



Washington Square NEWS

2024 Alan Anderson Award

1423 Westwood

Eliud and Jessica Escamilla

By Sarah Covarubbias



BEFORE

Many of us remember the house on the corner of Westwood and 15th. It was a tired looking home greatly in need of some love. The Escamilla family has given the home that love! What first attracted them to their home were the windows and the natural light inside, and as they drove around Washington Square, they noticed the wide streets and the nicely maintained homes.

Eliud and Jessica Escamilla met in kindergarten and maintained their friendship throughout their school years. Eliud graduated from Valley and Jessica from Saddleback high schools. This fun and energetic couple gets things done quickly: married in 2019, purchased their Westwood home in 2021, had their son Eli in 2021 and then their daughter Zoe in 2023. And on top of all that, they have fully remodeled their home! Jessica works for a psychologist's office and Eliud works for Irvine Fence Co.

The last 3 years have been spent remodeling inside and out, while still maintaining the original look and feel. Having moved walls, the home now has a better flow, and is more functional for their growing family. In the front yard, there is now a sprinkler and drip system, and seeds were planted resulting in a very healthy green lawn. They bordered the grass with fast growing bushes to give the illusion of a fence and make a safe space for them to play with their children. The rock-lined tree park gives the yard a fresh, clean look.

The backyard has a remodeled pool, and the plants are drought tolerant. Artificial grass was installed, and the prolific orange tree was kept. It's a great space for entertaining and for their two children to grow up.

If you have not been by 1423 Westwood recently, take a stroll and see the amazing transformation.

Around the *NEIGHBORHOOD*



WSNA SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Where: *Heroes School, Multi-Purpose Rm.*

When: *Thursday, APRIL 11, 2024*

Time: *7pm - 9pm*

Meeting Topics:

- Ethan Fisher, Executive Director of the Santa Ana Zoo will update us on the zoo's expansion program, outreach programs, and pop up zoos in Santa Ana parks.
- Jason Gabriel, Project Manager, and team from Santa Ana Public Works will speak about the Bristol St. widening project and the time table for finally completing the Civic Center to Washington phase.
- Rebecca Churnside, Principal of Heroes Elementary School will share information on new happenings at the school.

As always, we'll have pizza, water, and your neighbors to exchange information with.

Spring Wine Garden

Mark your calendar. **Spring Wine Garden** will be May 18 at 6:00 o'clock, at 1110 W 16th St. This is your opportunity to explore new varietals or your favorite wines. Wine will be poured by knowledgeable folks from the Orange County Wine Society.

To keep the cost down, participants will need to bring an appetizer or a dessert. This is your chance to show off your culinary skills. The best part is visiting with your old neighbors and meeting new neighbors. When it's time for signups to start, look for posted signs in the neighborhood.

WSNA 2024

DATES!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER	April 13, 2024	SATURDAY
NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP	April 13, 2024	SATURDAY
SPRING WINE GARDEN	May 18, 2024	SATURDAY
4 TH OF JULY PARADE	July 4, 2024	THURSDAY
MOVIE NIGHT	August 10, 2024	SATURDAY
CHILI COOK OFF	September 14, 2024	SATURDAY
OKTOBERFEST	October 12, 2024	SATURDAY
HOLIDAY PARTY	December 15, 2024	SUNDAY
GENERAL MEETING	April 11, 2024	THURSDAY
GENERAL MEETING	July 18, 2024	THURSDAY
GENERAL MEETING	October 10, 2024	THURSDAY
GENERAL MEETING	January 16, 2025	THURSDAY

A Word from our Co -PRESIDENTS!

Our Washington Square Neighborhood Association's spring and summer events are starting to gear up! Keep an eye on our Facebook group, Instagram @washingtonsquareneighborhood and our web site washington-square.org for details.

We need a lot of help to continue these events. All these events are great to attend but even more rewarding when you pitch in a help make them happen.

Here is what is coming:

- April 11th is our General Meeting, held at Hero's School, at 7pm. Besides the great speakers, camaraderie, and pizza, we'll be signing up volunteers for the spring events.
- April 13th is Neighborhood Clean-Up. If you have a teenager who needs to fulfill community service requirements, here is an opportunity. Why not come out and help for a couple of hours Saturday morning and help make our neighborhood sparkle?
- **April 13th is the NEW date for the PROGRESSIVE DINNER, which was postponed due to forecasted inclement weather. Contact javier@washington-square.org to sign up.**
- May 18th is the Spring Wine Garden. We will need people to help set up, take down and check in participants.
- July 4th is the return of the Fourth of July Parade, a huge hit last year!
- August 10th is Movie Night.
- September 14th is the Chili Cook-Off
- We are rescheduling Coffee with the Mayor. These are informal conversations with our mayor plus other key city individuals about our issues in Washington Square and what we would like to see for our city.



By the time you are reading this, there will have been an update on our proposed park. While we would like to publish something prematurely and think positively, it is hard to read which way the vote will go. Numerous public comments have been made, all bringing attention to this rare opportunity for the City of Santa Ana to purchase the undeveloped property and bring a walkable park to Washington Square.

The WSNA 2024 Membership Drive launched late February and is ongoing. Unlike an HOA, there's no monthly fee and we don't enforce CC&R's. Our Association is entirely voluntary, and we work hard to make Washington Square a great place to live. Whether you own or rent you're equally welcome to join the group. It's as little as \$15 for seniors and \$20 for household membership. However, certain neighbors choose to donate more, and we've just received a \$500 check! Visit washington-square.org to become a part of our community. Your co-presidents and the WSNA board thanks you. *By Nina Jirik and Carol Frank*

Help Wanted

We need a new **Com-link representative**. The Com-link meeting has speakers covering issues concerning the city. This is your chance to get involved with your neighborhood and city. Your responsibilities would include attending the Com-link meetings and reporting about them at the Washington Square Neighborhood Association board meetings. Our board meetings last about an hour and a half to two hours on the first Wednesday of each month.

Please contact Carol Frank or Nina Jirik with your interest.



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📍 2355 Main St, Irvine CA 92614

📷 IG: @christina_real.estate



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of Santa Ana



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Celebrating that which unifies us and that which makes us unique, we are intentionally building an intercultural, intergenerational community of faith in Jesus Christ that cares for, and serves, one another and our city.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

600 N Main St.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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Grab your hat



your gloves, perhaps a broom, ladder or stepstool, weeder, grass clippers wheelbarrow, wagon if you have one and meet up with Washington Square neighbors to help tidy up our neighborhood on Saturday, April 13th at 9 AM. We will enjoy coffee, juice, and donuts at 919 North Lowell St., and then take-off on our mission. We will tidy up our entry monuments, clean graffiti off street signs, pick up litter around the neighborhood and more...you get the idea! We will be done cleaning up by noon so you'll have the rest of the day to finish your taxes, get them in the mail, and cook your entree for the **Progressive Dinner!** The more volunteers the faster we will get done. Hope to see a good number of you come out and help spruce up the Square on April 13th!

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Washington Square Neighborhood Association *MISSION STATEMENT*

The Washington Square Neighborhood Association is an organization working to foster a sense of community by promoting public awareness, developing an appreciation of the historical significance of our homes, bridging the cultural, generational, and economic diversity of our residents and bringing about communication between the community, local businesses and city officials.

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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. Washington Square is an officially recognized neighborhood by the city of Santa Ana, California. The volunteer Newsletter Committee is looking for neighbors who want to contribute! If you have suggestions or story ideas, or know InDesign and want to help with layout, you can email us at newsletter@washington-square.org

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Neighborhood *BUSINESSES!*

Business Name	First	Last	Phone
Accounting/Tax Prep.	Alex	Schneider	(714) 364-5173
Arbonne Consultant	Gloria	Chavez	(714) 280-5723
Attorney, Business Specialist	Ashley	Bolduc	(949) 852-1800
Audio-Video Production	David	Jirik	(714) 337-0732
Avon Representative	Maria	Guzman	(714) 904-1973
Babysitting	Leila	Rodriguez	(714) 727-8313
Computer Specialist	Randy	Simons	(714) 423-0810
Decorative Ironwork	Marco	Coronado	(714) 852-1363
Farmers Insurance	Gonzalo	Guzman	(714) 669-3930
Flooring and Floor Repairs	Tuzos	Flooring	(714) 720-7793
Graphics and Signage	Kirsten	Sketch	(714) 721-8795
Heating and Cooling	Adam	Garcia	(714) 263-6443
Insurance Agent	Albert	Durazo	(657) 667-0225
Landscape Maintenance	Rick	Mora	(714) 721-3897
Mortgages/Loan Officer	Victor	Gallardo	(714) 697-7564
Natural Healing Center	Renee	Ascencio	(714) 549-4435
Notary/Loan Signing Agent	Bob	Bolton	(714) 925-8226
Origami Owl Ind. Design	Jennifer	Begen	(714) 606-0830
Painter	Eric	Torres	(714) 292-4038
Personal Injury Attorney	Moses	Yneges	(714) 591-0661
Pet Sitting	Maria	Rodriguez	(714) 791-0400
Prayer - FREE! * Pastor Ben*	Ben	Wevers	(949) 295-4980
Professional Photographer	Ricardo	Barrera	(714) 715-1747
Realtor	Christina	Hernandez	(626) 221-6870
Realtor	Sarah	Covarrubias	(714) 928-1303
Realtor	Alton	Hitchcock	(714) 775-0779
Realtor/Rodan & Fields	Christina	Moreno	(714) 425-2311
Trash Bin Cleaning	Noah		(714) 717-1079
Wedding Planner	Christine	Wilson	(714) 337-2903
Window Coverings	Krystal	Wallinger	(714) 632-7744
Wine Club/Skin Care	Yolanda	Valdivia	(714) 317-4152

Dumpster DAY!



WSNA BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES 2024!

- Area 1. Louise North of Washington, Tracy Simons, 423-0801, 1310 N. Louise St., tracy4210@aol.com
- Area 2. Louise South of Washington, Maureen Tiritilli, 309-2229, 928 N. Louise St., maurentiritilli@hotmail.com
- Area 3. Baker North of Washington, Laura Ruiz, 308-3008. 1524 N. Baker St., lruiz@essexrealty.com
- Area 4. Baker South of Washington, John McGuinness, 836-1971, 907 N. Baker St., jmcguinness@excite.com
- Area 5. Rosewood, Barbara Holmes, 619 851-8123, 1606 Rosewood, barbholmes@gmail.com
- Area 6. Westwood N. of Washington, Noe Vasquez, 851-6767, 1416 N. Westwood Ave., wishes_03@hotmail.com
- Area 7. Westwood S. of Washington, Steve Widdoss, 310 529-9737, 1116 W. Westwood Ave., stevenwiddoss@yahoo.com
- Area 8. Towner North of 15th & 16th, Gil Melendez, 866-9239, 1610 N. Towner, gilbertermelendez@yahoo.com
- Area 9. Towner North of Washington, Russ Bartlett, 949.278.8350, 1403 N. Towner, bartletttruss@hotmail.com
- Area 10. Towner South of Washington, Ivy Poggi, 925-354-2214, 1120 N. Towner St., ivy.poggi@yahoo.com
- Area 11. Freeman North of Washington, Margarita Klase, 349-8887, 1506 Freeman St., klaserita@yahoo.com
- Area 12. Freeman South of Washington, Jason Athas, 270-4654, 908 Freeman St. athasjason@gmail.com
- Area 13. Lowell North of Washington, Gilbert Ochoa, 562 884-7193, 1420 N. Lowell St., gohawk93@hotmail.com
- Area 14. Lowell South of Washington, Carina Frank & Jim Pantone, 675-3653, 1010 N. Lowell St., pantonelaw@gmail.com carina@thefrankfirm.com
- Area 15. Olive N. of Washington, Mario & Jennifer Sanchez, 724-3101, 1416 N. Olive St., sanchezj04@sbcglobal.net
- Area 16. Olive S. of Washington, Connie Major, 673-8114, 923 N. Olive St., conniemajor@yahoo.com
- Area 17. Bomo Koral, Mailee Doan, 657-4521, 1142 Bomo Koral Cir., 6mdoan@gmail.com
- Area 18. Washington Ave. Kurt Preston, 547-7404, 1118 W. Washington Ave., kurtispreston@yahoo.com
- Area 19. 10th St. between Westwood & Baker, Cheryl Yarnall, 542-7512, 1139 W. 10th St. yarnalls@pacbell.net
- Area 20. Flower Between Washington & 15th St., Delilah Mendez, 1404 N. Flower St. - dee.chic9@gmail.com
- Area 21. Flower between Washington & 10th St., Ivana Unger, 421-2139, 911 W. 10th St., olivana413@gmail.com
- Area 22. Flower between 10th & Civic Center Dr, Jose Palacios, 657-543-3662, 918 N. Flower St., JosePal1160@gmail.com
- All phone numbers are 714 area codes unless otherwise indicated.



2024 WSNA Officers

Co-President: Carol Frank

carol@washington-square.org

Co-President: Nina Jirik

nina.jirik@washington-square.org

Secretary: Gabby Martinez

lvn.gabbymartinez@gmail.com

Co-Treasurer: Valerie Boulter

vjbhockey@gmail.com

Co-Treasurer: Juan Carlos Araujo

Carlos.Araujo@washington-square.org

2024 Board Members

Jeff Qualey

jqualey3@gmail.com

Gabby Martinez

lvn.gabbymartinez@gmail.com

Tracy Simons

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Carol Frank

carol@washington-square.org

Dion Saldana

Dion.S@washington-square.org

Michael Mello

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Allison Adams

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Newsletter Editor: Maureen Tiritilli

maurentiritilli@hotmail.com

Ad Manager: Martin van der Roest

martin@vdr.com

Tree, Traffic & Quality of Life:

Susan van der Roest susan@vdr.com

Website & Social Media: David Jirik

webmaster@washington-square.org

Volunteer Coordinator:

vacant

Com-Link Rep: Sarah Covarrubias

sarahcreator@gmail.com

Hospitality: Nancy Lutz

nancy-lutz@sbcglobal.net

City Liaison: Tom Lutz

vp@washington-square.org

City Contact Information

Police Services West End Office	647-5062
Police (non-emergency)	834-4211
Police admin. business	245-8665
Police and Fire (Emergency)	911
Animal services (lost pets, barking)	245-8792
Code Enforcement	667-2780
Graffiti Hotline	877-786-7824
Obstructing Trees & Bushes	647-3380
Permit Parking (Frank Orellana)	647-5614
Permit Parking Complaints	245-8225
Potholes (Public Works)	647-3380
SAUSD School Police	558-5535
School Traffic Concerns	647-5619
Street Cleaning (Public Works)	647-3380
Street Lights (Edison)	800-655-4555
Street Lights (City)	647-3380
Traffic Engineering	647-5619
Traffic Signals	647-5620
Trash Pick Up (Waste Mgmt.)	558-7761
Tree Trimming	647-3380
Vector Control (County)	971-2421
Water Bill	647-5454
Wilson School	564-8100
Heroes School	658-9600

All numbers (714) unless indicated otherwise

A more complete listing can be found on the WSNA website.

If you have a smartphone or a tablet, you'll want to download the free "My Santa Ana" app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. With it you can report graffiti, street light problems, potholes, tree issues, water wasting, etc as well as get phone #'s

PROPOSED NEEDLE DISTRIBUTION ALERT

In February of 2016, OCNEP (Orange County Needle Exchange Program) opened in Santa Ana. Early in 2018 OCNEP was closed. Here's why:

Santa Ana Library staff routinely discovered 40-50 used and discarded needles per month. These needles were found in the children's areas, behind books, in books and in the bathrooms.

Used and discarded needles were found in parking lots, around government buildings and in parks. In fact, in a single day in 2018, 50 discarded needles were found in Birch Park before opening, and 40 discarded needles on the Civic Center grounds. Food-4-Less reported their biggest operational challenge was the homeless and discarded needles in their restrooms. The list is lengthy regarding the impact to Santa Ana residents and businesses.

Late in 2023 Santa Ana was called on again to re-start the needle exchange program. Our City Officials said "NO", but our State Legislature insists. Santa Ana has held it off for now while SAPD is presenting evidence of projected harm to public safety.


Our Mayor has asked for our help. NO NEEDLES in Santa Ana! Please read:

www.santa-ana.org/needle-distribution





Email your comments to: NoNeedles@Santa-Ana.org


Still not convinced, or need more evidence of potential impact? The current application submitted by the Harm Reduction Institute estimates serving 500 participants annually in Santa Ana. They estimate 300,000 syringes annually will be provided. On their application, they list the annual estimated number to be collected is 180,000. Where will the remaining 120,000 end up?



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Monkey Problem No More: Santa Ana Zoo Swings into a New Era

A few years ago, the Santa Ana Zoo faced a unique problem. Heirs of Joseph Prentice, the man who donated the land which became the zoo, threatened to take back the land because the zoo housed less than 50 monkeys. Why fifty monkeys, you ask?

Well, to better understand this fantastical tale, let's rewind the story a bit further back.

In the early 1900s, Joseph Edward Prentice arrived in Santa Ana later becoming a citrus rancher and one of Santa Ana's wealthiest men. During the Great Depression in 1931, he bought a 19.23-acre site off First Street, which included an ornate sixteen-room mansion. Prentice was known to be fond of monkeys and he allegedly allowed four or five monkeys to run free in the mansion. It was said that he had a hard time keeping housekeepers because the monkeys ran amok in his home.

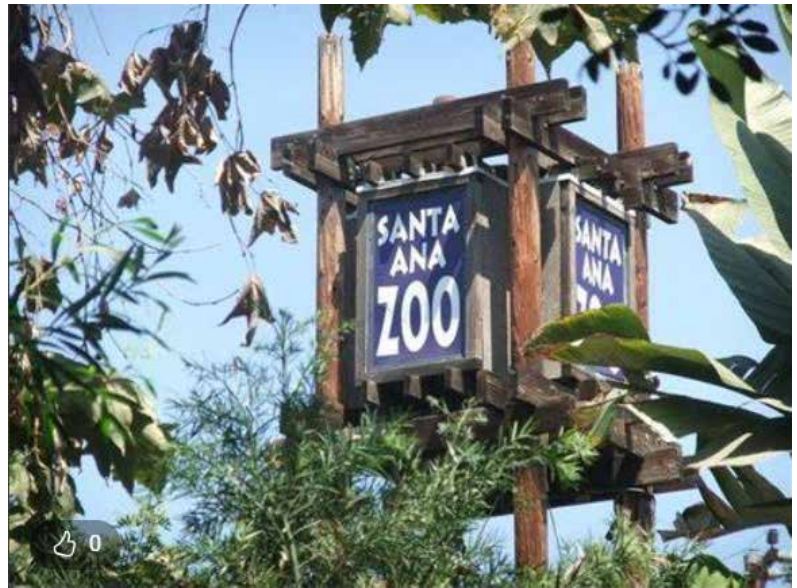
Prentice donated twelve acres of his citrus ranch to the city of Santa Ana in 1949 to establish a zoo. He stipulated that the zoo must have at least fifty monkeys at all times. Construction of the zoo began that year and opened on March 8, 1952.

