



# West Floral Park SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER



## WFPNA

*Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends*

### Your West Floral Park Neighborhood Association Elected Board Members

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#### Beautification Chair

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## Let's Do Dinner!

Our West Floral Park Board shares their favorite eating spots around Downtown Santa Ana.

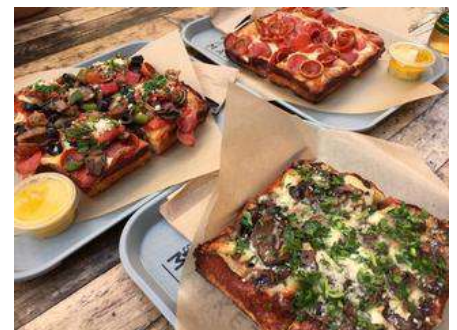


### Craig's Pick: Steel Pan Pizza

Steel Pan Pizza is one of the newest additions to the 4th Street Market, specializing in "Detroit-style" pizza. This refers to the cooking method, wherein the pies are baked in square, well-oiled, metal pans, resulting in a crisp, almost fried crust and bottom. This process was made popular in the 1940's and 50's when cast-off automotive industry trays were re-purposed for baking pizza. Steel Pan Pizza

features 6 varieties, half of which satisfy vegetarians. Must-tries include the "Nuts and Bolts," a meat-centric combination with a red sauce, and the "Truffle Mushroom," which is white sauce based, laden with artisanal mushrooms and infused with truffle oil. The four-piece pizzas are priced between \$8-\$12, with two pizzas serving three hungry people. They offer a variety of sauces, including garlic butter, which can be drizzled for extra flavor.

To wash your pizza down, choose from a selection of bottled drinks, including a variety of Faygo sodas and Vernor's ginger ale; both of which are Michigan favorites. If you want to sound like a Michigander, refer to it as "pop" when you order. Steel Pan Pizza produces an exceptional product, which may be the best pizza in Orange County, if not all of Southern California. Truly a fantastic addition to the 4th Street line-up.



**More restaurants on page 2!**

## Upcoming West Floral Park Events

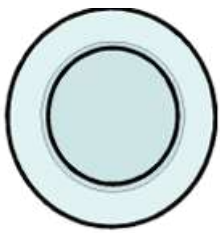
**May 11:** Open Garden Day

**June 6:** Senior Tea Party

**May 19:** General Meeting

**June 29:** Flamingo Bingo





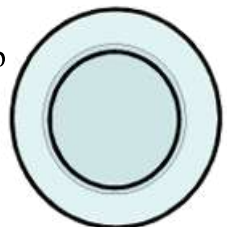
### Donna's Pick: Congregation Ale House

What do you get when five women in the prime of life walk into the Congregation Ale House? Silent stares from staff thinking that they didn't realize that this was an ale house and not a church, fantastic drinks and food, and a great time! Located at 2nd & Broadway, right on the corner across from the Gypsy Den, the name of the place was enough to get us in. Even though it's called an Ale House, the menu features not only ale but also wine and spirits. We liked it even more because they have happy hour prices. Two of us tried the Kolsch beer which is their own brew. Delightful! Others tried their Bees Knees and gimlet mixed drinks which received rave reviews as well. Since this was Happy Hour, we ordered dishes that we could share. Our favorites were the pita and cheese platter and the BBQ chicken pizza. We also ordered asada tacos and fish and chips which we shared and determined to be good. Our server told us that their ribeye cheddar burgers and asada fries were very popular. Having been in this location before with two prior restaurants, we loved the ambiance and the look this time around. The décor is visually pleasing with lots to look at (don't miss the tap beer handles on the wall). But be fair warned, as with many of the other modern restaurants the sound was loud and it can be hard to hear each other.



### Mark's Pick: Mix Mix

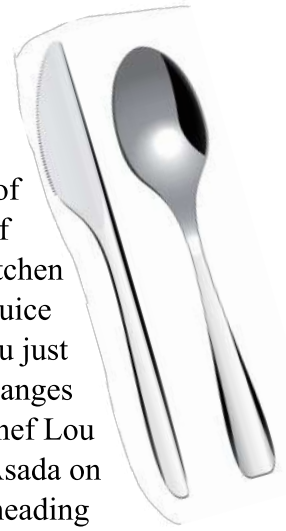
For those of you who enjoy a unique dining experience, head on down to the eclectic fusion restaurant Mix Mix at 300 N. Main Street. The aptly named eatery features a menu that blends together traditional French and Italian cooking along with modern Filipino dishes, with surprising and delicious results. Upon entering, the first thing guests will notice is a cozy and intimate atmosphere (i.e., tables are limited, so call ahead. However, there is plenty of bar seating). Once seated, the staff provided excellent service and were very helpful in explaining the menu. Mix Mix offers a four course prix fixe, and with dishes well suited for sharing, our party of four was able to sample nearly the entire menu. Stand out favorites were the shrimp lumpia and the savory duck leg agnolotti, a pasta similar to ravioli that is stuffed with butternut squash. Additionally, for \$20 the option is available to pair a glass of wine for each course. For the price, we anticipated each pairing to be a "tasting" pour size, however they were actually generous, full-sized glasses. For dessert I chose the lovely chocolate fondant, which was served with a scoop of passion fruit ice cream. Paired with a rich glass of port, it was the perfect finish to a very satisfying meal. Next time you have a special occasion, I recommend that you consider making reservations.





