



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 5, No. 12 DECEMBER 2002

CALENDAR

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, Dec 18
6:30 pm

Time Deli & Catering
349 S. Bascom Avenue
San Jose
\$12 a person
chicken/pasta dinner
Please R.S.V.P.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, Jan 15
525 W. Alma Avenue
6:45 pm

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
March 2003

**UNSCC
does not endorse
political candidates**

525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
Phone: 408-286-8661
Fax: 408-286-8680
unsc@pacbell.net
www.unsc.org

A WILLING VOLUNTEER

Every once in a while, a person came along who brings hope to this world. Rene Horton of the McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association (MCNA) is one such person. Rene was there when MCNA was started in 1996 and continued to be there for her neighborhood to this day. Over the years, she served as neighborhood historian, association treasurer, newsletter delivery coordinator, and representative to United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) in addition many other unofficial functions. Rene had worked on UNSCC's Annual Conference Committee for the past two years and has served as a board member for UNSCC this year.

With an artistic inclination, Rene works at Phoenix Gallery in San Jose. Rene volunteers to improve her neighborhood by supporting projects such monthly meeting and newsletter, outreach tables at events, photo radar to slow down traffic, green space development on Umbarger Walkway, neighborhood flea market, and yearly dumpster day. Rene's generous and helpful spirit amazes her friends and neighbors according Helen Bliven. MCNA was recognized as an outstanding neighborhood with the 2000 BRICC Award thanks to the hard work of volunteers such as Rene.

At UNSCC, Rene provides the gentle and supportive voice that helped produce two successful conferences. Rene's dedication and support earned her a special place at McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association and United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Five associations recently joined UNSCC, bringing the total membership count to 66, with 39 general and 27 associate members. The five new members are Alma Neighborhood Association, Eden Hill Neighborhood Association, Haven Neighborhood Association, Hyde Neighborhood Association, and Joaquin Miller Neighborhood Association.

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.

Thank you County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado for supporting UNSCC!

Neighbor to Neighbor

REQUESTS FROM UNSCC

1. Annual membership dues are to be paid at the beginning of the year. Membership in United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) will be suspended if membership due is not paid by March 1, 2003. Membership dues are a critical part of the operating budget. Please send in membership dues as soon as possible. Membership dues are \$75 for general members and \$60 for associate members.
2. Membership dues are a critical, but very small part of the income required to operate UNSCC. The organization operates with grant money obtained from a variety of groups. The current economic down turn had impacted this source of funds. Current incomes are not sufficient to pay monthly bills and operating expenses such as salaries, rent, telephone, supplies, printing, mailing. Additional sources of income are needed. Please ask your City and County representatives to help by including UNSCC as an item in next year's budget.
3. In this economic down turn, every donation helps. UNSCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so please consider sending that totally tax-deductible year-end gift!
4. If you find that you can not regularly attend the Advisory Council meetings, please seriously consider down-grading your membership from general to associate status. This will help a getting a two-third quorum to vote on bylaw amendments.
5. It is expected that all member groups send at least one representative to the January 15, 2003 Advisory Council meeting. The 2003 Board of Directors will be selected at this meeting along with voting on proposed bylaw amendments. There are bylaw proposals that have waited for a year to be voted on.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2003

For the first time in UNSCC history, there are more candidates than there are board positions! All the candidates are well qualified so the hard choice will be made at the January Advisory Council meeting for ten members of the 2003 Board of Directors. Special thanks to Nominating Committee members Tom Freeman, Jacqui Car Gouveia, Khanh Nguyen, and Dale Osborn.

The nominees are:

Helen Bliven, nominated for Board Member
from McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association

Tom Clifton, nominated for Vice Chair
from Campus Community Association

Steve Cohen, nominated for Board Member
from West of Fourth Neighborhood Group

Bob Dhillon, nominated for Board Member
Community member

Bart Fisher, nominated for Board Member
Julian/St. James Neighborhood Association

Tom Freeman, nominated for Treasurer
from Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association

Ken Henning, nominated for Board Member
Buena Vista Neighborhood Association

Bill Hughes, nominated for Board Member
Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council

Judd Murkland, nominated for Board Member
from Cory Neighborhood Association

Scott Scholz, nominated for Chair
from Santa Teresa Citizen Action Group

Meg Stein, nominated for Board Member
from San Tomas Neighborhood Association

Debra Yantis, nominated for Board Member
Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association

Neighbor to Neighbor

UNSCC HOLIDAY PARTY

Another year, another party.
Reflect. Regret. Rejoice.
Will you give the new year a chance?

