



Neighborhood News

Real Neighbors, Real Neighborhood

September 2007

2007 Calendar of

Please note the following dates:

**Neighborhood Clean Up
Saturday, September 15th**

**General Meeting
Thursday, October 11th, 7pm
Wilson School Library**

**Fall Concert
Saturday, November 3rd**

**Garage Sale Weekend
December 1st & 2nd**

**Christmas Party
Sunday, December 9th**



*Don't miss our
general meetings!
They are fun and
informative and
we serve a pizza*

*dinner! Be there and be
informed...*

President's Message

I chose to live in Washington Square because I love the beautiful custom homes, the tree lined streets and the charm of the neighborhood. In short, I love the small town feel. But I write this message for the first time with much disappointment. After years of coordinating and fundraising for permanent trash cans and working diligently on preserving the neighborhood, we realized the magnitude of our efforts. There was a strong sense of accomplishment among the board. But now the real work has begun as members of the board are now watching the trash cans daily and working hard to keep them free of graffiti, stickers, and paint. We are also being plagued with shopping carts being left on our streets. I have been on the association board for over 8 years. This year has been the most rewarding and the most disappointing. I believe that many of our own neighbors are contributing to these and other issues. There are a handful of people who stay regularly involved. But we can not keep up. We have other responsibilities and the association is purely voluntary. The bottom line is the board can not do it all. We need more help. If this continues, we will all suffer as our property values decline and good neighbors move away. I invite each and every one of you to pitch in and help. It can be as simple as picking up trash or reporting graffiti. You may politely remind your neighbor when you see them hauling their groceries in a shopping cart that the neighborhood will not be so attractive if they continue that practice. Or, join the board. There are about 590 occupying owners in our neighborhood. Only 7 are active board members. Any little bit of help will preserve Washington Square as we know it. It can continue to be a great place to live. We can be passive and allow the decline of our neighborhood to simply occur, or we can be proactive. I challenge all of you to start participating today. Let's take back the neighborhood, maintain our properties and preserve the neighborhood so everyone can enjoy the beauty of Washington Square..

Sincerely,
Lynnette Verino

Calling For Volunteers

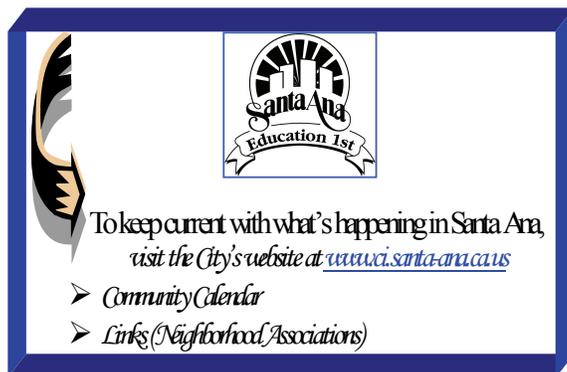
Have you noticed that the last few newsletters have mentioned issues of blight in our neighborhood? Naturally, I'm the editor. So I have. Oh, the tone has been amiable but the message has been clear. To those who have called in shopping carts, etc. we thank you. I share the sentiments of the president in her message. I too have been a long time resident and love this neighborhood. But lately, I see more and more eyesores.

The city passed a shopping cart ordinance last year. Yet I still see shopping carts abandoned here and there. What was the point of the ordinance if it is not being enforced in full? Are the police too overwhelmed to cite those they see on their way home with a shopping cart full of groceries and/or pushing children in them that are old enough walk? Or is it the case that they think it is not worth their time? Isn't a great deal of the city's budget spent on police and fire? What ever happened to commercial vehicles being illegal to park on the street? Yet, I see a tow truck regularly parked illegally on a highly visible street.

Perhaps what is needed is better communication with the police department and the city council on these and other issues. It might not be a bad idea to band with other neighborhood associations with common concerns to address such issues. Overcoming these challenges is achievable. There is power in a unified voice. In the end, we are voters.

Here is where you come in. There are only 7 households in our neighborhood that are active board members. We need you to step up and be more active in the neighborhood association. The more active board members, the more manageable and less overwhelming these tasks will be. Contact any board member to sign up. Contact information is on the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

-Laura Tobias Garcia



Code Enforcement Issues?

