

WASHINGTON SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood.

January 2012



New 2012 Neighborhood Calendar

Thursday January 12
Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting
and Pizza Buffet

New Fri-Mon, February 17-20
Great BackYard Bird Count

Saturday March 10
Dumpster Day

Saturday March 24
Progressive Dinner

Thursday April 12
Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting

Saturday April 21
Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday May 19--Wine Walk

Thursday July 12
Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting

Saturday August 18
Family Movie Night

Saturday September 22
Fall Family Concert

Thursday October 11
Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting

New Saturday October 13
Beer Tasting Event

Saturday December 9
Holiday Santa Party

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

Message from the president, Javier Garcia



Happy New Year! I hope that you are blessed with great health and prosperity in 2012.

As the New Year takes off, I am reflecting on my first year as your President. 2011 presented challenges, growth, events and great times. Above all, I value the many neighbors I was fortunate to meet. At organized meetings and events I met great people like Jose and Jennifer Leon, Rob and Maco Long, the McGuinnesses, the Silvas, and more. During my neighborhood wanderings, I encountered others such as Verna Corum. My wife, Laura, and I love visiting and enjoying long talks with her. Verna is independent, energetic, engaging and makes a killer carrot cake. Best of all she's a youthful 90 years young.

Thanks to all of you who stepped up last year to lend a hand at our many events. It is great to see new faces volunteering at our neighborhood cleanup, dumpster day and others. Some of you may have resolved to become more involved in your neighborhood this year. If so, please give us a call and we can make sure that your resolution is not broken. In fact you can call our new Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Morter. Diane has been a valuable asset to our neighborhood since she moved here in 2010 and be reached at dianemorter@gmail.com or (714) 814-4326. A huge thank you to Diane for stepping up.

I'm happy to see that our neighborhood is looking better these days. Our streets received some much needed repairs last year and, as I look around, I can see that some of you have started your home improvement projects such as a fresh coat of paint, new plants, or a new landscape. The Tacqueria De Anda restaurant opens soon after doing a great job beautifying their corner at Washington and Bristol.

But there is more that we can all do and the more the merrier (and effective). Be assured that the volunteer neighborhood board is working to improve the quality of life and the appearance of our neighborhood which maintains our home values. We are in frequent contact with city staff to continue improving the entries and surrounding areas of our neighborhood.

Being involved in Washington Square certainly had its rewards last year. One of which was working with our board and committee members. They are a fabulous group of people who really care about their neighborhood and devote a great deal of time. If you ask me what my most rewarding accomplishment was during my first year, it was not my involvement in the fun-filled events such as our Progressive Dinner, Wine Walk, Movie Night, or the Fall Concert, it was the opportunity to make lasting friends like Verna. This year, I encourage you to get out of your comfort zone, and lend a hand so you too will be greatly rewarded.



Javier Garcia

Javier Garcia
2012 President

Washington Square
Neighborhood Association

A 501(c)(3) in Santa Ana, California

Washington Square invites you to

Be neighborly

Holiday Party Recap

Santa rocks! And he always comes through. Once again Washington Square neighbors, friends and families know how to organize themselves to delight the children in the neighborhood and have fun! They brought out the decorations, sugar plums and >poof< Santa appeared.

On a crisp, bright Sunday afternoon a well-dressed Santa and his pretty Elf arrived at 1110 West Washington. The house was decked out with Christmas lights and decorations and the yard was prepared with a twinkling tree and tables spread with holiday goodies. There was a special photo area staged and ready for Santa to get comfortable where he could hold the anxiously waiting children on his lap. The photographer was poised and his assistants were pre-trained on the photo printing process.



So when the sparkling red Santa Ana Fire Truck pulled up with Santa and Elf Sallee on top, everyone was ready to get their picture on. Some of the kids had taken the time to pre-write their list and held their papers tightly in their fists, ready for their turn on his lap. It doesn't matter if they're naughty or nice, Washington Square's Santa speaks to all who await him. Santa makes every one feel special as he focuses on their responses to "What do you want for Christmas?" as they shyly or enthusiastically answer his question.

When every child had had their turn, Santa and Sallee returned to the fire truck piloted by Santa Ana's finest, waved goodbye to Washington Square, and Santa's "Ho Ho Ho" was heard as they drove out of sight.

A big shout out to the Vasquez (pictured above with Santa and Elf Sallee) family for hosting the party again. They are wonderful examples of good neighbors. They beautifully decorated their house, stored the WS Christmas tree all year, and even donated presents to be given to each and every kid. That's right, in addition to the WS-supplied candy cane, the children got a present from Santa appropriate for a boy or girl. We owe a huge debt of thanks to the Vasquez's so thank you very much from all of us. You exemplify the Christmas spirit and are our neighborhood heroes!

And speaking of shoutouts, a big one goes to Tim Rush, our cherished neighborhood friend and faithful Santa. His beautiful elf this year is Sallee Smith, a former resident of WS. Thank you!



Graffiti

Graffiti is a serious problem and unfortunately graffiti is everybody's problem. More than just an eyesore, graffiti is a costly property crime and the presence of it in a neighborhood serves to lower property values and leads to an increase in other crimes.

The phone number to report graffiti is 877-786-7824. If you want a police report on the incident, call Santa Ana Police Dispatch and ask for an officer callout.

If you see someone in the act of placing graffiti, call 911 immediately! This is a crime in progress and officers must be dispatched. Stopping a graffiti vandal is never worth jeopardizing your safety, always always call the police.

howdy neighbor!

As neighbors depart Washington Square and new families arrive, we want to reach out and welcome our new residents.

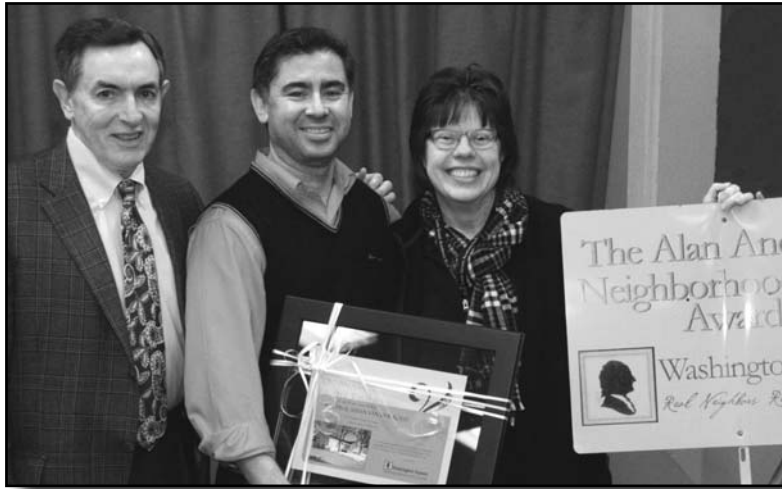
We are known for our sense of neighborhood so please offer your new neighbors a smile, a handshake and you may make a new friend.

If you are new to Washington Square, please introduce yourself to your new neighbors. You'll find this is a safe and 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 1985. 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

Neighborhood Spotlight: Alan Anderson Award goes to...



Susan and Martin van der Roest

1111 North Towner Street

The Alan Anderson Award is presented to residents of a selected Washington Square home that exemplifies Alan's love, pride and care for his home and neighborhood which contributes to Washington Square's sense of community and positivity.

Congratulations to Washington Square's long time residents, the van der Roest family. The front of their home for the last eight years has undergone a

major facelift. It all started when they realized they needed a ramp for Susan's walker and wheelchair and a small porch for lounging, plus they wanted it to be attractive and in character with their home which was built in 1939.

The van der Roest Family has deep roots in Santa Ana. Martin and Susan lived on Freeman Street in Washington Square for many years prior to moving into the house on Towner which they purchased from Susan's brother, Dan Grisct, former Mayor of Santa Ana.

Before occupying the house, they did a major interior restoration keeping in mind their aesthetic objective when designing. Susan describes the look they are going for: "We want this house to look like a well-maintained 1939 home." With that in mind they started their newest renovation adventure.

An interesting hardscape feature of the property is the scalloped white fence which is made of concrete. Concrete was not an uncommon fencing material when the house was constructed in 1939, but fell out of favor over time so the fence repair project was a challenge. The van der Roests were fortunate to find skilled artisans who were able to restore it onsite, workers recast and completely replaced damaged areas for a like-new look.

Susan and Martin's hardscape adventure continued with the decorative flagstone which now wraps the house, new porch and new ramp. The intention was to match the original stonework in the backyard (not pictured) in both color and pattern. Both became a challenge. A few loads of off-color stone were returned before the project was completed. To create the pattern, every stone of the complicated, deconstructed pattern was laid on the ground before placing stones permanently on the wall, it came out as envisioned. The van der Roests are thrilled with the result, especially Susie who absolutely loves her new ramp.

The design objective of creating "a well-maintained 1939 home" drove the selection and placement of the new plantings. Carefully selected roses, shrubs, grasses and groundcover all came from Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar. An accomplished gardener, Susie personally arranged, and rearranged, the plants before they were put in the ground and has kept detailed records so she can chart her successes and (hopefully not) failures. Let's say "challenges" instead



Congratulations and thank you for beautifying the neighborhood.



The 2012 Great Backyard Birdcount

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) February 17-20

We can help scientists at Cornell University and The Audubon Society.

We're Washington Square and we love our birds so this newsletter the featured bird is...ALL OF THEM! So let's have some fun and maybe learn a little something about our avian cohabitators.

Washington Square can help both scientists and the birds by simply observing, counting, then writing down what we see.

Further in the newsletter you will find more information, birds to watch for and links to the program to download the count sheets.

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.

3. Enter your results through the web page when you're finished. You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission.

Special Note: As the Great Backyard Bird Count has grown, more and more bird clubs, nature centers, and local parks are conducting special bird walks or hikes during the GBBC and having participants enter their tallies afterward. You may want to join one.

Definitions:

Stationary Count: This is a count made in one area, such as your backyard, where you remain in one place. In this case, simply report the highest number of each species seen together at one time.

Traveling Count: This is a count made over a distance, such as birding on a trail. In this case you will count new birds of each species as you move along, but only if you can be relatively certain you did not count them previously. You'll add the numbers for each species you have observed at the end of your walk.

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Sarah's Neighborhood News

by Sarah Covarrubias

homes for sale

	Beds	Baths	Square Feet	List/Sold Price	DOM	Sale Type
1012 N. Olive	2	1	1,066	229,900	19	Bank Owned
904 N. Lowell	3	1	1,088	345,000	118	Standard
906 N. Westwood	3	2	1,800	375,000	118	Short Sale

in escrow/pending

1505 N. Baker	3	2	1,741	299,900	729	Short Sale
1407 N. Westwood	4	2	1,639	340,000	63	Short Sale

homes sold

1120 N. Westwood	3	2	1,437	295,000	11	Probate
1011 N. Lowell	2	2	951	329,000	209	Standard/Flip
1135 W. 10th	2	1.5	1,263	321,000	49	Standard
1006 N. Lowell	3	2	1,279	340,000	17	Standard

Happy New Year Washington Square!

Many of you may already know me, as I have assisted many a buyer and seller in your lovely neighborhood over the years. So I am truly excited about getting pertinent real estate information to you in your newsletter.

2011 was a good year for the Santa Ana real estate market. The number of sales was up by 20% citywide. Inventory in all areas of Santa Ana was down by nearly 50%. Therefore, we are currently seeing multiple offer situations on many homes again. The prices in the 92706 and 92703 zip codes, where Washington Square is located, have held steady over the last 13 months.

If you, a friend or a family member is househunting in Santa Ana, did you know that the city of Santa Ana has a homeownership program, and down payment assistance programs for buyers who don't currently own a home? This is a fantastic way to purchase a home. For further details on this, you can contact me or visit www.santaanahomeownership.org for more info.

Questions or concerns about real estate, short sales, foreclosure process, feel free to call me. I'm always happy to help.



Sarah Covarrubias

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714-928-1303

SarahCRealtor@gmail.com

www.theohomes.com



How To Participate: The Great Backyard Bird Count Nuts and Bolts

Because the results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species It's important that you enter what you count. Simply enter your results at www.birdcount.org, where you can watch as the tallies grow across the continent. (The four-day count typically records more than 11 million observations.)

We highly recommend you watch this very informative short video at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/GBBCvideo12>.

What you need:

Binoculars, "Western Feeder Birds" printout, "Regional Bird Checklist" printout, clipboard, pencil

1. **Binoculars.** A little magnification can go a long way to identifying a bird species. *We highly recommend binoculars*
2. **"Western Feeder Birds" printout.** Let's face it, we're in a neighborhood (not marshes, mountains or shore) so we'll be seeing mostly what are called "Common Feeder Birds". Download and print the handy two-pages of photos of "Western Feeder Birds" at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/CommonFeederBirds--West.pdf>
3. **Regional Bird Checklist** from GBBC to help record what you see. Print it out here: <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/checklist>. It's overkill but you won't miss anything--like our Parrots which do not appear on your "Common Feeder Birds" list but they are certainly common around here.
4. **Clipboard, Pencil** These are optional, but they will make it easy to make notes in the "field"
5. **Data Entry Form (optional)** You can enter your data here and then copy it online at birdcount.org



To enter your results

Couldn't be easier. Online at www.birdcount.org, you will find an interactive entry form. You need to enter separately for each day you participate.



First Presbyterian
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600 N. Main St.
Santa Ana CA 92701

Worship with us
every Sunday Morning
Service at 9:30 a.m.
New Life Hour Studies at 11:00 a.m.

Also, make plans now to celebrate
Easter Sunday with us, April 8th, 2012

Sunrise Service
Call church for details.

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Celebrate Christ's resurrection with a special Easter message
and delightful music from our talented Sanctuary Choir.

Easter Egg Hunt to Follow
All children up through 5th grade are welcome to search
for eggs on the Old Orange County Courthouse lawn.

For more information on these and other events, contact the
church office at 714-363-6897 or by email at worship@fpcsa.com



Why count the birds?

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a joint partnership between Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, with Bird Studies Canada as its official Canadian partner. The GBBC is open to birders of all ages and abilities, and helps provide researchers with citizen science data on where birds are each February.

"When thousands of people all tell us what they're seeing, we can detect patterns in how birds are faring from year to year," said Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Says Audubon Chief Scientist, Gary Langham. "Like Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, volunteers help us with data year after year, providing scientific support that is the envy of many institutions. It's also a lot of fun."

Source: www.birdsource.org



Birds of WaSqua--

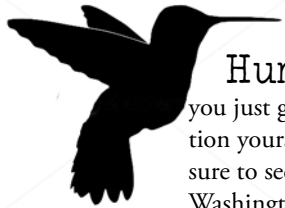
The ones to watch for

If you're a bird hobbyist, nature student, or merely mildly interested, Here are a few common neighborhood birds you may run into.

Parrots Hard to miss these special birds. They are the plentiful green noisemakers when they're perched high in the trees, on a line, or settling down for the night. Because they stick to treetops, without binoculars, it might be tricky to discern their markings.

But help is on the way. Go to amazornia.com/report-sightings where you will find photos to help you tell them apart. In fact, amazornia.com is all about the California parrots and a highly recommended source.

Most parrot species, in their natural habitats elsewhere, are gravely endangered due to the pet trade, habitat loss and other variables. The naturalization of parrots here in California shows there is hope that these incredible birds can survive among us. It is with this hope for the future that we ask you to never disturb, disrupt, harass or attempt to capture these free-flying parrots. Parrots mate for life and have deep emotional ties to their flock members. They would suffer greatly if not left to do what parrots do.



Hummingbirds They may be small, but they're easy to see even if you just glimpse a flash of their rapid movement as they dart through the air. Station yourself by a hummingbird feeder or some orange or red flowers, and you're sure to see them. Probably the Anna's or Rufous varieties will show themselves in Washington Square.

Mourning Doves With their distinctive call, coloring and body shape, you're bound to spot a few. These are gentle birds that get along well with other birds so you may spot other species with them. Look on the ground for feeding birds as they prefer to eat on the ground finding soft grass seeds. From a feeder, their preferred diet is millet and ground corn but did you know that they eat vast amounts of weed seeds, making them very valuable in keeping down excess vegetation around our yards? Because their bill isn't designed to crack open large shells, they prefer the softer seeds of weeds and grasses. But they can still eat hard-shelled seeds which they swallow whole and grind up in their gizzards.



Finches House Finches are also plentiful in Washington Square. They are small-bodied finches with fairly large beaks and somewhat long, flat heads. The wings are short, making the tail seem long by comparison. Adult males are rosy red around the face and upper breast, with streaky brown back, belly and tail. In Adult females aren't red; they are plain grayish-brown with thick, blurry streaks and an indistinctly marked face,



Finch

Sparrows House Sparrows and Song Sparrows are likely to be what you identify in Washington Square and they can be easily confused with Tree Sparrows by the inexperienced. Song Sparrows are streaky and brown with thick streaks on a white chest and flanks. On a closer look, the head is an attractive mix of warm red-brown and slaty gray, though these shades, as well as the amount of streaking, vary extensively across North America.



Sparrow

Western Scrub Jays If you see a larger blue bird in Washington Square, the odds are like a zillion to one you're looking at a Western Scrub Jay. A bold and familiar jay of the American West, the Scrub-Jay is common throughout much of the western lowlands, aka Washington Square, because it has adapted well to suburbs and comes readily to bird feeders.

Crows Another easy bird to identify. Just look up into the trees lining our streets and you have a good chance of seeing one or more. Social and highly intelligent, birds, they travel in groups and the sexes differ little in appearance. Did you know it's not unusual for a crow to live for 20 years?

Attitude of gratitude

Thank you Block Reps!

From the neighborhood you serve.

We would like to take a moment to thank the Washington Square Block Reps. Without them, you wouldn't receive this newsletter and all the flyers that are issued throughout the year. The Block Reps perform key functions that help hold the neighborhood together so if you know one, please pat them on the back and if you are one, circle your name below.


If you would like to join this elite group, there are ways. There is a current opening for Olive Street north of Washington. If interested, call Javier Garcia. Don't be surprised if he dances for joy and then hugs you.

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

Randy & Tracy Simons, Bobi Keenan, Laura Ruiz, John McGuinness, Josie Martinez, Rob & Maco Long, Wendy Boelter, Gil Melendez, Russ Bartlett, Victor Gomez, Margaret Klase. Juan & Virginia Bernal, Christine Cwiertyny, Jon Wilson, Connie Major, Tom Erwine, Patricia Arroyo and Carlos Silva

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

- Pass out quarterly newsletters and any notification fliers on your assigned street.
- Keep the board members apprised of any problems on the street that may need the help from the association or alert the entire neighborhood.
- Notify the board members of any noteworthy information, i.e.: new residents, births, deaths, awards, human interest stories, etc.



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What to Do!
at the Zoo

FEBRUARY

11: FOSAZ Membership Appreciation Day: 11am - 2pm | Members get \$3 all days wristbands to ride the train and carousel, craft tables, and extra discounts.

18 & 19: University of California Master Gardeners: 11am - 3pm | Fun activities and helpful information for the gardening enthusiast. | FREE with price of admission.

MARCH

10-11: Zoo Birthday Party: 11am - 2pm | All-Zoo party with miniature train displays, music, games and fun. | General Public-FREE with price of admission; FOSAZ Members-FREE.

APRIL

21: Zoo-B-Que and Party for the Planet*: 11am - 2pm | ZBQ is for Members Only where they can buy \$3 all day wristbands to ride the train and carousel, enjoy music, free hot dogs, an opportunity drawing and extra discounts.

*Party for the Planet is an All Zoo event open to the General Public with booths promoting conservation. | General Public-FREE with price of admission; FOSAZ Members-FREE

Restaurant Alert:*New local favorite***The Playground**

Categories: American (New), Tapas/Small Plates

220 East 4th Street
Santa Ana CA 92701
(714) 560-4444
www.playgrounddtsa.com

Are there drugs in the food!? I'm addicted to everything that I've tried, and I want to keep trying more. The Playground is definitely a hidden treasure in DTSA, away from the hustle and hype of Chapter One & The Crosby (although they're still delicious). The Playground is just on another level. I went here for dinner twice in one week. Once with 4 guys (my roommates) on a Friday night and once with my boyfriend Marc on a Wednesday night.

Visit 1: We made reservations 30 minutes before our reservation and we were quickly seated. 3 of us ordered the Playground Burger while the other guys opted for the TK Style Fried Chicken and Wagyu Steak (medium rare). EVERYTHING IS AWESOME.

Visit 2: Marc and I didn't make reservations because I foolishly thought that there wouldn't be a crowd on Wednesday night. It was packed. We were lucky and found 2 seats at the bar after we were told that the wait would be 30 minutes (which isn't bad). Got to start our meal earlier than we thought!

*The Playground Burger- NOT overhyped because I've had my fair share of burgers with my bf and The Playground ties for #1 with Father's Office IMO. Lucky for me, The Playground is ridiculously close to where I live and it's pretty much amazing. The bun doesn't look huge, but the course-chopped patty is pretty hefty. Cooked medium rare, just the way I like it, the meat IS the burger. WOW. Crazy delicious! The combination of the sauce, cheese, lettuce, and bun make this burger scrumptious!!

*TK (Thomas Keller) Style Fried Chicken was so juicy, tender, and flavorful. The meat inside of the fried goodness we call chicken skin was incredibly tasty. You get 3 big pieces and it's well worth your money. Addicted.

*Wagyu Steak- It's like meat butter, ya'll. Super tender, but juicy, hearty steak. I've had the best of the best wagyu in NYC, and this is the closest you'll get to fine dining quality steak (from my experience). So simple, but so satisfying. Wow.

*Brussels Sprouts- WHAT?! It doesn't even taste like veggies anymore! The sprouts were infused with an mouthwatering, smokey flavor and the bitterness of the vegetable was obsolete. The bits of thick-cut bacon were like hidden treasures and the fingerling potatoes made the dish hearty and filling. Love that it's cooked in a cast iron skillet.

*Fries- The fries are cooked perfectly crisp and there's just enough salt on them. The aioli is money though!!!! I love fries, but I crave these ones.

*Anniversary cake- Appropriately named for the occasion that Marc and I were celebrating. The bartender and a server said that it was best thing they've eaten, so we had to get it and I'm happy we did! Insanely rich, but not overwhelming chocolate with a hint of almond flavor. It was delicious and a great ending to our meal.

You know you'd better put a restaurant in the newsletter when you're at a Board meeting, ask for suggestions for the newsletter and everyone starts singing the praises of this place called The Playground that just opened Downtown. Trust me, that has never happened before!

So we did some research and this place sounds amazing. The brainchild of Chef Jason Quinn, one of the three Chefs on the Lime Truck which won season two of The Great Food Truck Race on Food Channel.

To avoid rewriting the wheel, I thought I'd go to Yelp and pick up some comments. The newest review turned out to be AWESOME....like the Playground. So here it is:

For drinks, get the beers on tap. The bartender said that they basically pick and choose what brews to highlight because it's difficult to supply as a new establishment. He has stuff from Marc's favorite SoCal brewery (Stone Brewery), so that was an automatic plus for us. If you're DD, the fresh ginger ale is SUPER refreshing. Love it. Love this place.

Source: Yelp.com. 1/22/2012. Review by Janette H. who rated Playground five stars.

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Burglaries are up. Be smart!

Here's advice from those who know.

By Det. Cpl. Michelle Miller, Santa Ana Police Department

I investigate burglaries and recently there was a burglary in Washington Square. There have also been a few residential burglaries in nearby neighborhoods namely Floral Park. For further information you can visit www.crimemapping.com, enter your address and it will show you all the crimes in Washington Square and beyond. You can zoom in for more detail.

The current economic climate likely plays a role in this increase of property related crimes. Additionally January is immediately post holiday gift-giving which means many homes have new items that are attractive to thieves.

Most burglaries occur during the day between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm while residents are away from their homes. Most of the time burglars will case or drive/walk around the neighborhood before making their selection of a victim residence. Suspects will often knock on the door of the home to see if someone is home prior to breaking in. If the door is answered they will often state they were looking for a friend, have the wrong address or give some other excuse.

Often they are *carrying a backpack or some type of bag* and *more than one suspect* involved. If you have any similar activity in your neighborhood please contact the Santa Ana Police Department Dispatch Desk at 714-245-8665 and give a description of the suspect including clothing, the suspect's vehicle (color, model, license #) or bicycle as well as their last direction of travel.

Next are some safeguards to help you prevent burglaries.

Choosing A Professional Tax Preparer:

by California Tax Education Council (CTEC)

Beware of any tax preparer who...

