

Communication Linkage Forum Presents Santa Ana's 2011

NEIGHBORHOOD HERO *awards*

COM-LINK FORUM BOARD 2010-2011

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 nine 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.

JUNE 23, 2011



Dennis Alderson
of Morrison Park
Neighborhood
Association

Since buying his home on Freeman Lane, Dennis has embraced the neighborhood with open arms. As Activities Director for the neighborhood, Dennis provided food and baked goods and even snow for the Holiday Snow Party. He spearheaded the very first multi-neighborhood Easter event held at Eldridge Park in coordination with West Floral Park, the Mothers of Floral Park and this year with the Casa de Santiago neighborhood association. We appreciate Dennis' leadership on our Traffic committee in being able to address parking problems and for going out of his way to lend a hand where needed. Recently, he volunteered to repair tables for the Spurgeon United Methodist Church and offered his resources for the neighborhood association newsletter. Dennis' tireless commitment and extreme generosity to the Morrison Park Neighborhood Association makes him our hero!



Jose Espinoza
of Valley
Adams
Neighborhood
Association

Jose Espinoza emerged as part of a new Diamond Park Mutual Water Company Board which is focused on safe drinking water issues in the neighborhood. Working with a consultant, Jose became essential in bringing transparency, commitment and leadership to the business of the water company. He led the push to keep shareholders and other interested agencies informed of decisions and direction. This includes the primary goal of connecting area homes to safe drinking water provided by the City of Santa Ana. Thanks to Jose, there has been much progress to the complex circumstances that impact the Diamond Park Mutual Water Company.



Roya Fouladi of
Saddleback View
Neighborhood
Association

After moving into the neighborhood in 2004, Roya quickly participated in Saddleback View's quarterly neighborhood meetings where she played an active role encouraging neighbors to get involved. Roya was instrumental in resolving major

school traffic, noise, and litter issues on her block. Her professionalism and persistence in mitigating these issues

with the school resulted in a positive outcome for the school and neighbors. Roya also worked with the resident and business committee to help improve the City's graffiti ordinance revised in late 2009. She provided professional legal insights throughout the process of revising the City's graffiti policy. Roya has demonstrated her effectiveness at improving the quality of life in Santa Ana "block-by-block" and she merits the neighborhood hero recognition.



Thomas Gordon
of Morning Sun
Neighborhood
Association

For many years, Thomas Gordon has been fighting graffiti in Morning Sun and on a City-wide level. He's channeled his energy observing the local neighborhood streets and parks with the goal of preventing and reporting graffiti. In 2009, Thomas spearheaded efforts with a resident and business committee to recommend revisions to the City's Graffiti Ordinance which was later adopted by the Santa Ana City Council and went into effect on September 2009. The new and improved graffiti ordinance was considered one of the "broadest anti-graffiti measures in Orange County." We appreciate Thomas going above and beyond to resolve quality of life issues in our neighborhood and the entire City. For these reasons and more, we are proud to recognize him as our neighborhood hero.





Elsa Martinez of
Bella Vista
Neighborhood
Association

Since 2007, Elsa Martinez has given her time and resources advocating for the children and parents in her community. As one of the leaders of the Parent Council at KidWorks where her children attend after school, she has accomplished getting improvements at Jerome Park such as lighting, joint use of basketball courts with Monte Vista Elementary, drinking fountains and redoing the homerun fencing. A resident leader of the Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities (SABHC) initiative, Elsa continues her advocacy in the parent organization at Monte Vista Elementary school and currently runs a local 'Mamás' group where mothers get together and engage with local services and support to enhance the quality of life for families on S. Townsend Street. We thank Elsa for her leadership and for a job well done on improving the capacity of our neighborhood association.



Terry McCall of
Casa de Santiago
Neighborhood
Association

The Casa de Santiago neighborhood has benefited from Terry McCall's involvement for over 23 years. Always ready to help, Terry volunteers for many neighborhood events, including the annual Christmas Party, Kids Day in the Park and Mother/Father Appreciation Days. Recently, he helped improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood through his leadership on two projects - LED Solar lighting installation at both neighborhood entrances and the retiling and repair of substructure entry sides. As member of Connect-to-Council, Terry helped organize the Ward resource events to educate and bridge neighborhood leaders at the Council Ward level. Terry also developed the "Golf Course Coalition" to assist the neighborhood in resolving issues with the golf course. For all this and more, Terry McCall is Casa de Santiago's Neighborhood Hero.



Gilbert Melendez of
Washington Square
Neighborhood
Association

As block representative for our neighborhood since 1997, Gilbert Melendez is known as Washington Square's "Chief Problem Solver." This is because he has taken on the responsibility of ensuring that residents of our neighborhood association are thoroughly and timely informed of current events, projects, and issues. We are fortunate to have Gilbert on our team because he has always been reliable for all of our neighborhood events and does whatever it takes - ranging from set-up, tear down, materials run, and being solution-driven to get the job done. Our neighborhood highly respects Gilbert for his commitment over the years and for his positive outlook. We consider him an exemplary neighbor and extraordinary human being. Most definitely, Gilbert is worthy of the Neighborhood Hero Award.



Bob and Pam Morris
of Windsor Village
North Neighborhood
Association

Bob and Pam Morris are a committed team and major force in their neighborhood. For the past eight years, they have been involved in the annual Inner-coastal Cleanup of the Greenville Banning Channel at Centennial Park where their roles transitioned from simply volunteering, to supervising over 100 high school volunteers, educating residents and ensuring supplies and food were available for all participants. Bob and Pam's persistence in reducing graffiti in the neighborhood was instrumental when they helped organize a perimeter wall painting in 2008. They also developed new strategies for reaching out to new homeowners and families in the neighborhood to report graffiti. New leadership is emerging for Windsor Village North thanks to Bob and Pam's enthusiasm to embrace and include others in the neighborhood association's planning process and meeting discussions. We so greatly appreciate their years of service.

COMMUNICATION LINKAGE FORUM

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 four 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 Carl Benninger of Metro Classic, Evangeline Gawronski of the Wilshire Square Neighborhood Association is Vice-Chairperson, and Jean Poppa of Washington Square is Secretary. The Board also includes Connie Hamilton (Southcoast), Rene Guzman (Riverview West), David Brandt (Thornton Park), and Irma Macias (Mid-City).



Victor Sanchez of
Casa Bonita
Neighborhood
Association

Victor Sanchez's commitment to improve the neighborhood goes back over nine years, when he and other community volunteers and the local school principal, observed that vehicles passing through an existing four-way stop intersection were creating a safety hazard for children and families and crossing guards near Lincoln Elementary School. Victor helped with the data collection, used radar equipment to measure speeds of motorists, and gathered signatures for a community petition and letters in support of a traffic signal at that intersection. On April 28th of this year, the community came together at Lincoln Elementary School to celebrate the Willits/Sullivan traffic signal project. Victor's care for the community is abundant and as a good parent, he is a positive role model for the children and families in the neighborhood. For all this and more, Victor Sanchez is deserving of this recognition.