The other day, I received a call from a frustrated neighbor. The cause of his frustration was that one of his neighbors has neglected his front yard. The caller described litter scattered on the front lawn and said it was an ongoing problem. I advised him that this is a code enforcement issue. I also reminded him that the phone numbers for code enforcement are on the newsletter. I gave him the number and suggested he call our assigned code enforcement officer. I also called the officer and left a message for him. I realize that most people toss the newsletter after reading it, so they probably don't have these and other important phone numbers handy. Please take a moment to copy it down, post it on your refrigerator, or program it into your cell phone. I felt I should take this opportunity to remind all that the board does meet on a monthly basis. We will assist neighbors with their concerns. However, it is important that proper channels be observed. From our perspective, it may be helpful for code enforcement to receive calls from individual residents, apart from the board. The more the better. When you call, you must have an address, they will do nothing without this. Also, keep track of dates, times, and whom you spoke to. Follow up and ask for an update. If it appears that a reasonable amount of time has passed and your concern has not been addressed, ask for the supervisor. Also, let a board member know. We will get involved at this juncture.

For code enforcement issues, call Joe Rodriguez at 714-667-2734.

Mail Tampering Warning

On Friday August 17, someone was tampering with the mail on Towner Street, north of Washington. Outgoing mail was removed from the mail boxes and the letters were ripped open. The damaged envelopes were placed in other neighbor's mail boxes. It is unclear whether it was simply a prank or if someone was truly up to no good. It is important for neighbors to keep a watchful eye out for any suspicious activity and notify authorities if anything seems unusual.

What Are Code Enforcement Issues?

Here is a brief list of what code enforcement issues are. For a more detailed list, go to www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us. Type in community preservation on the search menu.

- Porch/patio/balcony storage limited to plants, bbq and patio furniture.
- Occupancy of trailer/mobile home outside of approved park.
- Weed/grass in excess of 6 inches above grade.
- Accumulation of garbage/rubbish on premises.
- Inoperative vehicles are prohibited.
- Parking of vehicle/boat/trailer on grass
- Storage on yard, driveway
- Commercial Vehicles or supplies stored on premises.
- Landscaping not maintained.
- Wood surfaces not weather protected.
- Garage must be available and accessible for parking vehicles.
- Fence height for front yard no more than 3' on non arterial street, 4' for arterial street.
- Carport structure must be architecturally compatible with house.
- Clothesline or household fabrics visible from public street.

Join Us For the Next Neighborhood Clean Up

The second neighborhood cleanup effort for 2007 will take place on Saturday September 15, 2007 from 8am-11am. We will meet at 1315 N. Towner Street and proceed to four major locations in the neighborhood; Washington at Louise, Washington at Olive, 15th and Olive and 10th and Freeman. We will have more locations if more volunteers show up. We will pick up trash, clean graffiti and paint if needed. Bring some muscle, a hat and some scrub brushes if you have any. The association will provide lunch and drinks to those who

Welcome To Washington Square!



As old neighbors leave our neighborhood, new ones come in and continue the pride of homeownership in the square. Please welcome our latest residents and if you live near one, be sure and stop by and give a warm welcome as their new neighbor.

- 1020 N. Towner
- 1143 Bomo Koral
- 1308 N. Flower
- 908 N. Freeman
- 919 N. Towner
- 1302 N. Baker
- 1420 N. Louise

Washington Square Arts Report prepared by Jean Poppa
GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

The Bowers Museum of Cultural

Art www.bowers.org

2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, CA 92706 (714) 567-3600 FREE ADMISSION for Santa Ana residents 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of month Museum hours: Tues-Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Features:** Thru December 2007 British Museum Mummies: Death & Afterlife in Ancient Egypt First Californians and CA Legacies; Vision of the Sharman

The Bowers Kidseum www.bowers.org/kidseum

Features: Activities at Bowers Museum: Pre-school Discoveries 3-5 yrs Activity Tours, Other Youth programs such as Scouts Tues. & Wed. 10:30-12, \$12/child (\$6 additional sibling), \$5 adult.; Sat. & Sun. 11-3:30, (free w/ Bowers admission) Art Lab, Face Painting & Storytellers @1:30 p.m. Information for Summer Art Camp available on website

Centennial Heritage Museum www.centennialmuseum.org

3101 W. Harvard St, Santa Ana, CA 92704 (714) 850-9452
Features: Kellogg House Tours: Wed.-Fri. 1-5 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., \$5; Seniors/Children \$3
 9/29/07 Titanic - Voyage to Oblivion (The annual interactive dinner theater event)
 The 1st Friday of each month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. O.C. Astronomers' Club FREE
 10/21/07 The Great Pumpkin Weigh Off Food face painting and other fun activities FREE

