



Neighborhood News

Real Neighbors, Real Neighborhood

Summer 2008

2008
Calendar of Events

General Meeting
Thursday, July 10th, 7pm
at Heroes School
(Baker and Civic Center)

Summer Party
Saturday, July 19th

General Meeting
Thursday, October 9th, 7pm
Wilson School

Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, October 11th, 9am

Fall Concert
Saturday, Oct 25^h, 7pm
Get Spooky!

Holiday Party
Sunday, December 14th

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

What the George is going on?

Why are all these Georges splattered all over the newsletter? Is it crappy graphic design or a contest where you can win something if you count them all up? Good news kids, it's a contest! Count the profiles of his head AND how many times is the word "George" appears in this newsletter. If you are right, or even close, you will be entered into the drawing for prizes. There are lots of prizes so you have a good chance of winning something.

So get out your pencil and count ALL the Georges you can find in this issue then email by July 31 to: George@Washington-Square.org or drop off (neatly written) entry at 1406 N Towner. Include your Name, Age, Address, Phone (so we can contact you) and, of course, the number of Georges you count. There will be a drawing for awesome prizes from the likes of WAMU, Peking Kitchen, El Pico de Gallo Grill and more. So far we count 26 Georges on this page, but we could be wrong. How many do you get?

RULES: Contest open to children 12 and under. Must be resident of Washington Square. Entries must be received by midnight, July 10. Drawing will be held by July 15. Winners will be contacted and prize awards will be at the Summer Party July 19, and be listed in the next newsletter. Don't forget to your address and phone!



Message from the President, Nancy Lutz:

VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR!

We need you!

The year is already half over and we have had a successful Spring Clean-Up (other than the board, we only had one couple from Louise Street who volunteered) and Wine Walk. Upcoming is the Summer Party on July 19th, then Fall Clean-Up on October 11th, and Fall Concert on Saturday, October 25th. These neighborhood events are for YOU!

As always, the WSNA board could use help from some younger, stronger volunteers to get the job done faster and easier and we have some fun as well! Need community service credit—we can help you by helping us. Mark the upcoming events on your calendar and when you see the flyers and reminder signs go up, contact me at president@washington-square.org and leave a message like---Count me in, how can I help?

On another note, the general meeting on July 10th will be at the soon to open Heroes Elementary School on Civic Center Drive. For those interested, SAUSD staff will offer a brief tour at 6:30 p.m., with the WSNA general meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m. Staff will be making a presentation on the school which will open in September.

This is your only chance to get a peek at this facility before it opens. Remember, we serve pizza too.

Hope to see you there,
Nancy Lutz
WSNA President



Washington Square invites you to



Meet your neighbors

Published author!

Joel Clark

We have news of another published author here in the Square. If you remember, in the last issue we bragged on David Clark's new book, Well, this time it's his son, Joel! Talent runs deep in that family and the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

Joel Clark's first book, we hope of many, has just hit the streets. We'll have more details for you next issue of the newsletter, but wanted to congratulate him on the good work. Way to go, Joel!

Neighbors

Going Green,
Greener, Greenest!



Meet

Virginia and
Juan Bernal

Solar in Washington Square? Yup! Check out the south facing roofline of 830 North Freeman, home of Virginia and Juan Bernal. There you'll find a solar panel installation that collects the sun's energy during the day and creates electricity to power the house.

In fact, on a sunny afternoon, the panels generate more energy than the house can use so it is fed back into the grid. Unfortunately, the Bernals don't get a credit on their electric bill, but they are actively reducing greenhouse gasses and helping keep down electric costs for the rest of us.

The Bernal's installation is in the second year and they are pleased with their very low electric bills. If it weren't for an outdoor pond pump that has to run 24/7 all year, they wouldn't pay anything for electricity. Ever.

If you're interested, there are numerous contractors who install solar systems and you can contact Virginia Bernal who is passionate and knowledgeable about environmental issues.

Her number is on the back page under Block Reps.



Now Taking Nominations

We are a neighborhood of people and we'd like to highlight a few neighbors of note every issue. Are you interesting? Do you know someone who is?

