



West Floral Park **FALL** 2021 **NEWSLETTER**

WFPNA

Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends

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

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Open Garden Day Chair

Donna Layne
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Beautification Chair

Karen Mittendorf
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Outreach Chair

open

Dogs and Cats and Birds, Oh My!

Meet some of the furry and feathered friends that call WFP home!



Truman of Westwood Ave.



Peri, Kai, Coco, and Eleanor
Margaret of Riviera Dr.



Harry of Towner St.



Mr. Monkelstein
of Santa Clara Ave.



Sweetie of Westwood Ave.



Upcoming West Floral Park Events

November 13: Dumpster Day

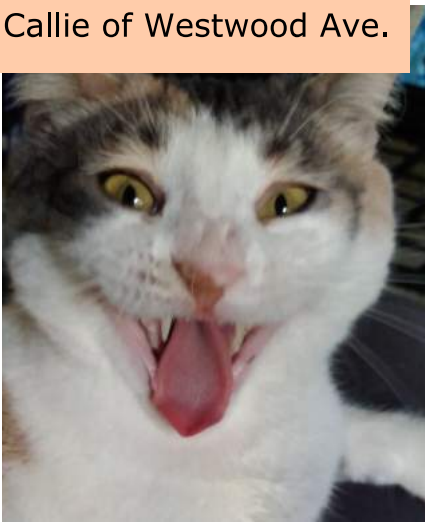
November 14: WFPNA General Meeting

December 11: Holiday Party

December 16: Night of Lights



Higgs of 19th St.



Callie of Westwood Ave.



Bella and Thai of Olive Ln.



Eddie, the rescued squirrel of Riviera Ln.



Malibu of 20th St.



Tuco of Riviera Dr.



Pepper of Santa Clara Ave.



Slinky of Westwood Ave.



Giselle, Hopi, and Hannah of 20th St.



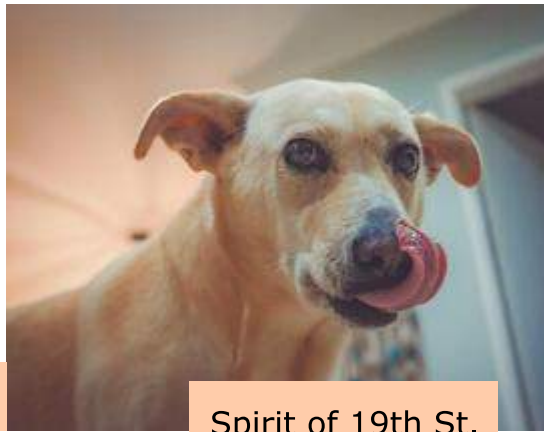
Theo and Vincent of 20th St.



Wilson of Westwood Ave.



Lexa of Olive Ln.



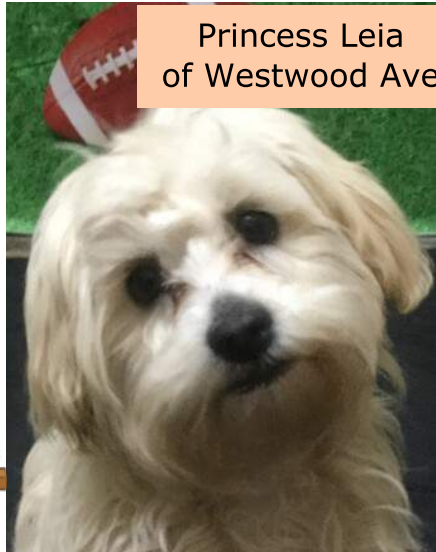
Spirit of 19th St.



Hiro of Louise



Trixie of Olive Ln.



Princess Leia of Westwood Ave.



Marley Smith of Olive St.



Luna of Westwood Ave.



Axel and Harley of Westwood Ave.



Lucy of Riviera Dr.

Meet Your Neighbor: Mrs. Joan Hake of 2102 Towner Street

by Lauren Hawkins

How long have you lived in West Floral Park?

We moved here in 1998 from Upper Back Bay in Newport Beach, so 23 years. We had lived there many years. After we retired we decided to sell our home because it had appreciated in value a great deal. I remembered that one of my sisters-in-law had grown up in Floral Park and had really loved the area. So we went house hunting and found our home. We have been so happy here. I love living on the corner where I can see children go by on their way to school and see people walking their dogs.

