

Getting Started

- Establish a core group of neighbors (5-10 people) who are interested in forming an association.
- Schedule an organizational meeting. Get a general idea of neighborhood problems, needs and concerns.
- Determine special skills, talents and willingness to participate.
- Determine the boundaries and name of your association. SMUHA can help identify boundaries of neighboring associations and provide advice on bylaws and structure.
- Outreach to the Neighborhood – spread the word by door-to-door canvassing, flyers or email.
- Plan, promote and hold an initial neighborhood general meeting.
- Develop a structure for your association – officers, dues and bylaws (officers typically include a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer).
- Hold your first official meeting – Congratulations!

WEB RESOURCES

Detailed instructions on how to form a neighborhood association, including sample bylaws

City of San Mateo

<http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?NID=299>

City of Sunnyvale

<http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/InTheCommunity/NeighborhoodAssociations.aspx>

City of Phoenix

<http://phoenix.gov/nsd/resources/index.html>



**HOMEOWNERS
AND
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS
IN
SAN MATEO**

The Benefits of Having a Neighborhood Association

A FEW OF THE BENEFITS:

- Meet your neighbors and foster a sense of community
- Keep current on what's going on in your neighborhood and the City
- Help make noticeable improvements in your neighborhood
- Make positive changes in your community
- Better communication with your elected officials and city government
- Help influence the direction of your neighborhood
- Improve the quality of life in your neighborhood
- Improve the quality of life for you and your family
- Participate in annual events in your neighborhood and broader community
- Have fun and get involved
- Help maintain San Mateo as a great place to live, work and enjoy

FIND OUT IF THERE IS ALREADY A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WHERE YOU LIVE

Check out the interactive map on the City of San Mateo website: (<http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=4615>) for a list of San Mateo homeowners and neighborhood associations. You may be able to participate with an existing association.

HOMEOWNERS AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS – HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

Neighborhood Associations generally are open to all residents/property owners in a neighborhood. Dues are voluntary and an association generally does not enforce maintenance or design requirements.

Homeowners Associations generally are part of the deed in certain condominium projects and communities with private facilities. Dues and rules are mandatory.

IF THERE IS NO ASSOCIATION FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

Contact the San Mateo United Homeowners Association (SMUHA). SMUHA acts as a coalition for San Mateo homeowners and neighborhood associations and often helps associations work together on common issues. It can also advise on setting up a new association or joining with an existing association.

SMUHA, PO Box 5023
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sanmateounitedhoa@gmail.com

SMUHA meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month, 7:30pm, at Beresford Recreation Center located at: 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas.