

Neighborhood News

Real Neighbors, Real Neighborhood

Fall 2008

2008
Calendar of Events

General Meeting

Thursday, October 9th, 7pm
Wilson School

Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, October 11th
9am-Noon

Fall Concert

Saturday, Oct 25^h, 6pm
Get Spooky!

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 14th

For more info go to
www.washington-square.org

Message from the President, Nancy Lutz:

Earthquake Preparedness,
Good News--Years in the Making: Victory over Blight,
See you at the meeting 10/9!

Did you feel it? Of course, I mean the recent 5.2 earthquake. The program for our October 9th general meeting at Wilson School will include an update on the Bristol Street widening and other projects affecting the neighborhood, as well as a presentation by the American Red Cross on earthquake preparedness. Do you know what to do? Do you have supplies on hand in the event of an earthquake? Attend this meeting and be sure you are prepared!

Have you noticed? Many changes in the neighborhood have taken place since our last newsletter. By the time you get this edition you will have noticed that the H. Salt Esquire building at Washington and Bristol has finally been removed--yea! It has taken years to get to this point. Have you noticed that the poles and back sides of all street signage on Washington have been painted black which both helps them visually disappear and discourages graffiti. Thanks to David & Jean-Louise Jirik, Oldrich & Ivana Unger, Martin van der Roest and Tom Lutz for their arduous effort. One street down, many to go once it gets cooler! Congratulations to the Ruck Family at 1107 Westwood for the City's Beautiful Yard award and the Bartletts at 1403 Towner for the Alan Anderson Neighborhood Pride Award for their lovely yard. Kudos to many other properties in the neighborhood who have recently relandscaped. Great job everyone!

The fall neighborhood cleanup will take place on Saturday, Oct. 11th We will meet at 1118 Freeman at 9:00 a.m. and should be finished no later than noon. With your volunteer help we can send out teams throughout the neighborhood to remove graffiti, pick up litter and spruce up our streets. Lend us a few hours and more can be accomplished.

Our fundraising Fall Concert is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25th at 15th and Lowell. By popular demand, the band "Chico Band" will be returning to entertain us. Look for an upcoming flyer containing further particulars on this fun event.

Hope to see you there,
Nancy Lutz
WSNA President



Nancy Lutz in foreground holding city proclamation with neighbors (left to right) Javier and Laura Garcia, Jean-Louise Jirik and Waste Management Executive, Silvia Edwards.

Washington Square invites you to

Be neighborly

Loud Music and Other Noise Is a No No

Santa Ana Municipal Code Section 10-153 prohibits loud and raucous noise from sound making or amplifying devices.

Did you know there is a 24-hour noise ordinance in Santa Ana? The ordinance states that "it is unlawful for any person to cause, allow or permit loud or raucous noise from any device under his or her control." You should also be aware that the ordinance is in force at all times of the day or night, and covers any public or private location within the City of Santa Ana.

In Santa Ana, the noise ordinance covers more than music. In fact, any noise pollution like hammering late at night, landscape equipment, dogs barking (longer than 20 minutes), or revving up a jalopy without a muffler is covered if it's a public nuisance.

A violation is a misdemeanor crime and can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail. It's always best to work out noise problems with your neighbors, but the Santa Ana Police Department is there to help you. Remember to call 714 245-8665 and not 911 for this kind of problem.

Protect your hearing

Our sense of hearing is fragile and can be severely damaged with prolonged exposure to sounds over 85 decibels which is the level of heavy traffic. Noise induced hearing damage is related to the loudness of the sound and the length of exposure to it so imagine what a 120 decibel (dB) rock concert can do to you. What do Elton John, Phil Collins, Cher and countless other musicians have in common? The condition called NIHL or Noise Induced Hearing Loss which is irreversible.

Every day, we experience sound in our environment, such as the sounds from television, appliances, and traffic. Normally, these sounds are at safe levels that do not affect our hearing. However, when we are exposed to harmful sounds that are too loud or loud sounds that last a long time, sensitive structures in our inner ear can be damaged, causing noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Once damaged, they cannot grow back.

There are no medical options for persons with NIHL so please protect yourself and you children by keeping volumes at reasonable levels. Limit exposure to loud events such as: firecracker-180 dB, car stereo 154 dB, sporting events 127 dB, movie 94 dB. Safe levels are stunningly low. Over only 15 minutes of exposure to 100 dB can damage hearing. For more information go to www.hei.org/news/facts/nihlfact.htm.

Fall Concert, October 25th

As the days get shorter, Washington Square neighbors are ready for their annual Concert in the Cul-de-Sac. Can you believe this is the eighth in a row? This year the committee was lucky to get the wonderful and entertaining Chico Band again. If you were here for their first appearance in 2006, you'll remember how good they are. They have a huge playlist so if you request a song, they can probably play it. And they will play it with style.

So reserve the evening of October 25th for a great time under the stars. There will be dancing which the kids love, also prizes for table decorating, and a 50:50 raffle. Tables seat 8 and are \$30 presale or \$35 the night of the event.

It would be great if you could help out on October 25th. There's nothing difficult, we just need help. Here's the list:

1. Set up tables, and chairs,
2. Set up Easyups for checkin and information.
3. Decorate the stage, place lights and trashcans.
4. During the concert help with check in and raffle ticket sales
5. Rewind #1-3 for teardown

OR just call Nancy at 714-836-9110 and tell her when you can help. The event is 6-7 social hour, 7-10 pm concert. You can help with setup from 2-4 in the afternoon before, and teardown immediately after. Hope to see you there.

howdy neighbor!

As neighbors depart in Washington Square, and are replaced by families who are new to the neighborhood, please personally welcome our new residents. We are known for our sense of neighborhood and by reaching out with a smile, a handshake and you may make a new friend.



If you happen to live near a family that has recently moved-in, please make the effort to stop by and extend a friendly welcome from all of us. Or if you are new to Washington Square, please feel free to introduce yourself to your new neighbors. You'll probably find this is a friendly place to call home.



The Washington Square Neighborhood Newsletter is published quarterly by the Washington Square Neighborhood Association. WSNA is a non-profit mutual benefit community association established in 1984. WSNA is an officially recognized neighborhood by the city of Santa Ana, California. Currently the volunteer Newsletter Committee is chaired by Jean-Louise Jirik who gets a lot of help from you. If you have suggestions or story ideas, you can email her at jljirik@heliotrope-studios.com

Alan Anderson Award

Winner: **The Bartlett Family**

Russ and Michelle Bartlett
and their four children Ronin, Sophie, Lilly and Max



Russ and Michelle Bartlett met and married in their home town of Chicago. When they moved West to pursue a career opportunity, they chose Washington Square to settle in. Four kids later, they live at 1403 North Towner.

Last year they embarked on an ambitious landscape and remodeling project on their 1940's home. The goal was to create a kid and family friendly backyard and update the dated and tired front with new hardscape and landscape design. The results are spectacular. The house was transformed front, back and sides with new decks, living areas, paths, play areas, paint scheme, plantings and accessories that now do it justice and are easy to live with.



The new covered deck accommodates new outside living areas and barbeque which is adjacent to the yard and gardens..



The Bartlett Family--(l to r) Lilly, Michelle, Ronin, Sophie, Max, Russ, posing in the front yard by the new sign. The sign will remain in their yard for the next year. phie, Lilly, Max

Good design and attention to detail is evident in all the gardens, lawns and living spaces.



The water feature lends coolness and a refreshing splash to the yard.

The Alan Anderson Award is named for a former neighbor who exemplified the spirit of Washington Square. He volunteered joyfully, tirelessly and without complaint to make this a better place. Alan also kept his yard immaculately and was known for gifts of his homemade cookies and garden-fresh flowers.

What to do immediately after an **EARTHQUAKE**

First, check yourself for injuries and smell for gas. Take a deep breath and calm down. You will be better able to care for others if you have received first aid for yourself. If you are in a building, use extreme caution. Building damage may have occurred where you least expect it so carefully watch every step you take.

Smell for natural gas and turn off wherever you smell it. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas, using the outside main valve if you can, and call the gas company from somewhere else.

Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker.

If your home has experienced damage, get out before aftershocks happen.

Locate family members, neighbors, coworkers. Assess injuries and render first aid. Able bodied, uninjured persons need to locate and help those who need it.

Help neighbors who may require special assistance. Elderly people and people with disabilities may require additional assistance. Safety first! When you enter a building, examine walls, floor, doors, staircases, and windows to make sure that the building is not in danger of collapsing.

Check for sewage and water line damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets. Avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water from undamaged water heaters or by melting ice cubes.

Watch for loose plaster, drywall, and ceilings that could fall.

Use the telephone only to report life-threatening emergencies. Telephone lines need to be clear for emergency calls to get through.

Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard. The behavior of pets may change dramatically after an earthquake.

Avoid smoking inside buildings. Smoking in confined areas can cause fires

Happy Hour El Pico De Gallo Grill

Every day from 5-9 pm



Visit us at
901 W. 17th St.
(NW corner of
Flower/17th Streets)

*With purchase of a regular price plate.

