current foster parent online message board. Registered users also will have the ability to print and mail an inquiry form to the Social Services Agency to obtain more information on how to become a foster parent.

Selected foster parents receive training, financial assistance, health insurance, advocacy, and support services. For more information concerning Foster or Adoptive Parenting, visit the Foster Parent Recruitment website at [www.299-KIDS.org](http://www.299-KIDS.org), or call (408) 299-KIDS.

## CONTACT BLANCA ALVARADO

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## MINETA SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY MEETING NOTICE

You're invited to join representatives from Mineta San Jose International Airport, Gensler Architects, and the San Jose Public Art Program for an informative and interactive meeting on one of the following dates.

**Tuesday, April 6, 6:30-7:30pm**  
Shirakawa Community Center  
2072 Lucretia Avenue, San Jose

**Wednesday, April 7, 6:30-8pm**  
Southside Community Center  
5585 Cottle Road, San Jose

**Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30pm**  
Eastridge Mall Community Room  
1 Eastridge Mall, San Jose

Hear about the architectural design aspects of the Airport of the Future and how public art plays a role in the process. For more information, please contact Adrianna Rivas, Mineta San Jose International Airport, at 408-501-7616, or visit <http://www.sjc.org/improvement/community.html>.

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## EARLY NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AND LAND USE NOTIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

by Ed Rast

UNSCC's new Planning and Land Use committee has been tracking the San Jose implementation of *Smart Growth* and we are passing this information on to you.

San Jose was one of the first cities in the US to adapt the Smart Growth planning principles more than thirty years ago. But like many other cities, San Jose did not effectively implement the two most important principles for local neighborhoods: early notification and early neighborhood involvement. Although the City Council passed Policy 6-30, which clearly outlined notification, signage, and participation policies, implementation has been less than adequate.

The answer has been that Policy 6-30 was a "guideline, not a strict policy." Consequently, the two most important issues for local neighborhoods—early notification and early neighborhood involvement—have been less than effective. However, when local neighborhoods have been involved from the early stages, both the neighborhoods and the larger businesses and developers have benefited.

### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

In San Jose, a committee of neighborhood association leaders has been formed per state law requirements. The Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) Project Area Committee drafted a proposed revision to policy 6-30. For the past several months, they have been working with the business community and developers to get agreement on neighborhood early notification and participation in planning, land use, and traffic issues in their neighborhoods.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can learn about and participate in the process by reading the proposed policy and by sending concise suggestions for policy changes to [pluc@unsc.org](mailto:pluc@unsc.org).

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/counter/policies/draft\\_SNIoutreach\\_9-10-03.pdf](http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/counter/policies/draft_SNIoutreach_9-10-03.pdf)

or

<http://www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/planning/sjplan/counter/policies/index.htm>

then click on *Public Outreach.pdf*.

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## NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

You are invited to join hundreds of youth, public officials, corporate sponsors, and families in San Jose on April 17, 2004 for National Youth Service Day—one of the largest service events in the world! NYSD is an all-day service event, including a pre-service kick-off ceremony featuring national service leaders, local and national government officials and corporate supporters.

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## FREE SUNDAYS AT THE TECH MUSEUM

SBC and The Tech are offering **free** gallery admission to everyone who visits The Tech on the second Sunday of each month throughout 2004. For more information contact (408) 294-TECH or <http://www.thetech.org>. The Tech Museum of Innovation is located at 201 South Market Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

## General Members

Alma Neighborhood Association  
Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council  
Blossom Valley Neighborhood Association  
Buena Vista Neighborhood Association  
Burbank Community Association  
Campus Community Association  
Canoas Garden Neighborhood Association  
Casa Loma-Loma Chiquita Neighborhood Assn.  
Cory Neighborhood Association  
Crescent Park Neighborhood Association  
Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association  
Eden Neighborhood Association  
Edenvale Roundtable Community Association  
Friends of Santa Teresa Park  
Goodyear/Mastic Neighborhood Association  
Guadalupe/Washington Neighborhood Assn.  
Horace Mann Neighborhood Association  
Independence High Neighborhood Association  
Julian/St. James Neighborhood Association  
Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association  
McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association  
Monta Loma Neighborhood Association  
North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association  
Northside Neighborhood Association  
Olinder Neighborhood Association  
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association  
Plata Arroyo East Gate Neighborhood Association

Rancho Narvaez Neighborhood Association  
Redwood Estates Community Club  
Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association  
Rosemary Gardens Neighborhood Association  
San Jose Downtown Residents Association  
Santa Teresa Citizen Action Group  
San Tomas Neighborhood Association  
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association  
Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association  
South University Neighborhood  
Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association  
Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association  
Sunnyvale Neighbors of Arbor Including LaLinda  
Sunrise Valley Neighborhood Association  
Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association  
University Neighborhoods Coalition  
Warner Heights Neighborhood Association  
West of Fourth Street Neighborhood Group  
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

## Associate Members

Almaden Winery Neighborhood Association  
College Park Neighborhood Association  
Dobem Community Action Team  
Eden Hill Neighborhood Association  
Fairview Drive Neighborhood Association  
Glenview Drive Neighborhood Association  
Haven Neighborhood Association

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association  
IOOF/San Ysidro Neighborhood Association  
Japantown Neighborhood Association  
Joaquin Miller Neighborhood Association  
LeyVa Community Action Team  
Lyndale Neighborhood Association  
Mayfair Improvement Initiative  
Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association  
Newhall Neighborhood Association  
North Murray Neighborhood Association  
Palm Haven Restoration Neighborhood Assn.  
Park Pleasant Neighborhood Association  
Primrose Neighborhood Association  
Rogers Lane Neighborhood Association  
Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Assn.  
San Miguel Neighborhood Association  
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association  
Seven Trees Neighborhood Group  
Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association  
Southgate Neighborhood Association  
South Skyline Association  
Summerhill Neighborhood Association  
Sunland Park Civic Improvement Association  
Tamien Neighborhood Association  
West Evergreen Neighborhood Association  
Westside Property Homeowners' Association

## UNSCC

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