

# West Floral Park Spring 2018 NEWSLETTER

## WFPNA

Your West Floral Park Neighborhood Association Elected Board Members

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#### **Member at Large**

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#### **Open Garden Day Chair**

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#### **Beautification Chair**

David Vrbecky david.vrbecky@aviationcapital.com

#### **Communication Chair**

Harrison Zierer ziere101@yahoo.com

## Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends

The 50 Monkey Zoo by Harrison Zierer, Communications Chair At 66 years old, the Santa Ana Zoo just gets better with age!

One of my favorite memories as a child was visiting the Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park. I have been to the zoo on and off over the years but realized recently that I had not visited in almost six years. Luckily, I was able to meet with newly appointed Zoo Director Ethan Fisher to see what has changed at the Zoo, what's still the same, and what's coming next!

You may or may not be familiar with our neighborhood zoo's history with monkeys. When J.E. Prentice arrived to California in the early 1900's as a horse and mule trader, he saw many possibilities for the land here in Santa Ana. In 1949, now a wealthy citrus farmer, Mr. Prentice donated 12 acres of his citrus ranch to Santa Ana for a park. With this donation, he stipulated that the city must keep at least 50 monkeys at all times, and so the Santa Ana Zoo was born in 1952 when the park was completed.

What's Changed at the Zoo: If you haven't visited in a few years, you're in for a treat. Born last August at the zoo were baby ocelots Salvador and Catarina. The ocelot exhibit opened in 2015 and has already successfully bred a kitten that was sent to live at the LA Zoo last year. Another big change is the 50 Monkey Ferris Wheel. Containing 15 gondolas that each feature a different monkey's picture and name, the ride allows riders soar up 64 feet for spectacular views of the zoo never seen before. As with the Conservation Carousel and Zoofari Express Train, the Ferris Wheel is operated by the Friends of the Santa Ana Zoo, a non-profit organization, and all ticket proceeds help maintain and improve the zoo for all visitors.





Conservation Programs are BIG at the Zoo: The main goal of any zoo is not to parade animals around for entertainment, but to conserve the species and educate the public about endangered and near-extinct animals. The Santa Ana Zoo is no exception. Because of the Zoo's requirement to have 50 monkeys on the property, many monkeys, like the endangered *(continued on page 2)* 

### **Upcoming West Floral Park Events**

**April 21:** Dumpster Day **May 12:** Open Garden Day

**April 28:** Wine Night

May 16: WFPNA General Meeting

(continued from page 1) Spider Monkey from Columbia and the endangered Golden Lion Tamarin from Brazil, find a home there. In fact, the Zoo has been so successful in breeding the Golden Lion Tamarin that they have been able to send them to zoos all over, even as far as New Zealand.

The Zoo's newest conservation project is working with the Southern Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog. This species comes from our local San Jacinto, San Gabriel, and San Bernardino Mountains. Over the last decade their population has declined and only a little over 200 are left in the wild. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in conjunction with other non-profit organizations, is attempting to repopulate these frogs before they reach extinction. Partnering with the LA and San Diego Zoos, the Santa Ana Zoo has a small lab that in the coming months will take tadpoles it receives from the San Diego Zoo and grow them to adult frogs that can be introduced back into the wild. This new lab will help us learn about these frogs and what we can do to ensure they remain populated in our nearby mountain ranges.





What's Next for the Zoo: Exciting changes are in the works for this now 66-year-old zoo. The waterfall area just past the playground known now as Amazon Edge is already underway to be redesigned as an exhibit for Giant River Otters (an endangered species from South America) and an aerial primate experience. The exhibit will allow visitors to look below the water as the otters swim as well as above the tree tops as the monkeys play. The other coming attraction is a giant Dung Beetle Maze. Located in the Crean Family Farm, the maze will allow children to *be* the beetle as they maneuver a large ball of "dung" through the course. There is also a turtle learning area for the farm in the early planning stages. Also, a new master and strategic plan has just been proposed to the Santa Ana City Council that lays out a 20-year vision for the Zoo. This plan includes a redesign of the Zoo's entrance that will enable a better flow throughout, as well as better parking.