### Annie's Pick: Lola Gaspar

Lola Gaspar is one of the original restaurants opened to revive the area in 2008. For the past 11 years this intimate and friendly location has drawn in patrons with its great music, amazing staff, and phenomenal menu. In the spirit of tapas plating style, the dishes at Lola's are inspired by Chef Lou's time in Spain. Chef Lou has a completely scratch kitchen and bar, from the sangria to handmade simple syrups and juice mixers. And not just sangria, beers from Barcelona that you just can't find at your Trader Joes. The menu at Lola Gaspar changes frequently, sometimes by the seasons, but more often as Chef Lou gets inspired by local fresh produce. You will find Carne Asada on



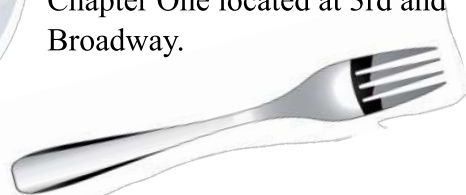
the menu, but I would suggest heading deeper into the rich flavors of Spain and try short rib adobo braised beef, pacific grilled prawn, mushroom and sweet potato tacos, or chorizo grilled octopus. Lola's is a great spot for happy hour from 4:00-6:00pm with an inviting outdoor patio. Lola's is open Monday through Saturday from 4:00pm to 1:00am. If you are looking for something more than your average taphouse, Lola Gaspar is your spot. From their rich flavors to their intimate setting in old downtown, you won't be disappointed.



### Harrison's Pick: Chapter One

I was first introduced to Chapter One last October when many folks in our neighborhood went weekly to play bingo as a fundraiser for Concern America. Since then it has turned into one of my favorite spots. If you're a fan of hand-crafted cocktails and delicious food, then this is the place for you. My go to is a traditional Manhattan. However, the bartending staff who are quite passionate about whiskey have on multiple occasions "forbidden" me from ordering my usual, and surprised me with a fantastic original creation. They also have a great selection of beer and wine. As for food, they offer full dinner and lunch menus as well as happy hour and bar food.

My favorite has to be the duck-fat fries. I have not gone, but many have told me they offer an excellent weekend brunch, and I will get there one of these days. So if you want dinner or just appetizers and a drink, head over to Chapter One located at 3rd and Broadway.





# The Social Buzz

## Wine Night



On Saturday, April 27, we had our Annual Wine Night event. The evening was great fun as we sampled different wines and enjoyed delicious food from Panini Grill. The evening ended with our fabulous raffle baskets donated by Cathie Fryer of CTA Travel and the social committee members. Thanks to the Kelly sisters, Kathleen and Mary, for hosting this always great event!



**Mark your calendar for our next social event!**  
**Flamingo Bingo**  
**Saturday, June 29**



# Beautification Committee Report

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



### Home of John Clute and Joey Reis at 2238 N Towner Street

The WFPNA Beautification Committee is proud to announce our "Garden of the Season" award for the spring 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.

## 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.

## Dumpster Day

On Saturday, April 6th, West Floral Park once again took advantage of Santa Ana's Neighborhood Initiatives Program and sourced four 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. A shredder truck was also provided to dispose of personal documents and papers. Each dumpster was monitored by a neighborhood volunteer throughout the morning and coffee and donuts were provided at each station. Another successful event here in the neighborhood!





# Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 20, the Families of the Parks (formerly Families of Floral Park) had an Easter egg hunt for all the children of the West Floral, Jack Fisher, Morrison, and Floral neighborhoods. Kids met the Easter Bunny and hunted for eggs while parents enjoyed donuts and coffee.



# President's Message

## by Harrison Zierer

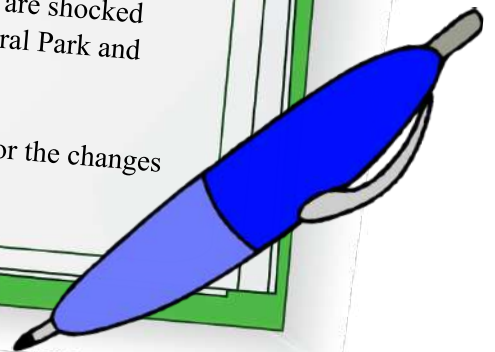
Many of us know the struggles we face here in Santa Ana. The homeless crisis and lack of police are two of the major concerns that most of us have as residents. Like many of you, I am on Nextdoor.com and can't even begin to count the number of posts I read that complain about issues in our neighborhood and in our city. My hope for 2019 is that we as a neighborhood become more proactive and less reactive.

