



West Floral Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter



Getting BACK TO BASICS...

Article by: Tom Cannon, 2009 WFPNA Vice President and Membership Chairperson

Do you know your neighbors? The ones next door, down the street, or that one you say “hi” to as they walk by with their dog or kids?

What attracted you to this neighborhood? Perhaps it’s the classic architecture of the homes? The warmth and friendliness of a “real neighborhood”- the way it used to be?

Taking time to talk with people and caring about what happens in our part of the city seems to be the norm around here! I enjoy telling people I live in Santa Ana to see the two most common reactions. The first is their questioning of “Why would you want to live in Santa Ana?” and the second when they experience our neighborhood for the first time and are in awe of how beautiful and wonderful it is.

If you feel the same about our neighborhood of West Floral Park, we want to invite you to **become active** in the West Floral Park Neighborhood Association. In addition to the great lineup of social events throughout the year (see calendar at right), **you can be involved in helping preserve and improve the neighborhood you care about so much.** Last year through your generous donations we completed the street sign topper project as one example.

Don’t rely on someone else to do it for you, become involved yourself! WFPNA is a non-profit organization.

Every resident of West Floral Park is automatically a member of the Neighborhood Association. **Donations are voluntary and greatly appreciated.** They are used to finance our neighborhood projects and portions of our social events. The flyer inserted inside this issue lists the different levels of voluntary donations. Please fill out the form and attach a check for whatever level you can. Most importantly, include your E-mail address so we can keep you informed about what is happening with YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Thank you for caring enough to make a difference.

2009 Events Calendar

March

- 1 Pumpkin Growing Contest begins
- 7 Garage Sale Weekend
- 21 Dumpster Day – 5 locations
- 26 Com-Link** General Mtg., 6:30 p.m.

April

- 4 Easter Event WFP and FP
- 11 Floral Park Dumpster Day
- 18 West Floral Park Wine Walk
- 19 Most Beautiful Yard Judging
- 23 Com-Link** General Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 25/26 Floral Park Home & Garden Tour

May

- 13 WFPNA General Meeting – (Santiago School, 7 PM)
- 28 Com-Link** General Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Open Garden Day

June

- 6 Garage Sale Weekend
- 6 Progressive Dinner
- 25 Com-Link** General Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 27 Floral Park Freedom Fest

July

- 4 WFP 4th of July Parade

August

- TBD Golf Tournament
- 12 WFPNA General Meeting – (Jack Fisher Cabin, 7 PM)

September

- 5 Garage Sale Weekend
- 5 Floral Park Summer Concert
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19 Concert in the Park—Morrison Park

October

- Pumpkin Judging Celebration (TBA)
- 10 Beer Crawl
- 17 Floral Park Chili Cook-off

November

- 18 WFPNA General Meeting (Santiago School, 7 PM)

December

- 5 Garage Sale Weekend
- 13 Holiday Light Judging

**WFPNA Board Meetings
1st Wednesday of each month**



2009 President's Message

Submitted by: Jason Saenz, 2009 WFPNA Board Member and President

I want to take a moment to say hello, and to tell you how much we appreciate that you're reading this issue of the neighborhood newsletter. It is one of the many ways we reach out to share the joy of living here. On behalf of the WFPNA I want say thank you for the donations of time and money that made 2008 a success. Once again we managed to have another full calendar of fantastic events that brought together neighbors new and old. In addition, your contributions and the effort of our Beautification Committee are directly responsible for the completion of our sign topper program in one year. An amazing accomplishment!

This year the board selected the theme: "Back to Basics". In a tough economy we want to get back to the basic reasons, the simple things - that make this neighborhood such a wonderful place to live.

We have a great board for 2009 – including two new members and one new Committee Chairperson. Tom Cannon is filling the VP position and was the one who introduced the "back to basics" theme for the year. He has many good ideas and I am confident he'll be implementing them during the year. Jessica Brownsell has taken over the Secretary position with great enthusiasm. Our new Social Committee Chair Steven Mendoza hit the ground running with a healthy number of people on his committee already planning our events. Our member at large position is still open. I welcome anyone that wants to learn how the board operates and would like to get involved. Let me know if you're interested.