If you have a business, hobby, blog, MySpace/Facebook page, or something you'd like to share about yourself or someone else, please call 543-9079 or email jljirik@heliotrope-studios.com.

To get you started, meet me at MySpace at www.myspace.com/areikimaster.

Next issue:

*You will meet your talented neighbor
Ricardo Barrera of Photography by Ricardo.*

howdy neighbor!

As neighbors leave Washington Square and are replaced by new families who continue the pride of home ownership, we urge everyone to warmly welcome our new residents.



Conversely, 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 live.

If you happen to live near a recently moved-in family, please make the effort to stop by and extend a friendly welcome from all of us.

extend a friendly welcome from all of us.



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

Remodeling for Love

The McGuinnesses settled in Washington Square seven years ago. As time passed, things changed and they wanted to stay in the neighborhood but, well, there were a lot of buts. Seven years and two children later, their two-bedroom home with a four car garage built in 1952 had gotten smaller. Life had gotten bigger and the kids kept growing. Something had to change.

Because John and Lois didn't want to leave the neighborhood to get a larger house, they explored their options. As it turned out, everything came together for them to undertake a major remodel of the house in the neighborhood they love so much.

As a result of their research and tenacity, their original house at 907 North Baker is currently being expanded to five-bedrooms/three bathrooms from two bedrooms/one bath. Moving walls, adding a second story and multiple porches and decks is accomplishing the goal.

"We love the outside so we're adding decks everywhere" said Lois as she showed us around the construction site. Bringing the outside in was a prime consideration in the redesign and there are numerous decks on both levels. Although son Jack is disappointed there's door in this room. He wanted a rope ladder and pirate themed house. Big sister Claire is just happy to get a wall between her and Jack.

Conveniently, while their home is gutted and under construction, they temporarily rent a house at 928 N Baker but plan to move into the "new" house as soon as it's liveable, hopefully mid-July. They plan to save money by doing some of the finish work themselves. John, a teacher, plans to spend his summer focusing on the house.

How are they doing it? As Lois describes "it's about half done using a general contractor and the other half as owner/builder."

John and Lois shopped contractors for demo, framing, electrical and plumbing and settled on one they have been very happy with. Siding, drywall and roofing are out to bid and may be completed by the general contractor currently on the job, but the final decision isn't made yet. They have developed a partnering relationship with their contractor which helps keep project costs in line. It also helps to be only two houses away which makes it easy to closely monitor, guide, and participate in the project.

Neighbors are hoping for a peek at the finished home after the months of construction. We all hope they'll be ready to share their vision on the next Washington Square Home Tour.



The McGuinness Family--Claire (6), Lois, Jack (5), & John



Demolition of walls indicated early in the remodel.



And the walls came tumbling down.



The new family/all purpose room runs the entire rear of the house and opens to a large covered deck which will be adjacent to the yard and gardens.



Here's Lori looking out her new kitchen window onto her new front deck and future front garden.



Lori points to her soon-to-be spacious up-stairs master suite which will also have a deck. She is standing on the site of the downstairs deck in the back of the house.

What we learned from this year's Wine Walk

The Eighth Annual Wine Walk was a SMASHiNG success...if you get the drift. Walkers had great wine, scrumptious eats, fab raffle prizes, and lines. Yes, at every station, all 4 houses, there was often a que for the vino.

Why the lines? We had a record turnout, that's why. About 25% more than ever before. Walkers showed up out of the blue and were, as usual, welcomed with open arms--or is that welcomed with empty glass? Anyway, the Wine Walk Committee would like to get some things out of the cellar and into the open, so here goes.

First and foremost, we offer apologies to those of you who were inconvenienced and/or annoyed by the lines. We hate them too and it wasn't intended. If you were annoyed, we hope it doesn't quench your desire to attend for the Ninth Annual Wine Walk because there will definitely be some changes at the next event.

Changes? No, let's call them "upgrades" because the intention is to make future Wine Walks more fun for everybody. So please come back to the Ninth Wine Walk where you will again be warmly welcomed with empty glass.

