

West Floral Park FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

WFPNA

Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends

Your West Floral Park Neighborhood Association Elected Board Members

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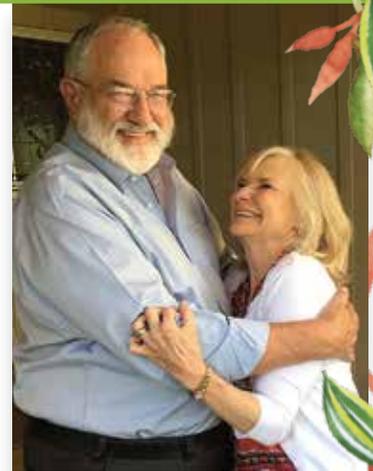
MY SANTA ANA...The Judges BY RIC ROMERO, COLUMNIST

The phenomenon of two full moons in a single month, called a "blue moon," is a relatively rare occurrence. We won't see another one until January of 2018, which is not often enough for one West Floral Park couple, Fred Horn and Carolyn Kirkwood.

I recently sat down with our neighbors and this married twosome told me, blushing slightly, they like to romantically celebrate a blue moon whenever it happens. It was during one of those unique events that they received some news that would change their lives considerably.

■ **Big News.** While celebrating at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego with a bottle of champagne and the music of Bobby Vinton, Fred got a phone call from the governor of California letting him know he would no longer be a Los Angeles district attorney; he was being appointed to the prestigious position of municipal court judge here in Orange County. Carolyn said proudly, "...when Fred got appointed it was a huge deal, really, it was a big deal." It was time to pop the cork on that bottle of Dom Perignon. Some time later they got another surprising phone call. This time it was for Carolyn, an Orange County district attorney at the time. She was being appointed to the Orange County bench as well. Astonishingly they became the first married couple to be judges in Orange County history.

Riviera Drive is a street lined with stately Sycamore trees. Those mature trees are part of the reason Carolyn and Fred now live in West Floral Park. With the baritone voice of a TV newscaster Fred told me, "we liked the neighborhood, we liked *Continued on Page 2* >



UPCOMING WEST FLORAL PARK EVENTS

November 16 | WFPNA General Meeting and Board Elections

December 4 | WFPNA Christmas Party

December 11 | WFPNA Holiday Light Judging

THE JUDGES

(Continued from page 1)

Santa Ana, and look at these trees, where are you going to find that?" Carolyn added, "...other areas just seemed so sterile and cookie cutter."

The home Fred and Carolyn now live in is hardly cookie cutter. The single story ranch is a beautifully decorated 3600 square foot house once owned by members of the Segerstrom family who are known for their real estate

Carolyn likes to play the newly popular sport of "pickle ball" which she says keeps her in shape. As evidence, on their 25th wedding anniversary she says they celebrated with her wearing her unaltered wedding dress while Fred wore a tuxedo.

interests including the successful South Coast Plaza shopping mall.

The diversity of Santa Ana is another reason for their love of the area and they're excited about the rejuvenation of the city. Although they lament the loss of some of their favorite restaurants: Manhattan Supper Club, Nieuport 17, and Scott's Seafood they are looking forward to discovering some of the recent culinary additions on 4th street and the surrounding area of downtown Santa Ana.

The honorable Fred Horn is now a superior court judge in downtown Santa Ana with no plans to retire. He's up at 5:30 in the morning every week day and reads several newspapers daily including the New York Times. Despite his early rise you can often spot Fred at one of his beloved Angel baseball games even if it's an evening ballgame. About five years ago your honor Carolyn Kirkwood shed

her black robes and retired from her post as a juvenile court judge, but the memories of some of the cases in her courtroom involving foster children still linger. Carolyn occasionally speaks to large groups about the resulting consequences a child must

face when their parents have made tragic mistakes. With all seriousness in her voice she told me, "A lot of my public speaking is educating the public about foster children and what we can do as a society to help those kids become productive adults."

When I left the two judges standing on their front porch and said my good byes, they spontaneously hugged each other affectionately and I was left with the thought, I'll bet that happens a lot more than "once in a blue moon."