In 2008, when the number of monkeys dipped to forty-nine, Mr. Prentice's grandnephew, Joseph Powell, threatened legal action by instructing his attorney to write to the city, "We plan to proceed with our rights under the grant deed to have the property revert back to Mr. Prentice's heirs."

Powell later died in 2015 and Erin Hernandez, a great-granddaughter of one of the Prentice sisters, assumed the mantle of enforcing the monkey rule. In 2022, she counted just twenty monkeys. Not wanting to monkey around, she wrote a letter to city officials reminding them of the "fifty monkey rule."

In 2009, interim Zoo Director Kent Yamaguchi explained it wasn't easy to maintain a minimum of fifty monkeys because the zoo

is part of a global network that cares for and breeds endangered



species. That allows it to acquire rare animals, but it also means it must follow precise guidelines on bringing in new animals.

Current Zoo Director Ethan Fisher, who began as a volunteer at the zoo in 1999 before becoming its director in 2018, believes that the goal was not to impose a strict fifty monkey rule, but rather to ensure a zoo for the community.

After further investigation, Fisher and a team of zoo and city officials discovered an amended deed from 1954 that designated a different heir in charge of enforcing the land donation, Prentice's nephew Jac Crawford. Fisher reached out to Crawford's son, Jac Crawford Jr. Jac Jr. believes that zoo officials are in fact abiding by the spirit of his great uncle's wishes. The junior Crawford believes that Prentice and his father came up with the fifty-monkey quota after scouting the exhibits at the San Diego Zoo. The original intention, however, was simply to ensure that the donated land would remain a community zoo.



Currently, the zoo houses twenty-six monkeys, seven prosimians, and two apes. However, Fisher says that the zoo may have more than fifty monkeys in the future once construction is complete.

The construction Fisher refers to is the largest capital project in the zoo's history currently underway – a \$70 million multiyear overhaul which includes a thirty-foot-high monkey habitat with a canopy trail for primates to swing from and get closer to visitors.

While not as large as the Los Angeles Zoo or San Diego Zoo, there is no questioning that the Santa Ana Zoo is a city treasure, and we are fortunate to have one in our own backyard. At nearly twenty acres, the Santa Ana Zoo

dwarfs the nearest other zoo, the Orange County Zoo which only measures eight acres. Fisher also notes that on several occasions the Santa Ana Zoo took in animals from the Orange County Zoo during dangerous wildfires that threatened the Orange County Zoo. Joseph Prentice might have been an eccentric character, but his love of monkeys and his love for Santa Ana doesn't seem so bananas anymore.

The Santa Ana Zoo is open daily from 10am - 5pm (last admission at 4pm). Admission is \$13.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children and seniors, free for Santa Ana residents (with proof of residency) on the third Sunday of each month.

Written By: Michael Chu



Zoo Director Ethan Fisher will speak at our next General Meeting, April 11, at Hero's School, 7pm.

WSNA Real Estate *REPORT*

As you can see below, sales got off to a slow start once again this year due to lack of inventory. Nevertheless, OC homes continue to sell fast once they hit the market. As of today, rates are hovering around 6.625% for an FHA loan, 6.625% for a VA loan, and 7% for a conventional loan with 20% down payment.

In the last week, I have received several inquiries from neighbors and friends regarding the settlement reached last week with the National Association of Realtors. In case you were wondering what this means, here is a very brief, non-legalese explanation: If approved by the courts, the offer of compensation (through the MLS) by the Seller of a property to the Agent who represents the Buyer of that property will no longer be mandatory. It could be voluntary, or it could be that Buyers compensate their own agents. This new ruling could go into effect in July 2024. This is a substantial change to the way real estate has been bought and sold for many years all over the country. I am looking forward to finding out more and being able to accurately address your questions and concerns. I promise to keep you updated.