- Refuses to sign your tax return
- Refuses to give you a copy of your tax return
- Charges based on a % of the refund
- Promises a refund
- Asks you to sign a blank tax form to be filled in later
- Does not have a written privacy policy
- Claims to be a CRTP, but will not show proof of a current bond
- Claims to be a CRTP, but his/her name is not listed on the CTEC website

Every preparer who signs a federal tax return for a fee must be registered with CTEC and have a number. You can verify the status of a CRTP at www.ctec.org by clicking on "Verify."

SAFEGUARDS

There is no such thing as a perfect security system or locking device but, there are ways to deter a thief. Remember, they want to get in and get out of a home *quickly*. Anything that prevents them from doing so is a deterrent, as they do not want to draw attention to themselves. Thieves rely on blending in with a neighborhood or leading others to believe they are something else (eg. exercising, soliciting, disguised as a worker).

So basically, thieves are opportunists looking for easy targets. Open/unlocked windows and doors, open garages, and items left out for the taking are prime targets. Even if a home is locked; keep valuable items out of sight (laptops, jewelry, purses, etc.) and, at a minimum, pull the drapes/blinds closed when not at home. A thief is less likely to break into a home that doesn't ensure a reward for their efforts.

The fastest way to enter a locked residence is to smash/pry a window or kick in a door. Windows that have multiple locks, shatterproof glass or doors with hidden security measures (eg. motion detection lights or alarms) are unexpected and unwelcome delays that draw attention to the suspect and often result in an aborted burglary.

The best safeguards are to take preventative measures, be alert, and report suspicious activity if observed. You know if something doesn't look right or if a vehicle or person does not belong. These are things to take note of and report. Report it when you see it! We depend on YOU.

A lighthearted look at bees

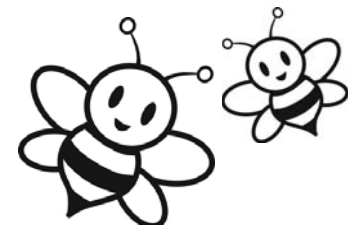
From *The Groupon Guide to: The Bee Family*

Bees, like all animals, can be divided into three basic categories: Bees, Wasps and Hornets.

Bees: Your basic model. Bees are coated in a fuzzy layer of fuzz that allows them to accumulate pollen, or, if available, chocolate-milk powder, to bring back to their hive and convert into honey. If a bee stings you, it will die shortly after, but it will attempt to live long enough to divide its estate among its fellow drones in a heated court battle.

Wasps: Also known as yellow jackets, stripy devils, or sky ants, wasps are distinguished by their multiple pairs of wings and lack of fuzz and manners. Only female wasps bear stingers, which they are capable of using multiple times—a topic that constitutes the majority of wasp standup comedy.

Hornets: Gross! These buzzing bombardiers are a small subset of the wasp family, distinguished by their plumper thorax and aggressive attitude. If you see a hornet, be wary—there are likely others nearby. If you see a hornet inside your home, prepare yourself emotionally to burn your home to the ground—it belongs to the hornets now.



Days to remember in Washington Square

Trash Day
Monday

Street Sweeping Day
Tuesday

Garage Sale Day
1st weekend of every quarter
(March, June, Sept., Dec.)

Free Day at Bowers Museum
First Sunday and 3rd Thursday of every month
for residents (need id)

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



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

City Contact Information

Police Services	647-5062
Police—non emergency	834-4211
Police and Fire Emergency	911
Animal services(barking dogs,etc)	245-8792
City Hall:	
Code Enforcement	667-2780
Construction Engineering	565-4044
(Ongoing Street Construction)	
Design Engineering	647-5640
Street Design, Sidewalks	
Fire Dept Non-Emergency	542-2315
Flood Ratings	647-5641
Development Services	647-2791
Street & Utility Permits, Water Applications	
Graffiti Hotline	877-786-7824
Obstructing Trees & Bushes	647-3380
Permit Parking	647-5612
Potholes	647-3380
Sanitation (Overgrown Yards)	647-3380
School Traffic Concerns	647-5612
Shopping Cart Removal	667-2780
Street Cleaning	647-3380
Street Lights (Edison)	800-655-4555
Street Lights (City)	647-3380
Street Striping	647-5605
Traffic Engineering	647-5673
General Traffic Concerns	647-5673
Neighborhood Traffic	647-5645
Traffic Signals	647-5611
Traffic Control Plans	647-5605
Trash Pick Up & Dumpsters	558-7761
Tree Trimming	647-3380

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 containers are not to be put out on Sunday before 4:00 PM and must be taken in by 12:00 midnight Monday evening. Trash containers must be stored so they are not 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 driveways and cars cannot remain in the street for more than 72 hours without being moved. Inoperable vehicles are vehicles that are damaged, have flat tires, and/or 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 instead of stealing them from stores to transport your purchases. It is costly for the city to pick them up and comes out of our pockets.