The first 5 Washington Square Amigos who come in with their newsletter will also receive a FREE Regular Nachos Plate with this offer.
exp. 10/31/08

Catering
available for
all events.

901 West Seventeenth Street
(NW corner of Flower/17th Streets)
714-953-7448

Car insurance with
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Monica Martinez Drevon, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0F87051
3816 S Bristol Street
Santa Ana CA 92704
Bus: 714-966-2679

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State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
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Laura's Neighborhood Real Estate Recap

by Laura Tobias Garcia

Properties currently for sale:

1505 N. Baker	3 bed, 2 bath, 1741 sq. ft.	\$475,000*
1522 N. Rosewood	3 bed, 1 bath, 1060 sq. ft.	\$279,000*
1408 N. Flower	3 bed, 1 bath, 1200 sq. ft.	\$285,000**
1302 N. Flower	2 bed, 2 bath, 1268 sq. ft.	\$305,000**
1306 N. Flower	3 bed, 2 bath, 1392 sq. ft.	\$309,900
1002 N. Flower	3 bed, 1 bath, 1279 sq. ft.	\$315,000*
1104 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath, 1853 sq. ft.	\$350,000*
1002 N. Freeman	4 bed, 2 bath, 1875 sq. ft.	\$350,000*
1502 N. Olive	2 bed, 1 bath, 1550 sq. ft.	\$375,000
1604 N. Towner	3 bed, 2 bath, 1493 sq. ft.	\$375,250**
1102 W 16th	3 bed, 2 bath, 1303 sq. ft.	\$379,050**
1509 N. Rosewood	4 bed, 1 bath, 1387 sq. ft.	\$399,000*
1007 N. Freeman	2 bed, 2 bath, 1257 sq. ft.	\$400,000*
1017 N. Westwood	4 bed, 3 bath, 2190 sq. ft.	\$449,900**
1108 N. Towner	3 bed, 3 bath, 1910 sq. ft.	\$474,900**
1615 N. Freeman	3 bed, 1.5 bath, 1763 sq. ft.	\$499,000
1501 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq. ft.	\$535,000
1116 N. Baker	7 bed, 4 bath, 4080 sq. ft.	\$580,000**

Properties in escrow:

1142 Bomo Koral	4 bed, 3 bath, 1449 sq. ft.	\$270,750**
1308 N. Flower	3 bed, 2 bath, 1467 sq. ft.	\$309,900**
812 N. Baker	3 bed, 2 bath, 1369 sq. ft.	\$341,900**
1411 N. Lowell	2 bed, 1 bath, 1336 sq. ft.	\$370,500**
1016 N. Towner	4 bed, 2 bath, 2236 sq. ft.	\$389,900**
1417 N. Towner	2 bed, 2 bath, 1404 sq. ft.	\$499,000

Properties Recently Sold:

1002 N. Flower	3 bed, 2 bath, 1700 sq. ft.	\$305,000**
905 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft.	\$360,000**
1104 N. Flower	3 bed, 1 bath, 1448 sq. ft.	\$290,000**
1114 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath, 1368 sq. ft.	\$350,000*
1112 N. Baker	3 bed, 1 bath, 1426 sq. ft.	\$325,000**
904 N. Olive	3 bed, 2 bath, 1465 sq. ft.	\$403,000**
920 N. Olive	2 bed, 1 bath, 1519 sq. ft.	\$385,000**
823 N. Freeman	3 bed, 2 bath, 1270 sq. ft.	\$399,000
1001 N. Westwood	3 bed, 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft.	\$460,000

* denotes short sale

** denotes foreclosed and bank owned

A few weeks ago, President Bush signed the "Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008" into law. This \$300 billion rescue plan is intended to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure, as well as boost confidence in the housing market. Although the bill is several hundred pages long and contains a number of far-reaching provisions, here are a few of the major provisions in the legislation that impact homeowners and homebuyers:

1. Tax credits. First-time homebuyers who purchase their primary residence on or after April 9, 2008 and before July 1, 2009 are eligible for up to \$7,500 in tax credit, provided they haven't owned a home in the last three years and fit certain income parameters. The credit is generous, but it is actually an interest free loan, paid back over 15 years at \$500 per year when taxes are filed.

Special note: Some types of seller-paid down payment assistance programs are being eliminated as of October 1st as well - so purchasing a home before then may gain you a double benefit of tax credits AND seller-paid down payment assistance while it is still available.

