



Neighbor to Neighbor

VOLUME 5, No. 9 SEPTEMBER 2002

CALENDAR

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

Neighborhood Newletters

Tuesday, Sept. 10
Cancelled because part
of Annual Conference

Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 18
6:45 pm
525 W. Alma Avenue
San Jose

Annual Neighborhood Conference

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

Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 13
6:45 pm

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Valerie Harris

Jean McCloskey moved to Mountain View in 1997 with her husband and daughter, looking for a sense of community. She hasn't been disappointed. As part of her commitment to keeping alive a sense of community, Jean became involved and was elected to the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association (OMVNA) Steering Committee for three years beginning in 1998, serving as At-Large, Vice-Chair and Chairperson respectively.

During her tenure on OMVNA, Jean:

- facilitated the group's goal setting and planning, striving for consensus and compromise.
- worked with the team to initiate a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- met with downtown and neighborhood constituents to resolve conflicts in commercial versus neighborhood issues while advocating for open space and neighborhood preservation.
- provided mentoring to newer OMVNA members; encouraged participation and open dialog from the community.
- welcomed a 12-year initiative in the creation of Mercy-Bush Park.

After leaving ONVNA's Steering Committee, Jean teamed up with fellow resident Nick Perry to initiate and lead the Mountain View Preservation Alliance to protect historic homes and buildings. The group helped pass an interim historic home ordinance earlier this year, the first such protection for Mountain View's historic treasures. Jean was also a leader in the successful advocacy of the Save Open Space Group in proposing creative alternatives to housing on the few remaining open spaces in Mountain View last year.

Jean has also exported her talents by serving on the Board of Directors of United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC). UNSCC thanks Jean for making a difference in her community and at UNSCC.

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!

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ELIZABETH ANABO BRICC AWARD

Deadline to submit nominations for the Elizabeth Anabo Building Resourceful Inspirational Creative Community (BRICC) Awards of \$1,000 is September 20, 2002 at 5pm. Nominations forms can be obtained on the web at www.cfsv.org/com_anabo.html or ww.unscc.org or by calling Maya McCray at 408-278-2224.

YOUTH AND REACHING YOUTH AWARDS

AMD and United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC) recognize outstanding youth, ages 8 to 18, who make an impact on their community with the YOUTH AWARD. Youth who demonstrate initiative and leadership to accomplish set goals on a project to improve their neighborhood are considered for the award. An award of \$500 will go to outstanding young individual and/or groups who are working to make a difference in their community.

Through the generous sponsorship of City of San Jose Councilman George Shirakawa, UNSCC will recognize a neighborhood association for its outstanding work with the REACHING YOUTH AWARD. Neighborhoods that demonstrate positive interaction with local youth, include them in community events, help guide youth in their own community projects, and/or serve as community mentors to youth are encouraged to apply for the \$1000 award.

Any youth, youth group, and/or neighborhood associations in Santa Clara County may submit an application. Applications for both the Youth and Reaching Youth Awards must be received at UNSCC office by October 3, 2002 at 3pm. Winners will be asked to attend UNSCC Annual Conference on Saturday, October 12, 2002 to accept the award.

Requirements for applicants and How to apply:

A completed or semi-completed project must be planned and implemented. The youth, youth group, and/or neighborhood association must be in Santa Clara County. Please write clearly or type answers to the enclosed application(s). Supporting materials are welcomed, but not required. Mail the completed application to:

Youth and Reaching Youth Award Committee
United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County
525 West Alma Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

WELCOMING NEW AND CONVERTED ASSOCIATIONS

UNSCC welcomes the following neighborhood associations (NA): Fairview Drive NA, IOOF/San Ysidro NA, Japantown NA, Monta Loma NA, North Murray NA, Rogers Lane NA, Sherman Oaks NA, Southgate NA, and Summerhill NA. These new members bring UNSCC to 38 general and 23 associate members.

A two-third quorum of the general membership to vote on proposed bylaw amendments has not occurred since March! UNSCC is asking general members who can not send a representative to the last three Advisory Council Meetings (March, May, July) to voluntarily request a status change into associate members to make the organization more effective. The request for a change in status is as simple as a phone call to 408-286-8661 or email to unscc@pacbell.net. An associate member retains all benefits except voting right.

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UNSCC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 18, 2002
6:45 - 8:30 pm
525 West Alma Avenue, San Jose

Announcements – Bylaws Amendment
Proposed bylaws changes can be found on the
web site.

Traffic Calming Presentation
Professional presenters available to neighbor-
hood associations

Available Grants
Community Foundation Neighborhood Grant,
BRICC Award, Youth Award, and Reaching
Youth Award

THE HERO OF 8/19

I was awakened from an afternoon siesta about 3:30 p.m. on Monday, August 19. A loud banging on my front door awoke me from my deep sleep. As I ran out into the parking lot of my condominium, I saw smoke, heard sirens, and saw my neighbors running around with garden hoses, trying to put out the multiple fires on the roofs of our 16 unit complex. I was told to leave immediately, which I did, and we took one of our cars and the clothes on our back as we left for somewhere... we didn't know where you go when your home is on fire. We did the usual immediate response things, like calling our insurance carrier, getting a hotel, visiting the shelter established by the Red Cross. We were told we could not return until noon on Tuesday.

As expected, we didn't sleep much on Monday night, waking every couple of minutes to think about another item that might have perished, but incredibly grateful that we were alive and together and at least had the clothes we needed in the short term and a world of friends we just needed to call.

We arrived home on Tuesday morning, about 10:00 a.m. We had delayed our arrival because we didn't want to see all that we lost...we wanted to postpone the inevitable pain, loss, and grief as long as possible. We pulled into our parking lot to find that out of 16 units, seven had damage. Minimal damage had occurred in our unit, a neighbor who stayed behind when warned to leave had extinguished the fire. Mike Gammill, our Hero, watered the roofs of our entire building of four units. He personally pulled the burning roof from a portion of our home and put a garden hose inside the attic to eliminate the fire that had started.