Date: Wednesday, December 18
Time: 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Place: Time Deli and Catering
349 South Bascom Avenue
San Jose

The event will be a "BYOB" - a.k.a., "Bring your own bottle" with T Bone Walter as the entertainer. Cost for the event is \$12 a person. Please RSVP by calling or emailing UNSCC at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net.

PROJECT YEA!

Project YEA! is part of the Education Rights Project, which was founded in 1998 in Santa Clara County. Its mission is to recruit advocates who work with the parents and/or guardians of kids who are wards or dependents of the court with special education needs that have not been adequately addressed. By helping, Project YEA! hopes to prevent anti-social and criminal behavior in this critical population. It is not a coincidence that 50% of kids in Juvenile Hall have special education needs that have never been met. Too often, frustration with academics leads to bad behavior, which can subsequently lead to problems with the law.

Project YEA! recruits, trains and supports advocates whose mission is not only to obtain the free and appropriate education that these children are entitled to, but to also empower parents/guardians and youth with advocacy skills themselves. These children and youth need our caring, and our voices to help them realize their true potential. For more information about the project and the free trainings, please call Helena at Project YEA!, 408-727-5775 extension 136 or email helena@php.com.

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH LEARNING IN SCHOOL?

The Special Education Unit of the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County provides consultations, advocacy and legal representation to families whose school age children are having difficulty with problems that impact their learning ability.

State and Federal law requires school districts to provide school age children, who exhibit learning disabilities with:

- Assessments
- Individualized Educational Program meeting
- If child qualifies, Special Education services at no cost to the parents
- Or a 504 Plan

The legal staff of the Special Education Unit can assist parents and guardians to obtain these services.

Please contact Dominique Martin at 408-283-1535 extension 268 to schedule a speaker or receive a free consultation.

FREE RIDES FOR SENIORS

Resources for Families and Communities is offering FREE transportation to seniors! If you have a need for this service or have clients in need, please contact Shariff or Sonia at 408-528-6700 to schedule rides. Advance notice is required and service is based on a first come, first serve basis.

Neighbor to Neighbor

5 Steps to Obtain the Support Every Child Deserves

Every child has a right to emotional and financial support from both parents, regardless of the parents' marital status. Under California law, if you become the father or mother of a child, he or she is your financial responsibility. In many cases, custodial and non-custodial parents work together to provide both emotional and financial support for their children, but children, but some parents do not.



The County of Santa Clara's Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) can help make sure that non-custodial parents fulfill their financial obligations and contribute to their children's financial well-being. As the authorized enforcers of court-ordered child support, County staff is available to help

you through the necessary steps.

Step 1 - Opening a Child Support Case

Either parent, or the caretaker/guardian of a child, may open a child support case by simply completing an application. You can obtain this application by:

- Visiting the department's website www.scc-dcss.org
- Visiting the DCSS at 2645 Zanker Road, San Jose Monday - Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- Calling (408) 922-1400 for a mail-in application.

Step 2 – Locating Parents

In order to collect child support payments, the DCSS must know where the noncustodial parent works or lives. The Department uses a number of tools to find a parent.

These include:

- Letters to the last known address.
- County Assessor's Office tax information.
- Voter Registration files.
- Wage verification letters to an employer.

The California Parent Locator Service also provides information through the Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Justice.

Step 3 - Establishing Paternity

Paternity must be established before Family Court will order child support payments. Sometimes a father comes to DCSS and agrees to a child's paternity by signing a stipulation. This means that he is stating that he is the father.

If a person is served with a paternity complaint and he does not believe he is the father, then he must respond within 30 days and DCSS will schedule genetic tests for him, the mother, and the child.

Step 4 – Obtaining a Support Order

After paternity is established, DCSS works with the court to establish a child support order. The order is based on:

- The ability of both parents to pay support.
- The amount of time each parent spends with the child.
- The child's financial needs.

Payments are usually deducted from the noncustodial parent's paycheck. If his or her circumstances change and employment or health problems make it impossible to meet his or her obligations, it is important to communicate with the DCSS so that the court can determine if adjustments are needed.

Step 5 - Collecting Child Support

It is essential that a child receives regular and full support payments. Because of this, a *Wage Assignment* is sent to the noncustodial parent's employer. The *Wage Assignment* requires that the employer deduct the child support from the parent's wages and send it to the DCCS within 10 days. Self-employed parents must make arrangements for child support payments through automatic bank withdrawals or direct payments to DCCS.