All of our events are fueled by volunteer power and our board is the same. We rely on your donations to fund our projects and events. This is why our membership drive is so vital to the success of our Neighborhood Association. I encourage you to look at our membership flyer (inside this issue) and donate at any level. Volunteering your time is just as valuable and I encourage you to give of your time helping in any way that you can.

There is a desire to do the best that we can for our fellow neighbors. This is a GREAT time to get back to basics and reflect on why you chose to live in this neighborhood. As I reflect on why I love this place my answer is simple, it is the residents that make WFP such a great place to live. I hope that you feel the same way and I look forward to seeing you around.

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—ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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West Floral Park Neighborhood Feature Story

Meet the Neighbors – Featuring Someone Near YOU!

For the Love of Trains

Submitted by: Steve Fryer, Member of the Communications Committee and our official WFPN Reporter

Everyone knows there is a train station in Santa Ana. A few even know that the station was a location for the 1989 Oscar-winning movie, “Rain Man.” Not many know there is a thriving railway system right here in West Floral Park.



Jerkwater & Tinsplate Railway Lines does not run on a daily schedule, or any other kind of schedule. It operates at the pleasure of J.D. Gardner Jr., chief engineer, a West Floral Park resident since 1978.

J.D. and Loretta Gardner’s Westwood Street home has a large room dedicated solely to his love for model trains, and it is as impressive as it is delightful: two sets of tracks, above and below, that run in ovals around an elevated platform from which Mr. Gardner can maneuver the trains via a bevy of switches and relays. The place comes alive, with train noises and effects filling the 13-foot-by-37-foot room from a surround-sound system. Murals on the walls and models of buildings and cars around the tracks depict a small town, complete with a cinema and shops and even the Orange Plaza landmark Watson’s Drug Store, and street lights provide illumination when the main lights go dim.

J.D. first ran his trains on a track assembled on a pool table, then applied his always ambitious nature to his hobby.

Gardner, a mechanical engineer before retiring in 1985, and a contractor friend drew up the plans for the room, a garage attachment in the backyard area, and it took them three years to finish the project. It is an air-tight, dust-free room in which the temperature never exceeds 75 degrees; warm temperatures will warp plastic.

The project was finished in 1994, but Gardner’s love for model trains goes back much further for the Wyoming native.

“When I was in college in the late 1940s,” he said, “my folks were going to move and give my brother’s Lionel electric train set away, but I kept it and I’ve been a collector ever since.”

The collection occupies shelves all over the big room. Every train is shiny-bright and each is meticulously displayed. The room is so clean, you



could do surgery in there, as is the small machine shop just outside the train room.

Even that first Lionel train is there.

“And it looks as new as when I got it,” said Gardner, who has Jerkwater & Tinsplate Railway Lines business cards, complete with address and phone number, that identify him as the chief engineer of the lines “operating since 1958.”

He has no single favorite train in his vast collection of Lionel, American Flyer and other trains, although he is particularly fond of a camouflage-colored military train. Gardner enjoys studying world history, especially World War II.

“I love to work on them,” said Gardner, looking around the room. “They’re all in perfect condition. Not a thing in here is not in perfect condition.”

He has plans to improve the operation, like configuring a way to run six trains a time.

“If I wanted to use computers, I could run more,” Gardner said. “But I hate computers.”

That is ironic, since the Astro Data engineering firm he started, later purchased by RCA, built mechanical parts that went into computers and other machinery. Some of his products are still keeping rides going at Disneyland.

Gardner had to halt his plans four years ago, when his hips deteriorated to the point where working on the room was too painful. Recent hip-replacement surgery, and an ongoing exercise program with Loretta, a retired nurse, at a local gym have J.D. eyeing those plans again.

Jerkwater & Tinsplate Railway Lines is ready for expansion, and Chief Engineer Gardner is just about ready to get to work on it.



Loretta said J.D. is like a big kid with his Jerkwater & Tinsplate enterprise, and J.D. is quick to agree.

“I’ve never grown up,” he said.



Beautification Committee... On The Go!

