



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S

Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 5, No. 10 OCTOBER 2002

CALENDAR

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

Saturday, Oct 12
San Jose State University
Student Union Building
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA

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CODED SECRET MESSAGE

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

DEDICATED VOLUNTEER

San Miguel Neighborhood Association and United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) are lucky to have such a dedicated volunteer in Rosario Vasutin. A kindergarten teacher at Anne Darling Elementary School in the San Jose Unified School District, Rosario has been teaching for over twenty years and has been involved with San Miguel Neighborhood Association in Sunnyvale since its formation in 1994. For the past two years, Rosario has been on the Board of Directors of UNSCC, co-chairing the Annual Conference Committee last year and supporting the committee with her experience and expertise this year.

A native of El Salvador, Rosario works with other San Miguel neighbors to raise the \$3000-\$4000 yearly association operating budget by asking residents for donations of treasures which are sold at the annual flea market in conjunction with the annual Sunnyvale garage sale. The profits are then used to pay for association expenses such as the printing of its newsletter and the annual turkey and ham dinner celebration. In addition, San Miguel association members also collect and repair old uniforms at the neighborhood San Miguel Elementary School for resale with the funds donated to needy families to buy new uniforms.

"Rosario is what a good neighbor should be," according to San Miguel Neighborhood Association Boardmember Lori Boos. "She is a dedicated volunteer and a wonderful lady," continued Boos.

UNSCC recognizes Rosario for her dedication to San Miguel Neighborhood Association and the community at large.

UNSCC WELCOMES IRENE HSU !

A recent graduate of Stanford University, Irene brings strong management, organizing, and planning skills to UNSCC. Irene will be helping Jacqui at the office as a Volunteer and Events Coordinator.

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

REGIONAL TRAFFIC CALMING WORKSHOPS

Is the quality of life in your neighborhood dwindling because of the number of vehicles moving through your streets? If so, would your neighborhood association like to learn about the latest traffic calming techniques?

Wednesday, October 16 at 630pm
Luther Burbank School
4 Wabash Avenue, San Jose

Thursday, October 24 at 630pm
City Council Chambers
1755 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill

Thursday, November 7 at 630pm
The Arts Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

For more information, contact Jacqui Carr Gouveia, Executive Director, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net.

Funding for the workshops is provided by a grant from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department/Traffic Safe Communities Network and the California Office of Traffic Safety.

WHY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS THRIVE OR DIE

from *NUSA News*, summer 2002

In the mid-1980s, the Citizen's Committee of New York City undertook the Block Booster Project, a two-year study of relationships among block associations, crime and community development.

Besides determining that block associations substantially reduced crime, the study also examined why some groups thrived while others withered and died. Use of resources emerged as a key factor. Active, healthy block groups had the same resources as inactive ones, but they used them more effectively. Here are key survival tactics discovered by the Block Booster Project:

- Spell out roles and responsibilities of the association and its members. Adopt bylaws and elect officers.
- Decentralize planning and work. Delegate tasks and establish standing committees.
- Keep in touch with members. Use personal contacts, in and outside of meetings. Distribute a newsletter to communicate regularly with members.
- Plan for and train new leaders. Don't burn out existing ones.
- Mobilize collective resources and use them. Know members' skills and personal and business contacts. Be realistic about how many people you need to do a job.
- Use outside resources, such as government agencies and community-based organizations.
- Strike a balance between business and pleasure. Conduct business meetings on time and efficiently, but have a time for socializing before or after the meeting.
- Involve all elements in the community – single parents, renters as well as homeowners, teenagers, senior citizens, business owners and managers.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Ninth Annual United Neighborhoods Conference

BUILDING OUR NATION WITH STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

Saturday, October 12, 2002

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

San Jose State University - Student Union Building

One Washington Square

San Jose, CA 95110

NETWORKING!

COLLABORATION!

LEARNING!

FUN!

COME JOIN US FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE!!

UNSCC is dedicated to supporting Santa Clara County neighborhoods in developing and improving their local communities. The 9th Annual Conference is the largest we have ever held! It will feature over 30 workshops on common community issues and give suggestions on how to solve these issues and empower your own community.

Our Keynote Speaker is Rigo Chacon, ABC TV South Bay Reporter

Some Workshop Themes:

- Maintaining Neighborhood Associations
- Financial Development
- Coming Together as a Neighborhood
- Diversity: Interacting with Local Cultures
- Communicating with Government
- Youth Involvement in Neighborhoods

Other Perks:

- Breakfast and lunch
- Registration Cost \$20 at the door
- Resource Fair of local agencies
- Award ceremonies/donation prizes
- Lunch-time entertainment
- Translators available

**Contact United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County
for registration information.**

Phone: 408-286-8661

Email: unsc@pacbell.net

Neighbor to Neighbor

FROM THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR BLANCA ALVARADO

Supervisor Blanca Alvarado publishes these articles as a service to the public. Many of these articles will be about little-known county services that may help you improve your quality of life.

