



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 2003

CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, Jan 8
6:30 pm

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, Feb 5
6:00 pm

LOCATING AND WRITING GRANTS

Tuesday, Mar 18

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, Mar 19

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Friday, Mar 28

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

“THE GOLD STANDARD”

A neighborhood of 2500 households, Burbank Community Association (BCA) is located near the intersection of Highway 280 and 880 in San Jose. The households in BCA are located in county pockets, outside city limits. As such, the area does not, until recently, enjoy basic necessities such as functioning sewer lines, streetlights, paved sidewalks, and other benefits of city dwelling.

In 1998, Daniel J. Chavez took on the presidency of BCA and things began to change. The area was made more neighborhood and family friendly with the closing of the adult Burbank theater and the passage of a new county ordinance in the operation of massage parlors. With Daniel doing much of the footwork, BCA began to partner with county agencies to apply for grants to install streetlights, pave sidewalks, and repair sewer lines. At the same time, Daniel invited speakers from county service providers to the monthly BCA meetings where every person was insured the opportunity to speak. Daniel worked with neighborhood businesses to put on a yearly Jamboree to increase interaction and communication among county service providers, local businesses, and residents. Daniel further advocated for the neighborhood by becoming a board member of the Sanitary District Board. Daniel also served on the Burbank School Board.

In January 2001, Daniel took on the chairmanship of United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC). Under Daniel's chairmanship, membership in UNSCC has increased from 38 in January 2001 to 68 member associations in January 2003. In addition, the visibility of UNSCC has steadily increased such that UNSCC was recently recognized as an asset to the county.

Daniel's tireless service and dedication to BCA and UNSCC have, without doubt, created new standards for neighborhood activism and effectiveness. In this respect, Daniel has become the “gold standard” by which future neighborhood leaders will be measured. UNSCC would like to recognize and thank Daniel for the tremendous contributions he has made to BCA and UNSCC.

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

UNSCC WISH LIST

Please contact UNSCC at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net if you can grant a wish.

1. Two-shelf bookcase
2. Ten-cup coffee pot
3. Laptop computer
4. Five volunteers at two hours per week for four weeks (three volunteers to call UNSCC members to update database - calling from home is OK; two volunteers to enter information into database).

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

Santa Clara County District 2 Supervisor Blanca Alvarado recommended that United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) receive recognition for the outstanding leadership and dedication in providing training to neighborhood associations throughout Santa Clara County. UNSCC Chairman Daniel J. Chavez and Executive Director Jacqui Carr Gouveia represented UNSCC at the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors meeting on December 10, 2002 to receive the beautifully framed Resolution of Commendation.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Friday, March 28 from 1pm to 9pm, there will be a Youth Leadership Conference - Be Aware, Take Action, Make a Difference - composing of six workshops, a service project, dinner and dance for youth 12 to 18 year olds throughout Santa Clara County. The Youth Leadership Conference is one way UNSCC is connecting youth with neighborhood associations to facilitate how the two can help each other. For more information, contact UNSCC at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2003

The following candidates were nominated for the 2003 Board of Directors at the November Advisory Council meeting. The election is scheduled to take place at the January 15 Advisory Council meeting.

The nominees are:

Helen Bliven, nominated for Board Member
McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association

Tom Clifton, nominated for Vice Chair
Campus Community Association

Steve Cohen, nominated for Board Member
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
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
Cory Neighborhood Association

Scott Scholz, nominated for Chair
Santa Teresa Citizen Action Group

Meg Stein, nominated for Board Member
San Tomas Neighborhood Association

Debra Yantis, nominated for Board Member
Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association

UNSCC HOLIDAY PARTY

With T Bone Walter entertaining, the Holiday Party was a time of companionship and reflection. A bit of dancing brought into focus a moment when party goers set aside the everyday burdens and savor the moment.

Neighbor to Neighbor

LOCATING AND WRITING GRANTS

A two-hour workshop on Locating and Writing Grants is planned for Tuesday, March 18, 2003 at UNSCC office, 525 W. Alma Avenue, San Jose, CA. For more information, contact UNSCC at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net.

RFC COMMUNITY GRANTS

Resources for Families and Communities (RFC) Community Grants application for the 2003-2004 funding cycle will be released on January 10, 2003. Volunteer-based, grassroots projects serving Santa Clara County residents are eligible to apply. For eligibility criteria, guidelines, due dates, and the application, please visit the website starting on January 10 or contact Irene Camarena at icamarena@rfcommunity.org or 408-521-5110.

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/guardians of kids who are wards or dependents of the court with special education needs that have not been adequately addressed. By helping, we hope to prevent anti-social and criminal behavior in this critical population. It is not a coincidence that 60% 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 free training dates, please call Helena at Project YEA! at 408-727-5775 x136 or email helena@php.com.

2003 UNSCC PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

A series of bylaw amendments were proposed in 2002 which had not been voted on. These proposed amendments had been previously mailed to all members and is currently available for review on the website or in the office. The following is additionally being proposed for consideration and adoption.

Current version - ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

Section 1. Procedure. The following procedure shall be used for amending these Bylaws.

- a. Introduction of a proposed amendment shall be made at the meeting prior to the one at which the vote is to be taken.
- b. An amendment can only be voted on if it has been included in the notice for the meeting.
- c. An amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption.
- d. Any resolution adopting any amendment to these Bylaws shall include specific date on which the amendment shall become effective.

Proposed amended version - ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

Section 1. Procedure. The following procedure shall be used for amending these Bylaws.