Upcoming Santa Ana Zoo Events: On Sunday, May 20 from 12:00-3:00pm, the zoo will have their annual Party for the Planet. This take on Earth Day will include booths about water conservation and planting species native to California, as well as entertainment and arts and crafts. But best of all, it's free for Santa Ana residents! Remember, every third Sunday of the month, Zoo admission is free to all SA residents with proof of residency (Driver's License or water bill). In June and July the Zoo will have its Sunset at the Zoo concert series. These after-hours concerts feature bands, craft beer tasting, and of course the animals of the Zoo. Concerts will be on Sunday evenings and attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and blanket and relax on the grass. Finally, in July and August, the Zoo in collaboration with the Discovery Science Center will offer two different Zoo Camps: one for kids entering grades K-2 and another for grades 3-5. During the week-long camp, campers will come in contact with a variety of wild and domesticated animals, learn about adaptations that help these incredible creatures survive in the harshest environments, and get a close-up look at the art and science of running and maintaining a wild animal sanctuary. More info can be found at www.ocdiscoverycube.org.

### Zoo Director Ethan's Top 5 Animals to See at the Zoo

- 1. The monkeys, of course. "My favorites are the Pygmy Marmoset, which is the world's smallest monkey, and the Emperor Tamarin."
- 2. The camels. The zoo has both a Bactrian (two humps) and Dromedary (one hump) camel and both are very friendly, as far as camels go.
- 3. The Anteaters. Located in the Tierra de las Pampas exhibit, the anteaters surely aren't to be missed!
- 4. The Poison Dart Frog.
- 5. Although not a specific animal, Ethan recommends visiting on a Saturday or Sunday at 12:00pm or 2:30pm for the Animal Ambassadors in the Conservation Education Theater. Visitors can listen to a talk about an animal and then be able to get up close to see and touch. Animals vary but can be anything from an owl to an armadillo, or a snake, centipede, or rabbit.

**How You Can Help the Zoo:** You can support the Zoo by volunteering as a docent, clerical assistant, farm monitor, or for special events. You can also join the Friends of Santa Ana Zoo by becoming a member. The FOSAZ also runs the rides and gift shop, and supports the Zoo with special projects like the annual *Zoofari* black tie gala in August. Of course, financial help is always appreciated. You can participate in the Zoo Brick Program or "Adopt" an Animal Program. And remember, FOSAZ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so all donations are fully tax deductible.

You can also help support by holding your next event at the Zoo. There is space available to rent for birthday parties, corporate events, and even weddings! However, the easiest way to support is by visiting and spreading the word about our wonderful zoo. The Zoo is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You can also visit their website www.santanazoo.org that contains a wealth of information about the Zoo's past, present, and future.









The Santa Ana Zoo is located at 1801 E. Chestnut Ave. Santa Ana, 92701. The Zoo is open every day 10am - 4pm (grounds close 5pm) except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Years Day. Admission prices vary from \$7.00-\$12.00.

## 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 Easter Egg Hunt, 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).



## Beautification Committee Report





### By David Vrbecky, Beautification Chair

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



## Home of Lester and June Johnson at 1234 W. Marion Way

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.

## Sign Painting Fun

In an ongoing effort to keep West Floral Park pleasing to the eye, the Beautification Committee team got together on Sunday, February 18th to paint the poles and backs of traffic signs to unify the look of the neighborhood and make our community even better. The team painted all signs on most of Riviera (Olive to Baker intersection) as well as part of Baker (Riviera to 22nd St. intersection). Fun was had by all as the committee was not only very productive and task-focused, but also got a little bit of exercise, sun, and bonding time on this lovely weekend morning.





## The Social Buzz



Save these dates on your calendar so you don't miss out on any of the fun!



### Wine Night APRIL 28

This evening includes a buffet dinner and the chance to taste six FANTASTIC reds and whites (and sometimes a little champagne as well)! We promise you won't be disappointed.





### Senior Tea JUNE 7

This FREE event is open to all neighbors 65 years or older. It's a lovely event with finger sandwiches, salads, and desserts along with hot or cold tea and champagne. So put on your party clothes and come be waited and doted upon!