There are problems we can help fix and there are those we can not. The homelessness crisis in our city and state is a problem bigger than any of us. However, what we can do is take back our neighborhood. Instead of complaining about shady characters in Jack Fisher Park, let's have more events there. A few weeks ago our neighborhood, along with Floral Park, Jack Fisher Park, and Morrison Park, held an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids from all the neighborhoods. It was so nice to see the park used for its actual purpose, bringing joy and recreation to children and families. Let's keep it up over the summer. How about an impromptu picnic one evening? Let's show those in the park and our city that we will not be scared away from what belongs to us.

We all know the Santa Ana Police Department is understaffed. Five years ago the average response time to a 911 call was about six minutes. It is now over eight minutes. Let us hold our elected politicians accountable to fill police vacancies and keep our streets safe. I will admit that I am guilty of never attending a city council meeting. Like many of you, I work full time and giving up an entire evening to go sit at a meeting and hopefully be given the opportunity to speak, isn't high up on my list. My personal goal this year is to attend at least one. How can I complain about an issue when I don't speak my mind to those in charge? Just think how great our neighborhood and city would become if every resident made just one active change like this to better our city.

I would be remiss if I did not mention all the good our neighborhood does. Even with the problems we face, I love it here and can't imagine myself living anywhere else. What inspired me to get involved with our neighborhood was all the wonderful people and events. From our social events to Open Garden Day, garden swaps to outreach programs like the July 4th parade, I have met some of the nicest, warmest, and most inclusive people. Many friends of mine from outside our neighborhood are shocked that neighborhoods like ours exist, but I am truly proud to call West Floral Park and Santa Ana my home.

In conclusion, let's be more proactive and less reactive. Let's advocate for the changes we want to see that will improve our neighborhood and keep it safe.



# WFP Neighborhood Watch



I'm Pepper the Patrol Dog and I want to remind you of some neighborhood safety information!

- Lock your car at night if you park it outside.
- Don't post online when you leave town on vacation.
- If you are traveling this summer, ask a neighbor to put out and take in your trash cans, pick up your newspaper, etc. Make it look like someone is home.
- Know the neighbors who live around you. A great way to stop crime is to know who does and does not belong.
- If you see something suspicious, call the police. Nextdoor.com is a great app, but every incident needs to be filed with the police.
- Install a security camera system or Ring doorbell. Many crimes have been solved and suspects arrested in our neighborhood because of our fantastic camera network.

## It's not too late to join the WFPNA as a paying member!

We have many reasons to love our wonderful neighborhood, and by becoming an active paying member of WFPNA your donation goes towards building solid relationships and keeping our neighborhood safe and beautiful.

Your donation helps our community with neighborhood communications like this quarterly newsletter, the neighborhood watch, and beautification efforts. Your donation also helps our outreach programs like New Neighbor Socials, the Senior Tea, and the 4th of July Parade.

Remember, EVERYONE in the neighborhood benefits from this Association, shouldn't we ALL help to keep it going?

Send your check made out to West Floral Park Neighborhood Association (WFPNA) to Ian Gibson (P.O. Box 6243, Santa Ana, CA 92706) or pay online with PayPal on the West Floral Park website ([westfloralpark.com](http://westfloralpark.com)).





# 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.

## 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 fall, will be invited to our New Neighbor Social in May. If you happen to see them, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our neighborhood!

### In January we welcomed

Jose & Maria Alcala  
*N. Westwood Avenue*

### In March we welcomed

Timothy & Jeanice Barker  
*N. Louise Street*

### In February we welcomed

Albert & Alexa Sueiras  
*N. Baker Street*

Frank Filipponio & Kristen Marcucci  
*W. 20th Street*





# Treasurer's Report

by Ian Gibson

## 2019 Board Approved Budget

### Revenue

Membership Donations	7,000
Newsletter Advertising	2,500
Social Events	11,700
Open Garden Day	12,500
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>33,700</b>

### Expenses

New Neighbor Welcoming	300
General Meetings	350
Community Events	670
Community Outreach	450
General Operations	2,750
Open Garden Day	9,650
Social Events	12,300
Neighborhood Watch	200
Newsletter/Communications	4,250
Beautification	2,100
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>33,020</b>

**Balances/Total 680**

*We provide the Treasurer's Report each quarter and provide copies at each General Meeting to let you know what's going on with our WFPNA funds.*

*Should you have any questions, please contact Ian Gibson (nosbig8585@gmail.com).*



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