P R E S I D E N T ' S R E P O R T

Let Your Voice Be Heard BY RIGO GARCIA, WFPNA PRESIDENT



THE ELECTION CYCLE IS UPON US, and I'm going to encourage you all to do one thing. Keep exercising your right to vote! West Floral Park's precinct had the HIGHEST ballot return in all of Santa Ana with 1,476 cast ballots in June's Presidential Primary! This represents a turnout of 57.41% for the neighborhood. Great Job!

A lot of documented concerns were brought up this year; some were resolved internally through our association while others required City intervention. When we vote our voices and concerns are heard and solutions can initiate sooner than later. November's Election will give us another opportunity to showcase our continued engagement and willingness to be a part of the solution related to the recent headlines at the river creek and civic center. We should aim to be as close to 100% voter turnout as we can be.



■ **Elections.** Our Neighborhood Board Association Election will also be in November, and this is your opportunity to take a lead in one of the many roles that our Association has to offer. We have a great support group if this is the first time you are thinking about either leading or joining a committee. I would also like this opportunity to thank the spouses, partners and friends of all those who support our existing board/committee

members. Your continued support does not go unnoticed, and without it a lot of events would not be able to take place. I would also like to thank the families who have volunteered their homes for our meetings, and events.

■ **Our New Addition.** Lastly, in September the Board welcomed new neighbors at the "New Neighbor Social Event." Without asking or hesitation both the Board and neighbors also welcomed one additional new neighbor, our recent addition to our family, baby girl Caroline Angela, born at 7 lbs and 19" long. Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and meals, it was heartwarming.

SPOTLIGHT ON

12 Year Old Maverick Espinosa

BY DIANA ESPINOSA, PROUD MOTHER

One of West Floral Park's own dreams big and wins a once in a lifetime opportunity



Over the summer, Maverick who lives on Westwood got wind of the 4th annual county wide Eco Challenge poster contest. This year's theme was to highlight the benefits of recycling green waste. When he told me about it, I immediately thought, "What a great way to promote recycling!"... But that was it! After all, it was less than 48 hours before the deadline and I



thought it was too late to enter. But not Maverick.

I distinctly remember asking him, "Do you want to try?" and he responded, "Why not!?" And you know what? He was right... why not? Before we knew it we were on our

way for some poster board and sharpening a big box of colored pencils. After all, time was ticking! So Maverick began brainstorming, designing and creating. Motivated by the winning prize, to be an honorary Bat Kid for our very own Angels Baseball Team, he sat at the dining table working for hours to get every detail just right.

■ **Stiff Competition.** The next day it was off to the Discovery Science Center to turn in Maverick's entry. The lady at the desk told us that this year they had received significantly more entries than any of the 3 previous years. Come to find out, there were OVER 400 entries throughout the county! WOW! Knowing that only 5 District winners were going to be chosen meant it wasn't going to be an easy win by any means.

Then the wait began, would there or would there not be a call?

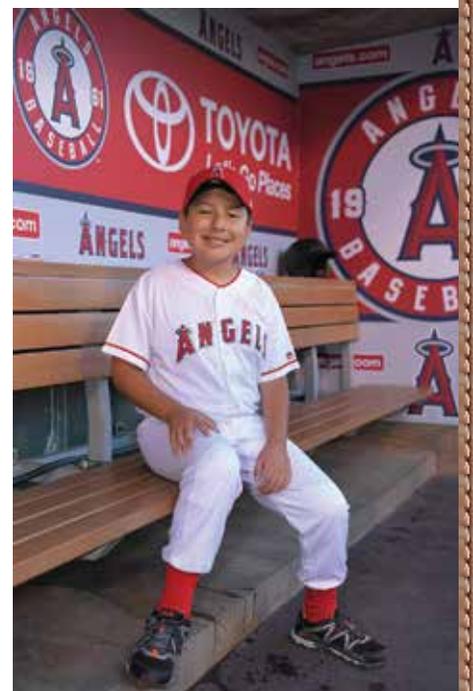
There wasn't. We were told we would know within 3 to 4 weeks and after 6 weeks Maverick said to me, "I can't wait to see the winning poster, it must have been really good." I was so proud of him. A week later we got the call. Maverick had won District One!!

On Friday September 9th Waste Management held a special on-the-field ceremony before the

game honoring the 5 District winners. It was Star Wars Night and the energy in the stadium was electrifying! These lucky kids got to fist pump Chewbacca, meet Darth Vader and stand alongside R2-D2 and C-3PO!!

