



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 6 - JUNE 2003

CALENDAR

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING**
Wednesday, June 4
6:00 pm
UNSCC Office
525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose

agenda
committees meetings
call to order
approval of minutes
treasurer's report
director's report
committee reports
2003-2004 budget
land use and planning
adjourn

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING**
Wednesday, July 2

**ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING**
Wednesday, July 16

UNSCC does not endorse
political candidates

525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
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www.unsc.org

STARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Bill Lusto, Volunteer Editor

Co-sponsored by United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC), the Youth Empowerment Seminar was held Saturday May 10 at Parkside Hall in San Jose with two hundred 12 to 18 year olds attending. One highlight of the seminar was the award recognition of outstanding youths and youth groups throughout Santa Clara County. These "Stars of the Community" each received a certificate with a \$50 check to donate to their favorite nonprofit.

Stars of the Community

Stephanie Aguilar, Vicky Arechiga, Danielle Chavez, Jazmin Diaz, Raquel Mendoza, Lindsey Mueller, Nadine Munoz, and Celia Valdez are from the Burbank Community Association in San Jose. These Stars are wonderful examples of youth with a desire to help their community. Their strong motivation and commitment have impressed adults volunteering with them. They have given their time from early morning to late evenings - on numerous occasions, for neighborhood events with the Burbank Community Association and UNSCC.

Andrew Chavez is from East Eighth Street Neighborhood in Gilroy. A motivated young man, he is willing to help his community by being a positive role model. He attends neighborhood meetings in the hope of fostering a safer neighborhood environment, especially in an area where many youths participate in gang-related activities. Andrew's eagerness - to pass out flyers, set up refreshments, and encourage other youths to attend meetings, has been instrumental in making the neighborhood a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone.

Aysha Mohsin from Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association in Milpitas wrote and won a grant from the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley for \$4000 to fund the First Annual Sunnyhills "Become an Artist Day." This Star has also led the youth group in events and programs, such as tree planting, graffiti cleanup days, serving at the Milpitas Food pantry, and numerous other activities.

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

SJPD LAUNCHES E-MAIL ALERT SYSTEM

In its effort to keep San Jose residents, businesses and community organizations advised of safety alerts and other relevant information, the San Jose Police Department's Community Service Division has created an E-mail Alert System. Under the new system, the Department is able to alert businesses and residents of current safety alerts, information and general safety tips in a prompt and timely fashion.

Residents may receive current safety alerts, general safety tips and other materials. Notices of upcoming community safety events or neighborhood meetings, activities at the Community Policing Centers, and special reports about the Police Department's community oriented programs may also be included as part of the alerts.

The system is able to broadcast e-mail alerts to areas throughout San Jose. The system is also able to alert all public schools in San Jose to information pertinent to school safety and emergency responses as well as general information of interest.

Private schools, business organizations, places of worship, citizen groups of 10 or more, community action teams, neighborhood associations, and active Neighborhood Watch groups that are interested in receiving and helping the Department disseminate these e-mail alerts to their community members, are asked to send their current e-mail address through the "contact us" link on the San Jose Police Department's web page at www.sjpd.org.

Please provide the name of the organization, a mailing address, a telephone contact, and the e-mail address. Note: The program is unable to accept requests for individual notifications at this time.

A RECENT E-MAIL ALERT

"The United States Department of Homeland Security has elevated the National threat level to HIGH ORANGE. To better prepare our community, the San Jose Police Department Community Service Division staff offers homeland security classes to San Jose residents at no cost. The classes are from one to two hours long and provide specific suggestions on how to anticipate and prevent terrorism. This course DOES NOT offer suggestions on how to accumulate supplies for survival after an attack. It is best to prevent terrorism before it occurs whenever possible.

For additional information, contact the San Jose Police Department Community Service staff at 408-277-4133"

PROPERTY TAX INFO ONLINE

Santa Clara County property owners can now view their own property tax information online. The information can be viewed at www.scctax.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

UNSCC welcomes two new members: Casa Loma-Loma Chiquita Neighborhood Association of Redwood Estates and Glenview Drive Neighborhood Association of Gilroy.

UNSCC SPONSORS!