Address	Bedrooms	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold \$\$	DOM*	Sale Type
For Sale						
1023 N. Olive	2	1	998	\$939,500.00	12	Standard
Under Contract						
1053 W. Civic Center	2/2 (duplex)	1/1	1520	\$875,000.00	11	Standard
1311 N. Towner	2	1	1357	\$890,000.00	12	Standard
Welcome New Neighbors!						
1325 N. Olive	3	1	1112	\$3,500.00	6	Lease

THE ABOVE SOLD STATISTICS ARE FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH March 19, 2024.

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AND COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.

*DAYS ON THE MARKET

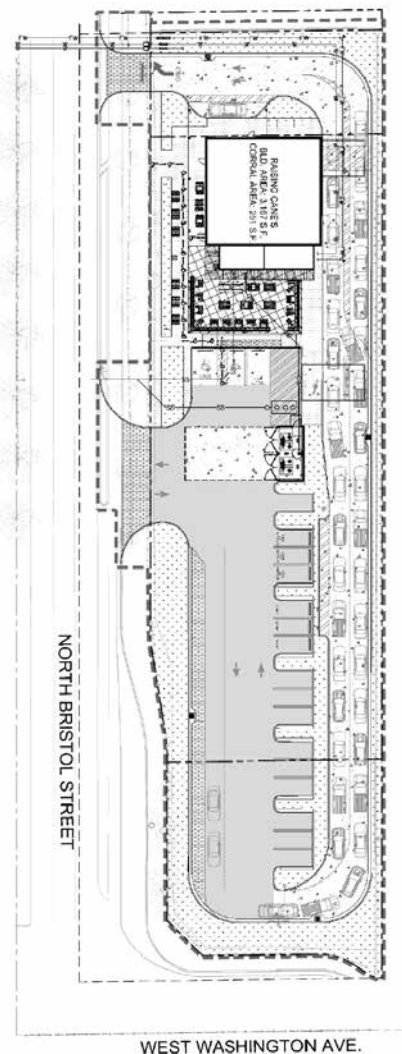
Sarah Covarrubias
714 928-1303
DRE# 00911629



Bristol Street *HAPPENINGS!*

The WSNA Board of Directors has been notified of a couple of new businesses wanting to build between Washington Ave. and 17th Street.

- One business featured in the January newsletter was **Better Buzz Coffee Shop**, based out of San Diego and going in between McDonalds and the vacant property at 17th St. The ad hoc committee met and corresponded with the developer, is excited with the relationship and has let the city and planning commission know **Better Buzz** will be an asset to WS residents who would patronize it.
- The second business is **Raising Cane's Chicken Tenders**, with a current location at 17th St. & Tustin Ave. This company, a drive-thru and sit-down restaurant based out of Texas, is a popular restaurant and wants to build between Washington Ave. and the doctor offices. A committee from WS met with their architect and property development manager and expressed concerns for the Louise St. residents. The main issue is the hours of operation, which is until 3:30 AM to catch the swing shift people getting off work then. The City does have operating hour restrictions near residential neighborhoods, although Raising Cane's can apply for a variance to stay open later. The City's recommendation to the applicant and the Planning Commission would be to align the proposed hours of operation with those of In-n-Out, which are Sunday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. A meeting was held with Louise St. residents on March 19th at Block Rep Tracy Simons' house to get their input regarding this potential asset.



And lastly the board is working with the city regarding the Bristol St. widening, between Civic Center Dr. and Washington Ave. This widening was delayed for years due to unknown circumstances. For clarification on the newest plan, we have scheduled speakers from the City's Public Works Dept. for our General Meeting on April 11th at Heroes School, 7:00 PM. Be sure to attend.

