



West Floral Park NEWSLETTER

WHERE NEIGHBORS TURN INTO FAMILY & FRIENDS

1769 TO 2011 ... 29
MILES ... SANTIAGO CREEK ... A SLICE OF WFP
HISTORY

Submitted by Steve Fryer

It provides West Floral Park's north border, bringing a touch of wilderness and an excellent recreational opportunity to our neighborhood.

It is the Santiago Creek. The creek is dry most of the year, but when our winter rains hit it comes to life with rapid-flowing water that is vital to our water supply.

Santiago Creek probably exports some wilderness beyond its banks. We get coyotes and raccoons wandering our neighborhoods in the evenings and early-morning hours, and perhaps they reside along the creek during the daytime hours. Opossums, well, they might live around the creek, too, but as some of us can tell you opossums will set up shop anywhere they please – in that way opossums are like cats, but just not as handsome.

The creek is about 29 miles long, with its origin in the Santa Ana Mountains. It gets started between the Santiago and Modjeska peaks that together form Saddleback. Then it winds in a mostly northwesterly

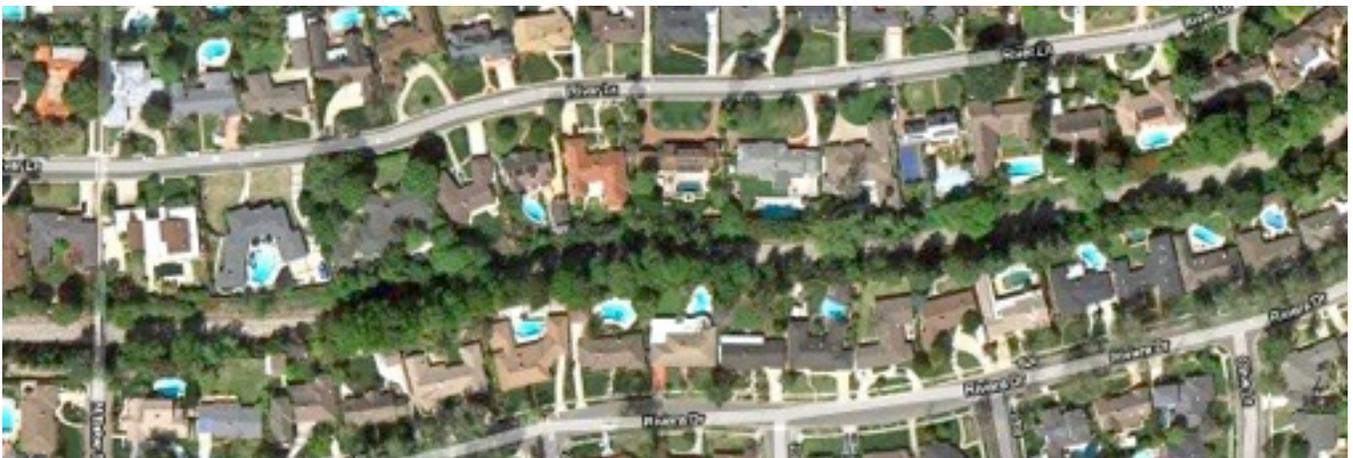
direction, picking up the waters from Baker and Silverado creek.

Like many waterways in the western United States, Santiago Creek becomes a lake at one point. The Santiago Creek Dam stops the flow of the creek to create Irvine Lake, just like how dams along the Colorado River create Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Once the creek exits the dam on the lake's northwest corner it runs through Freemont Canyon, crosses underneath the 241 toll road, meanders down the middle of Irvine Regional Park, picks up more water from Weir Canyon, then is dammed again by the Villa Park Dam to form a flood control reservoir – it's the one you see if you are driving on Katella Ave. near Orange Park Acres.

Santiago Creek continues in a westerly direction, picks up more water from Handy Creek, runs along the 55 freeway, and goes under the freeway and then Tustin Ave. before heading into Hart Park and on through Santiago Park. Still going west, the creek runs along the Discovery Science Center until, right around Main Place Mall, it gets into our neighborhood.

