

# 2009 NEIGHBORHOOD HERO AWARDS



Jose and Marie Serrano  
Casa de Santiago  
Neighborhood  
Association

The Casa de Santiago Neighborhood is comprised of a tight-knit group of residents living adjacent to the Riverview Golf Course. Through the outstanding leadership of Jose, President and Marie, Vice President, the neighborhood association membership has increased tremendously. They have a great rapport with residents, address issues immediately and find reasonable solutions to problems. Jose and Marie also recognize the importance of social relationships among neighbors and created a successful tradition for the Casa de Santiago neighbors to join together for the annual Christmas party. We are all working together in Casa de Santiago –thanks to Jose and Marie.



Ruby Woo  
Artesia Pilar  
Neighborhood  
Association

Ruby Woo constantly works to improve her neighborhood and the community around her. For instance, she has been a huge neighborhood advocate as the expansion of Santa Ana College and impact on the surrounding residents has been considered. Issues on this effort have ranged from traffic signals, bus service and pedestrian safety. Recreation programming at El Salvador Park is another area that she has been active. Most recently, Ruby has spearheaded a neighborhood "Grassroots Leadership" workshop that offers current and emerging resident leaders tools to be more effective change agents in their community. Artesia Pilar is a better neighborhood because of Ruby's efforts.

## Com-Link Forum Board 2008-2009

The "Neighborhood Hero Award" was established by the Communication Linkage Forum Board to honor those individuals who have shown commitment and enthusiasm in bettering the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

We have chosen ten individuals for this award because each has shown the leadership, the commitment, the generosity, and the selflessness needed to enhance their neighborhood.

We are proud to be honoring these individuals. It is their love for their community that makes them leaders. Please join us in honoring and congratulating these outstanding community leaders.

Communication Linkage Forum (Com-Link) was created in 1989 to provide opportunities for neighborhood leaders to come together and discuss issues that were relevant to Santa Ana neighborhoods. Since then, the neighborhood association movement has flourished and Com-Link has grown from an original group of five neighborhoods to sixty two neighborhood associations. Today, most of the residential areas of Santa Ana are a part of the neighborhood association network.

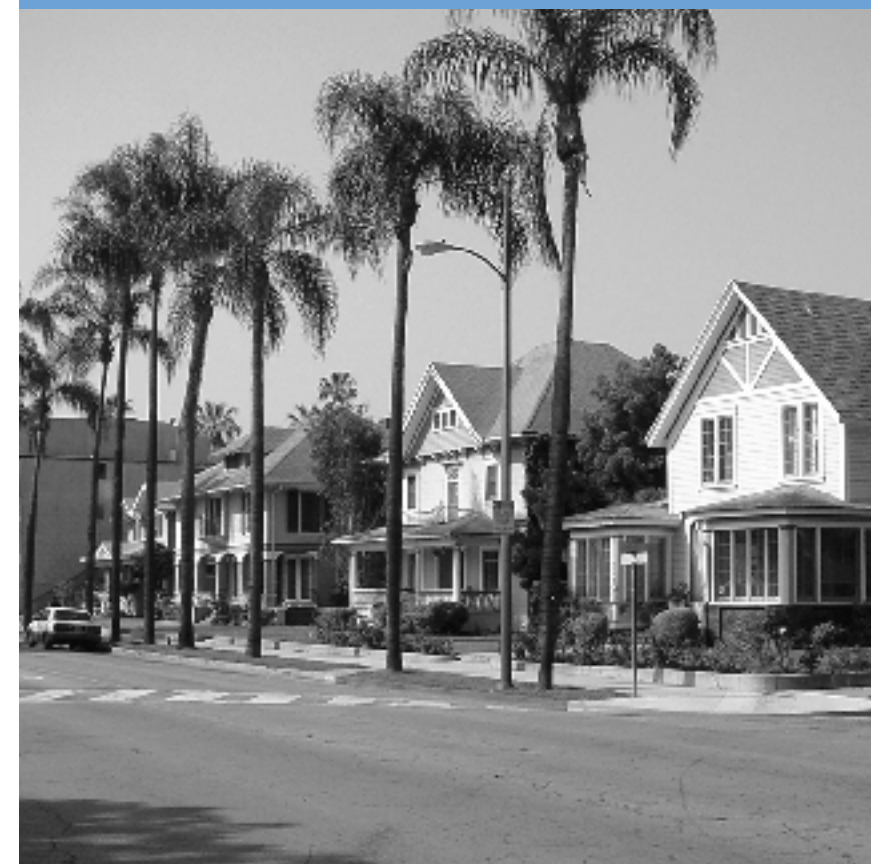
Com-Link meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. The meetings provide opportunities for information exchange and presentations on topics that are of general interest or concern to the city's neighborhoods. Agendas are determined by the Com-Link Board. This seven member Board is elected each year by representatives of each association (one vote per association). Any member of a neighborhood association or the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend Com-Link meetings.

The current Com-Link Board is chaired by Evangeline Gawronski of the Wilshire Square Neighborhood Association. Carl Benninger of Metro Classic is Vice-Chairperson and Jean Poppa of Washington Square is Secretary. The Board also includes Mary Bloom-Ramos (Eastside), Rene Guzman (Riverview West) and Irma Macias (Mid-City).