## **Independence Day Parade JULY 4**

This FREE event takes place ALL AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD! You'll want to invite your friends and family and grab your cameras, because we will kick off your BBQ like nobody else! We always invite the local fire station to bring a truck and lead the parade all around West Floral Park! Following behind will be HUNDREDS of kids of all ages decked out in their finest red, white, and blue attire. Some will be walking but even more will be in strollers and wagons, on bikes, and in golf carts each loaded down with streamers, bunting, flags, and anything else patriotic. And when the parade is finally over, there will be popsicles for all the kids. BUT REMEMBER, if you aren't IN the parade you're still invited to cheer the others on from your front yard.





## Bertie the Bee says that one of the best ways to meet your neighbors is at a West Floral Park social event!



## Progressive Dinner 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.



We'll provide GREAT craft beers, bratwurst, and salads. You bring your beverage of choice and IF you have a favorite chili recipe you can bring it and compete in the contest for ribbons, prizes, and bragging rights. Congratulations to Annie Corcoran, our 2017 Champion!



## Holiday Party DECEMBER 8

This party is always a treat with heavy hors d'oeuvres, champagne, wine, and beer. We'll have entertainment and, as always, our Adopt-A-Family charitable giving opportunity. It's a wonderful time to remember how blessed we all are to be neighbors in West Floral Park.

Unless otherwise noted, social events begin at 5:30pm and cost \$35 per person



# Annual Easter Eggstravaganza

On Saturday, March 24 the WFPNA had its annual Easter egg hunt for all the children of the neighborhood. The event was organized by Lauren Hawkins and her fantastic team of volunteers. The kids hunted for eggs, enjoyed donuts, and even got a photo op with the Easter Bunny himself! Thank you to Laurie Hampton who, once again, shared her front yard for this fabulous event!





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## President's Message by Donna Layne

Life is full of paradoxes, or so it seems to me. I'm writing this article while I wait for the rain. We certainly need rain, but I hate how rain interferes with my gardening chores and my life's activities. I am thankful that the homeless along the Santa Ana River have been relocated, but now we see more homeless in our neighborhood and community. The City of Santa Ana needs more revenue from business and development to survive and thrive, but we don't want a noisy business neighbor or one that can potentially impact traffic and our quality of life. We love our quiet neighborhood where we can ride our bikes with our children, but get irritated at the cyclist who cycles like a car but disregards the laws that cars must follow. We love having a top-ranked elementary school nearby, but hate all the morning and afternoon traffic it generates. We dislike all the "extra" cars parked on our street overnight that belong to people who live outside of the neighborhood, but don't like the idea of street parking permits. We are bothered by the freeway traffic noise on the rare mornings that the air is dense (or for whatever the reason is), but love the convenience of zipping right up Bristol or right down Santa Clara to get on the freeway. Enough said! Sometimes we cannot get everything we want or desire!

One thing for sure is that I love living in West Floral Park and every morning, whether cloudy, noisy, or lots of cars delivering school children, I give thanks for living here. Of course, when I see or hear something that isn't right or infringing on the quality of life, I do try to get involved. Even when I am feeling overwhelmed by all that needs to be "righted" I never give up hope that things can be changed for the good of all. Usually when this happens, I go out into my yard and start pulling weeds. I can start in my own backyard and, of course, I can make a difference there, one weed at a time.

Where do your energies go when it comes to building a better community? Some people have built free front yard libraries while others work on getting coyote signs for the neighborhood. Some neighbors plant beauty in our common space while others walk around and greet people. Many volunteer at the local elementary school while others organize the annual Easter egg hunt. Some fight the noisy car wash, pick up litter on the sidewalks, serve on neighborhood boards, and volunteer for agencies that help the homeless. A few run for office, while many participate in the women's march and student walk-out, and some write newsletter articles. The list goes on and on and every cause or project welcomes donations for funding.

We live in a time when activism is almost a must to get things to change. Certainly, volunteering your time, money, or talents is a necessity to building a better community and world. West Floral Park is full of people who want to make things better and who don't shy away from taking a stand for the betterment of the neighborhood and community.