Planning a fence? Did you know you need a permit to erect a fence around your property to control height and material requirements. Permits are free.



Washington Square

P.O. Box 4435



Santa Ana CA 92702

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

As you can see below it is our volunteer residents who make this a truly outstanding place to live. Any help you can give is appreciated so please call Javier and talk about opportunities to serve. We are committed to WSNA and just as committed to having fun while making it happen. It's never boring.

2012 Officers

President	Javier Garcia	595-8813
Vice-President	Tom Lutz	836-9110
Secretary	Ivana Unger	972-8503
Treasurer	Oscar Garza	349-6089
Board Members:	Jean-Louise Jirik	543-9079
	Jean Poppa	836-6430
	Lynnette Verino	835-0473
	Nancy Lutz	836-9110
	Javier Garcia	595-8813
Committee Chairs:		
Membership	Laura Garcia	836-8128
Volunteer	Diane Morter	814-4326
Hospitality	Lubna Debbini	
Website	David Jirik	543-9079
Newsletter	Jean-Louise Jirik	543-9079

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	
Josie Martinez	481-3871
Area 6 Westwood North of Washington	
Rob & Maco Long	(949) 387-4446
Area 7 Westwood South of Washington	
Wendy Boelter	(949) 375-2485
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	
Victor Gomez	386-8249
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 Cwiertny	835-9464
Area 14 Lowell North of Washington	
Jon Wilson	550-0599
Area 15 Olive North of Washington	
Lubna Debbini	457-0237
Area 16 Olive South of Washington	
Connie Major	547-7404
Area 17 Washington/Bomo Koral	
Tom Erwine	543-5802
Area 18 Washington St.	
Patricia Arroyo and Carlos Silva	

Quarterly General Meetings are GREAT!

**Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm
At Wilson School**

up to date info: www.washington-square.org

Do you like Washington Square and pizza? That's what you get at your quarterly meetings which are open and free to all residents. A great way to network with your neighbors, and get informed.

The board puts a lot of effort into bringing interesting, timely, and informative programs for your benefit. And did we mention Pizza?

The next quarterly meeting for the Washington Square Neighborhood Association (WSNA) will be held in the library of Wilson School at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 13th.

The January 12th meeting agenda featured a fascinating presentation from Paul Walters, City Manager/Chief of Police and the awarding of the Alan Anderson Award to Martin and Susan van der Roest.

So drop by on April 13. Again, there will be pizza and beverages to add to your enjoyment. We hope you can attend.



The Washington Square Vendor Network

Accounting/tax prep.	Alex Schneider	374-5173
Keys & Locksmith	Ivan Rivera	953-6720
General Contractor	Tom Lutz	835-6130
Handyman	Ken Clark	809-6884
Electrician	Andrew Nunez	782-4740
Realtor	Laura Garcia	883-3314
Home Loans	Brandie Nava	200-5831
Preschool	Denise Davey	543-1813
Professional Audio/Video, Event and Technology		
Heliotope Studios	David Jirik	545-0222
Natural pet food, Dogwalking/Petsitting		
	Jean-Louise Jirik	545-0700
State Farm Insurance	Monica Martinez Drevon	966-2679
Wedding Photography	Photography by Ricardo	
	Ricardo Barrera	836-4041
Yard flags	Rebecca Ortiz	835-5720
Decorative Ironwork	Marco Coronado	852-1363
Flooring, floor repairs	Tuzos Flooring	720-7793
Piano Instructor	Bethany Campbell	585-1036

These free listings are to promote business and services provided by Washington Square residents and any owner of a local business may be included. This list is published in this newsletter to inform you of the opportunities to patronize your neighbors.