SCAMMED? RIPPED OFF?

The County's Consumer Protection Unit
Can Save the Day!

When business transactions with the dry cleaner, the telephone service provider, or the auto repair shop leave you feeling ripped off, the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit is here to help. Don't despair, fight back!

When improper charges on a cell phone bill appear, obtaining a refund can be a challenge. When a fitness club is still charging you for a canceled membership and won't return your calls, it helps to have a third party such as the Mediation Services of the Consumer Protection Unit step in.

Savvy consumers can contact the District Attorney's Office to assist them with resolving disputes. Mediators, many of whom are trained volunteers, intercede to resolve disputes over contracts, retail sales, and warranty problems.

If a complaint rises to the level of an illegal business practice, the complaint is forwarded to the Enforcement Division of the Consumer Protection Unit. Here, attorneys review complaints of unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business practices, or allegations of untrue or misleading advertising.

To file a complaint:

1. Contact the Consumer Protection Unit and request a form by downloading, calling or writing:

www.santaclara-da.org/consumer.html

408-792-2880

Consumer Protection Unit
District Attorney's Office
West Wing, Fourth Floor
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

2. Complete the form and mail it.
3. A mediator contacts the business about the complaint.
4. When the business responds to the complaint, the mediator works with both parties until a solution is reached. If that is not possible, the consumer is advised of his or her options.

WINS FOR THE CUSTOMER

Over the last year, the District Attorney's Enforcement Division has won significant civil actions. One of California's largest jewelry retailers incurred over \$4 million in civil penalties when statements and conduct by employees induced customers to unknowingly buy life, disability, and property insurance at the time they purchased jewelry on credit.

A car dealership that sold used vehicles as new and failed to provide Spanish language Buyer's Guides to Spanish-speaking customers received a permanent injunction, and was forced to pay restitution and penalties.

An auto repair business, which routinely issued brake and lamp inspection certificates of compliance without performing the necessary inspections, received a permanent injunction and civil penalties as well.

GIRLS SUMMIT

Thursday, October 10 from 830am – 6pm
Paramount Great America, Santa Clara
Contact Whitney Smith at 408-299-5120 or
whitney.smith@ceo.co.santa-clara.ca.usccc or
www.girlsforachange.org for more information.

Neighbor to Neighbor

MONICA PIN SCHOLARSHIP

Resources for Families and Communities (RFC) will be awarding three scholarships to students of Cambodian/Asian descent attending a school in Santa Clara County. One award of \$500 for a college student and two awards of \$150 each for high school students are available.

Monica Pin was a part of the Cambodian, RFC, SSA communities; and she became a positive figure to students wanting an education at the same time giving back to the community. Monica became a victim of violence against woman and paid with her life. The Monica Pin Scholarship is established to remember and celebrate the memory of Monica Pin.

Students are asked to submit their name, address, phone number, school attending and a one or two page essay entitled "Being Cambodian (Asian) in the United States". The information should be sent to: "Monica Pin Scholarship" c/o RFC, 167 Eastridge Way, San Jose, CA 95122. The deadline is Friday, November 22, 2002. The winners will be notified by Monday, December 2, 2002.

The winners and their families will be presented the scholarship at the RFC dinner scheduled for December 12 at the Hyatt San Jose (located on First Street by the airport).

Tax-deductible donations to the Monica Pin Scholarship Fund should be sent to RFC at above address. Contact Jesus Orosco at jlorosco@rfcommunity.org or 408-528-6700. Visit www.rfcommunity.org.

WALK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Friday, October 11 from 9am – noon
San Jose City Hall, San Jose
Call 408-277-4000 for more information

BOARDMEMBERS WANTED

Dedicated and capable team players to guide growing organization. Flexible hours, friendly environments, rewarding experiences. Priceless compensations. Definite public benefits. Send inquiries to unsc@pacbell.net or call Jacqui at 408-286-8661.

DAY IN THE PARK A MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 5 from 10am – 4pm
Lake Cunningham Park, San Jose
Call or email Phung Pham at 408-277-5242 or phung.pham@ci.sj.ca.us for more information

9TH ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

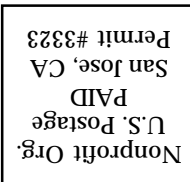
Saturday, October 12 from 9am – 3pm
San Jose State University, San Jose
Call 408-286-8661 or email unsc@pacbell.net for more information

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
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UNSCC
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GENERAL MEMBERS

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
Old Mountain View 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
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
Fairview Drive Neighborhood Association
Independence High Neighborhood Association
IOOF/San Ysidro Neighborhood Association
Lyndale Neighborhood Association
Mayfair Improvement Initiative
Mount Pleasant 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