2. Larger loans at lower rates. There have recently been provisions in place that have allowed loans larger than \$417,000 to qualify for better financing rates than normally would be available for "jumbo" loan amounts of that size, thanks to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Although these provisions were set to expire, they are being extended. However, the top end of the loan size that will be allowed under these programs will be dropping down from \$729,750 to \$625,500 as of January 1, 2009.

3. FHA Hope for Homeowners. This provision is designed to help homeowners who owe more on their house than they can sell it for in today's market. Essentially, this plan allows homeowners who meet the requirements and are upside down to refinance their mortgage to a new 30-year Fixed FHA mortgage. There are a number of qualifying details that must be met and requirements to be agreed to--including agreeing to split the equity in your home with the government in the future. The refinances will be for up to 90% of appraised value and the lender will have to agree to take the loss. This will essentially be a "short refinance."

These are just a few of the provisions that may benefit you. But the bottom line is, home prices are extremely reasonable right now, home loan rates are low, and new incentives are in place that may help make the decision to buy even more appealing than before.

If you're in the market for a new home or need to make some changes with your current mortgage...there's never been a better time to act. Just get in touch so we can start the planning process together.



Laura Tobias Garcia
*Building lasting client relationships with
 honesty, integrity, & consistency.*



Why keep that tree?

by Virginia Bernal

Are you considering cutting down that big tree in your yard? Please think again because most likely your tree:

- Increases your property value.
- Cools your home and yard in the summer.
- Reduces cost of air conditioning.
- “Gobbles up” a bit of the carbon dioxide your car produces.
- Plays its own part in reducing global warming.
- Help increase your privacy.
- Adds natural beauty that enriches the neighborhood.

So please keep that large tree. It took many years to grow to its venerable size. It takes only a few days and maybe just a few hours to fix whatever complaints it gives you!



SANTA ANA GREEN

George's ODDS N ENDS

SAC President Makes National List of Top Latino Leaders

A national magazine that targets Latino readership reviewed numerous candidates for its final list of 25. Dr. Erlinda Martinez, President of Santa Ana City College made the cut. The list will appear in *Latino Leaders Magazine*.

The list, which appears in the magazine's most recent issue, includes leaders throughout the country who hold influential positions in institutions of higher education.

The “Top 25” list is the inaugural list of its kind and Dr. Martinez is the only Orange County college president selected.

Dr. Edward Hernandez, Jr., Rancho Santiago Community College District chancellor said, “We are very proud of Dr. Martinez’ recognition and for her extensive contributions to Santa Ana College.”

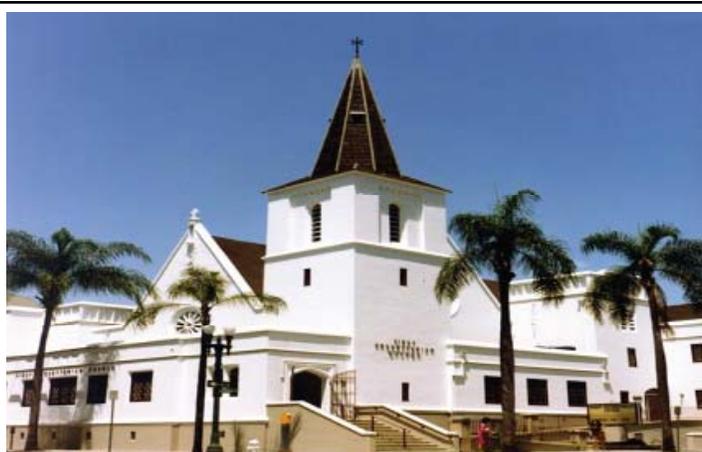


Trick or Treat or Canned Food?

Halloween isn't all about the candy for these kids. The OCHSA International Thespian Society Troupe is participating in Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat, (TOTSKE), to collect food for the needy in our Washington Square Neighborhood on October 31st (Halloween). So if a student comes to your door on Halloween asking for canned food instead of candy, don't be surprised. If you have a can or two to spare, it will be greatly appreciated.



Don't forget www.washington-square.org. If you're hungry for the haps in the hood, or just plain bored. It's up 24/7 to quench your curiosity and quell your questions.



Looking for a Place to...

Meet new friends, sing in a choir, or perhaps you are simply looking for a place to call your own, or a group with whom to nurture your soul, or the souls of your family.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



City Contact Information



Code Enforcement	667-2780
Police Services	647-5062
Police—non emergency	834-4211
Construction Engineering (Ongoing Street Construction)	565-4044
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 Cart 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
Water Bill	647-5454
Water Engineering	647-3320

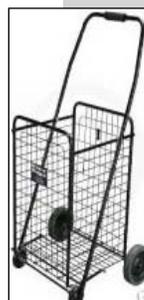
For code enforcement issues, call Joe Rodriguez, Washington Square's dedicated Code Enforcement Officer, at 714-667-2734.