Delhi Center www.delhicenter.com

505 E. Central Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92707 (714) 481-9600 **Features:** Manuel Esqueda Museum Shop Classes offered in Health; Education, Cultural Arts; Recreation; Economic Development

Taco Bell Discovery Science Center & 3D Laser Theater www.discoverycube.org

2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 542-2823 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily FREE ADMISSION for Santa Ana residents 1st Monday of month, Parking \$3\$12.95 Adults, \$9.95 for Seniors (55+) & Kids 3 to 17 **Features:** "Dinoquest" (40 interactive dinosaur exhibits); Boeing Delta III Rocket with 25K thrust engine; Underwater Themed Kidstation for 0-5 yrs. Try the 100 Hands-On Science Exhibits, 2/07 - 9/07 - Sesame Street presents: The Body 5/25/07 - 9/9/07 - "The Science of Pirates" exhibition - hands on activities Website has available their "year-long" calendar

CA State Fullerton's Grand Central Art Center www.grandcentralartcenter.com

125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 567-7233 **Features:** Student Films www.ratpoweredfilms.com

Santa Ana Artist Village www.aplaceforart.org/

Features: First Saturday's --Entertainment & Open Galleries

Dr. Willela Howe-Waffle House & Medical Museum www.SantaAnaHistory.org

211 W. Santa Ana Blvd, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 973-6605 (Built in 1901) FREE Tours Tuesdays at 2 p.m. **Features:** O. C. History Center & Archives & Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Library

Orange County Center for Contemporary Art www.w.w.w.o.c.c.c.a.o.r.g

117 N. Sycamore St., Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 667-1517 **Gallery Hours:** Thurs & Sun: Noon-5:00 p.m. Fri & Sat: Noon - 9:00 p.m. Mon-Weds. By Apt. No Entrance Fee

MUSIC & DANCE

Opera Pacific www.operapacific.org
600 W. Warner Ave., Santa Ana,
CA 92707 (800) 346-7372 Features: 2007-2008
Season: Begins September 15th with "Opera
Under the Stars" at the Irvine Bowl in Laguna
Beach the La Boheme beginning October 24th.

Pacific Chorale www.pacificchorale.org
3621 S. Harbor Blvd., Ste. 220, Santa Ana,
CA 92704 (714) 662-2345 Features: 2007-2008
40th
Archive Performances beginning September
15th in various locations.

**Pacific Symphony Youth
Orchestra** www.psyo.org
3631 S. Harbor Blvd, #100, Santa Ana,
CA 92704 (714) 755-5799
Features: First concert of the 2007-2008 series
November 11, 2007

THEATER

Broadway on Tour Children's Theater
www.broadwayontour.org
Ebell Theater, 625 French St., Santa Ana, CA
92701 (714) 542-6939

Main Street Players www.mspshows.com
First Presbyterian Church, 600 N. Main St.,
Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 547-1872; Tickets \$8
- \$15 Features: 2007 Season: "Into the Woods",
"Alice in Wonderland" and the Musicals

Rude Guerrilla Theater Co.
www.rudeguerrilla.org
200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 547-4688 Features: A US Premiere!
"The Chair" August 24 thru September 15:
"San Diego" by David Greig. A US Premiere!
WARNING: Adult themes.

FAMILY

**Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park and Crean
Family Farm** www.santaanazoo.org
1801 E. Chestnut Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701
FREE ADMISSION for Santa Ana residents
**2nd Tuesday of month General Informa-
tion**: Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for chil-
dren 3 to 12 years of age and senior citi-
zens; and FREE to children 2 and under,
people with disabilities and members of
the Zoo.

**Be sure to check the various websites for
additional exhibits and shows.**

Washington Square Real Estate Recap

By: Laura Tobias Garcia



The Washington Square Neighborhood Newsletter is published quarterly by the association. A non-profit mutual benefit community association was established in 1984. WSNA is an officially recognized neighborhood by the city of Santa Ana.

