



West Floral Park **FALL 2018** NEWSLETTER

WFPNA

Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends

**Your West Floral Park
Neighborhood Association
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Meet the Athletes of West Floral Park



Last fall, we met some of the artists of our neighborhood. This year we thought it would be fun to highlight some of the athletes in our West Floral Park community. Whether it's football or climbing mountains, each neighbor has an impressive story to share!

Jana Remy of Riviera is an avid participant of an unusual sport: outrigger canoe racing. Outrigger canoeing is a sport based on the traditional wooden outrigger canoes that were used to travel from island to island in the Pacific. Today's racing canoes are about forty feet long, seat six paddlers, and are made of fiberglass and carbon fiber. In southern California there is a canoe racing league called SCORA which contains four different club teams that launch from the Newport Harbor area. Jana's team is called Offshore Canoe Club and launches from the Coast Guard Beach right near the harbor mouth. The team practices three times a week by paddling 2-20 miles on the ocean and races against other teams all summer long. On September 8th, they paddled from Newport Harbor to Catalina Island, their longest race of the summer season. Jana has been paddling outrigger canoes for ten years. She loves the sport because it's exciting to be out on the ocean at all times of year and to build camaraderie with her teammates.



*(above) Jana is paddling second in the canoe
(below) Jana is at the back, steering*



Meg Brown of Westwood plays volleyball on the Mater Dei girls varsity team. She is a two year starter and last year Mater Dei won the CIF open division playoffs. Currently the team is ranked #3 in the nation. Meg is sixteen years old, a Junior, stands 6'3", and has already earned a scholarship to Alabama, which is currently ranked #22 in the NCAA Division 1.

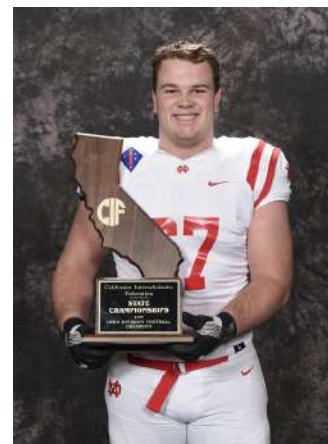
Upcoming West Floral Park Events

November 10: Fall Garden Swap
December 8: Holiday Party

November 14: WFPNA General Meeting
December 15: Pictures with the Kringles



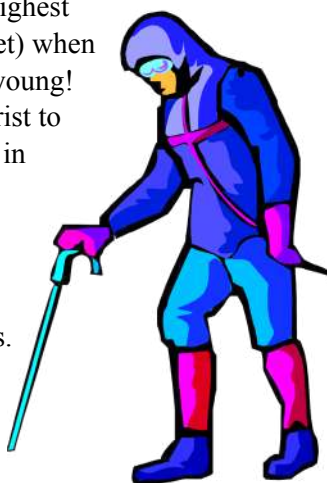
Rob Gibson of Rosewood is a starting offensive lineman for the Mater Dei varsity football team. He played youth flag football for several years, but always got called for penalties because smaller kids would bounce off him and fall down. He didn't have much tackle football experience, so when he went out for the Mater Dei team in 2015, he didn't expect any playing time and thought he would only last one year. Instead, he started on the freshman team, which went undefeated, and he was pulled up to varsity for the play-off games. Football at MD is a tremendous commitment and Rob calculates that he dedicates 45+ hours a week during the season. It has paid off, because last year the team went undefeated and was crowned national champs in every high school football poll. This year, with the graduation of All-American Tommy Brown (neighbor Joyce Brown's grandson) to Alabama, Rob was able to win the left guard spot. The team has amazing talent this year, and they hope to repeat their championships.