Communication Linkage Forum  
Presents Santa Ana's 2009

## NEIGHBORHOOD HERO AWARDS



June 25, 2009



Ivan Ashbaugh  
Morrison Park  
Neighborhood  
Association

Ivan Ashbaugh moved to the Morrison Park neighborhood over twelve years ago and became involved with the association immediately. As an active member and trustee of Spurgeon United Methodist Church he has obtained rooms for neighborhood meetings, and provided chairs and tables for events. In addition, he arranges to have Pastor Greg to be Santa Claus at the annual Christmas Snow Day event and the Easter Bunny at the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Ivan is responsible for setting up the MPNA e-mail distribution list and communicating important neighborhood information such as event reminders, graffiti, vandalism, police activity, and crime alerts. He was instrumental in dealing with traffic issues on North Park Lane which resulted in the installation of speed bumps, parking signs and permits. He is truly deserving of the award.



Lucy and John Bateson  
Wilshire Square  
Neighborhood  
Association

Lucy and John Bateson work together in supporting the activities

in Wilshire Square. They spend countless hours organizing events that bring the neighborhood together. Over the years, they have helped with events such as Movies in the Square, Summer Concerts, and Christmas Parades. They also spend numerous hours taking inventory of Wilshire Square supplies and provide storage space for the association. Lucy volunteers her time to shop for supplies for future events in an effort to get the best deals. She is the Treasurer of the association and takes her position seriously by maintaining impeccable records. Lucy and John take pride in their neighborhood and it shows through their dedication.



Ismael Becerril  
Lacy  
Neighborhood  
Association

Ismael Becerril has been living in the Lacy Neighborhood for several years. During this time, he has been the manager of the Spectrum Condominiums. This is a large complex of approximately 200 units. Ismael has worked very hard to improve the living conditions of neighborhood. He has specifically worked with the Santa Ana Police Department and Latino Health Access to reduce crime and domestic violence in the condominium complex. Ismael actively

participates in neighborhood meetings and in the 2008 Leadership Santa Ana training. His efforts have improved the lives of many families and he deserves to be recognized as a hero.



Darlene Glenn-Wolff  
Floral Park  
Neighborhood  
Association

For the past three years, Darlene Glenn-Wolff has worked with the City of Santa Ana Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agency to develop an activity play area for children at Jack Fisher Park. She worked tirelessly to gain neighborhood support, solicit donations, coordinate babysitting and recruit volunteers to build the "Adventure Playground." In the past, she has served on the board of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association. She is an active member of the Floral Park Garden Club and Mothers of Floral Park. If there is a need, she steps in and gets the job done with a smile. Darlene's backyard is always filled with neighborhood kids who stop by afterschool because it is a fun place to be. Friendship is what motivates Darlene to be helpful and Floral Park is lucky to have her in the neighborhood



Connie Hamilton  
Southcoast  
Neighborhood  
Association

Keeping the neighborhood informed about city news, events, and meetings is one of the great things Connie Hamilton does for the community. She is the President of the neighborhood association and is known to be active and involved in a variety of groups to help improve the area. She has been successful at advocating for school traffic safety solutions to enhance the quality of life for residents. She also promotes open and inclusive meetings with city government and neighborhood based groups to improve civic engagement. She truly cares about everyone's opinions and is rarely focused on her own views for self gain. Connie is a great leader who steps in whenever needed.



Tom Lutz  
Washington Square  
Neighborhood  
Association

Tom Lutz is a long time resident of Washington Square and has been an important part of the neighborhood association since the 80's. He was our resident trash collector for almost two years and has played a key role at keeping the neighborhood graffiti free. For the past couple of years, he would take the trash out

of the temporary trash containers and he would remove graffiti every Sunday. He takes pictures of the graffiti and submits it to SAPD for identification. In addition, Tom has been instrumental in participating in the fundraising and installation of the new cement trash receptacles. He is the poster child for Washington Square!



Alicia Maldonado  
Lyon Street  
Neighborhood  
Association

Alicia Maldonado is the Chair of the Lyon Street Neighborhood Association. She is constantly engaging and communicating the importance of education and volunteerism to residents. For the past eight years, she has played an integral part in organizing special events that bring together valuable low cost resources to the community. Some of these events include clean-ups, financial education classes for youth, Lyon Street Health Fair, and Navidad en el Barrio. Another outstanding example of her community service is how she worked with residents, Tustin Unified School District and local organizations to improve school traffic safety. Alicia has selflessly contributed her time and resources to improve the neighborhood.



Hazel Newhouse  
Bella Vista  
Neighborhood  
Association

Hazel Newhouse has been volunteering and fighting for our neighborhood for over seven years. As a single mother of three, she has worked with the City of Santa Ana Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agency to bring a KABOOM playground to Jerome Park. The playground area has become a great community space for young families. Hazel has also been instrumental in mobilizing greater resident participation with the Townsend Raitt Task Force through the community resource fair held last summer and three community dialogue forums held at Monte Vista School. As Board member of the Bella Vista Neighborhood, her strengths include building relationships and collaborating with local schools, non-profits organizations churches, Santa Ana Police Department and City Agencies. Through her involvement in the Bella Vista Neighborhood Association, Hazel's vision is focused on bridging communication and partnering with others to help build a safer community for her children and for families in the neighborhood for generations to come. Hats off to Hazel on her accomplishments in the Bella Vista neighborhood!