Golden Bay Construction
Pacific Gas & Electric
Santa Clara Valley Water District

United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of neighborhood associations. Contributions to UNSCC are tax-deductible and are particularly needed in this economic downturn. Send contributions to:

UNSCC
525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

Neighbor to Neighbor

PLANTING THE RIGHT TREES IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Kevin Dowd, PG&E vegetation management

Mature trees growing on each side of a street create a setting that is stately, quiet, and inviting. Selecting the right tree, and planting it in the right place can be crucial! Overhead power lines need to be considered in relation to the height of trees at maturity. In addition, care should be taken that trees are planted at least six feet to the side of underground facilities, such as electric, gas and telephone lines, and television cables. To find out where these facilities are, Underground Service Alert (1-800-227-2600) should be called at least **three days** before planting.

Planting Trees Near Power Lines

Because some tree varieties take many years to reach maturity, and a height that could impact power lines, many customers overlook power lines as a potential problem. Planting trees near power lines can affect the reliability of electric service during a storm, which means Pacific Gas and Electric Company must eventually prune them to maintain appropriate clearances. One way to avoid such problems is to plant tall-growing trees at least 15 feet to the side of overhead distribution power lines and at least 30 feet from overhead higher voltage transmission power lines. Another option is to plant trees that, at maturity, will not grow to within ten feet of overhead power lines.

Recommended Trees

The International Society of Arboriculture recommends planting trees with a mature height of 20 feet or less near power lines. Examples of trees that work well around power lines are:

- Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*)
- Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

For more information about planting the right tree in the right place, visit PG&E's web site at: http://www.pge.com/004_safety/vm_education.shtml



Auto fluids and particles from brake pad and tire wear build up on our driveways, streets and parking lots every day. During rainstorms, rainwater carries the oil, antifreeze, brake pad dust, and other pollutants into the storm drain system and flows directly to local creeks and San Francisco Bay, where it can harm the plants and animals that live there.

How You Can Help Reduce Auto Pollution

- **Keep car water out of storm drains**
Washing your car in the driveway, street, or carport can carry detergents, oil, brake dust, metals and other chemicals to the storm drain that leads directly to local creeks and the Bay. Wash your car in an unpaved area or better yet, take it to a commercial car wash. Clean brake dust off wheels with paper towels and dispose of the towels in the trash.
- **Fix fluid leaks immediately**
If you see a buildup of fluids on your parking spot, place a plastic tarp or drip pan underneath your car until you repair the leak. Dispose of the fluid and plastic tarp/ drip pan at your local Household Hazardous Waste collection center.
- **Do it yourselves... Do it right**
If you change your own oil or other automotive fluids, drain fluid into a drain pan. Use a funnel to pour fluid into a plastic container and recycle the used fluids at a Household Hazardous Waste collection center or event. Never drain or pour any auto fluid onto the street or into a storm drain.
- **Carpool** or use alternative forms of transportation when possible.

For more information about how to protect your local watershed, call 1(866) WATERSHED or visit www.watershedwatch.net for a free Watershed Watch Kit.

Neighbor to Neighbor

County SACS Saves Lives

Suicide and Crisis Services

courtesy of County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado

The following is a true story...

2:30 A.M. – A call comes in to the County's **Suicide and Crisis Services (SACS) Hotline**. The caller is a 14-year-old boy who, for confidentiality purposes, will be referred to as "James." James lives with his parents and sister in San Jose.

Over the past year, James has had a number of problems at school and conflicts with his parents. James turned to drugs to deal with his issues, but they quickly become another one of his problems. As he calls the hotline, he sits in his downstairs living room with a phone in one hand and pills and a knife within reach of his other. His family is asleep upstairs.

The SACS volunteer sends police, fire, and paramedics — with their lights and sirens off — to James' house. James notices the vehicles outside. He comments to the volunteer that he notices some strange activity. The volunteer pretends to be surprised and suggests that James should investigate.

The emergency personnel take James to a location where he receives help. James goes through rehab and his entire family goes through counseling. Today, James is doing better in school, remains drug-free, and is dealing with many of his family issues.

"Santa Clara County averages over 115 suicide deaths a year."

For almost 30 years, SACS has provided programs to aid those in need of help. Here is a breakdown of the services:

o **The Crisis Hotline** operates 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-per-week. When a person calls in, he or she is greeted with a knowledgeable staff person who has at least 90 hours of in-depth specialized crisis training. The volunteers provide over the phone counseling and mobilize police and emergency medical personnel when necessary. In addition to English, a translation service allows volunteers to offer support in Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Chinese, among other languages.