Naya Prado of Baker Street is a 13-year-old artistic roller skater. Artistic roller skating is similar to figure skating, the big difference being that roller skating is on wheels versus ice skates. The sport is organized by USARS (USA Roller Sports) at the local, regional, and national levels and world competitions are sanctioned by the International Roller Sports Federation. This year, regionals took place in Sacramento while nationals were held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The world competition is taking place at Disneyland Paris. Around 1,500 elite athletes representing 35 countries participate each year. Naya qualified for nationals this past June and traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska where she placed 2nd in the nation. She hopes to qualify for Worlds one day. Naya learned how to skate four years ago after attending a school fundraiser at the local skating rink. Locally, there are two skating clubs and Naya skates at the Holiday Skate Center of Orange.



Nancy Pearlman of Westwood is an avid hiker and runner. She has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa (19,336 feet) when she was a mere 65 years young! She was also the first tourist to climb Mount Kasikasima in Suriname back in the 1990s. She has climbed over 75 listed peaks that total over 14,000 feet in the high Sierra Mountains. In the 1980s, Nancy was in the global top five of 50-mile runners and in the top 100 in the U.S. in marathon runs. She has also completed the Ironman Triathlon and competed in equestrian activities.



Mark Engeln of Santa Clara is another ardent hiker. He recently achieved a long-standing goal of climbing Mount Whitney in the Eastern Sierras. Mount Whitney stands at 14,505 feet, making it the tallest mountain in the contiguous United States. Mark completed the 22 mile "extreme" day hike in a little over 16 hours, gaining over 6,000 feet in elevation (and a few blisters on his feet). Mark has also climbed Mounts San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, Baldy, and Baden-Powell to name a few others. But nothing really compares with walking his dog, Pepper, through the streets of this neighborhood.





West Floral Park

Music Festival

Saturday, September 22, 2018



The inaugural WFP Music Festival was held on September 22nd at 21st Street and Rosewood. Sidra opened the event with covers of popular hits as well as her own original songs. She was followed by *Shattered Glass* who rocked out, followed by the closing band, *Peanut*. This brand new event was attended by many and we look forward to having another festival next year and include even more neighbors!



Welcome New Neighbors!

We would like to welcome the following people to West Floral Park. These new neighbors, along with those who moved in last spring, were invited to our New Neighbor Social in September. If you happen to see them, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our neighborhood!

John Clute and Joey Reis - Towner St.

Shirley Fletcher - Rosewood Ave.

Brandon and Mairxs Gaidano - Baker St.

Terry and Catherine Gasper - Louise St.

Patrick Jones and Tommy Neal - Baker St.

Elizabeth McMillan Parkinson - Louise St.

Eddie and Alice Moriguchi - Baker St.

Daniel and Jessica Neumann - Buffalo St.

Emily and Natalie Rankin - 21st St.



Beautification Committee Report



Summer Garden Swap



On Saturday, July 28th, our summer garden swap was held at the home of David Vrbecky and Kurt Eisenburger. With over fifty neighbors in attendance and some friends from Jack Fisher Park, the evening was a huge success. While swapping garden items is the main reason for these events, most attendees also enjoy the casual setting to meet new neighbors and catch up with old friends. Keep an eye out for our final "swap" of 2018, which will be held on Saturday, November 10th at the home of Rob Barker and Dean McCleskey on Olive Lane.



Congratulations to our West Floral Park Garden of the Fall Season Winner



Home of Rick Amborski and Mel Steiner at 1135 West Riviera Drive

Garden Award Guidelines

*Pruned, trimmed, and shaped foliage; edged and defined lawns; yard is free of debris and clutter.

*Water-wise gardening: plants and trees that reduce the need for watering, while preserving the integrity and continuity of the landscapes for which the WFP neighborhood is known.

*Excellence in home and property maintenance.

*Overall landscape design, including elements that are original and creative.

*Garden beds that are neat in appearance, weed-free, mulched, etc.

*Landscape design that fits the home's architecture.

*Overall, beautiful curb appeal.