Continuing westward, the creek dumps into Santa Ana River at Riverview Golf Course, completing its 29 miles of length. Before completing its journey at the



river, Santiago Creek was fed by 10 tributaries. As groundwater is an important source of water in Santa Ana and Orange County, the water that feeds into the Santa Ana River watershed from Santiago Creek is vital.

Paved paths line the creek's shore from, going eastward, the corner of Memory Lane and Broadway, under Main Street and through Santiago Park, on through Hart Park and ending near Tustin Avenue in Orange. It is a fine path for a walk or a bike ride, with much of it shaded by Eucalyptus and fir trees and plenty of ground squirrels and birds for additional entertainment. There is a grassroots movement in Santa Ana to improve and expand the greenway that is the Santiago Creek.

Santiago Creek has played a part in Santa Ana and Orange County history. Native American tribes lived along its banks in the mountains. A Spanish expedition led by Gaspar de Portola crossed the Santa Ana River, in 1769, near where the Santiago Creek feeds the river. It was this expedition that gave the creek its name; "Santiago" is Spanish for "St. James," in this case the Apostle St. James the Greater.

Spanish land grants, using the creek and river as borders, began to divide up the area into ranchos. Cattle ranching ensued.

In the late 1800s, western expansion of the United States brought white settlers into Orange County and the creek area. A silver strike in Silverado Canyon accelerated the area's growth.

As Santa Ana spread in all directions from its downtown hub during the 20th century, our neighborhood was founded and developed into where we live today. That bridge that crosses Santiago Creek, anchored where Baker Street ends in West Floral Park, has been

around as long as most of our decades-old homes.

It is a nice slice of wilderness in our own backyards – literally so for those of us who live on Riviera Drive. And it is yet another facet of what makes West Floral Park such a gem of a place.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Submitted by Gaylene Galliford



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Our membership donations and well-attended events have continued to drive funds into the association. Our revenue is up 37% over this time last year, fueled primarily by increases in membership our neighbors hosting an outstanding Open Garden Day! These contributions help us to host amazing events, contribute to neighborhood improvements and donate to local schools.

Below is the breakdown of membership donations by street, thanks to all for their contributions. As an additional update, one of our projects this year is to file for official non-profit status as a neighborhood association. We are very close to finalizing the application and hope to secure this status for our neighborhood in this fiscal year. Thank you again for all the support!

Membership Donations by Street for 2011

- 17th - 1
- 18th - 2
- 19th - 6

Calendar

Neighborhood walk- July 3
4th of July- July 4
Board Meeting- July 6

Board meeting- Aug 3
Neighborhood walk- Aug 7
General meeting- Aug 10
Senior Tea Party- Aug 25
Golf Tournament- TBA

Neighborhood walk- Sept 4
New Neighbor Fall event- Sept 22
Board meeting- Sept 7

- 20th - 4
- 21st - 2
- Baker - 17
- Bristol - 1
- Buffalo - 1
- Freeman - 7
- Greenbrier - 3
- Louise - 9
- Lowell - 5
- Marion - 3
- Olive - 12
- River Lane - 1
- Riviera - 16
- Rosewood - 15
- Ruth Circle - 1
- Santa Clara - 8
- Towner - 14
- Westwood - 12
- Total - 140

This year proves to be another exciting one with all the events and activities planned throughout the neighborhood. Your contributions help us to not only host great events, but donate

funds to support our local school and other neighborhood improvement and beautification projects. This year, the board has approved an operating budget of \$21,000 which is the same as last year's. Our balance sheet, as of March 12, 2011, shows \$14,910.97 in both our savings and checking accounts which is an 18.1% increase over last year at this time. At the last General Meeting, some great ideas were put forward on how to re-invest the money back into the neighborhood. Thank you for your ideas and again for your contributions.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*submitted by
MelSteiner*

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WFPNA WANTS YOU! Do you remember the images of Uncle Sam saying? "I WANT YOU FOR THE US ARMY"

These are words that have gone down in history. And now WFPNA is asking you and to reach out and support our community.

Let me start by giving you some background about our current WFP Officers.

