



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

# Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 6: NUMBER 11 - NOVEMBER 2003

## CALENDAR

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday Nov 12  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office  
525 W. Alma Ave.  
San Jose

### ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday Nov 19  
6:45 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office  
San Jose

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday Dec 3  
7:00 pm  
UNSCC Alma Office  
San Jose

### HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

Wednesday Dec 10  
or  
Wednesday Dec 17?

UNSCC does not endorse  
political candidates

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

## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Bill Hughes, Berryessa Citizens Advisory Council

I had been involved in two unsuccessful attempts to form a coalition of neighborhood associations before I joined this group. The previous failures were due to arguments over the amount of independence each group should have. However, this coalition of organizations was able to overcome these concerns by allowing members to retain their own identities.

From this beginning in 1993 with 10 neighborhood associations, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) have grown to 76. Almost half joined since Jacqui came aboard in 2000. Of the original founders, only Warner Bloomberg and I remain, although not continuously. In the early years, UNSCC was continuously on the move without a stable home, which we now have. We have grown from no staff to a full-time Executive Director and volunteers.

In the future, I see UNSCC taking on more issues, particularly in planning. Ed Rass has started a Land Use/Planning Committee that will come up with an approach to these issues that we can all use. We need to support a Public Outreach Policy for Pending Land Use and Development Proposals, which will provide for early, effective notification of neighborhood associations.

My vision of the future also includes more neighborhood-friendly elected officials. We can form closer relationships with them by inviting them to our meetings more often, by holding or co-sponsoring more candidates' nights, and by encouraging more of our members to run for office. In addition, we need to get more of our members on committees, commissions, and task forces. For publicity purposes, we need each office seeker to list UNSCC on his/her resume.

I envision a bright future for UNSCC with our organization growing to 100 by March 1.

## 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

## 2003 ELIZABETH ANABO BRICC AWARDS

Grainger Marburg, Community Foundation Silicon Valley

The Elizabeth Anabo BRICC (Building Resourceful, Inspirational Creative Community) Awards recognize neighborhood associations that have worked hard to make their community a better place to live. The awards honor Elizabeth Anabo – a young program officer at Community Foundation Silicon Valley who died three years ago – who was passionate about helping neighbors find solutions to their problems. These awards are given to groups which exemplify the spirit of what Elizabeth Anabo worked so hard to achieve.

From a pool of strong and competitive nominations, a few points separated this year's winners from two other groups, McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association and Northside Neighborhood Association. In the end, the Committee selected two neighborhood groups – one new and emerging, the other established – for the 2003 awards.

### **Award #1 (new/emerging category)**

Created in 2001, North Willow Glen Neighborhood Association originally formed to organize/coordinate the efforts of individual activists and work more cooperatively with the City. In two short years, the group's goal has already evolved to include all members of the neighborhood through a variety of community-wide events. They have successfully attracted a richly diverse group of people to get involved with neighborhood activities, and, among other accomplishments, have turned an empty, blighted lot into a beautiful pocket park. The Selection Committee was impressed by the group's balanced mix of activities and by the motivation of the group's members.

### **Award #2 (established category)**

The second award goes to Olinder Neighborhood Association, a group that has been around for about 10 years. During that time, this group has been working tirelessly to tackle tough issues and improve the overall safety and quality of life in their neighborhood. Their efforts have paid off. Once a hotbed of criminal activity - and a training ground for new police recruits because of it – the neighborhood is now considered on par with some of the safer areas in the City. Though safety is still important to the group, the association's efforts are now more focused on other quality of life projects, such as a food program for needy families and advocating for the completion of a long-awaited community park. Their accomplishments over the years have clearly contributed to making their neighborhood a better place to live.

## PUBLIC ART PROGRAM SOLICITS IDEAS

The City of San Jose is soliciting ideas for the art works at the new Civic Center-5th Street improvements. The commissioned artist, Andrew Leicester, proposed a "parade of permanent floats" sculptures to evoke a sense that the Civic Center is a special place and that will visually connect City Hall to San Jose State University and surrounding neighborhoods. The 16 sculptures will reflect various themes of San Jose - past, present, and future. Community members are asked to identify those themes.

