



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

# Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 5 - MAY 2003

## CALENDAR

### FUNDRAISING TRAINING

Tuesday, May 6  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
UNSCC Office  
525 W. Alma Avenue  
San Jose

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, May 7  
6:00 pm  
UNSCC Office

### YOUTH CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 10  
9am - 5pm  
Park Side Hall  
(across from  
Convention Center)

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, May 21  
6:45 pm  
UNSCC Office

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](http://www.unsc.org)

## SILVER LEAF NEIGHBORHOOD

### ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Bill Lusto

**R**on Gonzales, Mayor of the City of San Jose, together with District 2 Council member, Forrest Williams, presented the annual San Jose Good Neighbor Award to the Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association. At the 2003 State of the City Address, Mayor Gonzales, Mr. Williams, and the San Jose City Council congratulated and commended the members of the Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association for their exemplary dedication and commitment to San Jose. The Mayor praised the Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association for "exemplifying the leadership and commitment qualities that the City of San Jose recognizes with the annual Good Neighbor Award."

The Association successfully provides constructive means for the residents in the Silver Leaf area to address neighborhood needs. Additionally, it provides opportunities regarding schools, safety, traffic, zoning, recreation, and environmental preservation. By becoming an effective forum to bring residents together, the Association has strengthened the Silver Leaf neighborhood by offering positive programs, resources, and activities strongly supported by the people who live in the Silver Leaf area.

The Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association (SLNA) was established in August of 2000. It serves approximately 900 homes in the community surrounding Silver Leaf Park in South San Jose with communications and methods to identify and resolve community issues.

On Saturday April 26, 2003, SLNA demonstrated its commitment to being a good neighbor by holding its very first Spring Fling, a get-to-know-your-neighbor craft fair and flea market at the Silver Leaf Park. "It went GREAT!" wrote Dave Wilkins of SLNA. "We were very, very worried about getting washed out! We had 21 sellers, not too bad for the first time. There were 5 no shows, I think because of the weather being so bad up to that morning. Forrest Williams dropped by to walk the booths. All in all, we're very happy at the turn out."

## 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

## **INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR**

The Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) was created to provide civilian oversight of the citizen complaint process and to make policy recommendations to the San José Police Department. The IPA has three primary functions:

- It serves as an alternate forum where people may file a complaint.
- It reviews the investigations of complaints conducted by the San José Police Department to determine if the investigation was complete, thorough, objective, and fair. Based on these reviews, the IPA makes recommendations for policy changes to the SJPD.
- It promotes public awareness of a person's right to file a complaint.

The IPA believes it is important residents of San José are aware of their rights to file a complaint, as well as their responsibilities. The IPA provides presentations to various community groups and to diverse audiences. Additionally, the office produces various publications. Last year the IPA published the city's first youth guidebook, "A Student's Guide to Police Practices." The goal of the youth guide is to provide information about interacting with police officers and to help them make smart decisions.

The office is conveniently located downtown at the corner of North Second and East Santa Clara Streets (2 North Second Street, Suite 93). For more information or to schedule a presentation please contact Xochitl Yañez, Community & Public Relations Coordinator, at (408) 794-6231 or via email [xochitl.yanez@ci.sj.ca.us](mailto:xochitl.yanez@ci.sj.ca.us).

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

UNSCC welcomes two new members: Primrose Neighborhood Association and Westside Property Homeowners' Association.

## **FUNDRAISING FOR THE LONG RUN**

When - Tuesday May 6, 2003 from 6:00 - 8:30pm  
Where - 525 W. Alma Avenue, San Jose

With the typical granting sources drying up rapidly, this workshop will focus on more long-term strategies to continue to bring in operating funds for your organization or association. It will be a snapshot of how to build fiscal viability into all that you want to achieve.

The presenter, Sherry Simmons, has successfully operated her own consulting firm, Simmons Consulting, for over five years. In addition, she has been raising funds for both small and large organizations for over 35 years, starting with a penny carnival to raise money for her local hospital. Probably one of the most important credentials is that Sherry really loves to raise money.

Workshop fee includes dinner:

\$8.00 per person for UNSCC members  
\$20.00 per person for non-members

To register, contact UNSCC at 408-286-2661 or [unsc@pacbell.net](mailto:unsc@pacbell.net).