The Upgrades will include

- Larger tables for twice the access to pourers
- More wine pourers
- Roving pourers who will walk around and pour samples and discuss
- New and improved check-in procedures
- Limit attendance to 75
- Encourage prepaid rsvp's by adding \$5 "pay at the door" admission fee (\$15)

Your Wine Walk Committee: Tom and Nancy Lutz, Sam Puzzo and Carol Frank, David and JL Jirik, Javier and Laura Garcia, Oldrich and Ivana Unger, Ray and Jean Poppa.

A special acknowledgement to Sam Puzzo and Carol Frank. Without them this event simply would not happen and we are deeply grateful.

George's NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

City names

Oldrich and Ivana Unger 2008 Neighborhood Heroes

Your Washington Square neighbors, Oldrich and Ivana Unger, were honored last month as 2008 Neighborhood Heros.

Oldrich, Ivana and their three sons are originally from the Czech Republic and have been proud citizens of the US over 25 years, most of that as active members in Washington Square.

The Neighborhood Hero Award was established in 1998 by Com-Link to honor sustained commitment to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Only ten awards are given annually citiwide.

Previous Washington Square winners include Nancy Lutz

(1999), Velma Hefflin (2003), Lynette Gallegos (2004), Jean-Louise & David Jirik (2005), Lynette Verino (2006), and Sylvia Clark (2007).



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Laura's Neighborhood Real Estate Recap

by Laura Tobias Garcia

Properties currently for sale:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1618 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1715 Sq ft. | \$490,000 |
| 1114 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1368 Sq ft. | \$350,000* |
| 1604 N. Towner | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1493 Sq ft. | \$395,000** |
| 823 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1270 Sq ft. | \$459,000 |
| 912 N. Freeman | 5 bed, 3 bath | 2300 Sq ft. | \$479,000* |
| 1102 W. 16th | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1303 Sq ft. | \$479,000* |
| 1615 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 1.5 bath | 1763 Sq ft. | \$499,000 |
| 1007 N. Freeman | 2 bed, 2 bath | 1257 Sq ft. | \$550,000* |
| 1001 N. Westwood | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1600 Sq ft. | \$569,900 |
| 1501 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 2 bath | 2000 Sq ft. | \$599,000 |

homes
for
sale

Properties Pending Sale:

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1112 N. Baker | 3 bed, 1 bath | 1426 Sq ft. | \$356,000** |
| 904 N. Olive | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1465 Sq ft. | \$369,900** |
| 905 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 3 bath | 1600 Sq ft. | \$379,900** |
| 912 N. Towner | 4 bed, 2 bath | 1662 Sq ft. | \$465,000** |

homes
in
escrow

Properties Recently Sold:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 904 N. Lowell | 2 bed, 1 bath | 1088 Sq ft. | \$325,000** |
| 831 N. Towner | 2 bed, 1 bath | 975 Sq ft. | \$327,900** |
| 1101 W. Washington | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1550 Sq ft. | \$400,000** |
| 1512 N. Freeman | 3 bed, 2 bath | 1792 Sq ft. | \$396,500** |
| 1506 N. Baker | 4 bed, 3 bath | 1325 Sq. ft. | \$424,000** |
| 1316 N. Louise | 3 bed, 1 bath | 1358 Sq. ft. | \$420,000** |
| 1515 N. Rosewood | 3 bed, 1.5 bath | 1387 Sq. ft. | \$530,000** |

homes
SOLD!

* denotes short sale

** denotes foreclosed and bank owned

The current real estate climate consists of the following: (1) a gazillion short sales (properties listed at less than what is owed on them), (2) bank owned properties, and (3) the occasional conventional sale (seller not in default and has equity). For short sales, it is taking 45 to 90 days to hear back from the bank once a buyer has made an offer. If it is a good property and reasonably priced, there are multiple offers from qualified buyers. Qualified means they have a down payment and good credit. Thus, there is no room for lowball offers on short sales. It's a waste of time. Not surprisingly, the highest offer wins. With bank owned properties, it takes a day or two for an answer. The best expectation for repairs is termite work, but that is pretty much the extent. Again, there are multiple offers on bank owned prosperities as well. This means buyers have gotten off the fence and are diving in. Those in the third category, sellers with equity seem to be moving up. They are selling low and buying low.