Properties currently for sale:

1606 N. Rosewood	2 bed, 1 bath	1178sq. ft.	\$474,900
1116 N. Olive	2 bed, 2 bath	1050 sq. ft.	\$529,000
1142 Bomo Koral	4 bed, 3 bath	1449 sq. ft.	\$500,000
1020 N. Towner	2 bed, 1 bath	1353 sq. ft.	\$499,999
1506 N. Baker	4 bed, 3 bath	1325 sq. ft.	\$505,000
1604 N. Towner	3 bed, 1.75bath	1493 sq. ft.	\$537,000
1515 N. Rosewood	3 bed, 2 bath	1387 sq. ft.	\$549,900
1127 N. Lowell	3 bed, 2 bath	1225 sq. ft.	\$550,000
1512 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath	1792 sq. ft.	\$550,000
928 Baker St.	2 bed, 1 bath	1088 sq. ft.	\$562,000
1123 N. Lowell	2 bed, 1 bath	1283 sq. ft.	\$565,000
1111 N. Westwood	3 bed, 2.5 bath	1774 sq. ft.	\$565,000
1105 N. Baker	3 bed, 2 bath	1642 sq. ft.	\$569,900
1025 N. Westwood	3 bed, 1.5 bath	1336 sq. ft.	\$599,000
1016 N. Towner	4 bed, 2 bath	2200 sq. ft.	\$619,000
1102 W. 16th St.	3 bed, 2 bath	1303 sq. ft.	\$625,000
1001 N. Westwood	3 bed, 2 bath	1600 sq. ft.	\$630,000
1501 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath	2000 sq. ft.	\$649,000
905 N. Westwood	2 bed, 2 bath	1336 sq. ft.	\$689,000
1104 N. Lowell	3 bed, 2 bath	1550 sq. ft.	\$699,000
1116 N. Baker St.	7 bed, 4 bath	4080 sq. ft.	\$1,199,000

Properties recently sold:

1001 N. Lowell	2 bed, 2 bath	1441 sq. ft.	\$420,000
1143 Bomo Koral	4 bed, 3 bath	1700 sq. ft.	\$509,000
908 N. Freeman	2 bed, 1 bath	1342 sq. ft.	\$530,000
919 N. Towner	3 bed 2 bath	1198 sq. ft.	\$549,000
1302 N. Baker	3 bed, 2 bath	1358 sq. ft.	\$596,000



Laura Tobias Garcia

Building lasting client relationships with honesty, integrity, and consistency.

714.883.3314

Hablo Español



I am certain that you are aware of the current real estate market conditions. Many families bought homes with an adjustable rate mortgage and now that the rates have adjusted, they are facing foreclosure. Many lenders are nearly insolvent. Consequently, lenders have severely tightened their lending criteria.

If you know anyone that is anticipating a mortgage adjustment and a steep payment increase, I suggest they contact their mortgage holder directly to try to renegotiate the terms of their loan. Most will be willing to work something out. They would rather do so than to take the home back in foreclosure. It is important to do this while the borrower is still in good standing. If someone you know is already behind on their payments, have them call me. I can provide them with options.

And now I invite you to consider the positives. This climate has created excellent, long term investment opportunities. Prices have significantly dropped, there is much to choose from and closing costs are almost always paid for by the seller. Simply put, buyers have tremendous negotiating leverage at this time. Lower values plus good interest rates = value.

One might say, prices will decrease, the market is not good. My response: prices may decrease, but due to the fact that nearly everyone is payment sensitive, not price sensitive, interest rates are more important. Simply put, if rates increase, and prices decrease, a buyer will get less house for their dollar. Remember the early 90's and what followed? Don't you wish you had gotten in on that?

" DID YOU KNOW ? "

- It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in personal or public trash cans and it is punishable by a \$25,000 fine.

- Trash barrels are not to be put out on Sunday before 4:00 PM and must be taken in by 12:00 midnight on Monday evening. Storing your trash barrels must not be visible from the street.

- Garage/Yard Sales are only allowed on the first weekend of March, June, September, and December, Saturday and Sunday only. Items must not be put out before 7:00 AM and taken in by 4:00 PM. No new merchandise is allowed to be sold. If there is rain on the first weekend the second weekend will be allowed.

- Cars are not to be parked on the lawn. Inoperable vehicles are not allowed on the street or in the driveways and cars can not remain in the street for more than 72 hours without being moved. Inoperable vehicles are vehicles that are either damaged, flat tires, and do not run.

- Front yard fences require a building permit and can not be over 30" high. Contact the building department 667-2700 for more information. The permits are free. Maintain your wood fences by keeping them painted and in good repair.

