

Neighborhood News

Summer Edition

P.O. Box 4435 Santa Ana, CA 92701

June 1988

TRAFFIC ON WASHINGTON AVENUE

The volume of traffic on Washington Avenue continues to be a problem in our neighborhood. The 25 m.p.h. speed limit is frequently unheeded and the stop signs are repeatedly ignored; both situations pose a threat to the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and school children from Wilson. The sheer number of vehicles using Washington Avenue as a through-street has increased the noise level in our neighborhood tremendously. The on going building of multi-family residential units in the neighborhood surrounding Willard Intermediate School, directly east of Washington Square, has caused a tremendous increase in the volume of traffic using Washington Avenue as a through-street. This increase in traffic has effectively divided Washington Square into two parts, thus violating the integrity of the neighborhood.

At the March 17 General Meeting of WSNA, an ad hoc committee was formed in order to study the problem of traffic on Washington Avenue. Committee members met with

the WSNA Board of Directors on May 5 to discuss the concerns of the committee. As a result of this meeting, Tom Lutz, Association President, has contacted Darl Incedon, Program Coordinator of the Santa Ana Development Agency and asked for her assistance in initiating the next phase of the general plan to decrease the through-traffic on Washington Avenue. The next phase of this plan is to place traffic diverters at both ends of Washington Avenue.

BEAUTIFUL YARD AWARD

The historic "McNeal House" at 1020 N. Baker Street was awarded the "Most Beautiful Yard Award" by the Santa Ana Keep America Beautiful Committee.

The committee, made up of residents and business people of Santa Ana, presented the award to winners from 10 different neighborhoods during a reception at the historic Howe-Waffle House on April 20th.

The McNeal House is owned by Fred and Tom McNeal, who recently completed a total renovation and relandscaping of their house

and yard. The house, which is now a 4-plex, was built in 1879 by the Ross family who arrived in the area in 1868. The Ross family, who are relatives of the McNeals, bought land from the ranchos, and later sold the land to the Spurgeon family upon which the city of Santa Ana was built.

If you wish to see the most beautiful yard in Washington Square, look for the white picket fence and pink roses of the McNeal House.

REAL ESTATE SOARS

Real estate prices in O.C. have increased over 20% in the last year. Here is a list of homes that have recently sold in Washington Square.

1411 N. Freeman, 3br,2bth, 1684 sq. ft. **\$163,000**

1020 N. Lowell, 3br,2bth, 1470 sq.ft. **\$148,000**

1112W. Westwood, 3br,2bth, 1680sq. ft. **\$136,000**

1417 N. Towner, 2br,1bth, 1404 sq. ft. **\$135,000**

1120 N. Towner, 2br,1bth, 1281 sq. ft. **\$135,000**

1008 N. Louise, 3br,2bth, 1758 sq. ft. **\$165,000**

1312 N. Towner, 3br,2bth, 1282 sq. ft. **\$130,500**

1324 N. Freeman, 3br,2bth, 1643 sq. ft. **\$157,000**

WASHINGTON SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbor,

We had a good response to our membership drive, but it still could use improvement. Out of approximately 750 homes in our Washington Square Neighborhood, we have a total of 78 members. That, to me, is a good start, but rather sad when you think what it should be. For the nominal donation of \$10.00 per year I think our response should be 75%. Think back as to what your Association has done in the past: we have been instrumental in the elimination of the swap meet at Eddie West Stadium, the cancellation of a 18,000 seat sports arena in our neighborhood, the elimination of apartment dwellings in the neighborhood, and an approved neighborhood plan with the City which includes a "Permit Parking" program to stop the encroachment of business parking on our streets. I know some of you are not as concerned about these items since they do not directly affect you, but if we do not set our perimeters and protect them, soon we could have swap meets at Wilson School or apartment buildings within our neighborhood. One way the Association can be strong is to have a large, involved and in-

formed membership. What your Board of Directors is trying to accomplish this year is to build our membership and finances so that we can continue to participate in various projects, as well as to keep you informed via our newsletter and fliers.

We are planning to have four newsletters per year and, hopefully more, if finances permit. I would like to encourage you to use the newsletter to enjoy not only neighborhood news, but also matters taking place within the City that affect our neighborhood. Additionally, we want to provide a classified section for use by Association members whereby advertisements could be placed for special sale items, babysitting, lawn mowing, etc. Our January issue that advertised a house for sale was sold through the newsletter ad. The newsletter will be distributed prior to our four scheduled general meetings and will always contain the date of the forthcoming meeting. I would ask that you note each meeting date and plan on attending.