It is against the law to refuse to pay child support. The DCCS tries to encourage parents to voluntarily pay child support, but if a parent is late or fails to pay court-ordered payments, the DCCS has enforcement tools that include credit reporting, passport denial, property liens, suspended state licenses, and interception of income tax refunds.

For more information on the County of Santa Clara's child support services, please contact the DCSS at (408) 922-1400 or toll free, 1-888-687-7500. Information can also be found on the DCSS website: www.scc-dcss.org

Neighbor to Neighbor

SAN JOSE MEDICAL CENTER

With the expected closure of the San Jose Medical Center, there will be a hearing to address the health care crisis in Silicon Valley on Wednesday, December 4, 2002 at the San Jose City Council Chambers at 801 North First Street, San Jose from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The hearing is being coordinated by the South Bay Labor Council in partnership with California State Assemblyman Manny Diaz.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Community Foundation Silicon Valley announces the next round of Neighborhood Grants cycle. Applications are due December 6, 2002. For more information, please access the website at www.cfsv.org/grants_ng_hta.html or contact Maya McCray at 408-278-2224 or mmccray@cfsv.org.

FESTIVAL, PARADE AND CELEBRATION GRANT PROGRAM

The City of San Jose provides Festival, Parade and Celebration Grants to San Jose-based nonprofit organizations that are held for the economic enhancement, cultural enrichment and/or promotion of the City of San Jose. Cash grants are awarded in a competitive process.

To apply for the grant, a Letter of Intent, on city-provided form must be submitted. Letter of Intent forms can be obtained at the Office of Cultural Affairs, 4 North Second Street, Suite 450, San Jose or by calling 408-277-2794. The deadline to submit the Letter of Intent is 5:00 pm, Friday, December 13, 2002. Eligibility for the grant will be determined from the Letter of Intent. Grant applications will be sent to eligible groups.

WINTER FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR

Participants are needed in the Winter Family Resource Fair to be held on December 21, 2002 at Washington Elementary School from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Groups providing resources to parents and residents are encouraged to contact Mark Lopez at 408-535-6261 extension 17 or Mark_Lopez@sjusd.k12.ca.us.

CITY WATCH DAY

A DAY OF COLLABORATION

Neighborhood groups are being asked to attend the January 21, 2003 San Jose City Council meeting in the San Jose City Council Chambers at 801 North First Street, San Jose beginning at 7:00 pm. Participants are asked to RSVP to the Haven Association hotline at 578-5086 before December 23, 2002 and wear a yellow name tag that reads "City Watch" at the January meeting. There will be Haven neighbors to assist participants.

UNSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	Daniel J. Chavez
Vice Chair	Scott Scholz
Recording Secretary	(open)
Treasurer	Tom Freeman
Board Members	Tom Clifton
	Renee Horton
	Jean McCloskey
	Dale Osborn
	Cecilia Santos-Chavez
	Rosario Vasutin

UNSCC STAFF

Executive Director	Jacqui Carr Gouveia
Events Coordinator	Irene Hsu

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Jose, CA
Permit #3323

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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
Crescent Park Neighborhood Association
Eden Neighborhood Association
Edenvale Roundtable Community Association
Friends of Santa Teresa Park
Goodyear/Mastic Neighborhood Association
Guadalupe/Washington Neighborhood Association
Horace Mann Neighborhood Association
Japantown Neighborhood Association
Julian/St. James Neighborhood Association
Lakewood Village Neighborhood Association
LeyVa Community Action Team
McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association

Northside Neighborhood Association
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association
Rancho Narvaez Neighborhood Association
Redwood Estates Community Club
Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association
Rosemary Gardens Neighborhood Association
San Jose Downtown Residents Association
San Miguel Neighborhood 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
Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association
Warner Heights Neighborhood Association
West of Fourth Street Neighborhood Group
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

College Park Neighborhood Association
Cory Neighborhood Association
Dobern Community Action Team
Eden Hill Neighborhood Association
Fairview Drive Neighborhood Association
Haven Neighborhood Association
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
Independence High Neighborhood Association
IOOF/San Ysidro Neighborhood Association
Joaquin Miller Neighborhood Association
Lyndale Neighborhood Association
Mayfair Improvement Initiative
Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association

North Murray Neighborhood Association
North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association
Park Pleasant Neighborhood Association
Rogers Lane Neighborhood Association
Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association
Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association
Seven Trees Neighborhood Group
Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association
Southgate Neighborhood Association
South Skyline Association
Summerhill Neighborhood Association
Sunrise Valley Neighborhood Association
Tamien Neighborhood Association
West Evergreen Neighborhood Association