From October 15 through November 15, 2003, community members are invited to participate in the development of themes for the float sculptures by submitting a written description of their float ideas to [leadtheparade@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:leadtheparade@sanjoseca.gov). A panel of artists, historians, and community members will select the final 16 themes from the ideas submitted. For more information, contact Mary Rubin, Project Manager, San Jose Public Art Program at 408-277-2808 or [mary.rubin@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mary.rubin@sanjoseca.gov).

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD

Judd Murkland, Cory Neighborhood Association

In these days of stressful economic conditions and with our focus often fixed on dissatisfaction with State and Federal political personalities and on concerns of forces which appear overwhelming, it is appropriate to take time out to see what is happening around us, especially in our own neighborhoods. This is the foundation of local neighborhood organizations, and the heart of UNSCC.

This year, UNSCC is proud to inaugurate a new award – one that requires us to search our own neighborhoods for those persons who have stood out through their dedication, passion or commitment, have made a positive difference to those around them in their neighborhood as well as UNSCC. The award, our Outstanding Community Leader Award, allows us to reflect on the good things that are happening, and the people who are making them happen.

In one sense, this is our “Local Hero” award. And for our first recipient, UNSCC is honored to bestow this award upon **Tom Freeman**.

Tom has been involved with UNSCC for nine years. He has held the positions of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. He has generously and unfailingly committed his time and dedication to this organization, believing that what UNSCC does is important. His passion is understated...Tom is neither a loud nor domineering person. But for those who have worked with him, his passion is nonetheless deep and powerful.

For the years that he has acted as foundation on our board, for the extra hours he has devoted on the fundraising committee, for his practical and straightforward management of the Treasurer’s role, and finally for his silent but large series of fiscal contributions to the organization, Tom has earned our respect as our “Local Hero.”

Thanks, Tom!

## IN THE SHADOWS

Jacqui Carr Gouveia, UNSCC

For three years, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) has had a group of extraordinary volunteers. UNSCC could count on this group to be available on short notice, take a project – start to finish – in a very timely manner and put in long, weekend hours to ensure successful events. UNSCC is efficient and has successful events due to this group’s commitment to community organizing.

“Stars of the Community” are teenagers not only assisting UNSCC but organizing events in their Burbank community. If you want to organize a neighborhood cultural diversity event, this is a group to ask. They have done a very successful one this year. Is your neighborhood interested in painting and planting at residences where owners are motivated but unable to beautify their homes? This group of youngsters can tell you how to do the project.

“Stars of the Community” needs to be recognized for their good work in the community and their extraordinary leadership capabilities at such a young age. UNSCC wants to encourage each individual member to continue their passion to make changes in their community.

UNSCC recognizes and thanks “Stars of the Community” members: **Vicky Arechiga, Joe Artacho, Danielle Chavez, Christian Diaz, Jasmin Diaz, Katrina Esparza, Lindsey Mueller, Liz Uresta, Rolando Urbina, and Celia Valdez**. They are our future leaders.

## BOARDMEMBERS FOR 2004

United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County is seeking boardmembers for 2004. Nominations will be made at the November Advisory Council Meeting and election will take place in January. Email [unsc@pacbell.net](mailto:unsc@pacbell.net) or call Jacqui at 408-286-8661 for more information.

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## TURNING TRASH INTO TREASURE

Find out what the County's Home Composting Program can do for you!

from the office of County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado

Did you know that nearly 35% of what Santa Clara County residents throw into the garbage or place into yard waste recycling could easily be composted at home?

The County of Santa Clara Home Composting Education Program wants to show you how to garner this valuable resource while simultaneously reducing the solid waste that ends up in our local landfill.

### What is Compost?

Compost is a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil mixture that can be added to your garden to improve plant and vegetable growth. Compost is made up of partially decomposed plant material and other organic wastes that include fruit, vegetable, and yard trimmings. Compost benefits the environment by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the life of our landfills.

### Home Composting Helps You and Your Plants

Not only does composting help the environment, its benefits around the house have led gardeners to call compost their "black gold." Compost saves you money by lowering your garbage bills and replacing your store-bought garden conditioners. Compost also helps garden and houseplants by improving the fertility and health of your soil.

Homemade compost is not the same as the multipurpose composts that you buy in garden centers. When you use store-bought composts, you are adding non-organic mixtures to your yard such as fertilizers and other chemicals. In addition, store-bought composts can easily cost the average gardener \$50 a year. When you compost on your own, the only things you need are kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and a little time to produce a healthy organic soil that saves you money.

