



# West Floral Park **SUMMER 2018** **NEWSLETTER**

## WFPNA

*Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends*

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## Neighborhood Gardeners *Share the Dirt*



Following the success of Open Garden Day, we thought it would be fun to take this edition of the newsletter and meet some gardeners of the neighborhood who are sharing their achievements, current projects, and advice on gardening here in West Floral Park.

### Meet Cathy Boutelle of Westwood Avenue *Raised-Bed Garden Queen*

I've been dabbling with gardening for many years since we lived in a little apartment with just a walkway for gardening space. However, since moving to WFP five years ago, the inner gardener in me is blossoming and continues to grow. My current garden project is filling my garden boxes with fruits, veggies, and flowers, hoping to share the bounty with my neighbors.



This year I'm adamant to try and grow anything that I wasn't able to last year due to a recent remodel, which left our garden in sad shape. My goal for my garden is to grow 100 pounds of veggies and fruits. I also plan to plant a few more berries and fruit trees as well as set up a little garden oasis outside my office. My final goal is to have my hubby realize that a she-shed in our yard would be a perfect birthday present. Hey, a girl can wish, right? I am so proud of our current garden sanctuary made up of eight garden beds that are bursting with so many colors. I love to walk through every day with my pups. I am also proud of my keyhole garden, built *(continued on page 2)*



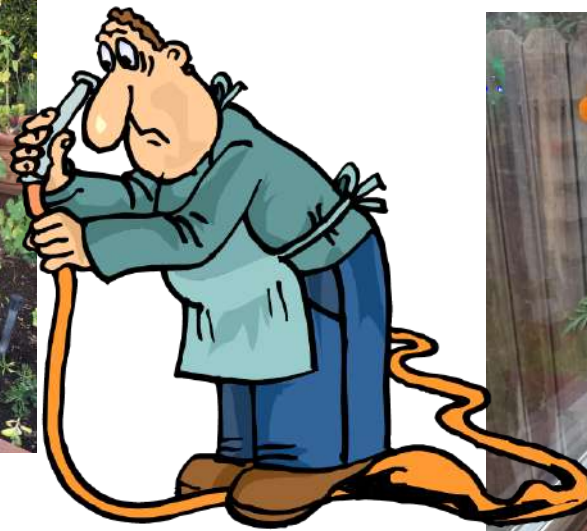
## Upcoming West Floral Park Events

**August 15:** WFPNA General Meeting  
**August 18:** Progressive Dinner      **October 6:** Oktoberfest



(continued from page 1) last year by my hubby. It was by far my best gardening bed. For those that don't know, a keyhole garden is a circular raised garden with a keyhole-shaped indentation on one side. The indentation allows gardeners to add uncooked vegetable scraps, water, and manure into a composting basket that sits in the center of the bed. In this way, composting materials can be added to the basket throughout the growing season to provide nutrients for the plants.

My advice to gardeners just starting out is that it's okay to dream big, to stumble and make mistakes. Also, be prepared to be very patient. Most importantly, grow what makes you happy. The internet is your friend and anything you don't know, simply google and you'll get some type of answer. And finally, share your highs and lows. I still send pictures to my daughter and hubby and now I get to share with my neighbors on Nextdoor in The Loco Gardeners Group (join us and meet new gardening friends).



### **Meet Diana Espinoza of Westwood Avenue** ***Succulent Master***

I grew up gardening with my mom. I was her only child that didn't see it as a chore. My grandfather lived with us growing up and he taught me all about growing veggies, sugar cane, and working the soil. He grew lots of tasty fruits and veggies but I was never brave enough to try the tiny spicy chilies he grew and I'm totally ok with that!

Before I start anything, I always envision what I want the space to look like when I'm done. When I finish my task at hand, I love stepping back and taking a good look at the end product. Sometimes this involves stepping back multiple times and changing my plan, but in the end I always love that moment when it's finally complete. I'm proud of my front yard re-do. Our house was really plain when we bought it and I was inspired by many of the beautiful gardens in the neighborhood. My family and I did all our own landscaping. Believe it or not, even Grandma helped! From the drip irrigation, to picking plants and trees, to shoveling rocks out of the back of our truck, it was a family affair! We even worked together to place each of the large boulders in our planter bed! It took some time but I'd say we did alright for being rookies. I'm currently working in my backyard. Our backyard had nothing, literally nothing, but grass and mulch when we moved in. I didn't want a typical yard. Back in 2000, even before purchasing our home, I started collecting several varieties of cacti and succulents. I always knew that I wanted to surround myself with these unique and low maintenance plants, so it was just a matter of putting it together. Little did I know I was ahead of the trend! Many of my plants were originally cuttings from family and friends so it's like I'm surrounded by memories of them whenever talk about my garden. It really makes it something special. Almost every plant has a story behind it!