Donna Layne has lived in WFP for 10 years. She spent two years volunteering on the beautification committee, and then she was elected for a one year term as Member At Large, then 3 years as Beautification Committee Chairperson. And she currently is serving her second term as Vice President. Over those years Donna has committed many hours starting new programs (monthly neighbor walk and co-started the WFP Open Garden Day) and increasing membership donations. When asked why she serves, she first

said that she loves knowing what is going on in our community. She enjoys planning and working on events and loves all of our neighbors. Lastly, she wants to help make WFP the best possible place for our neighbors to live. A few words she used to describe WFP: friendly, social and a lot of hard workers (volunteers), working toward a common cause.

Gaylene Galliford has lived in WFP for 7 years. She also volunteered on the social committee for two years and assisted at numerous WFP social events since 2004. Now she is serving her second term as WFP Treasurer (And wow can she track the numbers. Some of us think she should be a CPA) While working full time, she continues to raise her son and still assists with planning and set up at many of our social events. When asked why she serves, she said that serving on the board gives her a chance to give back her time and energy to a supportive community of neighbors and to have an impact on how our association continues to grow and thrive within the city. The words she used to describe WFP: supportive, inviting & inclusive.

Jack Waldo has lived in WFP for 13 years. He has supported and volunteered with the social committee for at least three years with planning and event set up. He is now serving his first term as Secretary. When asked why he serves, he quickly responded that he enjoys being a part of our community to watch it flourish and grow. He hopes that his hard work will help to strengthen and build out community. If ever WFP needed a PR person, Jack would be the guy. He can never say enough good stuff about our community. His choice of words to describe WFP: camaraderie, sharing and a blending of old & new.

Then there is Mel Steiner (me). I have lived here in WFP for 18 years. It started probably 9 years ago

volunteering and serving on the Beautification Committee. Then I was the Beautification Committee Chairman for three years. Following that I was the Vice President for one term. I took a year's break and helped on a few of the social events. But I just could not stay away and returned currently as President for my second term. And it is no joke when I say, "time flies when you are having fun". I have been volunteering/ serving WFP all this time because I truly enjoy giving back to my community. It may take a considerable amount of time, but it is such a reward to see how everyone around us enjoys living in WFP. It is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of such a strong, cohesive group of people. Many have become friends and more like family. There is no other place like it in OC or probably all of Southern California. My key words to describe WFP: pride, strong sense of community and concern for one another.

Each and everyone of us on the board with the support of their spouses and family work tirelessly to make this a better place to live. On behalf of this board, past board and all of our committee volunteers, we ask, "what can you do to help us continue making WFP the number one place to live in OC?" Many of you may think you do not have the talent or skills to volunteer, but we know there is always a place for everyone on our team. Next Newsletter I will feature our Committee Chairs!

Again, I repeat, "WFPNA WANTS YOU!" as volunteers.



OUT & ABOUT WITH OUR V.P.

*Submitted by Donna
Layne*

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Wow—we had a busy spring in West Floral Park! Wine Walk, Progressive Dinner and Open Garden Day plus our monthly Neighbor Walks. What fun! I am continually amazed at West Floral Park's quality events—it is an honor attending these events as well as planning and working the events. Open Garden Day on May 14 showcased our beautiful neighborhood. Visitors loved walking down our tree lined streets and looking at our well kept homes and yards. As much as I love our homes and gardens, the people of West Floral Park are what it's really about. We work hard together to offer first class events and we have fun together. We look out for each other and we offer our help when needed.

It takes a great amount of work, support, time and sometimes money to make a group of homes into a fantastic neighborhood. We have done that here in West Floral Park. For instance, in five short years we have grown our Open Garden Day into an event that draws more and more outside visitors each year. This event brought in about \$3000 in profit to WFPNA. 75 people worked this event in various capacities, all adding to the event's success. Add to this all the people who work on our social events such as the Wine Walk and Progressive Dinner. Add to this the people who always support our events through their attendance. All of these people are making a difference for our neighborhood!

I choose to be active in our neighborhood because I feel it makes a difference to our neighborhood and in my life.

Membership

Our 2011 WFPNA Membership Campaign has been very successful. We had 21.5% of households contributing this year—my goal was to get at least 18%. In addition to making the percentage goal, we topped our 2010 contribution level by \$640 which I'm pleased with. Thank you for helping make this happen through your voluntary contributions. These membership contributions as well as the profit from events like Open Garden Day will be used on new neighborhood projects and causes. I am thankful that WFPNA has the ability to expand our efforts in the neighborhood and in the community.