On September 15th Maverick returned to the field as the Honorary Bat Kid. He was given an official Bat Kid jersey, got to sit in the dugout and even met some of the players! Doesn't get any better than that!

■ **Winning!** Congratulations on your Big Win Maverick! Keep up the "Why not?" attitude.





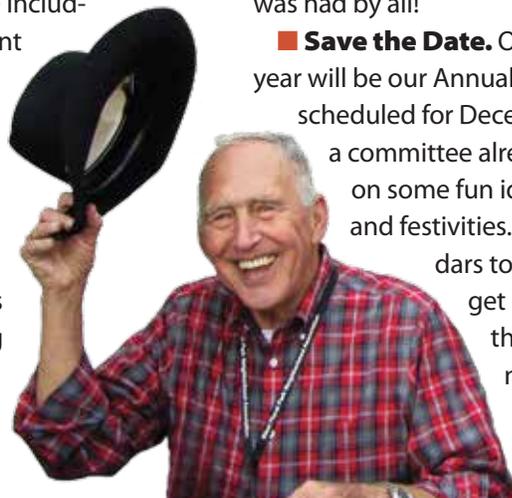
The Social BUZZ

BY BRIAN DAWSON
SOCIAL CHAIR



FALL IS HERE! And we just celebrated with our annual Oktoberfest. But before we give you the news on this year's fall party, I wanted to recap our incredibly outrageous Progressive Dinner – Back to the Ranch. This event was the brain child of Lauren Hawkins and Christina Kellman. They co-chaired our event last summer in Laurie Hampton's front yard and had already come up with the concept for this year before we enjoyed dessert.

■ **Thank You!** We need to thank Courtland and Anne Alex for hosting the appetizers in their amazing backyard. They graciously allowed us to use their tables from an event that they hosted the night before— saving the association money. Dean McClesky and Rob Barker hosted the main event in their backyard. There are not too many yards that can seat over 110 people and still allow for a dance floor and DJ! This was our first time including dancing with our event and it was a big hit. We even brought in a line dance teacher to teach us a few line dances. The western BBQ was delicious and we had so many wonderful desserts that we ended up raffling off some pies in the end. If you see any of these folks, please tell them



thanks from all of us. The committee is already working on next year's theme. Volunteers are always welcome even if just for the day of the event. Please give Brian Dawson a call at 714-478-6336 or email him at mrrktek@gmail.com.

■ **Now on to Oktoberfest.** This year Scott Lohse and Cathie Fryer once again co-chaired this event which was held in Jim and Nancy Gartner's backyard and featured our annual Chili Cook Off. We had several different homemade chilies— some from a secret recipe, a grandmother's recipe and one that was just put together that day. Prizes were awarded for Best Chili based on the judges and there was also a People's Choice award. Also featured were brats, potato salad, sauerkraut and of course a great selection of beers. The ice cream pops which were a huge hit last year were back again for dessert. A great time was had by all!

■ **Save the Date.** Our last event of the year will be our Annual Christmas Party scheduled for December 4th. We have a committee already brain storming on some fun ideas for the food and festivities. Mark your calendars to save the date and get ready to celebrate the holidays and the new year with your West Floral Park neighbors.





DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR YARD!

BY LAURA JAGERMAN, BEAUTIFICATION CO-CHAIR

Keeping your front yard looking good can be especially challenging when faced with a California drought.

While we are all striving to be environmentally responsible, we are also trying keep our yards looking their best.

It's a delicate balance for sure.

While some of us have successfully decided to switch to a California-friendly landscape, there are others of us that have just given up. Don't give up! We all know that an attractive and properly maintained front yard adds to curb appeal, increases property values, and makes our neighbors and us happy!

Whether you keep your original landscape design or decide to remove your grass and switch to a California-friendly landscape, please keep in mind that the City of Santa Ana has a few rules we need to follow as we enter planting season.

■ 100% of the landscape MUST be covered with materials such as plants, compost and mulch and permeable hardscape—with the exception of approved driveways and walkways.

■ Plant material must cover at least 65% of your front

yard landscape. The landscape must be designed such that it can be "reasonably assumed" that at least 65% of your front yard will be covered with plant material by the time the plants mature or within two years, whichever is sooner.