My advice to those starting out is taken from Bob Marley, "Don't worry about a thing. Every little thing is gonna be alright." Talk to other gardeners, we love to talk about our gardens. You might even wish you hadn't asked! We all have our own trial and error stories but that's part of the experience. And much like home repairs, you'll never be "done" and that's actually part of the fun!



### **Meet Cat Quinn and John Straw of Marion Way Gardeners and Canners Extraordinaire**

We both have parents and grandparents who had gardens where we learned to grow food from an early age. We also learned to can food, which we often get to do from our own garden but also a lot when our neighbors have more than they can use and share their bounty with us. Cat regularly makes small and medium to large size batches of jams from neighbors' grapefruit, peach, and fig trees, to stewed tomatoes, pickled green tomatoes, and pesto. We just built two more raised-bed planter boxes, converting more of our grass to garden space. It is fun to build up the soil and put the first plants in to watch them grow. We enjoy growing fruits and vegetables, working outside, being part of creating healthy soil, air, and food, and the community aspect of sharing seeds/seedlings, bounty, and information. Cat is also participating in a local community garden project that turns unused plots in Santa Ana into gardens for community members who otherwise would not be able to afford fresh, organic produce and who bring their own wisdom and history to gardening and plants. Cat is also a canner and loves teaching others to preserve their bounty. In addition to slowly replacing grass with garden boxes, we really enjoy and appreciate having converted the front of our lawn into a succulent garden that rarely needs watering. We were given cuttings from many neighbors and able to create a long space full of beautiful plants.

Our advice to those starting out is to start small, even with a few pots and seedlings from a local nursery. A few herbs and veggie plants go a long way. Also, most succulents are easy to propagate with just a cutting from a neighbor. No need to invest money, just a little time and creativity! Also, approach your neighbors who have gardens and yards you admire and ask them about them. They will most certainly love to share!

# The Social Buzz



## *Wine Night* by Michele Chatelle

If you were not able to attend this year's Wine Night on April 28th, we missed you! But if you were one of the seventy-five who attended, wasn't that a blast? The night began with a personal gift from Steve and Nicole Doughty, a glass of fine champagne. After that, the evening continued with tastings of four varieties of whites and three varieties of reds. The dinner was provided by Nostimo's Greek Food Truck and was followed by homemade desserts donated by our very own Social Committee Members.



A big thank you to Cathie Fryer and CTS Travel for donating to and packaging the four fabulous raffle baskets. Another big thank you to my Social Committee Members, Patti Heimann, Annie Corcoran, Nancy Gartner, and Kathi McLean, who each donated a dessert and a bottle of alcohol (and more) for the raffle baskets. And last but not least, an additional thank you to Annie for the table decorations. Finally, a HUGE thank you to Bob and Barbara Faria, for lending us their yard and hosting the event!





*What a blast we had at wine night!*



Don't miss out on our next two social events!

## Progressive Dinner



## OKTOBERFEST



### August 18

This evening begins at one house for appetizers and finishes at another house nearby for dinner and desserts. Each person brings either an appetizer or dessert to share and their own choice of beverages. We provide a full dinner and some fun activities.



### October 6

We'll provide GREAT craft beers, bratwurst, and salads, you bring your beverage of choice. If you have a favorite chili recipe, whip up a batch and bring it to compete in the contest for ribbons, prizes, and bragging rights!





## OPEN GARDEN DAY 2018 A Great Day in the Neighborhood!

By Donna Layne, co-chair

Our 12th Annual Open Garden Day on May 12 was full of surprises. The first surprise was the weather, cloudy and around 69 degrees. The weather kept some people from coming, but our overall attendance was still good with almost 500 paid admissions. Our visitors got some surprises as well. The biggest hit (next to the wonderful gardens) was our Open Garden Day Trolley. What a fun experience! We will definitely have the trolley next year. Visitors also loved our live music on the Promenade by *Acoustic Monday*. Hearing them sing was such a pleasurable way to wind down the day. Our visitors were also thrilled to find our "Selfie Spot" at the south end of the creek footbridge. Our last surprise was hanging on the fence just after crossing the footbridge. Visitors were truly surprised to see a beautiful, fun, and original painter's canvas art piece by Cheryl Henderson and Laurie Schaefer.

On tour were eight open gardens. We had a great variety of yards for people to walk through from yards with valuable art pieces to a yard with "valuable" junk and an outhouse. One yard had a zipline and a hidden art studio and another yard invited you to sit and relax in the mid-century vibe of the poolside environment. One of the front yards had a little library and another little "seed" library, while another yard was an entertaining paradise with a raised deck overlooking the creek. We envied the yard with the luscious vegetable garden, and wanted to sit and relax to the music of a large fountain in another backyard. Visitors also loved entering the gardens through the front door (they got a mini home tour) in four of the gardens. This worked well as we could all see how the indoor living area extended to the outdoors.

