



Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 3 - MARCH 2003

CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, Mar 5
7:00 pm
UNSCC Alma Office
525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose

LOCATING AND WRITING GRANTS

Tuesday, Mar 18
6:00 pm
UNSCC Alma Office

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, Mar 19
6:45 pm
UNSCC Alma Office

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR

Friday, Mar 28
1:00 pm
3rd Street Community Center
160 N. Third Street
San Jose

UNSCC does not endorse political candidates

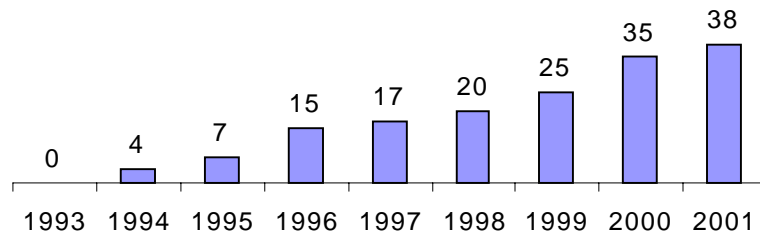
525 W. Alma Avenue
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Phone: 408-286-8661
Fax: 408-286-8680
unsc@pacbell.net
www.unsc.org

A GROWING EXPERIMENT

In 1993, Community Foundation Santa Clara County organized Action '93, a gathering of neighborhood and community leaders from several cities in Santa Clara County. Action '93 resulted in the formation of United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC). Intended to be a voice for neighborhood associations, UNSCC was to be a countywide organization, autonomous and independent from city and county governments. Ten years later, UNSCC remains a coalition of voluntarily affiliated neighborhood associations with shared interests.

In 1994, UNSCC continued on the tradition of Action '93 with a Neighborhood Conference and Summit. The event has evolved into the Annual Neighborhoods Conference, which continued to support neighborhoods throughout Santa Clara County and beyond by providing workshops and seminars on how to create and sustain neighborhood associations. Today, UNSCC provides free and low-cost workshops to help neighborhoods throughout the year. The continuing growth of UNSCC membership reflects how well UNSCC has accomplished its mission.

Number of Member Associations in UNSCC



In the coming months, successful neighborhood associations will be featured in an effort to extract and share their secrets, thereby continuing the mission of helping the development of healthy neighborhoods.

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

YOUNG AMERICANOS:

Photographic Visions of Our Community

San Jose Mercury News

A Smithsonian exhibition of photos taken by Latino children and teens that offers an intimate view of the rapidly growing Latino communities in five U.S. cities. Runs through May 4 at the Mexican Heritage Plaza La Galeria, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue in San Jose.

Albert Einstein

“Great spirits have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtlessly submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence.”

GIRLS TO EXPLORE

Careers in Math and Science

San Jose Mercury News

Girls in sixth through ninth grades who are interested in degrees and careers in science, math and engineering can enroll in the 25th annual San Jose State University Expanding Your Horizons Conference, which will be held March 15. The conference emphasizes the importance of taking math and science courses in high school, presents career opportunities and allows girls to meet and form mentoring relationships with women working in male-dominated fields.

The conference is \$15 and fills early. For information, go to www.elstad.com/sjsueyh.html or call 408-924-4917.

Neighbor to Neighbor

LOCATING AND WRITING GRANTS

Tuesday, March 18

6:00 - 8:30 pm at UNSCC Alma Office

Kaki Rusmore has over 25 years experience working with community-based organizations, both in the US and Latin America. Her work covers a broad range of community development activities, from small business start-ups to leadership development. Ms. Rusmore managed the neighborhood small grants program, Vecinos, at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, providing training and support to all the neighborhood and community groups receiving funding. Grant writing is one of many fundraising activities for which Ms. Rusmore provides training and consulting services.

UNSCC is hosting Locating and Writing Grants to address the fundraising needs of our member associations and other non-profit groups in the community, i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, P.T.A.'s. Information will be given on grants available for neighborhood associations.

Attendees can leave this training with knowledge of where to look for grants, how to grab the attention in your cover letter and what needs to be included in the grant application. Kaki will review the grant writing language that grant reviewers are looking for.

Presenter Kaki Rusmore can answer your grant writing questions.

Call UNSCC to register, 408-286-8661.

Workshop fee:

UNSCC members \$7.00 per person

Non-members \$15.00 per person

Light dinner at 6:00 pm with the workshop starting promptly at 6:30 pm.

THANK YOU !!!