■ **Note:** If you are using synthetic turf, it cannot exceed 50% of this designated plant area.

Permeable hardscape may cover no more than 35% of your front yard landscape. Permeable hardscape may include pavers or bricks set on a bed of sand without the use of mortar or grout.

Any yard that is not covered by plants or permeable hardscape, must be completely covered by at least a two-inch layer of mulch (compost, bark and/or other organic material).

To review these guidelines or for resources to help you design your California-friendly landscape, visit the City of Santa Ana's website at www.santa-ana.org/SAwatersmart. Here you will find an abundance of information, including plant selection, irrigation, landscape training, and helpful samples of landscape designs.



Congratulations to our Garden of the Month Winners

Join the WFP Beautification Committee

Get involved with your neighborhood and help select future Garden of the Month Award Winners. Contact Laura at laura@lauralejuwaan.com



AUGUST

Home of Rigo and Amelia Garcia
2001 N Olive Street



SEPTEMBER

Home of Dean McCleskey and Rob Barker
2407 N Olive Lane



OCTOBER

Home of Sam and Kathie Gonzalez
2315 N Towner Street

BACKYARD SCOOP

BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN KEEPER

I DRAW INSPIRATION

walking through beautiful gardens and nurseries as a means to collect plant ideas and landscape designs to take back to my yard. I call it inspiration because I have to visually see what is possible and attempt to recreate it on a smaller scale. Even so, the garden still has its own personality quirks much like its owner.

I read the plant info tag that provides a brief overview of what I need to know before I buy it. Location and water needs. As I read the brief short hand description I determine that the growing requirements are not easily translated as the one who wrote the description thinks



it is. In fact, I bet that person doesn't even have a garden!

I usually place the tag in the pot, planter or dirt as a logical way to revisit the requirements when watering. The only problem is having to squat down to read it or until a Labradoodle discovers the tag, sweeps it up in his mouth, runs past me, and then around the yard with it.

Quickly the tag gets destroyed—cute puppy—now what? I look for an alternative plan.

So here's an easy way to remember what plants need a bit more attention than others. Take paint stirring sticks and paint some red (less water), blue (more water) or yellow (caution). Take a sharpie pen and mark 2x/week,

Tuesday/Thursday or 1x/week on Wednesday, etc. On the backside write the name of the plant if you like to know what you're growing. Of course you can use any color paints that speak to you and offer you a reminder of your watering schedule is. This is an easy, no nonsense way to remember when to water your garden plants and veggies. There's nothing to buy as you probably have old paint and stirrers already in the garage. For smaller plants you can purchase Popsicle sticks or buy a box of Popsicles and save the sticks. Finally, it's a great activity for smaller children with busy hands.

And that's the Backyard Scoop!

Beautifulizing Our Neighborhood ONE SUCKER AT A TIME!

BY LAURA JAGERMAN, BEAUTIFICATION CO-CHAIR

As you all know, our West Floral Park Neighborhood is known for its charming tree-lined streets. As beautiful as these trees are, sometimes out-of-place growth can appear on their trunks, changing their appearance from majestic to "messy."

These unwanted sprouts or branches are called suckers (shoots that grow from base of a tree) or watersprouts (shoots that arise from the trunk of a tree). They not only alter the aesthetics of our trees, but also deprive the tree's top growth from important nutrients. This is because the tree's root

system is supporting and feeding all of those little trees.

Although our parkway trees are owned by the City of Santa Ana, we can help maintain by following these simple steps:

■ To remove suckers:

Try to pull them out or use a clean pair of pruning shears to remove the suckers at or below ground level.

■ To remove watersprouts:

Use a clean pair of pruning shears and cut off the sucker as close to the trunk as possible. Leave the



"collar" where the sucker meets the tree to prevent decay and disease from entering the tree.

If your tree needs extra attention or if you would like a new one planted, please contact the City of Santa Ana Tree Maintenance Division at 714-647-3330.

HAPPY HOUR

Girls' Night Out

Sorry folks, but we just couldn't get our Girls' Night Out together for this edition. So, I'll just do a quickie restaurant review that will take you to a Blast from the Past and in our Santa Ana! (See if you can guess it – here are your clues...)