"Every four days, a person in Santa Clara County ends his life."

o **The Survivor of Suicide Group** provides support to family and friends who are grieving over the trauma of a beloved's suicide. In the Crisis Intervention Support Groups, trained volunteers provide emotional support to those dealing with life stressors, relationship problems, and other issues related to suicide prevention.

If you are interested, contact a SACS representative at (408) 885-6216.

"Every hour and forty-five minutes, a young American commits suicide."

o **The Morrison Project** works with teenagers to develop coping strategies to deal with stress, loss, and other crises. This newest program of SACS uses the following tools for early intervention:

- o Classroom presentations educate students on suicidal behavior and what to do if someone they know is suicidal.
- o "Post-vention Services" are offered to serve as on-site intervention for students, staff, and parents following suicidal behavior by a person associated with the school.
- o Faculty in-services educate staff on identifying suicidal behavior.
- o The program educates parents, promotes support groups, and provides consultation for students and parents.

If you would like more information concerning the Morrison Project, call (408) 885-6216 or visit the Mental Health website at www.sccmhd.org.

Would you like to volunteer?

SACS is looking for people over the age of 21 to work a weekly four-hour shift. Volunteers would make a difference in someone's life serving the Crisis Hotline. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Mental Health Department at (408) 885-2267 or (408) 885-6216.

Neighbor to Neighbor

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

The Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) is a collaborative process designed to protect natural resources and water quality in the Santa Clara Basin. WMI includes representatives from public agencies, business and trade associations, and environmental and civic groups. WMI's mission is to protect and enhance the watershed, creating a sustainable future for the community and the environment. WMI's vision includes encouraging the following: recycled water use, scenic floodways, community creek clean ups, steelhead spawning, recovering species, environmental education, parks, energy efficient buildings, minimal paving, and commuting options.

Make an impact on the future of Santa Clara Valley by participating in a public opinion survey to help WMI shape its vision for the Valley. The survey is being conducted by the City of San Jose and WMI with the first ten meetings scheduled for June.

To learn more about WMI, visit www.scbwmi.org. For more information about the public opinion survey, contact WMI project coordinator, c/o the City of San Jose at 408-945-3000.

Camden Lifetime Activities Center
June 10 or 12, 7 - 8:30pm
3369 Camden Avenue in San Jose

Almaden Branch Library
June 16 or 24, 7 - 8:30pm
6455 Camden Avenue in San Jose

Starbird Community Center
June 17 or 25, 7 - 8:30pm
1050 Boyton Avenue San Jose

Mayfair Community Center
June 18 or 23, 7 - 8:30pm
2039 Kammerer Avenue in San Jose

Shirakawa Community Center
June 19 or 26, 7 - 8:30pm
2072 Lucretia Avenue in San Jose

SUMMER KIDS CAMP & YOUTH EVENTS

West of 4th Street Neighborhood Group

May 30 to October 30, 2003

Basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, skateboarding, swimming lessons, dancing. Email westof4th@yahoo.com for more information.

GILROY JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

Kimetic Institute & Cultural Center

June 12 from 6 - 10pm, June 13 from noon - 9pm
7469 Forest Street in Gilroy

Renown New Orleans Sax & Flutist Jazz Artist Frederick Shepard. For information and reservations, call Octavia Butler at 408-848-1225.

KIDS KAMP

Edenvale Roundtable Community Association

Mondays to Fridays, June 23 to August 1, 2003

Summer camp for neighborhood children with arts, crafts, games, field trips. Call 408-391-6515 for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD FLEA MARKET

Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association

July 12, 2003 from 8am to 2pm

At Robert Sanders parking lot and Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association Community Center. Flea market fundraiser, meeting the neighbors, recorded music. Call 408-251-3501 for more information.

UNSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	Scott Scholz
Vice Chair	Tom Clifton
Secretary	Meg Stein
Treasurer	Tom Freeman
Board Members	Helen Bliven
	Bob Dhillon
	Bart Fisher
	Ken Henning
	Bill Hughes
	Judd Murkland

UNSCC STAFF

Executive Director	Jacqui Carr Gouveia
Program Coordinator	Irene Hsu

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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
Casa Loma-Loma Chiquita 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
McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association
Monta Loma 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
Sunrise Valley Neighborhood Association
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
Glenview Drive Neighborhood Association
Haven Neighborhood Association
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
Independence High Neighborhood Association
IOOF/San Ysidro 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
North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association
Park Pleasant Neighborhood Association
Primrose 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
Tamien Neighborhood Association
West Evergreen Neighborhood Association
Westside Property Homeowners' Association