## **SPONSOR SUPERSTARS!**

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

## **TREES ARE A WISE INVESTMENT**

<http://www.ourcityforest.org>

### Trees Save Energy

- A single mature tree provides the cooling equivalent of five average room air conditioners running 12 hours per day.
- Trees serve as windbreaks to save from 10 to 50% in energy used for heating.
- Strategically placed shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs from 10 to 50%.

### Trees Cool Hot Cities

- The collective cooling effect of trees reduces city temperatures 3 to 10 degrees.
- Trees increase humidity in dry climates through evaporation of moisture.
- Trees reduce glare on sunny days.

### Trees Are Good For Our Health

- Trees shorten post-operative hospital stays when patients are placed in rooms with a view of trees and open spaces.
- Shade trees provide protection from harmful sun rays.
- Trees filter air contaminants, giving us cleaner air to breathe.
- Trees create feelings of relaxation and well-being.
- Trees absorb and soften irritating noise from the urban environment.

### Trees Conserve Water and Reduce Soil Erosion

- Trees reduce surface runoff of water from storms.
- Trees reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of streams.
- Trees increase ground water recharge that is significantly reduced by paving.
- Trees reduce the amount of grease and oil transported to streams, a major source of ocean pollution.
- Trees reduce wind erosion of soil.
- Trees shade other plants, decreasing their water requirements.

### Trees Increase Property Values

- Houses on tree-lined streets command prices that are 21 percent higher than houses in more barren areas.
- Houses with their own mature landscaping sell faster than those without and command a higher price.
- Office & industrial sites which include mature trees are in greater demand and are more valuable.

## **Plant Trees! Help Green Silicon Valley! Become a Tree Amigo!**

The next Our City Forest "Tree Amigo" volunteer training course begins May 7. Those completing the 18-hour training will become certified to coach volunteers at neighborhood and school tree plantings sponsored by Our City Forest.

**DATES & TIMES:** Wednesdays: May 7, 14, 21, 28 from 6 to 9 pm & Saturdays: May 17 and 31 from 9am to Noon

**PLACE:** Our City Forest  
595 Park Ave. Suite 100  
San José, CA 95110

**DIRECTIONS:** Our City Forest is located at the corner of Park Ave. & Montgomery (Bird), just off Hwy 280 (Bird exit)

**COST:** FREE

This course consists of six 3-hour classes. Students will learn planting techniques, species identification, basic tree care, and how to help organize a community planting. There will be a tree nursery tour, a walking tree tour and a tree-planting project. The training is free and open to all. No previous experience is necessary.

For more information and to sign up for the course, please contact Melanie Kimbel at (408) 998-7337 or email [mkimbel@outcityforest.org](mailto:mkimbel@outcityforest.org).

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## Drop your dispute in the hands of a stranger

courtesy of County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado



The County of Santa Clara's Office of Human Relations has a Dispute Resolution Program that attempts to resolve conflicts between two parties in a non-legal, non-threatening way.

The County established the *Community Mediation Service*, *Small Claims Court Mediation*, and *Conciliation Division and Conflict Resolution Essentials for Schools Transformation (CREST)* to facilitate communication and increase education in conflict resolution principles.

Instead of heading to court to resolve disputes and paying hundreds of dollars in fees, these programs are offered at no cost to the public.

Trained volunteer mediators assist the parties in working through issues to come to a successful resolution. The majority of these volunteers are lawyers and teachers. This is an effective way to resolve disputes between two or more parties.

### Small Claims Court Mediation

If you filed a lawsuit in Small Claims Court or you are a Defendant who was served with a notice of a complaint, then this program may assist you.

Small Claims Court Mediation handles disputes between landlords and tenants, disputes concerning personal loans, business debts, automobile repairs or accidents, contracts for services, and any case involving a claim of up to \$5,000.

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***Between July 2001 and June 2002, Small Claims Court Mediation had an 85% success rate in resolving disputes.***

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If you are involved in any of these kinds of disputes, a mediator who has completed a 40-hour mediation training course will bring the parties together to attempt to reach a resolution.

**For more information about this program, please call Elizabeth Williams-MacArt at (408) 792-2321.**

### Community Mediation Service

If you have a dispute with your neighbor, a family member, your homeowners association, a landlord, or a tenant, the Community Division can be of assistance. By working with public agencies like the District Attorney's Office, the County Sheriff's Office, and City Police Departments, mediators assist parties in resolving their dispute in a timely, professional, and confidential manner.