I have lived here for over 12 years, driven by this place on many occasion and never even considered poppin' in. The restaurant looks like it has been there since the beginning of Santa Ana. The sign is old, the structure is old, somewhat tidy, a little unkempt, minimal improvements on anything. For some reason I decided to give it a try for lunch (and I was starving),

cent of my 60's childhood Bob's Big Boy memories. There was a larger banquet-like lounge area off to the left that seemed unutilized. All original worn countertops and original stools, reupholstered booths with those 60's laminate tables, and the some refrigerated deli cases showcasing assorted desserts and meats. The open kitchen was probably redone with quilted



little Dinner Special stand up menu. Remember the "Blue Plate Specials"? Fried Chicken, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy & Cranberries, and Liver & Onions for like \$10.99. Then another little card touting the "Original New York Black and White Cookie - quite the N.Y. icon cookie, even Seinfeld had it mentioned in one of their episodes. The clientele was mostly my age or older and definitely regulars. 'See ya next week' was what most patrons heard when they left with their full tummies and a satisfied smile.

Well... have you guessed the place yet? I'll bet about 50% of you have... I asked my sweet server "So what's the favorite here?" She said, "Hands down The Benjie's Hot Pastrami or the Hot Corned Beef or the

famous Reuben." Then I was served a little bowl of those New York Half Soured Pickles (I think that's what they call them.)



I got the Hot Pastrami with Russian dressing, coleslaw on top of the pastrami on very fresh Rye (Don't you dare get white or wheat bread!!), with a side of potato salad.

Just minutes went by, and I was presented with a beautiful 4" high stacked hot pastrami special. The tastiest deli sandwich ever. The pastrami was so lean, thinly cut, not salty, and flavorful. I seek places out



so I parked in their ample, about 1/2 full, old asphalt parking lot and noticed some pretty upscale cars. Intrigued, I went in. The little lobby-type entrance was indeed the same era as the exterior, reminis-

chrome liners but the wait staff was my age and had been there probably since I went to Bob's Big Boy. I felt like a kid again sitting at the gently worn counter, checking out the surroundings and saw a

BY LAURIE HAMPTON
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST



like this when I travel and Benjie's is unsurpassed and in our own back yard! I have friends that wanted to take me out for my birthday, suggesting Marché Moderne in South Coast Plaza, Capital Grille or Bistango's. I have to admit they like upscale restaurants, but I told them we are rollin' back to the 60's for a nostalgic reminder of our past and going to Benjie's for lunch (and don't dress up!). We all ordered something different and they are now HOOKED! Might want to try it for breakfast, too!

I can't believe I missed out for 12 years. If you like New York Deli GO! Go NOW! I'll see you there!

Next time I think I'll try the New York Cheesecake. They also have Coney Island Hot Dogs and you can add their homemade chili. Benjie's Deli is set back on the NW corner of 17th and Tustin at 1828 N Tustin Avenue. Until next time...eat well, drink (often) and be happy always!

Editor's Note: Benjies New York Deli was voted #1 Best Deli in the Orange County Register's latest "The Best of Orange County."

WFPNA TREASURER'S SNAPSHOT

(as of 9/26/2016)

BY STEVE TANCREDI, TREASURER

ACCOUNT BALANCES	2016 Budget	YTD Actual
Checking		\$ 5,435
Savings		9,195
REVENUES		
Membership	\$ 8,200	6,895
Advertising	2,000	3,048
Social Events	11,500	6,568
Open Garden Day	8,900	11,408
Other	-	815
Subtotal	30,600	28,734
EXPENSES		
Membership	300	130
General Meetings	440	-
Community Events	260	-
Community Outreach	2,000	250
General Operations	2,400	2,000
Open Garden Day	5,850	7,301
Social Events	11,500	6,078
Neighborhood Watch	500	183
Communications	4,600	3,331
Beautification	4,700	3,950
SUBTOTAL	31,850	23,223
BALANCES / TOTALS	\$ (1,250)	\$ 5,511

We publish the Treasurer's Report each year 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 2016 Budget.

Should you have any questions, please contact Steve Tancredi (stancredi@robinvest.net).