Submitted by: Donna Layne, Beautification Committee Chairperson

Most Beautiful Yard Contest

Judging on April 19

Spring flowers are here and we start taking more leisurely strolls through the neighborhood. It's that time of year to admire all the beautiful spring yards. Each spring, the City sponsors the "Most Beautiful Yard" contest as a way to recognize Santa Ana residents who have improved and maintained the exterior and landscaping of their homes. Each neighborhood within the City of Santa Ana has one yard designated with this award. The Beautification Committee selects three front yards and sends those addresses to the City who makes the final decision. Our drive-by visitations and finalist selection will be done on Sunday, April 19 this year. Get your yard ready

Gardens Needed for Open Garden

Day Saturday, May 30

Calling all gardens—ponds, gazebos, bird sanctuaries, drought tolerant, or "works in progress." We want to see you! Open Garden Day is just around the corner and we need homeowners to open up their back yards for neighbors and visitors. Our goal is to have 10 gardens (back yards) open on this day. We love the variety of back yards in our neighborhood and would like to see yours. Contact Donna Layne at a.layne@sbcglobal.net if you are interested. Don't be shy!!

Pumpkin Growing Contest

The neighborhood's first "unofficial" pumpkin growing contest was a success. It all started when a group of neighbors decided to see who could grow the largest pumpkin. Donna Layne, Rick Amborski and Mel Steiner, Glenn Lawler, Patt Buchanan, Michele Chatelle and Danny Quon were our "pilot" participants.

The growing period started in mid March and ended in October, with the judging the week of Halloween. After months of growing, watering, fertilizing and lots of tender loving care, the final results were astounding. Glenn grew 5 large pumpkins among watermelons and tomatoes. Michele grew 4 pumpkins which took over her backyard. Patt grew 2 which were in her front yard. Rick, handicapped by Mel who thought pumpkins grew in the shade, ended up with zero. Donna produced only 1 which resembled a football, the runt of the contest. Danny's plants never developed pumpkins, only small leaves and flowers, basically he got skunked. The overall winner was Michele Chatelle on Westwood with 4 of the biggest pumpkins. Congratulations Michele, she was awarded a hand made trophy and blue ribbon for efforts.

Having so much fun last year, we decided to make this an official contest in 2009. This year's contest will begin in March and end in October. All interested participants will register with Danny Quon for rules and information. Call or contact at, e-mail dgquon@roadrunner.com, (714 541-0004)



Garden of the Month

We're on the look-out each month for a special garden to celebrate. We see you out working, pruning your roses, planting your pansies. People love to linger and admire your front yard. The Beautification Committee wants to recognize your efforts! It's our way of saying *thank you* - for taking such pride in your home and garden. If you wish to submit a nomination for Garden of the Month, please email Donna Layne at a.layne@sbcglobal.net.

January 2009



2026 Olive

February 2009



2108 Rosewood

March 2009



2101 Westood



The Neighborhood Fruit & Veggie Co-op

Submitted by: Tracy Matheny, Beautification Committee Member



Spring will soon be here and with it a farmer’s favorite season – the harvest.

For all you back yard gardeners who find themselves with more than enough for themselves, why not plan to share the bounty with your West Floral Park neighbors? Here’s how the fruit and vegetable co-op works:

First you email Tracy Matheny at tracymdesigns@gmail.com. Tracy will keep track of those who would like to be notified when there is extra fruit or veggies to share. Then when your crop comes in, harvested or not, email Tracy and she will get the word out to your neighbors. Please be explicit about whether your neighbors will be allowed in your back yard (especially if you have a dog) and if they are free to pick from your tree, or if the produce will simply be located on your front porch.

Don’t have email but want to participate? Call Tracy at 714-836-5860. Check out the flyer inside this issue for more details!

Holiday Lighting Contest

Even though it’s the start of a new year and the holidays are long gone, the Beautification Committee wants to recognize those homes that were given the following awards:

Best Lights: 1120 Riviera Drive and 1015 18th Street

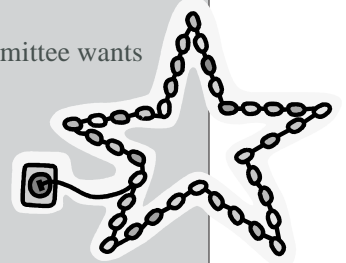
Best Decorated Streets: Buffalo & 18th

Best Entry: 2402 Rosewood

Best Window Display: 2302 Westwood, **Honorable Mention:** 1101 Riviera

Best Lights Honorable Mention: 2127 Westwood, 2302 Olive, 1225 18th Street, 2402 Baker, 1109 21st, 2121 Towner, 1005 Buffalo, 933 Buffalo, 925 Buffalo, 927 20th, and 2301 Rosewood.