- a. Introduction of a proposed amendments shall be made at the Board of Directors meeting prior to the one at which the vote is to be taken.
- b. An amendment can only be voted on if it has been included in the notice for that Board of Directors meeting.
- c. An Amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors for adoption.
- d. Any resolution adopting any amendment to these Bylaws shall include a specific date on which the amendment shall become effective.

Neighbor to Neighbor

UNSCC SUPPORTING NEIGHBORHOODS IN GILROY

BY IRENE HSU

Over the past year, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) has been working in coordination with the Community Foundation Silicon Valley (CFSV) Neighborhood Grants Program to provide leadership training workshops to members of six newly founded neighborhood associations in Gilroy. Recognizing our success in building partnerships and empowering community leaders, the City of Gilroy has contracted UNSCC for a renewable half-year period to assist in the formation of a neighborhood association in Gilroy's East 8th Street area. This roughly two-block area – located between Old Gilroy and Ninth Street, Highway 101 and Chestnut Street – is predominantly Latino and continually experiences gang violence.

Though known by many in the Bay Area as the place to go for outlet shopping, Gilroy is increasingly recognized for its escalating poverty and gang activity. According to 1990 Census data, a quarter of Gilroy's total population lives below the National Poverty Level. This reality is only made worse by the fact that Gilroy rests in Santa Clara County, one of the eight Highest Cost of Living Centers in the United States. Indeed, when compared to the County median income, a resounding 82% of households in Gilroy fall under the low or very-low income bracket.

Similar to major cities across the nation, Gilroy's East Side area suffers from the city's worst poverty and crime. Unemployment in the East Side area of Gilroy is 15% compared to the citywide rate of 7.8. Another unfortunate reality in Gilroy is that poverty disproportionately affects Latinos. Among the total city population, 76% are Hispanic and 22% are White. Of the population living in poverty, however, 86.2% are Hispanic and 12.5% White.

In keeping with our contract in Gilroy, Jacqui and I have put together a preliminary assets map for the East 8th Street neighborhood. Along with the City of Gilroy Community Development staff, we have fostered relationships with Officer Rachel Muñoz from the Gilroy Police Department Community Outreach Division and Diane Anastos from South County Housing, an organization that manages a low-income housing complex on East 8th Street. Taking advantage of resources within our organization, I also interviewed two UNSCC volunteers – Daniel J. Chavez and Khanh Nguyen – who graciously offered me advice on neighborhood organizing based on their experiences in San José.

Working closely with Officer Muñoz, I then identified a handful of interested residents from East 8th Street and helped them submit a grant proposal to the CFSV Neighborhood Grants Program. This grant, if approved, will support three community-building activities in the Spring, including a Children's Health Day, Ice Cream Social, and Neighborhood Watch meeting. While awaiting the CFSV grant, I will use funds supplied by the City of Gilroy to organize monthly neighborhood meetings beginning in January. In addition, I invited members of other Gilroy neighborhood organizations to join East 8th Street residents for a pizza social to mingle and share their experiences in community organizing near the end of January.

My overall mission in Gilroy is to support East 8th Street residents in locating available resources, developing their own goals, and implementing strategies to improve their neighborhood. Through helping them to establish relationships with other community leaders, increase their membership, and create a viable infrastructure, East 8th Street Neighborhood Association will in time be able to function on its own.

Neighbor to Neighbor

CITY WATCH DAY A DAY OF COLLABORATION

BY CHERI REAVES

We are tremendously excited about "City Watch Day – A Day of Collaboration." This extraordinary day will be both inspiring and empowering. You won't want to miss this historical event. All too often, neighborhood associations have attended City Council meetings as advisories. On January 21st, we will attend a City Council meeting as Partners on the same team. Our joint presence will be representation of our willingness and eagerness to work in partnership with City Council to better serve our communities. City Council's acknowledgment that neighborhood associations bring significant wisdom and experience to the table, in assessing the needs of our neighborhoods, makes this partnership a winning combination. The January 21st City Council meeting is an ideal forum to affirm that working together we can achieve great things! We have a wonderful and rare opportunity to transform simple glimpses of what could be into a shared vision of what can be. Neighbors are encouraged to wear a yellow name badge that read "City Watch Day" and United Neighborhoods T-shirts. Please arrive by 6:45 as the Council meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. Haven neighbors will be available to assist neighbors in completing yellow speaker's cards for those who wish to address City Council during open forum. For more information contact the Haven Neighborhood Association hotline at 578-5086.

SAVE THE DATE!

Transportation and Land Use Coalition
Sixth Annual Summit in Oakland
Saturday, March 22, 2003
10am - 130pm

Senator Barbara Boxer will be the keynote speaker. For more information please email Robert Ping at robert@transcoalition.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD TIDBIT

BY BRUCE KARNEY

In the December 20, 2002 edition of *The Mountain View Voice*, there is a profile new Assembly Member Sally Lieber. The following is offered to lift the spirit about whether neighborhood associations can make a difference in the world.

"Not long after their move to Mountain View, where Phillips worked, Lieber was lulled into politics from a single flier hanging in the laundry room at the Park Place Apartments. It was posted by the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association (OMVNA), of which she eventually became vice chair.

Eight years later she completed one term on the Mountain View City Council and was sworn in as a State assembly member."

Keep up the great work, current OMVNA officers - you never know who'll be reading the next issue of the Newsletter!

See http://www.mv-voice.com/thisweek/2002_12_20.lieber.html for the full article.

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

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

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
Olinder Neighborhood Association
Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association
Rancho Narvaez Neighborhood Association
Redwood Estates Community Club
Roosevelt Park Community Action Team
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
Newhall 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