**For more information about this program, please call Viola Alvarez at (408) 792-2314.**

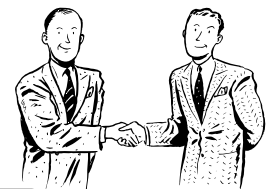
### Conflict Resolution Essentials for Schools Transformation

Ever wondered how your children resolve their disputes with their classmates? Do your children deal with their disputes in a non-peaceful manner? The Conflict Resolution Essentials for School Transformation (CREST) program works with schools in Santa Clara County to provide effective communication and conflict resolution training for students. CREST trains peer-selected students to become Conflict Managers.

**For more information about this program and how schools can participate, please call Meg Sanders at (408) 792-2319.**

### Resolve Disputes with Conciliation

In addition to offering mediation, the Dispute Resolution Program also provides an informal process called conciliation. A neutral third party assists with resolving a dispute over the phone, without having the parties meet.



For more information about these and other services, or if you are interested in volunteering, please call, (408) 792-2302 or visit [www.sccdrps.org](http://www.sccdrps.org).

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## EVERGREEN FARMERS' MARKET

Sundays, May 4 - October 26, 9am - 1pm  
Mirassou Vineyards  
3000 Aborn Road in San Jose

Enjoy music, fresh fruit and vegetables, wine tasting, handmade crafts, Kettle Korn, and more.

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR

### "Making a Difference"

Saturday May 10, 9am - 5pm, Park Side Hall  
(across from the Convention Center in San Jose)

Topics include: Graffiti Art, Hip Hop, Respect & Diversity, Youth Organizing, and Leadership Skills.

For more information or to register, contact 408-794-0495 or youthseminar@yahoo.com.

## GREAT AMERICAN PICK-UP

San Jose's Citywide Clean Up Day  
Saturday May 10, 9am - noon  
locations throughout San Jose

For more information, call 408-277-4000.

## WALK SAN JOSE'S ROSES TO ROSES

### Mother's Day Walk

Sunday, May 11, 2003 from 11:00am to 12:30pm

11:00am - Departs Municipal Rose Garden (at the intersection of Dana and McDaniel Ave.)

11:30am - Arrives at Heritage Rose Garden, on Taylor Street, near Spring Street. Walkers can spend half an hour exploring the garden and the nearby Heritage Orchard.

12:00pm - Departs Heritage Rose Garden

12:30pm - Return to Municipal Rose Garden

No reservations are needed. The walk is FREE, although donations are always appreciated. Don't forget comfy shoes, a water bottle, and hat. Dogs are allowed on the walk, but no dogs allowed inside the Municipal Rose Garden. For route map, visit [www.walksanjose.org/mothers\\_day\\_walk.htm](http://www.walksanjose.org/mothers_day_walk.htm).

## NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Eden Neighborhood Association  
Saturday May 17 beginning at 8am  
area bordered by Williams Rd, Payne Ave,  
Winchester Bl, and San Tomas Exp. in San Jose

## NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP DAY

Saturday May 17, 9am - noon

Find out how you can get involved. Call 408-265-2607 ext 2238 or email [cru@valleywater.org](mailto:cru@valleywater.org). Visit [www.cleanacreek.org](http://www.cleanacreek.org).

## MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

### Sharing Family Stories

Sunday and Monday, May 25 and 26, 10am - 4pm  
History Park at Kelley Park in San Jose

For more information, contact Irene Camarena at [icamarena@rfcommunity.org](mailto:icamarena@rfcommunity.org) or 408-521-5110 ext 101.

## FREE ADS ON PENNYSAVER

PennySaver offers free ads for schools and community groups. For more information, contact [khulsey@pennysaverusa.com](mailto:khulsey@pennysaverusa.com).

### UNSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### UNSCC STAFF

<b>Executive Director</b>	Jacqui Carr Gouveia
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	Irene Hsu

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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San Jose, CA 95125  
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unsc@pacbell.net  
www.unsc.org

## GENERAL MEMBERS

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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  
Sunrise Valley Neighborhood Association  
Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association  
Warner Heights Neighborhood Association  
West of Fourth Street Neighborhood Group  
Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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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  
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