Get ready for next year—we are “amp”ing up the contest! We will be adding the “Most Lighted Block.” Start planning now.



Sign Toppers—Mission Accomplished!



Our sign toppers are up! We accomplished our goal!! Thank you all for your generous donations. We were able to buy sign toppers for every street sign location. After WFPNA purchased the sign toppers, the City installed them for us. The Beautification Committee would like to thank Steve Tancredi for his hard work

with the City and the sign company to make this happen. By the way... Brian Daley on 19th Street created the graphic design of our gate logo which is displayed prominently on the sign toppers.

2009 Beautification Calendar of Events

- Dumpster Day Saturday, March 21
- Pumpkin Growing Contest Begins March
- Most Beautiful Yard Judging April 19
- Open Garden Day Saturday, May 30
- Pumpkin Judging Celebration October (TBA)
- Holiday Light Judging December 13



West Floral Park Committee News



Wine Walk 2009

Submitted by: Steven Mendoza, Social Committee Chairperson

The Social Committee is excited to announce this year's Wine Walk to be held **Saturday April 18, 2009**. Our theme will be "California Wines, North vs. South". There are a few exciting changes for this Annual Event. Five event attendees will be selected to participate in a blindfold taste test. In addition to the taste test, the event will be pared down to two homes instead of the customary three homes. The Event Managers this year are Cathie Fryer and Steven Mendoza. We always need volunteers to assist with serving, day of event set up and day after event tear down. We also are in need of host homes.

Background: In the California of 1850, there was little wine production. Northern California had no significant commercial wine production. California wine was produced in the Southern part of the state and then in 1860-Propelled by the Gold Rush, commercial production started in the north. It immediately became apparent that the northern climate produced far superior table (dry) wines. Critics and vintners soon concluded that a superior wine from the south of California cannot be made. In fact, more often than not, not even a good table wine can be produced. It was commonly thought that the heat produces too much sugar and too little acid." Over a century has passed, and the north remains the leader in many eyes. However, there are cool marine breezes in Southern California as well as in the north, and vintners are now putting them to good use. Since the southern wines lack the prestige of Sonoma or Napa, we wondered how the South would do if matched against northern wines of the same price?

To get an answer, please make your reservation and attend the Annual West Floral Park 2009 Wine Walk where a showdown between the North and South will occur.

Who will be left standing?

Will your stereotypes be altered?

Will your judgment be impaired?

The official Wine Walk invitation flyer is inserted in this edition of your newsletter. Feel free to call or email Steven for additional information: mendoza7@sbcglobal.net or 714.542.5828.

Let's stay in touch...shall we?

Submitted by: Susan Marie, Marketing & Communications Chairperson



Good news! There are positive changes ahead as we work to bring our marketing and communications programs into a new era. We're committed to producing inspiring, informative, and relevant communications across multiple "channels" and in formats that work best for YOU. We'll be improving how, when, where, and what information is presented. We'll have the following communication channels open for YOU:

1. The WFP Newsletter. You have in your hands the first of four issues to be published in 2009. Look for new features, more photos, and more articles in upcoming issues.
2. Back by popular demand, we will continue to use WFP yard signs (think mini-billboards) strategically planted on corners and in medians throughout the neighborhood. They will remind you of approaching events such as General Meetings, social events, and beautification events/programs.
3. Our Website. Visit www.westfloralpark.com for a comprehensive overview of all things, including Calendar, Membership Benefits, Committee and Board news (contact list, newsletter archives, Board and General Meeting archives, etc.), and the popular Photo Album.
4. The WFP email list. This NEW + IMPROVED program offers the best opportunity for connecting "in real time". We'll use email to inform you as events unfold with emphasis on security updates.

The communication methods mentioned above should keep everyone in the know. Of course there's always room for improvement...so feel free to contact us if you have a suggestion and or recommendation for improving our network.