### Learn to Compost

The Santa Clara County Home Composting Education Program offers fun and interactive classes that teach the basics of successful composting. The workshops are free to attend and take place in most cities throughout the County. To find a schedule of upcoming workshops, visit the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission's website at [www.ReduceWaste.org](http://www.ReduceWaste.org) and click on "Home Composting."

### Master Composter Volunteer Program

The Home Composting Education Program also promotes a Master Composter Volunteer Program to increase community outreach within the county. The training is free and includes workshops on the art and science of composting, field trips, certification, and all training materials. Upon graduation, Master Composters do public outreach projects throughout the county including 'Composting Basics' workshops for adults, worm composting classes for children, and dozens of large and small conferences, seminars, and table displays. The application deadline for the Master Composter Volunteer training program occurs each year on January 1. For 2004, classes will begin on January 7 and continue through March 10.

If you would like to attend a workshop, become a Master Composter, seek composting advice, buy a compost bin, or ask any other questions about this unique County service, call the Home Composting Education Program 'Rotline' at (408) 918-4640.

# Neighbor to Neighbor

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM

Gilroy Energy Center LLC would like to notify the Gilroy Community that they are awarding \$50,000 in grants. The eight-member board is soliciting grant applications for grant requests whose focus is aligned with the overall mission and vision of Gilroy Energy Center, particularly in the areas of: The Environment, Education, Health and Human Services, Community Development, and Culture.

Deadline for submitting the grant requests is November 7 for the 2003 calendar year funding. Applications can be obtained at the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce or by contacting Robin Balanesi at Robinb@Calpine.com or 408-847-5328, extension 1401.

## VICTIMS OF CRIME ADVISORY COUNCIL

ARE YOU THE SURVIVOR OF A CRIME?  
OR  
FAMILY MEMBER OF A SURVIVOR?

Robbery-Arson-Hit and Run-Vandalism-Child Abuse-Theft-Assault-Graffiti-Burglary-Date Rape Stalking-Domestic Violence-Stolen Vehicle

The Victims of Crime Advisory Council Invites you to their 1st Public Forum!

November 13, 2003 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
The Office of the Sheriff, Auditorium  
55 West Younger Avenue, San Jose

- > Share your experience in a safe and confidential setting.
- > Describe how the crime has had an impact in your life.
- > Identify what support you received and what support was needed but missing.
- > Identify your current needs.

Your shared information will help in the creation of a new program designed to better support victims of crime and their needs. For further information, contact vocacgroup@yahoo.com or 408-286-9744.

## FREE BikeEd COURSE

The City of San Jose Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is currently offering the following courses:

**Street Skills:** This 3.5 hour classroom course covers the basic of riding safely and confidently in traffic. Learn your legal rights and responsibilities on the road. Topics covered include how to safely change lanes, cross intersections, ride at night, use public transit, and fix a flat. Recommended for casual bicyclists who want to become more confident and comfortable riding in traffic. Classroom only - 6:30pm - 10:00 pm, Friday, November 21.

**Road 1:** This two day course combines Street Skills with a second day that includes both classroom instruction and on-bike practice. Road 1 includes both written and on-bike tests. Day 1 - Street Skills (see above) and Day 2 - On Street Practice, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Saturday, November 22.

The course will take place at 4 N. Second Street at Santa Clara Street in downtown San Jose.

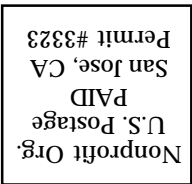
Contact John Brazil at john.brazil@ci.sj.ca.us to register or for more information.

### UNSCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Chair</b>	Tom Clifton
<b>Secretary</b>	Meg Stein
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Freeman
<b>Board Members</b>	Helen Bliven
	Bob Dhillon
	Ken Henning
	Bill Hughes
	Judd Murkland
	Edward Rast

### UNSCC STAFF

<b>Executive Director</b>	Jacqui Carr Gouveia
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## 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  
Casa Loma-Loma Chiquita Neighborhood Association  
Cory Neighborhood Association  
Crescent Park Neighborhood Association  
Cuesta 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  
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  
Plata Arroyo East Gate 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  
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  
Doborn 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  
Japantown 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  
Palm Haven Restoration 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