Outreach

"House Stories" on featured streets have certainly made our monthly Neighbor Walks more social and informative. Riviera Drive, Towner Street, Baker Street and Westwood Avenue have been featured thus far this year. Not only have people learned about their neighbors' houses, they have learned more about their own house. Some of our stories are priceless in that the storytellers are long-time residents, some in their 90's. It has been an honor compiling these stories—what a rich history we have. I really enjoyed last month when I did some research in the Santa Ana Library History Room where I discovered the gem on Westwood—the Bates Ranch House. See separate story on this. We continue to have between 30-40 walkers each Neighbor Walk but I would certainly like to see more of you out there!

The next Neighbor Walk will be on August 7 (we are skipping July since our parade is the next day) and will feature "House Stories" on 20th and 21st Streets (between Towner and Olive).

Senior Tea Party Scheduled for August 25 at 1 p.m.

Mark your calendar all you who call yourselves seniors. We have our 2nd annual tea party scheduled for this day. Both men and women seniors are invited to this event. Luscious tea food and wonderful conversation will be the order of the day! See the enclosed flyer for more information and don't forget to put in your reservation.

New Neighbors

Welcome to the following new neighbors who have moved into our neighborhood since the spring 2011 newsletter publication. Each family received a welcome wine & sweets goodie bag and social event voucher as well as other valuable information.

- David & Christine Kim on Louise Street
- Uvaldo, Melissa, Riley & Isabella Macias on Baker Street
- Kevin Merchant & Elizabeth Guillen on Santa Clara

If you know anyone who is new to the neighborhood and who is renting/leasing, please let me know so WFPNA can officially welcome them. Email me at a.layne@sbcglobal.net with the information. Thank you for your help with this.

PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

*Submitted by Danny Quon,
dquon@roadrunner.com*



The Beautification Committee has completed the "Open Garden Day" event with great success. Our event generated a large audience from surrounding areas and beyond. A new addition this year included the Garden Bazaar with artisans selling their quality artwork. It was enjoyed by all. With such success more growth is expected next year. A big thank you to the 12 homeowners who invited everyone

into their beautiful gardens and made this 5th annual event possible. Thank you also to all the efforts by the committee and the support from volunteers. We look forward to seeing more of our neighbors supporting our event.

The Beautification Committee is working for you! The medians on Lowell and Towner were cleaned up and the roses trimmed for the Summer.

Garden of the Month

Congratulations to the following home owners for their effort and pride in maintaining the appearance of their front yards.

APRIL GARDEN OF THE MONTH 2121 Olive Richard and Margaret Pashko

MAY GARDEN OF THE MONTH 1141 W. Riviera Drive Phil and Laurie Schaefer

JUNE GARDEN OF THE MONTH 2112 Freeman Ruth Honer

"MOST BEAUTIFUL YARD AWARD 2011" sponsored by the City of Santa Ana, has chosen Phil and Laurie Schaefer, 1141 W. Riviera Dr., as the winner in West Floral Park. The reception and award ceremony will be on June 23rd from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. at the Santa Ana Police Dept. community room, 60 Civic Center Plaza. Neighbors and friends are all welcome to attend, let's all support our neighbor. Congratulations

to the Schaefer's.

PUMPKIN GROWING CONTEST

June is the month for starting your seeds for the "PUMPKIN GROWING CONTEST" The contest will conclude on Oct. 29th, Saturday at 10:00AM.



IN THE KNOW WITH WFPNA

Submitted by Cathie Lentz Fryer



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Summer is here and I hope everyone is looking forward to spending some great times with family and friends!

Your Communications Team is busy keeping our WFP Neighbors informed. We are looking for assistance with Distribution Team Leader and members for our Sign Committee. For the distribution team we are in need of one person who can assist with dividing up the newsletter and/or flyers into the distribution areas and deliver them to the team. It is about 6 to 8 times per year. For the sign committee we are in need of neighbors who can assist with the set up and take down of the event signs. We have a sign for all social events and quarterly general meetings. If you want to get involved please contact me at cathiefryer@yahoo.com.