Joe is a consummate professional and has a track record of response to us. He brings a depth of knowledge and his valuable years of experience in the field here in Santa Ana, and he will do his best to solve your problem. In addition he is an expert on lawns and lawncare. He knows everything (honest) and you can call him anytime for some reliably on-the-mark advice.



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. This includes motor oil, housepaint and other toxic substances.
- **Trash barrels** are not to be put out on Sunday before 4:00 PM and must be taken in by 12:00 midnight 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.
- **Cars** are never 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. The permits are free. Contact the building department 667-2700 for more information. Maintain your wood fences by keeping them painted and in good repair.



• **Store Shopping Carts** are a blight when left on the street after they are stolen from stores. The solution? If this applies to you, please use your own folding shopping cart (pictured at left) instead of stealing them from stores to transport your purchases. It is expensive for the city to pick them up (\$75 each time) and you can buy your own for around \$10-25 at nearby stores. It's an investment in good neighbor relations.



Washington Square Babysitters

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

If you are interesting in advertising babysitting services, call J-L at 543-9079 with your name, number and address and we'll add you to our list published in the next edition of Neighborhood News.



Washington Square

P.O. Box 4435  Santa Ana CA 92702

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

We welcome new volunteers. As you can see below there are very few residents active at making this a truly outstanding place to live. Any help you can give is appreciated so please call Nancy and talk about opportunities to serve. We remain committed to WSNA and having fun while making it happen! It's never boring.

2008-2009 Board Positions

President	Nancy Lutz	836-9110
Vice-President	Lynnette Verino	835-0473
Secretary	Ivana Unger	972-8503
Treasurer	Laura T. Garcia	836-8128
Members at large:		
	Jean-Louise Jirik	543-9079
	Jean-Poppa	836-6430

Committees and Block Reps:

Membership	Laura T. Garcia	836-8128
Website	David Jirik	543-9079
Newsletter	Jean-Louise Jirik	543-9079
Comm-Link	Jean Poppa	836-6430
Hospitality	Tracy Simons	552-4871

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	836-5257
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	Russ Bartlett	564-9080
Area 10 Towner South of Washington	Javier Garcia	836-8128
Area 11 Freeman North of Washington	Margaret Klase	972-8951
Area 12 Freeman South of Washington	Juan & Virginia Bernal	836-7448
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	

Arbor Day in the square

On Thursday, September 25 the City of Santa Ana honored Washington Square with an Arbor Day celebration held at 10 a.m. on Baker Street in front of Heroes School. Santa Ana is a Tree City.

As part of the celebration, students participated in the planting of five new Raywood Ash trees on the parkway in front of the school. Teams were divided into girls and boys, and following the activity, the children were treated to some swag-- a bucket with pencils, erasers, coloring books, toys, magnets and more plus many informational pamphlets. There was a row of EasyUps under which were displayed goodies from the Graffiti Task Force, Waste Management, Green Team and more. It was a great event which was well-planned and enjoyed by all. Thanks for choosing Washington Square!



Above: Kids enjoying the swag booth.



Right: Greg Fernandez, Santa Ana's go-to guy for all things tree, answers questions before the planting started Thursday 9/25/08.



The Washington Square Vendor Network

Keys & Locksmith	Ivan Rivera	953-6720
General Contractor	Tom Lutz	835-6130
Handyman	Ken Clark	809-6884
Stone/Brick Design & Installations	Frankie Mata	478-2304
Electrician	AJN Electric	
	Andrew Nunez	782-4740
Notary Public	Therese Thomas	318-1455
Realtor	Laura Tobias Garcia	883-3314
Home Loans & Reverse Mortgages	Brandie Nava	200-5831
Preschool	Denise Davey	543-1813
Sylvia's Wigs & Accessories		545-1307
Professional Audio/Video, Event and Technology		
Heliotrope Studios	David Jirik	545-0222
All-natural raw pet food		
CoolPets Raw Gourmet	Jean-Louise Jirik	545-0700
State Farm Insurance	Monica Martinez Drevon	966-2679
Wedding Photography	Photography by Ricardo	
	Ricardo Barrera	836-4041

We promote business and services provided by Washington Square residents and any owner of a local business may be included. This list will be published in every newsletter as a way to inform you of the opportunity to patronize your own neighbors. Please check them out and if you need one of these services, be sure to call them first! If you want your business listed, email or give us a call with your info.