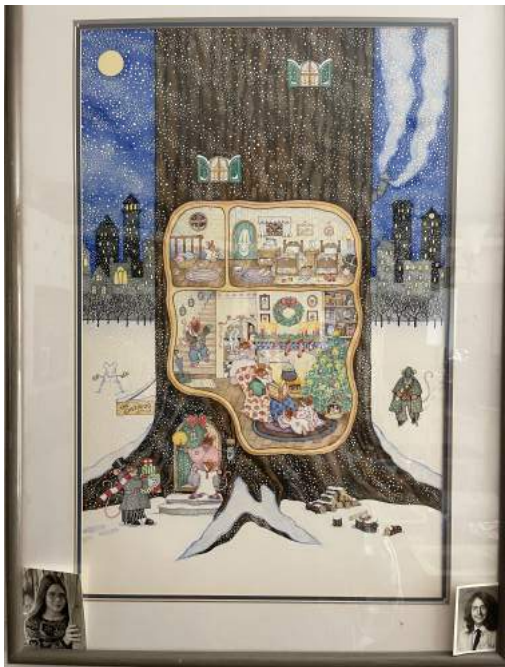
Tell us about your family:

I am one of five children. My oldest and youngest sisters have passed away but I still have a brother and a sister living. My first husband, Bob Murphy passed away many years ago. My second husband Bart Hake and I were married almost 50 years. He died just a couple years ago. They were both WWII veterans.



I have two biological children, Connie Murphy and Jim Murphy. Connie died from cancer a year ago last July (*please see my note about "Miss Connie" on the following page*). Jim lives nearby and visits every couple of weeks to help me out. Jim has two sons, my grandsons, Malcolm and Tyler.

In addition to my biological children and grandchildren I have a whole bunch of stepchildren, step grandchildren and step great grandchildren, and lots of nieces and nephews. They are all my family.



Where did you grow up? Tell me about your childhood? Any fond memories to share?

My childhood was so long ago! I'm 93 years old. It's hard to remember that far back! I grew up in Garrettsville, Ohio. It's a small town in northeast Ohio between Akron and Cleveland. At that time it had a population of around 2,000 people. I graduated from high school in a class of 30 students.

One memory that comes to mind happened in kindergarten. Actually we didn't really have "kindergarten." In my little town we had a week long camp the summer before first grade that we called kindergarten. My neighbor friend and I went every day for a week. We weren't impressed. At the end of the week we both looked at each other and said, "this is boring!" We went straight home and told our parents that we didn't want to go to school any more!

Tell me more about yourself

I attended Mount Union College (now Mount Union University) and began teaching in 1951 right after graduation. Later I went back to school to earn my masters degree in French from Kent State University.

In 1966 I moved to California and I taught English and French (mostly French) at Corona del Mar High School. I met my second husband Bart there. Bart was the Executive Director of the Teachers Association. He had moved out to California from Louisville, Kentucky. We lived in Sacramento for about eight years from 1975 to 1983 and then came back to southern California. Other than those eight years I worked at Corona del Mar High School until I retired in 1988.

What has been your greatest achievement?

During this time in my life it would be my work with the League of Women Voters of Central Orange County. The league is a nonpartisan organization that works to educate voters. We create "Pros and Cons" presentations and host candidate forums. I was a moderator until quite recently.

This is a funny story: Several years ago Senator Lou Correa gave me an award for "Most Influential Senior" in Orange County for my work with the league. The award was presented to me at a special breakfast event. There was a young woman helping Senator Correa give out the awards. People often have a difficult time pronouncing my last name so my husband Bart decided he would help her out. He wrote a note that said, "Hake - pronounced just like bake a cake." After she read my accomplishments, the young woman cheerfully added "and she also bakes cakes!" My friends and Bart and I got a good laugh from that.

What are some of your best neighborhood memories?

My best memories are of times when my husband and daughter were still alive. We enjoyed the 4th of July parades and the home tours. A lot of my happiest memories include our old neighbors the Allens. They lived across the street for a few years. We really really loved that family and their sweet children. They moved to Costa Rica last year but we keep in touch. In fact I just got a message from Mrs. Allen just a few days ago. I'm also really enjoying all of the new young families moving into the neighborhood. I love this neighborhood. Of all the places I've lived in California this is my favorite neighborhood. It's just such a friendly place.



A note about Connie Murphy, aka "Miss Connie"