The WSNA Board and Officers are staying alert and working to help bring business into the vacant parcels along Bristol while establishing measures to protect the quality of life for all the neighbors in Washington Square, especially those who back onto Bristol.



LUCKY, OUR LILAC CROWNED AMAZON PARROT

You know the noisy green birds that fly into the neighborhood, eat the seeds from our trees and then leave. Most of the birds are Lilac Crowned Amazon parrots, although some are Yellow-headed and fewer yet are Red-headed Amazon parrots. They are in Orange and San Diego counties is a mystery, because they were let loose somehow, and we have the environment for them to thrive; perfect weather and trees bearing tasty fruit and seeds, (they stay in the trees to eat).

In 2009 Lucky flew into our lives, not yet fully feathered, a baby who tried to fly and crashed into the picture window next door. My husband Pete heard the thud, investigated, and found a baby parrot. While his parents squawked from the street tree, we kept the cats away and did not touch him. In thirty minutes, he flew three feet above the ground and crashed into our car. As it was getting dark, we brought him in knowing we could take care of him as we previously had a Yellow-headed Amazon parrot, Herman. Pete and I took Lucky to the bird vet to see if he was healthy and they cut his flight feathers before we could say we wanted to let him go back with his parents. Lucky is fifteen years old now and could live as long as 30-50 years.

Our home is his, his main cage hangs over the kitchen table, he has a portable table stand and an antique stand that we move to where we are in the house (parrots are social creatures and we are his “flock”), a cage on the porch and a travel cage Pete made that hangs between our seats in our van and which can attach to our bikes.

Pete takes Lucky on his shoulder when he goes out for a walk and coffee. They are spotted by many who are often entertained by Lucky’s “tricks.” Lucky goes onto peoples' arms with the command “up” and poses for pictures. We are asked, “Does he talk?” “Yes, when he wants to.” Lucky loves to compete with noises like running water and the car engine, then it’s hard to get him quiet; he can go on for an hour if the sound continues. We taught him an “action-response” communication. For instance, a person says, “meow meow” and the response is “kitty cat.” Lucky's vocabulary includes, “Hi,” “Hello,” “What’s your name”, “Up”, woff woff is responded by “Bad dog”, “kiss” is responded to with a real kissing sound, and Lucky can quack like a duck. He can whistle a few tunes: happy birthday, the Laurel and Hardy theme song, a wolf whistle, a falling bomb, a bugle charge with response “charge.”

We typically keep his flight feathers cut, but he has had three episodes of flying away from us. At Elijo State Beach we were camped high on the cliff overlooking the beach when the wind flapped the awning, scaring Lucky into flight, and it was a long way down to the sand. The second time Pete and Lucky were walking home, and a loud sound frightened Lucky off Pete’s shoulder and he flew halfway down an alley. It took all day to find him. He was so quiet, not responding to our calls or whistles so we went home. Several hours later we decided we could not give up and finally I heard a little

LUCKY!

whistle from him. It took another hour to find him. The most recent was when we were in northern CA and Lucky climbed a tree; it seems cute but when he got too high it was impossible to get him. From



up there, he flew off when we tried to reach him. At 9AM on Thanksgiving morning we were asking neighbors if we could look in their backyard for our parrot. Also, anytime we are outside with Lucky, there could be a hawk around!

Once Lucky was scared off his perch when in San Diego. Pete moved to pick him up and Lucky vanished. Pete dove onto his belly and grabbed a young hawk that had landed on top of Lucky, and was able to pry Lucky loose from the hawk's talons, and pry Lucky's beak off the hawk's wing. Lucky then walked over to Pete, who got up with the hawk's neck still in his hand. We took a picture, as no one would believe this story.

Parrots help each other preen feathers around their heads so we help Lucky with his feather preening. (A feather grows in a straw-like sheath which must be broken for the feather to fluff out.)

Note: We have a collection of green feathers if anyone has a not-for-profit craft project idea.

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