I also notice prices seem to be all over the place. Just today, I saw that two bank owned properties went into escrow on Linwood Street. They are within a block of each other. Each has the same bedroom and bath count. Both homes looked similar, yet there is a \$45,000 difference in the list price. So, yes, I think this is a great time to buy. It is equally crucial that the agent representing the buyer does their homework and makes sure their client isn't overpaying. A good agent can analyze the market in "real time." We can tell you if it's a good deal *at that time*. Of course, we can't predict the future. I believe, however, it is safe to say it is a great time to buy for those who are planning to hold on to the property for several years.



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





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.fpcs.org 714-542-7253

Summer Party, July 19th

When the days get long, Washington Square neighbors are hot for their annual party! So reserve the afternoon of July 19th for some neighborhood fun. There will be food, jumping castles, childrens games, salsa contest, dessert bar, music, prize awards and anything else we can think of to do. The party is an opportunity to enjoy where you live and is NOT a fund raiser. If you are a member, you will not be asked to pay admission (or buy raffle tickets). Guests and nonmember residents pay \$5 per adult and \$1 per child for the food and fun. We ask that you bring a delicious dessert to share for the dessert bar.

If you can't tell, the theme of this newsletter is volunteerism (and Georges) so it would be great if you are persuaded to help out on July 19th. There's really nothing difficult, we just need help. Here's the list:

1. Set up tables, chairs and tape on plastic tablecloths,
2. Set up jumping castles and run extension cords to the power source.
3. Jumping castle monitors (to keep the big kids from smashing into the little ones) and childrens games supervisors.
4. Food setup and server(s)
5. Salsa contest coordinator (grab a couple of neighbors for judges and announce the winners. Certificates provided.)
6. Rewind #1-3 for teardown

OR just call Nancy at 836-9110 and tell her when you can help. The event is 4-7pm with setup in the afternoon before and teardown immediately after. Hope to see you there.



Member of WSNA yet? If not, no worries. Memberships are still being accepted and we'd love to have you and your membership covers every member of the household.

There are four levels starting with Sponsor at \$75 per year, Patron at \$50 per year and Household at \$20 per year. Seniors 65 and over are entitled to pay \$10 per household for the year.

At the Summer Party, members get free food for 3 children and 2 adults. Members also get mentioned on the Washington Square website and are acknowledged in the Fall Newsletter.

WSNA is a non-profit corporation, or 501(c)(3) so your donation is fully tax deductible. Please send your check to WSNA, PO Box 4435, Santa Ana CA 92702, or download the form from the website here: http://www.washington-square.org/08membership_letter.pdf



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.



Apologies to our neighbor and Santa Ana City Councilmember, Claudia Alvarez, who has a perfectly wonderful name which was spelled incorrectly last issue. Our bad, and we sincerely apologize.

You can reach her by email at calvarez@ci.santa-ana.ca.us. (which is correct). Ed.

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.



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.



- **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

P.O. Box 4435



Santa Ana CA 92702

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

We are always looking for 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 |

Reward yourself



In almost all modern societies, the most basic of all values is people helping people and, in the process, helping themselves. Volunteers make a difference by contributing their time, energy, and talents to the causes they hold dear.

Where do you live? Washington Square? If you love your home, enjoy your neighborhood, and want to maintain your safety and the value of your property, consider volunteering.

Washington Square needs your help and it's really not much. Things like putting chairs out before the summer party, helping set up the jumping castle, supervising children's games, bringing cupcakes--all easy stuff.

We ask you to invest a little of your time with us. You can make a real difference and if you need community service hours, it will count. You will also make some grateful friends.



Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. --Margaret Mead

Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS! --author unknown

Being a man or a woman is a matter of birth. Being a man or a woman who makes a difference is a matter of choice. --author unknown

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.