Mike courageously fought the battle of the fires throughout the night. He saved not only our lives, but also our possessions, our memories and my business files and intellectual property.

He got a couple of hours rest on Monday, came back and spent the entire day on Tuesday serving as "Project Manager" for the coordination of insurance agents, restoration people, the traumatized friends and neighbors. He was the glue that held our neighborhood in place during the aftermath of this tragedy.

Today, Wednesday, he has taken another day off work to make sure that all of the coordination and our lives are rebuilt. Never in my 55 years have I worked with a person who so selflessly gave of himself, his courage and tenacity are remarkable. He cried for his neighbors who lost more than he did...he hugged us all and indicated he would be there for us...and he will!

Our neighborhood has suffered many losses of property and cherished possessions, but we do have a HERO and his name is Mike Gammill. He has a wife and a newborn son. His phone number is 408-551-0215. He lives at 2954 Moorpark Avenue, Moorpark Village, San Jose.

by Sherry Simmons
2958 Moorpark Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128
Phone: 408-554-9066 Fax: 408-554-0615
email: ssimm34550@aol.com

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 bring to your attention County services that may help you in your daily life.

The Best Kept Secret in Town: County Services!

These are a few examples of little-known county services. If you are interested in learning more about these services, visit the Santa Clara County web page or call your supervisor's office.

Free Service of Domestic Violence Restraining Orders- The Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff offers domestic violence restraining orders free of charge. Previously, victims had to pay \$75 to \$100 for a process server to serve the restraining orders or find a friend or relative who would be willing to serve the papers to the abuser. Now, victims of domestic violence do not have to put family members or friends at risk or worry about the fee.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Center- The County has a drop off center for household hazardous waste that is free of charge to residents. The center accepts auto fluids, paint, batteries, and other items that are hazardous to public health.

Senior Nutrition Centers- At over 30 sites in the county, seniors can come for lunch cooked on-site or catered by local restaurants. This service provides not only a good, hot meal, but also the company of other seniors.

Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST)- The County has created FAST to respond to the financial abuse of elderly and dependent adults by loved ones and caretakers. The team quickly assesses suspected financial exploitation and intervenes within 48 hours when the information indicates possible abuse.

UNSCC CONFERENCE REMINDER

Register and pay by September 13 for early birds specials and group rates. The first 200 registrants will receive free parking vouchers!

The conference is on Saturday, October 12 from 9am – 3pm at the San Jose State University Student Union Building (corner of San Fernando and 10th Streets in San Jose).

For a booklet describing the workshops or more information, call Jacqui at 408-286-8661, email unsc@pacbell.net, or visit www.unsc.org.

GUEST SPEAKER AVAILABLE

The Special Education Unit of the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County provides consultations, advocacy and legal representation to families whose school age children are having learning difficulties. The staff can assist parents and guardians to obtain state and federal mandated services. Contact Dominique Martin at 408-283-1535 extension 268 to schedule a speaker or receive a free consultation.

FREE ANTI-LITTER SUPPLIES

Pick-up San Jose is giving away free anti-litter supplies such as pick-up sticks, gloves, bags, and vests to groups or individuals in the City of San Jose. For more information, call 408-277-3208 or email irene.salazar@ci.sj.ca.us.

HIGH TECH RECYCLING

Need a place to recycle that old computer, monitor, or television? Visit www.recyclestuff.org to find the nearest recycling location.

TRAFFIC CALMING PRESENTERS

Professional traffic calming presenters available to neighborhood associations. Contact Jacqui at 408-286-8661 or unsc@pacbell.net for information.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & DATES OF INTEREST

The Historic Palm Haven Neighborhood and Homes Tour is cooperation with Willow Glen 75th Anniversary Founder's Day
Sunday, September 8 from 10am – 5pm

All locations in San Jose

Parade - Lincoln Avenue, between Coe and Minnesota
Celebration - Willow Glen Elementary School, corner of Lincoln and Minnesota

Classic Car Show - Washington Mutual, corner of Lincoln and Minnesota

Homes Tour - The Historic Palm Haven Neighborhood

Contact Willow Glen Neighborhood Association at 408-294-9462 or visit www.wgna.net for more information

4th Annual Multicultural Conference
Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 & 18
Santa Clara University, Santa Clara
Call 408-521-5110 or visit www.rfcommunity.org for more information

SNI West Evergreen NAC Flea Market
Saturday, September 21 from 8am – 1pm
King Road & Barberry Lane, San Jose
Call 408-795-5855 or email leyvacat@yahoo.com for more information

Bark in the Park
Saturday, September 21 from 10am – 5pm
William Street Park, San Jose
Call YELPline at 408-793-5125, email BarkinPark@NagleePark.org or visit www.NagleePark.org/bark/ for more information

9th Annual Chinese Moon Festival
Sunday, September 22 from 1pm – 5pm
Overfelt Garden, 2145 McKee Road, San Jose
Visit www.chineseculturalgarden.org for more information

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

Walk Against Domestic Violence
Friday, October 11 from 9am – noon
San Jose City Hall, San Jose
Call 408-277-4000 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.org for more information

5th Annual Multicultural Festival
Saturday, October 12 from 10am – 5pm
San Jose Historic Kelly Park, San Jose
Call 408-521-5110 or visit www.rfcommunity.org for more information

Second Annual Appetizer Crawl for a Hate-Free Community Fundraiser
Sunday, October 13 from 2pm – 5pm
San Pedro Square, San Jose
Call Jane Solis at 408-792-2310 for 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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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