

SUNNYVALE DISPUTES HOUSING ALLOCATION NUMBERS, WRITES RESPONSE TO ABAG

Building 700 housing units a year will be 'very difficult'

BY ALIA WILSON

Sunnyvale city staff is asking the Association of Bay Area Governments to adjust regional housing need allocation numbers, claiming they are "overstated" and "unrealistic" for the city.

During the past 15 years, the city has built about 300 housing units a year on average, with some variations. ABAG is asking for an average of 700 units a year for the next eight years, more than twice the city's historic average.

"We expect the market to slow down a little bit and you see that throughout the region, not just Sunnyvale," said Hanson Hom, the city's director of community development. "In the last couple of years, residential construction virtually came to a halt; now residential activity is much stronger, but the realism of being able to maintain over 700 units per year is going to be very difficult."

ABAG and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission identify areas to accommodate an eight-year projection of a region's housing need. The Regional Housing Needs Assessment must also allocate housing units consistent with the development pattern in the state's sustainable communities strategy. The strategy, part of SB 375 passed in 2008, aims to shift away from sprawl and toward walkable communities.

These figures are typically aggressive for cities throughout the region, Hom said.

ABAG, page 10

Code Change: Residents prepare for the arrival of new 669 area code on Oct. 20 *page 6*

Be Alert: Neighbors report an uptick in burglaries for month of September *page 13*

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Support Group

Nonprofits need a little help, too
page 16

Luanne Argo attaches price tags to embroidered tablecloths for Sunnyvale Community Services Auxiliary's upcoming 40th annual holiday boutique, being held on Oct. 20 at SCS.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK ZERBY

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Sunnyvale Community Services Auxiliary is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Seen here are many of the members, including the current SCS Auxiliary president Ruth Perkins, front row, third from right.

Side by Side

For 40 years, SCS Auxiliary has stayed in step with Sunnyvale Community Services

By ALIA WILSON

Photographs by JACQUELINE RAMSEYER

Amid the towers and rows of various food items stocked inside Sunnyvale Community Services is a treasure trove of handmade trinkets and goods. Dozens of quilts, crocheted baby caps, embellished jewelry and hand-decorated glass pumpkins fill stacks of tubs inside the nonprofit agency's office and distribution center on Kifer Road. Behind the crafts is the SCS Auxiliary, a group of 50 women who for 40 years have been making crafts to sell to benefit the nonprofit. Founded just two years after the nonprofit opened, the auxiliary group consisted of five to seven women who often hosted

Auxillary, page 17

Auxiliary

Continued from page 16

craft workshops in their homes.

The group started with raffles in 1978, including its first quilt raffle and recipe booklet.

As SCS continued to evolve and change locations, the auxiliary evolved with it. The raffle used to be located in a small room at the Fairbrae Swim Club, before it migrated to McKinley Elementary School.

Having grown eight-fold in four decades, the auxiliary is noted locally for its annual holiday boutique and springtime tea.

Dorothy Miyahara, a 10-year member and Sunnyvale resident for 53 years, said moving to the current location was great for the group, which could then work together in one set location.

"It's getting together, creating crafts, and we get the satisfaction of creating something to give to someone; that's our reward," Miyahara said. "I really look forward to coming to our meetings because the women here are so nice; you just forget your troubles and just have



SCS Auxiliary member Monique Kachulis, right, shows just a few of the many items that will be for sale at the annual SCS Auxiliary holiday boutique on Oct. 20, as fellow member June Koch looks on.



June Koch works on items to be sold at SCS Auxiliary's upcoming 40th annual holiday boutique on Oct. 20.

fun creating. There's this pleasant feeling when you come and when you go home."

Edith Bakelman, an avid quilter from Cupertino, first connected with SCS when her son was in the Boy Scouts and did his Eagle Scout project for the nonprofit agency in 1973.

"It's gotten larger," Bakelman said. "Food distribution has gotten very large; it's almost mind-

boggling to think of what's been going on with that."

Back in 1972, SCS helped 540 families in its community Christmas center. Now, the group helps more than 1,500 families each holiday season.

From the beginning, the auxiliary raised money, did publicity, recruited volunteers and involved the community in the work of SCS.

It's not uncommon for the auxiliary to take on new ventures as well. This past year, the group made scarves for all the senior clients at SCS—more than 1,000. Members also fill stockings with toys every year for the Christmas store.

Every SCS client with a child ages 3-6 gets a stocking. Last year, more than 600 children got stockings, and this year 700 are expected.

Year in and year out, members of the close-knit group continue to enjoy each other's company and keep the momentum going.

"We've all taken our turns at being president," member and former president Grace Ann Weiler said.

Current president Ruth Perkins attributes the group's longevity to its longtime members.

"It's a nice atmosphere, and we're all so excited to come," Perkins said. "It does feel very good to give back and to be able to know you are helping someone by doing something that you like to do. I feel like I get as much out of it as I give."

SCS executive director Marie Bernard stressed that although the auxiliary members are known for their two main fundraisers, they are busy in the agency all year long.

"Members volunteer at our

front desk, quilters stitch in every season and their crafts brighten up our building for every holiday," Bernard said. "Without them, the holidays would not be as bright for those in need in Sunnyvale. They truly represent the heart of our mission to prevent homelessness and hunger."

In recognition of its decades of service, the auxiliary will be named a distinguished volunteer fundraiser honoree at the Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley chapter's National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 16.

And on Oct. 20, SCS will host its 40th annual holiday boutique from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the agency, 725 Kifer Road, in Sunnyvale. All of the proceeds benefit SCS.

Weeks earlier, auxiliary treasurer Monique Kachulis prepared stacks of bins to be ready for the upcoming boutique.

"We try to make sure we make a variety of things," Kachulis said. "There is quite a variety of handmade things and donated items. We get things just plain, and we make them beautiful."

For more information about Sunnyvale Community Services, visit www.svcommunityservices.org.



ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPH BY PIETRO BREZZO

SCS Auxiliary hosted a fundraising tea service and craft sale to raise money to help feed the homeless in Sunnyvale on March 24.