Paradoxes will continue to exist. Life will continue to present us with challenges. Let's continue to work together to make our voices heard and to make our neighborhood a better place to live and thrive. We certainly want to continue to boast "West Floral Park is where neighbors turn into family and friends." Let's add to this "West Floral Park is a place where neighbors work together to make a safe and great community to live in." Rain will produce more weeds to pull but it also will allow the dormant seed of a beautiful poppy to grow. Let's take on our challenges and meet them with optimism that we can make a difference.





### by Joseph Banuelos

Well, it's that time of year again. Our neighborhood is going to be front and center for our annual Open Garden Day. Hundreds of people will be visiting some of our beautiful gardens and enjoying a stroll up and down our streets. This is a great time to consider sprucing up your own yard. In that spirit, we have some garden tips for you, so your garden can shine, even if your home is not on the tour.

Second only to October, April is the busiest month in the garden. With warm weather on the horizon, almost any plant you can think of (except tropicals - it's still too soon) can be planted this month.

- Permanent landscape plants and shrubs
- Trees
- Summer vegetables
- Citrus
- Warm-season annuals





Your favorite local nurseries are stocking up on all the plant material you will need this Spring. This is a good time to give the soil a boost by adding organic material and compost. Don't worry about fertilizer just yet, that's later this month. You're now ready to plant anything that loves warm weather. There are plenty of local nurseries that can guide you.

If gardening isn't your thing, wake up your front door and shutters with a bright coat of paint. Paint is only about \$25 per gallon, and painting the front door, trim and shutters is a great way to polish the look of your home. Put shine in your curb appeal. Clean your windows and screens. You can even power wash your driveway or hire someone to do it! Have fun and happy gardening!

Other inexpensive fix-ups:

- a new mailbox
- a new porch light fixture
- a fresh new wreath for your door
- a cheery new welcome mat
- a new door knocker







### Where Does All the Money Go?

Treasurer's Report by Ian Gibson



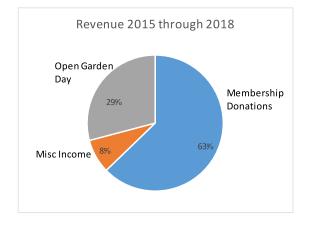
First let me thank all of those that support the West Floral Park Neighborhood Association through donations of time and money. Your efforts and donations allow us to achieve our objective stated on the Association website, westfloralpark.com, and serve the occupants of the 653 homes in our neighborhood.

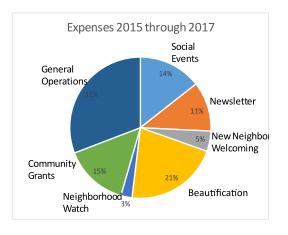
So, from where does the Association receive its revenue and what does that revenue pay for? The charts below summarize the revenue and expenses the Association has realized over the last three years, 2015 to 2017. The two primary sources of income are the membership donations and the proceeds from the Open Garden Day. We also receive varying and unpredictable amounts of miscellaneous income such as the dissolution of Concert in the Park last year. That dissolution amounted to a cash infusion of over \$2,500. In total, the Association received \$36,653 in the last three years.

So where does that money go? The largest expenditure goes to General Operations which includes the storage rental unit, general meeting expenses, Paypal expenses, website expenses, supplies and other miscellaneous items. The association's Beautification expenses represent the next largest expense which goes towards a gardening service that maintains the common garden areas, improvement project costs, such as new plants, and some minimal costs for the garden swap. The community grants represent another significant expense. The 2017 grants were written up in the last newsletter. The Social Events including the Wine Walk, Progressive Dinner, Oktoberfest, Christmas Celebration, July 4th, Easter Egg Hunt and Senior Tea represent the next highest cost. It is worth noting that 87% of the Social Events costs are paid for by the ticket sales to the events and only 13% of the costs are borne by the Association's income. This is similar to the newsletter which is mostly paid for, to the tune of 69%, by the newsletter advertising. The next categorized expense is the New Neighbor Welcoming Expense which pays for the welcome baskets given to each new homeowner/renter and the two New Neighbor Socials. Finally there is the neighborhood watch expense which covers costs associated with the cameras we have placed in the neighborhood. In all, the Association's expenses in the last three years totaled to \$34,000. The 2018 Board Budget is shown on Page #13. The budget follows the patterns of prior years with one notable exception: the Board has elected to make a one-time purchase of 5 additional camera sets to be installed in houses that volunteer to support our neighborhood watch efforts and not support the giving back grants this year. If our fortunes change by the end of the year, we will reconsider the grants.