WFPNA has enjoyed some great events this year and we do hope your Communications Team is keeping you informed. Have you checked out our web site lately? Visit www.westfloralpark.com and stay "In the Know with WFPNA"! Our web site has all the latest and greatest information. The newsletters are available in full color for year round reading. Haven't made your WFPNA donation ... you can still submit it on our web site. Want to register for an event ... make it easy and go to our website and pay online!

Suggestions for the web site and ideas for your Communication Team are always welcome. Let us know if you have suggestions for us. We want your input!

If you wish to be on our Weekly Update email list please email me.

SOCIAL BUZZ

Submitted by Joe Chatelle



It has been a busy Spring for your social committee we have held three neighborhood events since we last spoke and are making preparations for four more.

The Easter Egg Hunt was co-sponsored with the Mother's of Floral Park (MOFP) and was a huge success. The event was attended by hundreds of children with their parents who enjoyed crafts, a cake walk, a petting zoo, face painting, a scavenger hunt and refreshments. A special thanks to Jade Chiarini of MOFP who did a great job organizing the event. Also, thank you to our friends at the Santa Ana Fire Department who delivered the guest of honor.

The Wine Walk was attended by over 80 of your neighbors who sampled some outstanding California Wines from the Foley and Guenoc Wineries. Complimenting the wines was a wide array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts chosen to bring out their unique flavors. A number of lucky attendees won gift certificates to Chapter 1, Manhattan's, Luigi D'Italia and Rockwell's. A special thank you to

David Booth and Steve and Nicole Doughty for opening up their homes for this event.

The Fiesta Progressive Dinner was attended by over 100 of your neighbors and included our friends in Fisher Park. We all got together to enjoy wonderful tastes from South of the Border. Our first home featured Mexican appetizers prepared in potluck format. At our second house "The Taco Man" prepared a wonderful dinner of tacos and all the fixings. At our third house we were treated to the sweet delights of some of the neighborhoods finest desserts. Thank you to our friends at Chapter One, Rockwell's and Pico De Gallo who donated gift certificates for our raffles prizes. As always, we are very grateful to our homeowners Brian and Michelle Bousley, Dick and Buffy Politiski and Phil and Laurie Schaffer. This event could not have happened without the hospitality of those who donated their homes.

Upcoming Events:

Golf Tournament - 8/20 at 10 am at Riverview Golf Course

Come out and join us for this annual scramble format event.

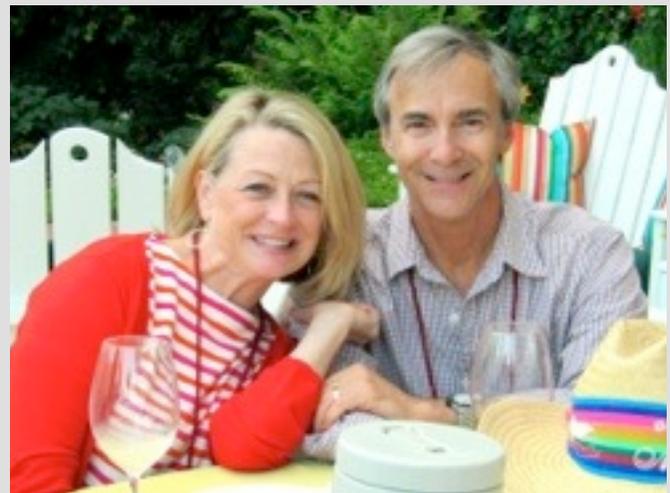
There will be a new twist this year as teams will be drawn at random from all entrants. There will be a men's and women's long drive and closest to the pin competition as well as trophies for the top teams. After the tournament you will be able to sit around and brag about your adventures on the course at the bar-b-que. Watch for a special flyer to be delivered to your doorstep in the upcoming weeks.

Our events could not have happened without the hospitality of those who donate their homes. I am lining up homes for next year, please consider donating yours. Give me a call with your questions. You provide the home we'll provide the party.

Be on the look -out for more information in upcoming communications

The dates for the remaining 2011 events are below so MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social
- Golf Tournament - 8/20
- Fall Event - 10/8
- Christmas Party - 12/4



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