Stay in the Loop...Join the WFP email list!



The WFP email list was created to keep you informed as current events unfold in the neighborhood. Our list is maintained by the WFPNA Board and is not shared with or sold to outside parties. If you live in West Floral Park and want to join, please email Susan Marie, WFP Marketing & Communications Chair at: susmarie@mindspring.com and your name will be added.



West Floral Park Committee New

State of the (Financial) Union

Submitted by: Steve Tancredi, WFPNA Board Member and Treasurer

February 2009

We are starting the year off in better financial shape than any previous year due in large part to remarkable fiscal management by last year's Board Members. I would like to extend a special thank you to last year's Social Committee Chair, Dana Roberts, for staging all our social events on a 'shoe string' budget with all the fun & excitement of previous years. I would also like to congratulate Donna Layne (Beautification) for her efforts in generating most of the money needed to carry out the Sign Topper Project.

The Board Members are currently working on the 2008 Budget. It should be in place by April and presented at our next General Meeting in May. The Board anticipates a reduction in Membership revenues this year because of our weak economy – there are just fewer dollars available. I am particularly excited about our new Vice President, Tom Cannon, and his Membership Committee's efforts to re-connect with our residents.

Remember, your donations are essential to each committee's ability to continue making West Floral Park "A Better Place to Live". Please don't hesitate to contact me at stancredi@mastercraftdevelopment.com if you have any questions about the Association's finances.

WFPNA 2008 Board

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West Floral Park News



Floral Park Home and Garden Tour 2009

The Floral Park Neighborhood will be hosting its 17th annual Home and Garden Tour, April 25-26, 2009, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Whether experiencing a stroll through the beautiful vintage homes and gardens, searching for treasures at the Antique & Collectables Sale, viewing the Classic Automobile Display, or enjoying a snack at the food and drink concessions, you will surely leave the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour with nostalgic memories of a day well spent.

Tickets can be purchased by mail in advance (online payment options on website) or at the entrance on April 25-26 at booths located at Flower St. & 19th St. and Santa Clara Ave. & Victoria Dr. in Santa Ana. For more information please call (714) 541-3425 or visit www.floral-park.com.

FISHER PARK BUILD DAY

The Fisher Park Playground Build Day will be on Saturday, May 9, 2009. We will be building the section of the playground for children 5-12 years old. The new area will be called "Adventure Land" and encompasses a large play structure and a swing set area.

The construction volunteers will put together the play structure and put in the wood chips. It should be an all day project starting at 8am. We still need volunteers for the various teams with team leaders and team workers. Please review the list and determine with which team you would like to join.

1. RECRUITMENT AND REGISTRATION – find volunteers for the weekend and register the volunteers on construction day.
2. LOGISTICS- make sure that everything that we need is in place and working on construction weekend.
3. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT- develop program for children to work on during the playground build. Need 5 people (at least).
4. FOOD- find or provide breakfast, lunch and drink for the volunteers. Need 4 people (at least).
5. SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE- provide first aid/safety station and ensure people are working safely.
6. CONSTRUCTION- oversee the construction of playground and secure tools for construction. Need 6 team leaders for each build part and 36 team members.
7. RESOURCES AND FUNDRAISING-keep track of fundraising and in-kind donations of goods, services and cash. Need 2 people (at least).
8. PUBLIC RELATIONS-provide flyers and invitations to volunteers, VIPs and media. Need 2 people (at least).



Eagle Scout Project at Fisher Park

West Floral Park resident, Taylor Gee, is designing, fundraising, coordinating volunteers and planting a garden reading area in the front courtyard area of Jack Fisher Park for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. He hopes to have the planting completed by Autumn 2009.

Taylor is asking for the community's help to make this project happen. Taylor is organizing a garage sale to raise funds for the project and for the materials for the actual creation of the garden. If you have items to donate or would like to donate money for the project, please call (714) 973-8755 or email: taylorwgee@gmail.com. Look for my Eagle Scout garage sale signs saying the time and date of the garage sale.

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Please contact me to sign up for volunteering. My contact info is: Darlene Glenn-Wolff, Tel 714-558-6091, darlene_glenn@hotmail.com