One visitor stopped me and asked what we did to keep our neighborhood so beautiful. He said he was very impressed as he walked through the neighborhood and saw how well-maintained our houses and yards were. What a great side benefit to the day!







*Our committee of almost thirty people worked hard to plan and execute this event. We love our neighborhood and visitors can certainly see why we choose to live here.*





# 2018 Santa Ana Neighborhood Hero

Congratulations to Diana Espinoza who was honored at the June 28th ComLink Meeting as the West Floral Park Neighborhood Hero. She was nominated for her relentless effort in getting the Zaroo Car Wash noise down to an acceptable level. Diana did lots of research, took noise readings, rallied the neighbors around the cause, met numerous times with the city, and diligently followed through with each promise. She has spent countless hours on this quality of life issue. With her leadership and determination, the car wash noise has abated although the fight is not quite over. Diana is an example of neighborhood activism and shows us that we can all make a difference, step by step.



# 2018 Santa Ana Most Beautiful Yard Award



Congratulations to Marty and Roger Morris of 2101 N. Westwood Avenue who were named one of Santa Ana's most beautiful yards. Their lovely yard was seen on this year's Open Garden Day and was a favorite of many!





# President's Message



By Donna Layne

The power of a few can be the force that starts change. Just last month I sat with Councilman Jose Solorio, former councilwoman Lisa Mills who lives in WFP, and neighborhood association presidents from Floral Park, Jack Fisher Park, and Morrison Park to discuss the increase of homeless people in our neighborhoods. The association presidents called the meeting. Our focus was on how best to maintain the quality of life that our residents love and expect. We face many challenges currently and the uptick in the homeless population is a very big challenge for us.

Statistics from the most recent point in time count taken on March 31, 2018 showed that the homeless population is growing in Santa Ana. Santa Ana is carrying a disproportionate amount of the homeless population and I think everyone knows that.

But is there anything we can do as residents? Of course, there is! Most people agree that a lot of homeless people are living in our creek bed and under the Flower Street Bridge. Jack Fisher Park seems to have more sightings of the homeless. Here is a list of actions that were discussed at this informal meeting with Councilman Solorio.

- Focus SAPD on the creek bed and under the Flower Street bridge. Specifically target the route from Jack Fisher Park to Santiago Park.
- Clear out and clean up the creek bed of dead and overgrown plants and rubbish.
- Keep the graffiti in check, especially under the Flower Street bridge.
- Get more SAPD presence in the creek bed on a consistent basis.
- Enforce anti-camping ordinance.
- Advocate for more policing in the north part of the city.
- Jack Fisher Park will be getting together a committee of homeowners who live on the north side of the creek to see what their thoughts are and what they are willing to do. The north side of the creek bed is where most of the homeless live.
- Walk the creek more often. Have scheduled walks.
- Get businesses, such as the Discovery Science Center, involved in helping with solutions and making the creek bed a more pleasant environment.

We can make a difference. It will be slow but we have to sustain our efforts. With that in mind, I would like to get a West Floral Park coalition together to work on this quality of life issue. If you would like to join, let me know at [a.layne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.layne@sbcglobal.net). It would be easy if the answers could be found by asking the "magic 8 ball," but they can't. Sitting back and complaining on Nextdoor.com won't accomplish much either. Let's try something. Let's be the force! In the meantime, keep up your email correspondence with our council people, our county supervisors, and Judge Carter. Your voice is important!

Note: I know this is a two-sided issue. This article is not about not helping the homeless find permanent housing. This article is about protecting what we have and about our quality of life. I will continue to advocate for housing, mental health services, and detox services for those in need.



# JULY 4<sup>th</sup>







## Senior Tea

On Thursday, June 7, our 9th Annual Senior Tea was held at the Home of Henry and Cheryl Henderson. The afternoon was filled with champagne, delicious food and desserts, and of course tea. The event was elegant right down to the antique china plates and cups. One attendee said, "I so enjoyed meeting new neighbors and eating delicious food. It was a gorgeous setting too!" Thanks to all the volunteers who helped serve and provide refreshments.





# Beautification Committee Report



## DUMPSTERS and DONUTS

On Saturday, April 21st West Floral Park once again took advantage of Santa Ana's Neighborhood Initiatives Program and sourced five large dumpsters for disposal of household trash and large household items. The dumpsters were placed strategically throughout the neighborhood from 8:00am to 12:00pm. Each dumpster was monitored by either a beautification committee member or a neighborhood volunteer throughout the morning. Coffee and donuts were provided at each station and offered a nice opportunity to catch up with neighbors and friends. The event was a huge success with each dumpster being completely filled up by the time of its removal.