Again, thank you to all those that support our wonderful neighborhood!









### **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 April. If you happen to see them, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our neighborhood!

#### In January we welcomed

Michael & Mia Griswold of 18th Street Wayne & Shirely Arendt of Louise Street

#### In February we welcomed

Bill & Tamara Crowley of Towner Street

#### In March we welcomed

Peter & Stacy Yi of Westwood Avenue



## 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.







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### **WFPNA Treasurer's Snapshot**

(as of 3/19/2018)

#### 2018 Board Approved Budget

#### Revenue

6,000
3,500
12,650
11,500
525
34,175

#### **Expenses**

New Neighbor Welcoming	400
General Meetings	400
Community Events	225
Community Outreach	
General Operations	2,587
Open Garden Day	9,077
Social Events	13,927
Neighborhood Watch	3,200
Newsletter/Communications	4,250
Beautification	2,625
Subtotal	36,691

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. The Board has completed and approved the 2018 Budget.

(2,516)

Should you have any questions, please contact Ian Gibson (iangibson@nexgenpharma.com)

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#### Thank you Advertisers and Volunteers!

Our sincerest 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!



**Balances / Totals** 



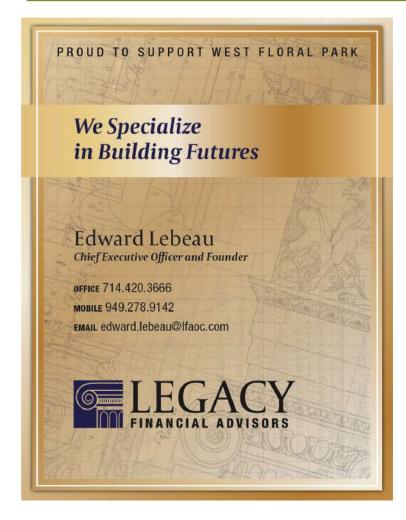
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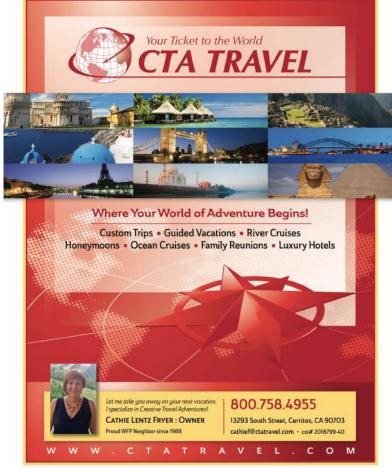
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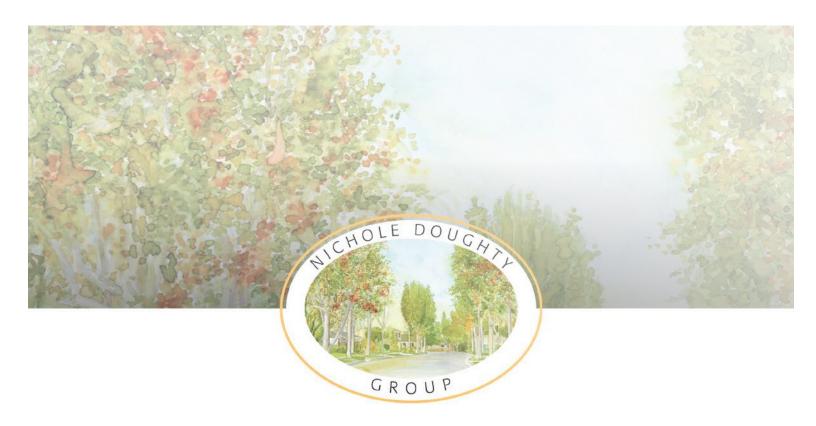




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