WFPNA HOSTS FAMILY PICNIC & MOVIE NIGHT IN PARK

Taking Back Jack Fisher Park

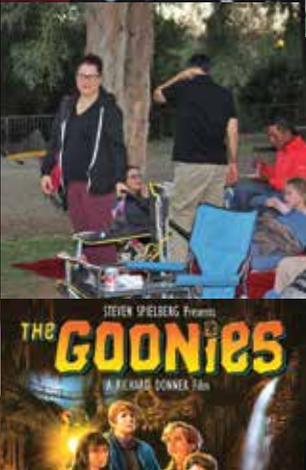
BY DONNA LAYNE, COMMUNICATIONS CO-CHAIR

A group of concerned residents can make a difference. Check out recent posts on Nextdoor.com regarding Jack Fisher Park. Over the past year, a group of residents in Jack Fisher Park, West Floral Park and Floral Park have been meeting in regards to making Jack Fisher Park safe again. One of the strategies is to start using the park again for family events.

And...at one of our WFPNA Beautification Committee meetings we started talking about Jack Fisher Park and what we could do. So, we started planning a family picnic and movie night at the park. West Floral Park, Jack Fisher Park and Floral Park were invited to this event. After working with the City who provided us the use of the park, liability insurance and the movie projector, we had our event on October 1. Almost 100 people attended. WFPNA served root beer floats and popcorn. The

movie Goonies was enjoyed by all who were sitting on the lawn. Everyone enjoyed this event as evidenced by the neighborly chatter, the kids running around and families snuggling together while watching the movie.

Progress is made... one step at a time.





2016

Vote

Board Elections

— ★ ★ ★ —
WE NEED YOU!

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 WFP committees.

If you are curious about a board position and/or committee and want to know more about what the responsibilities are, please ask anyone on the current board and we can give you an idea of what the time commitment is.

You can find all of our email addresses on the cover page of this newsletter. You could also consider having two people share a position to help make the time commitment more manageable. If you don't want to be on the board, consider joining a committee to help out when you can. Sign up sheets for all committees will be at the general meeting.

West Floral Park Neighborhood Association Board Elections and General Meeting

**Wednesday, November 16 at 7 pm
in The Library at Santiago Elementary**

■ **All Positions are Open:** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Beautification Chair, Communication Chair, Social Chair, Neighborhood Watch Captain and Member-at-Large. Our organization benefits from fresh perspectives and people willing to donate their time.

SEE YOU ON NOVEMBER 16!





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 Donna at a.layne@sbcglobal.net 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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Welcome to All of Our New Neighbors!

We would like to welcome the following people to West Floral Park. These new neighbors, along with other new neighbors from May through September, were invited to our New Neighbor Social held on September 22.

The next New Neighbor Social will be held in April 2017.

In July, we welcomed the following neighbors:

LUIS AND NERY PRADO on Baker Street
(actually a new neighbor since last December but were missed in the previous newsletter)

AMY KELLY — a longtime resident has relocated to her new home on Baker Street

MICHALE & AMANDA MURPHY on W 19th Street

In August we welcomed the following neighbors:

FORREST AND DENISE PETERSEN on Olive Street

RAUL AND ELIZABETH ARRELLANO on Freeman Street



If you see any of these new neighbors on your travels throughout the neighborhood, please stop and welcome them to our "hood".

ANDERSON
REAL ESTATE GROUP

LUXURY HOMES INTERNATIONAL

KEVIN SHULER

Your Neighbor, presents

A Fresh Perspective for West Floral Park



Kevin Shuler
BRE 01953088



Jeff Anderson
BRE 01729514



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Santa Ana College Update

BY PAUL CHRISTIAN, SANTA ANA COLLEGE

Greetings from your neighbors at SAC and welcome to those of you who have been joining us on campus this fall!



Our 101st school year is well under way and sailing smoothly, but that doesn't mean we're ready for a break! We're hard at work getting ready for our next round of Accelerated Courses and our Spring Semester!

But the excitement on campus doesn't end there! We've got a whole host of incredible Fine & Performing Arts events including a month of music, with a Big Band concert on November 18th. We've got a ton more events we can't list here, plus tickets available at sac.edu/fpa!

We'd like to thank our neighbors for their patience in waiting for our beautiful new campus to be completed. For the latest information on closures, parking or to enroll, please visit sac.edu or connect with us via Social Media!

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PHOTOGRAPHERS: Michele Chatelle, Diana Espinoza, Rigo Garcia
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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 Donna Layne at a.layne@sbcglobal.net



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