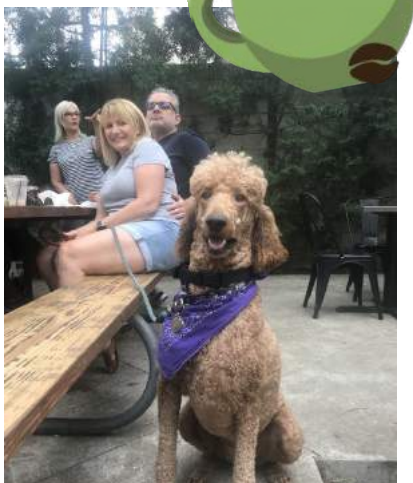
Five years ago right around Christmas time a small fairy garden popped up on the corner of 21st and Towner. A little sign within the garden asked children to "Please play with us." It was just in time for my family. At the time our son was 3 ½ years old and our daughter was just a baby in the stroller. Figuring out what to do with the kids was a daily challenge for me. On the days when I just couldn't muster a car trip to the park or the library the fairy garden became our favorite destination. Pretty soon we met its creator, Ms. Connie Murphy, daughter of Joan Hake. Connie, a professional artist who lived on Balboa Peninsula at the time, came to her parents house just about every weekend to help out and tend the fairy garden. Connie had such a friendly spirit and a clear love for children. After her stepfather passed away in 2019 she moved in with her mother Joan. Sadly within less than a year "Miss Connie" as we called her, passed away too. We remember Miss Connie fondly and miss her sweet, generous presence very much. You can read more about her and see pictures of the fairy garden in the OC Register article from December 2017.



The Social Buzz



Neighbors once again gathered for coffee and conversation at Hidden House Roasters in Downtown Santa Ana on Saturday, August 21st. Even the drizzling weather didn't stop over twenty neighbors getting together to chat while supporting this small business right in our backyard. We hope to have another of these informal events in early 2022. Keep your eye out for a flyer with more info!



Finn of Westwood Ave.



Join Us for Our Last Two Social Events of 2021

Join us for our **Holiday Party** on Saturday, December 11 at 6:00pm. Food and drinks will be provided as well as some wonderful live entertainment. Don't miss this festive and always fun event!

Night of Lights is Thursday, December 16. Stop by 2626 North Westwood Avenue between 6:00pm and 8:00pm for a custom churro, hot coffee or cocoa, and a holiday cheer map that will guide you to all the fabulous holiday lights in our neighborhood. More info will be sent out on how your house can join the holiday cheer map.

BBQ & All of You

Our first official social event post-pandemic was a blast! We gathered at Jack Fisher Park for good BBQ and fellowship on Saturday, October 2nd. It was such a delight to see so many neighbors get together to reconnect and enjoy one another's good company. Live music was provided by jazz singer April Walsh and was truly the hit of the evening. Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated the end of summer with us!





2021 Most Beautiful Yard in Santa Ana Award
Home of John Clute & Joey Reis of 2238 N Towner St.

Congratulations to our Garden of the Season!



**Home of Agustin & Maria Zamudio
at 2101 N Westwood Ave**

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

Nominated Yards



Home of Steve & Nichole Doughty
2206 Westwood Avenue



Home of Peter & Carol Gelker
2307 Olive Lane

Welcome New Neighbors to West Floral Park!

We would like to welcome the following people who moved into West Floral Park this summer. If you happen to see them, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our neighborhood! They will also be invited to our next New Neighbor Social in the spring.

Enjoy these photos from our last New Neighbor Social, held at the home of Mel Steiner and Rick Amborski. What a great evening!



In June we welcomed
Kevin & Regina Herrera
of Louise Street

Rhianno Kalendarian
of Santa Clara Avenue

In July we welcomed
Daniel Kim of Baker Street

Lloyd Brent & Priscilla Cotton
of Westwood Avenue



Grant Bettencourt & Emily Johnson
of Westwood Avenue

In August we welcomed
William MacNeish & Cindy Gratz
of Baker Street

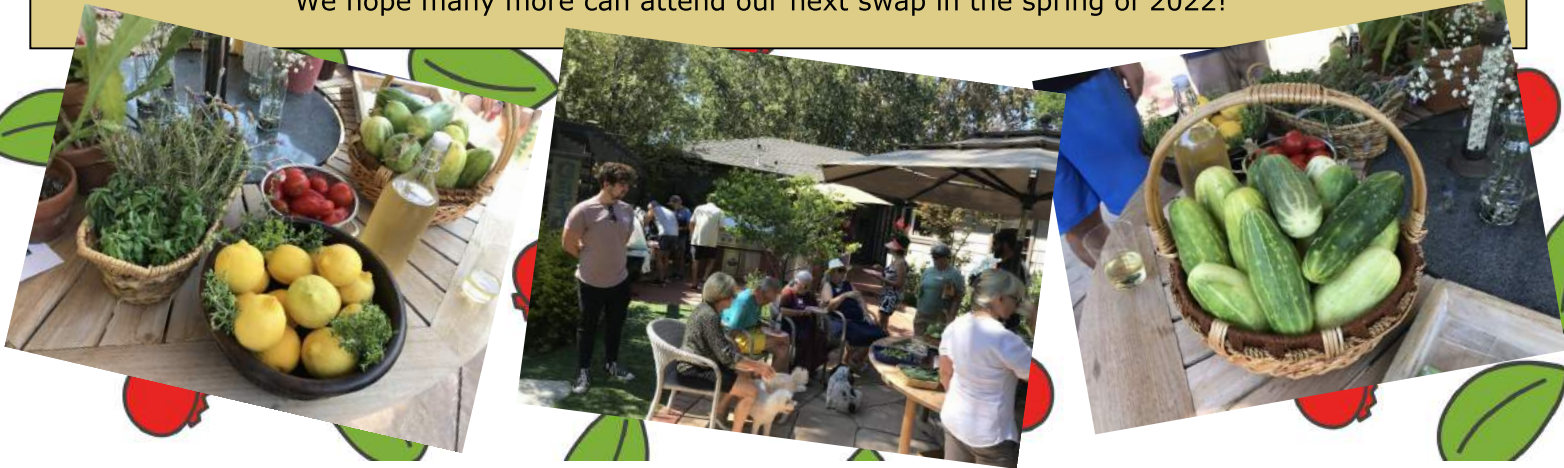
In September we welcomed
Matthew & Candice Yacono of 21st Street