## By David Vrbecky, Beautification Chair



Our summer garden swap was held on July 28th and was enjoyed by many neighbors. Don't miss our final swap of the year this winter. Date to be announced but keep your eyes posted for the flyer!

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

### *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.



### Home of Mark Spratt and Matt Holland at 2018 North Westwood Avenue

The WFPNA Beautification Committee is proud to announce our "Garden of the Season" award for the summer season. Our committee looks at all of the homes in our wonderful neighborhood. Neighbors who demonstrate "above-and-beyond" efforts to maintain and improve their front yards help to make our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live and contribute to the value of our homes.





# HAPPY HOUR *Girls' Night Out*

## The Happy Hour Girls Take on Fleenor's on 4th by Melinda Jordan-Heathcock

Since Fleenor's has been opened for four weeks, we decided it was high time for the WFP Happy Hour Girls to make a visit. The restaurant is located on the corner of 4th Street and Birch in DTSA, just a couple of doors east of its sister restaurant, Crave. While both restaurants have the same owner, Judy Fleenor, each place has its own unique vibe.

Walking in from the street and passing through an outdoor eating patio, we entered the restaurant first noticing the two beautiful chandeliers on either side of the entry door. The rest of the restaurant has a more modern decor with brick walls, white subway tiles surrounding the bar, and beautifully polished concrete floors. There is a stairway leading to another room upstairs that can be used for large parties or special occasions.

We started off the evening by ordering drinks. The happy hour drink menu is somewhat limited to some select beers and wine, well drinks, and a red wine sangria, with prices at \$5 and \$6. All specialty cocktails are served at regular price. I was happy with the "Judy Sangria." Karen ordered a strawberry daiquiri which she said was "quite delicious" and then followed that with a "San Tanero Jungle Bird" cocktail that contained rum, poblano, pineapple, and lime...also "quite delicious." Donna sipped on a margarita or two, and Charlie enjoyed a refreshing drink called a "La Mentada Roja" of rum, lemon, mint, and red wine.

We all loved our happy hour treats: Spicy Fried Chicken Bites, Poke on Crispy Rice, Tempura Cauliflower, Deviled Eggs, and the Kennebec French Fries. All bites ran from \$3 to \$8 each and we loved them all. The cauliflower, with a harissa and cucumber yogurt sauce, and the spicy chicken were our favorites, just edging out the poke.



We ended our food frenzy by splitting two delicious "Pizookies." One was a giant warm chocolate chip cookie with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce, and the other (our favorite) was a "Snookie," a huge, warm, snickerdoodle cookie with vanilla ice cream, caramel sauce, and some crunchy pralines sprinkled on top. Both were very yummy desserts.



The dinner menu includes pasta, salmon, scallops, spicy toasted half chicken, steak frites with New York aged steak, and pork chops with prices ranging from \$17 to \$28. We were told Fleenor's is a farm-to-table restaurant and they plan to change their menu seasonally.



The staff is very friendly and we met both the head bartender, Cameron, who will customize your drink, and the head chef, Linh, who is back in DTSA after previously working at the Crosby. We all give this little restaurant two thumbs up and plan to return again!

## Coffee & Conversation

On Saturday, June 9th the WFPNA invaded the Hidden House Coffee patio for an informal neighborhood event. Over forty neighbors came and enjoyed free coffee provided by the Association and each other's wonderful company.





# Treasurer's Report

By Ian Gibson, WFPNA Treasurer as of 7/7/18

Account Balances:    Checking \$10,144    Savings \$8,099

Revenues	2018 Budget	YTD Actual	Expenses	2018 Budget	YTD Actual
Membership	\$6,000	8,250	Membership	400	172
Advertising	3,500	2,740	General Meetings	400	143
Social Events	12,650	3,637	Community Events	225	366
Open Garden Day	11,500	10,948	Community Outreach	0	0
Other	525	0	General Operations	2,587	1,622
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,175</b>	<b>25,575</b>	Open Garden Day	9,077	8,584
			Social Events	13,927	3,990
			Neighborhood Watch	3,200	2,479
			Communications	4,250	1,683
			Beautification	2,625	1,003
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36,691</b>	<b>20,042</b>

*We publish the Treasurer's Report each quarter to let you know what's going on with our WFPNA funds. Should you have any questions, please contact Ian Gibson at [nosbig8585@gmail.com](mailto:nosbig8585@gmail.com)*



**Nothing says SUMMER  
like an impromptu  
gathering of  
neighbors and friends!**







# 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](mailto: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](mailto:mikadenny@me.com) if you have trouble joining.



**Nextdoor.com:** WFP residents can sign up on [Nextdoor.com/join/JXNKHE](http://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.

## West Floral Park is now on Instagram!



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