NEW Holiday Event in **West Floral Park**

The Beautification Committee will be taking a break from the holiday light judging this year to be replaced by a fun event for the entire neighborhood. In the evening hours of Saturday, December 15th, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will visit Westwood Avenue. Neighbors of all ages (even our four-legged friends) are welcome to pose for pictures with the Kringles and share some holiday sweets and beverages. This will be a great new way to enjoy the beautiful holiday lights in our lovely neighborhood, get into the holiday spirit, and for all to spend some quality time together. More info on exact time and location will be posted on Nextdoor.com and email blast.



VOTE

General Meeting and WFPNA Board Elections

Don't miss our last WFPNA General Meeting of the year. It takes a lot of dedicated volunteers to make our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live. We would love to have some new faces on our board and to serve on WFPNA committees!

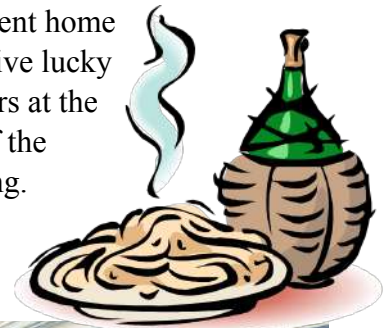
Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00pm in the Library of Santiago Elementary



The Social Buzz



On Saturday, August 18th, our Annual Progressive Dinner was held at the beautiful homes of Doug Gray and Aiden Si Kahan and Doug and Laura Jagerman. With yummy appetizers, a delicious build-your-own pasta bar, and desserts made by attendees, there was plenty of great food. This year, wine and beer was served with dinner and, as always, we had fantastic raffle baskets that went home with five lucky winners at the end of the evening.





KTOBERFEST



On Saturday, October 6th, our neighborhood Oktoberfest was held at the home of Jim and Nancy Gartner. The evening was filled with delicious homemade chili, brats, potato salad, and of course, beer! Donna Layne took home the first place ribbon in the chili cookoff while Craig Blankernhorn and Annie Corcoran came in second and third respectively. Front Porch Pops were offered as dessert and the fabulous raffle baskets went home with four lucky winners. Many thanks to Cathie Fryer and her entire team for once again putting on a "wunderbar" event!



Save the Date! Our Holiday Party is Saturday, December 8th. Look for a flyer and Nextdoor posts in the coming weeks with more information!





Neighborhood Connections!

West Floral Park Neighborhood Association relies on many different communication tools to communicate neighborhood news, safety, and events as well as important city information. Sign up for one or all to get connected!

WFPNA Email Blasts: Be "In the Know," send us your email contact information and we will add you to our email blast list. Email Harrison Zierer at ziere101@yahoo.com and in the subject line of your email type: "WFPNA Add me to your list." Include your name, address, and email in the body of your message. Email blasts are sent out as needed, about twice monthly.



Facebook: Our Facebook page is a more informal, day-to-day, interactive page on happenings in and around our neighborhood and the City of Santa Ana. Anyone who is a member can post there. Check it out and request to join this closed and private Facebook group. Send an email to Mika at mikadenny@me.com if you have trouble joining.

Nextdoor.com: WFP residents can sign up on Nextdoor.com/join/JXNKHE at any time by going directly to the website. There is an address verification requirement to ensure the safety and security of this site. Residents can post on Nextdoor.com as appropriate and needed. You can access the site from your desktop or better yet, get the Nextdoor.com app for your smart phone and get alerts any time, anywhere.



President's Message: A Moment in Time

By Donna Layne



One October, many chapters ago in my life story, I was an elementary school principal. I always wrote an article for the school's newsletter every month, but this particular month I was not inspired to write. The Santa Ana winds were blowing as I looked out my window and saw the kids trying to play in the wind. I loved this scene, so I wrote about it and it was one of the best articles I ever wrote. Fast forward to now and I have no inspiration for this article and I usually love to write. So, I will show you what I have observed over time in our 'hood. The photos tell some of the story why I love this neighborhood. Enjoy every moment. They are all around us!

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