Thank you Chuck Reed and Isobel Taylor for their generous donations. Thank you Joyce Hsu for the donation of a new printer.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY

The Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) is offering free classes to San Jose residents in English and Spanish on how to improve their neighborhoods. The classes are divided into three different series to address different needs. For schedules and registration, contact NDC at 408-277-5350 or visit www.ci.san-jose.ca.us/prns/ndc.htm

Series I

Neighborhood Association Organizing and Building Stronger Neighborhoods

- Introduction to Neighborhood Organizing and Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI)
- Identify & Prioritize Goals, Establish Action Plan
- Establishing a Board of Directors & Bylaws
- Membership Recruitment & Identifying Resources (\$\$ & Partnerships) & Fiscal Management

Series II

Neighborhood Development Training

- Introduction to Strong Neighborhoods Initiative
 - Crime Prevention Program
 - Restorative Justice Program
- Tour of SJPD's Communications Center
 - Tour of the Emergency Operating Center
 - San Jose Prepared! Program
- PRNS's Gang Awareness Presentation
 - San Jose Public Library Services & Programs
- Community Action and Pride Grant Program & Fiscal Management, Anti-Graffiti/Anti-Litter

Series III

Continuous Neighborhood Improvement

- Introduction to Strong Neighborhoods Initiative
 - Neighborhood Blight, Rental Dispute Program
- Department of Transportation Services & Programs
 - Housing Department's Programs
- SJPD's Family Violence Center
 - Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
- San Jose Fire Department's Fire Safety & Station Tour

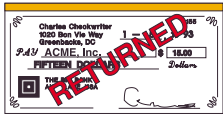
Neighbor to Neighbor

GIVE THEM A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF A BAD CHECK

courtesy of County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado

It strikes small and big businesses all over Santa Clara County. It doesn't discriminate and can severely affect your bottom line. Avoid becoming the latest victim of a **BAD CHECK**.



The good news is that the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and American Corrective

Counseling Services have joined forces to fight for the money you deserve.

In 2001, the **District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program** returned \$317,000 to victims of 6,497 bad checks. Local merchants receive restitution without paying any collection fee and this service is provided at no cost to the County or the taxpayers.

How It Works

- § A check is eligible for the Bad Check Restitution Program if the check is received in Santa Clara County, under \$5,000, presumed "good" at the time of deposit, and, most importantly, accurate information from a photo identification card was recorded at the time of the transaction.
- § First, you should make personal contact with the check writer. If you are unsuccessful in making contact, send a courtesy notice advising the bad check writer that he has 10 days to respond and send payment. If there is no response, contact the Bad Check Restitution Program at 1-877-520-6137 for a complaint form.
- § Fill out the complaint form, attach originals (you retain photocopies) of all checks and notification documents, such as return receipts and bank notices. Mail the complaint form to:
**Santa Clara County District Attorney
Bad Check Restitution Program
PMB 150
1765 Landess Avenue
Milpitas, CA 95035-7019**

If you do not receive restitution within 60 days, contact the District Attorney's Office at 1-877-520-6137.

More often than not, a letter from the District Attorney's Office is sufficient to motivate the bad check writer to comply and submit the money you are owed.

Avoid Being a Victim

- **Institute a Check Acceptance Policy**
A clearly visible policy posted for your customers and firmly implemented by you and your employees can go a long way toward reducing the chance of being the victim of a bad check.
- **Only Accept Checks Written with Current Date**
Post-dated checks are not criminal matters, but civil matters and are not accepted in the District Attorney's Bad Check Program.
- **Trust Your Instincts**
If the person's photo I.D. is questionable or something doesn't seem right, ask questions to test the information provided or ask for another form of payment. You are not obligated to accept a check.
- **Verify the Information on the Check**
A check without an amount, date, or signature is ineligible for the Bad Check Program. Verify that the signature on the check is similar to the photo I.D. and that the photo matches the customer's face.



Ineligible? Try This.

Bad checks that are ineligible for this program may be pursued through small claims court or by a private collection agency. For more information about Small Claims Court, visit the Superior Court's Self-Service Center at 99 Notre Dame Avenue in downtown San Jose or go to: www.scselfservice.org

For further information about the District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program, please contact Melissa Sifuentes at (408) 436-8980 or Bruce Raye at (408) 792-2951.

Neighbor to Neighbor

“IMAGINE 2003” LATINO SUCCESS FORUM

Building Bridges to Tomorrow

Thursday, March 13, 2003
1130am – 5pm

Mexican Heritage Plaza
1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose

Sponsored by Muybueno.net, an historic lineup of speakers will share their personal stories of success and give attendees a roadmap to follow in unleashing their full potential. There will also be special performances by Margarita de Jesus and teenage heartthrob, Manuel Romero.

Registration information at 866-468-3399 or www.latinempowerment.org. General admission \$35, students \$15.

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COALITION

Sixth Annual Summit in Oakland

Saturday, March 22, 2003
10am - 130pm

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

BURBANK COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, March 29, 2003
10am - 230pm
4 Wabash Avenue, San Jose

Everything is FREE! FREE Activities and educational seminars, child supervision, lunch and entertainment, health screenings for blood pressure, breast exam, cholesterol, dental, diabetes, vision, and hearing.

WISE WORDS...

Without new ideas,
There will be no progress;
Without broad perspective,
There will be no foresight.

The ocean is vast because it welcomes
Even the smallest streams;
Don't miss the opportunity to do a good deed,
However small.

When learning,
Strive for depth and breadth;
When cultivating,
Be patient and tolerant.

The way to stay healthy is
To eat lightly, simply and moderately.
The way to deal with life is
To bear hardships, endure losses and be strong.

Good fortune always looks with favor
Upon the brave;
Blessings always come
To the honest and the kind.

Acquiring social skills enable us
To making a living;
Acquiring spiritual education enables us
To reach all people.

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
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
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
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
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