We have an enthusiastic Board of Directors this year and I am looking forward to improvements in our neighborhood with your support. Projects currently being monitored involve the increased traffic along Washington Avenue which could escalate with

constant multi-family dwellings being built east of Flower Street. We have three neighbors participating on the Bristol Street Widening Committee. We are also most concerned about the proposed new jail site which is currently proposed for the city of Anaheim. Petitions are being circulated by various individuals in Anaheim and elsewhere to relocate the site of the new jail in Santa Ana.

In closing, I look forward to seeing a good turn out at our June 2, 7:00 PM General Meeting.

Sincerely,
Tom Lutz,
President
Washington Square
Neighborhood Association

NOTICE

General Meeting Scheduled for June 2, 1988 at 7:00 PM at Wilson School in Room 5.

Scheduled speakers are :
Darl Inclendon of Community Development Agency speaking on our neighborhood plan, **Gloria Perez** of C.O.P. Program and a **Special Police Investigator** from the "Gang Detail" speaking on the increased gang problem and it's threat on Washington Square.

Applications will be taken for new members at the door.

SPRING FEVER STRIKES AGAIN

Spring Fever has struck Santa Ana once again. It is a re-occurring disease that seems to strike every couple of years, usually around election time. The symptoms of this disease often manifest in the form of political nonsense. This year's fever is evidenced by the recall attempt of our city's Mayor. This recall attempt appears to be the work of feverish minds because up until now it has made no sense.

The recall organizers claim that the Santa Ana City Council has not negotiated fairly with the Police Union. The recall organizers claim that they are unable to recall the entire council so Mayor Young has been singled out for the recall effort. All this hoopla is the result of Mayor Young's and a majority of the council's unwillingness to approve a 19% wage and benefit increase for this year and a 21% increase for next!

The real irony of this situation is the fact that Mayor Young has announced his candidacy in the upcoming election. So the city already will have the opportunity to vote on whether to return him to office or not without these recall efforts.

Once again, a few in this city, bitten by the "Bug", are

willing to waste our city's time and money on efforts of little to no value.

A quick cure for the Spring Fever recall bug is to examine the Mayor's voting record on neighborhood issues. However, be careful not to let your eyes stray to other councilman's votes, such as our Ward Representative John Acosta, or the recall fever may strike again!

Sara Broadbent
Vice President

GANG ACTIVITY

Gang activity is on the rise and Washington Square is not exempt. It is extremely important that Washington Square communicate to the local gangs that it will not succumb to becoming a gang territory. Recently our neighborhood received numerous spray painted gang logos throughout it's half mile square area. You may not have witnessed this eyesore because a concerned homeowner swiftly contacted the City of Santa Ana's Graffiti Removal Program at 549-6820. We urge you to call this number promptly upon seeing gang logos and writings. This is a FREE service.

In order for all of us to be aware of how gangs operate and "think", the Santa Ana Police Department will speak at

our next general meeting on June 2, 1988. There will be an investigator from Gang Detail present to answer all questions.

A solution to stopping gang activity and crime in Washington Square is for each block to participate in a neighborhood watch program. Public Service Officer, Gloria Perez, will be at the June 2 meeting to help you set up a C.O.P. program on your block. You may contact Gloria at 647-6918.

SCHOOL NEWS

Volunteers are valuable and welcome at Wilson. If you can give an hour a week on a regular basis, there are many teachers that would love to have you assigned to their class. If you are interested call Connie Major at 543-1361. She will be happy to introduce you to the principal and show you around.

Also, the Wilson PTA holds a regular event called Recycling Days for the collection of all kinds of paper* and aluminum cans. The date for the next collection is not set but they would love neighborhood support. The collection takes place on the 15th Street side of the school. Watch the Washington Avenue fence for a sign announcing the next collection.*Newspapers, phonebooks, cardboard, etc.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Mail your ads to: WSNA, P.O. Box 4435, Santa Ana, CA 92701. If you are not a member enclose a check for \$10.00. Next deadline: August 15.

For Sale by Owner:

1102 No. Louise Street, built in 1937. 3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, formal dining room, large living room and new oak kitchen. Backyard features 8 person spa, tiled patio, redwood decking, outdoor fire ring and hookup for gas barbecue. Call: Eva Long at (714) 667-1015.

Odd Jobs: We need someone to work 4-6 hrs. per week doing misc. items around the home, yard work, cleaning, etc. Pay: \$5 per hr. Call (714) 547-6558.

Group and Individual Consultation

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ARE YOU A MEMBER ?

It's never too late to join our neighborhood association. We still need your support to produce this newsletter and circulate fliers on pertinent issues that affect our neighborhood. Please take a moment and send in your check for \$10.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Would you like to be actively involved in our Neighborhood Association? YES NO

If so, how? _____

Make checks payable to the Washington Square Neighborhood Association and mail along with this form to: P.O. Box 4435, Santa Ana, CA 92701

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Classified Ads are free to members and \$10.00 to non-members. Write the association for prices on display ads.