Dan & Cindy Robinson of 18th Street



Summer Garden Swap

On Saturday, July 31, neighbors gathered at the home of Jim and Karen Mittendorf for our Summer Garden Swap. We had over twenty-five neighbors in attendance swapping citrus, fresh herbs, succulents, cucumbers, and tomatoes from their yards and gardens. We even had handmade plant sticks by Guida! We also enjoyed drinks and potluck apps while we swapped items and socialized. We hope many more can attend our next swap in the spring of 2022!



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 us at westfloralpark@gmail.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.



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](https://www.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.



Get Involved With Your Neighborhood

by Melinda Jordan-Heathcock

Do you want to meet more of your neighbors? Do you have a talent that can benefit our community? If so, there are many opportunities available to help make our neighborhood more beautiful and an even better place to live. Elections for 2022 Board Members are coming in November and any neighbor is invited to throw their hat in the ring. If you don't feel you are ready for a board position, there are committees that can use your help on an "as needed" basis. Here is a list of Board positions, along with some on-going committees that can use your help:

President: Leads monthly meetings of the board; Plan and conduct the quarterly General Meetings

Vice-President: Fills in if President is unable to lead a meeting; in charge of yearly membership drive and keeping the neighborhood membership roster up-to-date; welcomes new neighbors; plans the twice yearly New Neighbor Social.

Secretary: Takes the minutes of the board meetings; keeps records of board decisions

Treasurer: Handles all membership donation funds; writes reimbursement checks for neighborhood expenses; reports monthly financials to board members

Beautification: (has committee members) Committee meets and brainstorms on ways to beautify our community, working together to accomplish a project. Committee also selects quarterly most beautiful yard award.

Social: (has committee members) Committee meets and works together to plan neighborhood activities. In the past this included a Wine Night, Progressive Dinner, Oktoberfest, and a Holiday Party. These activities are usually paid attendance.

Neighborhood Watch: Monitors neighborhood activities. Often uses the Nextdoor app, neighbor security cameras, and the local police on safety issues.

Outreach: Plans ways to bring neighbors together in informal settings. In the past this has been Coffee Mornings, Garden Tea, 4th of July Parade, Santa Claus and Easter Bunny photo opportunities. These are usually sponsored by the Association.

Member at Large: Attends the Santa Ana Com-Link meetings and assists the board in other capacities.

Communications Chair: Responsible for managing the quarterly production and distribution of the newsletter.

If you are interested in running for any board position or joining one of the committees, please **volunteer at the November General Meeting** or contact westfloralpark@gmail.com



WFPNA Treasurer's Snapshot

(as of 10/18/21)



Account Balances: Checking \$14,423 Savings \$3,674

Revenues	2021 Budget	YTD Actual
Membership	6,000	7,260
Advertising	3,000	2,106
Social Events	5,000	1,640
Open Garden Day	11,150	11,950
Subtotal	25,150	20,835

Expenses	2021 Budget	YTD Actual
Membership	500	470
General Meetings	200	101
Community Outreach	1,000	331
General Operations	3,500	3,091
Open Garden Day	2,501	2,947
JFP Profit Sharing	3,639	3,655
Social Events	5,000	2,050
Communications	4,500	5,345
Beautification	1,000	266
Subtotal	21,840	18,256

We publish 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 Mark Engeln (mengeln@gmail.com)

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Photography:

Lauren Hawkins, Claudia Jordan, Karen Mittendorf, Harrison Zierer, and all the animal parents of West Floral Park!



Our sincere gratitude goes out to our corporate advertisers who help offset the cost of our newsletter and to our energetic team of helpful neighbors who deliver our newsletter to you!

We would love to hear from you!

For advertising inquiries and editorial ideas please email Claudia Jordan at jordansincali08@gmail.com



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