CITY CONTACT INFORMATION



Who To Call For:

- Code Enforcement 667-2780
- Police Services 647-5062
- Police—non emergency 834-4211
- Construction Engineering 565-4044
(On-going Street Construction)
- Design Engineering 647-5640
 - Street Design
 - Sidewalks
 - Flood Ratings 647-5641
- Development Services 647-2791
 - Street Work Permits
 - Private Utility Permits
 - Water Applications
- Graffiti Hotline 647-3380
- Obstructing Trees & Bushes 647-3380
- Potholes 647-3380
- Sanitation (Overgrown Yards) 647-3380
- Shopping Card Removal 800-252-4613
- Street Cleaning 647-3380
- Street Lights (Edison) 800-990-7788
- Street Lights (City) 647-3380
- Traffic Engineering 647-5673
- General Traffic Concerns 647-5673
- Neighborhood Traffic 647-5645
- Permit Parking 647-5612
- School Traffic Concerns 647-5612
- Traffic Signals 647-5611
- Traffic Control Plans 647-5605
- Street Striping 647-5605
- Trash Pick Up & Dumpsters 558-7761
- Tree Trimming 647-3380

Looking for a Place to...

Sing, play bells, do drama, or how about tutoring kids, or possibly helping women in jail? Maybe you would like to join an investors group, or a social group, books, discussions, Bible Study, plays, eating out etc.? Perhaps you are simply looking for a place to call your own or a group with whom to nurture your soul, or the soul of your family.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF PERFORMING HEARTS**

600 N. Main 714-542-7253
www.fpsa.org

Washington Square Babysitters:

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Adrianna Elisada | 543-4292 |
| Jeff Taylor | 836-4624 |
| Susan Cava | 571-5762 |

If you are interesting in advertising babysitting services, call 836-8128 with your name, number and address and we'll add you to our list to be published in the next edition of *Neighborhood News*.

Washington Square 2006 Board of Directors

President	Lynnette Verino	835-0473
Vice President	Nancy Lutz	836-9110
Secretary	Ivana Unger	972-8503
Treasurer	Jean-Louise Jirik	543-9079
Membership Chair	Laura T. Garcia	836-8128
Hospitality Chair	Debbie Vargas	656-5723
Website coordinator	David Jirik	543-9079
Comm-Link Rep	Jean Poppa	836-6430
Email Coordinator	Ivana Unger	972-8503

Block Representatives

Area 1	Louise North of Washington Randy & Tracy Simons	558-4871
Area 2	Louise South of Washington Bobi Keenan	953-9516
Area 3	Baker North of Washington Laura Ruiz	568-1660
Area 4	Baker South of Washington John McGuinness	836-1971
Area 5	Rosewood Kelly Manson	571-0704
Area 6	Westwood North of Washington Sylvia Clark	
Area 7	Westwood South of Washington Sylvia Clark	836-5257
Area 8	16th/Towner North of 15th Gil Melendez	542-3398
Area 9	Towner North of Washington OPEN	
Area 10	Towner South of Washington Javier Garcia	836-8128
Area 11	Freeman North of Washington Jay & Jackie Barkman	571-0363
Area 12	Freeman South of Washington Debbie Vargas	656-5723
Area 13	Lowell South of Washington Christine Cwiertyny	835-9464
Area 14	Lowell North of Washington Jon Wilson	550-0599
Area 15	Olive North of Washington Delmy Savilla	906-4309
Area 16	Olive South of Washington Oldrich & Ivana Unger	972-8503
Area 17	Washington/Bomo Koral Virginia Crisostomo	550-7220
Area 18	Washington St. OPEN	

Washington Square Vendor Referral Network



To help promote business and services provided by Washington Square residents, any owner of a local business or service provider may be included in our network referral list. This list will be published in every newsletter as a way to get Washington Square residents the opportunity of using the services provided by our own neighbors! Take a minute, look at the list and if you need one of these services, be sure and call them first! If you provide a professional service and live in Washington Square, give us a call and we will be sure to add you to our list.

Key's & Locksmith	Ivan Rivera	953-6720
General Contractor	Tom Lutz	835-6130
Handyman	Frank Garcia	313-5765
Stone/brick work	Frankie Mata	478-2304
Notary Public	Therese Thomas	318-1455
Life Coach		
Organizational Consultant	Rebecca Goldstone	417-0017
Realtor	Laura Tobias Garcia	883-3314
Home Loans	Brandie Nava	200-5831
Preschool	Denise Davey	543-1813
Sylvia's Wigs & Accessories		545-1307

Check us out on the web!
www.washington-square.org