



# West Floral Park NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

## WFPNA

Where Neighbors Turn Into Family and Friends

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## The Found Garden: The Story of New Beginnings

by Diana Espinoza

When I think back to what my garden looked like when we moved in and what it is today, I chuckle a bit. In every corner there is a memory or story about something I found and where I found it. For example, there's the iron bed that I thought would be a great outdoor lounge, only to realize it was the perfect oversized dog bed. There is also a headboard and mirrors set that weighed so much that I almost left them behind, but was too stubborn to walk away. Then there's the giant wooden spool that utility workers so kindly delivered to my driveway. This stroke of luck occurred only after my curiosity got the best of me and I asked, "What do you do with those things when you're done with them?" These, along with many other items, have been given a renewed life and function in our home.



Usually when I come across something "new" I have a pretty good idea how and where I will use it. Other times, after no logical reason for dragging an item home, I think, "I'm sure I'll find a place for it." At home, this mode of thinking has definitely landed me in hot water more than once. That being said, don't tell my husband but it will probably happen again. Ok scratch that, it will definitely happen again!



The time I brought home a king-sized headboard that leaned against the outside wall for several months was a tough one, only to be remedied when I found a coffee table with interesting legs; so was born the "Franken-bench". Other times were easy, such as unfinished wooden chairs that easily became sitting benches with a few cuts, 2x6 lumber, and screws.

All these finds and projects have been many things for my family and me. My sons have learned to problem solve and rework. They have learned to use hand tools and power tools, a valuable skill that I

*(continued on page 2)*



## Upcoming West Floral Park Events

April 24: Dumpster Day  
June 19: Open Garden Day



think sometimes gets overlooked. They now have basic skills like how to sand, prime, and paint which will undoubtedly be handy later in life even though they don't think so. Most notably, my husband and I have fine-tuned the art of compromise in order to keep us both sane. I have no doubt you'll agree this is a big one! I guess in many ways the garden is not only a garden, but it's also our story, and I think it's beautiful.

Wherever gardening takes you, and whatever stories you create along the way, I hope you can chuckle at your story too. New beginnings are in every corner if we just dare to look. Now if you'll excuse me, I have another project to get started on.



## *Spring Water Wise Gardening* by Judi Fine

Spring officially began March 20, but for many the return to daylight saving time told us spring was here. Nature is getting ready to put on her annual flower show and produce a bounty of fresh fruits, herbs, and vegetables. With the arrival of spring our thoughts turn hopeful; we see the possibilities of good things to come. This is especially true this year as we start venturing out more as the pandemic is seemingly subsiding and more people are vaccinated. During the pandemic, many of us turned to gardening as a new hobby or picked it up again with renewed enthusiasm after a hiatus when other things got in the way.

Take a look at your landscaping and the curb appeal of your home. We are very lucky to live in this great neighborhood with its tree lined streets, beautiful homes, and unique gardens. So show it off! When your yard looks good, we all look good. Now is a good time to add plants and shrubs to your borders and trim existing ones. Have crows done a number on your lawn? Think about re-seeding or re-sodding those bald spots. If you want to discourage crows from digging up your lawn again, treat the area with Grub Control. One treatment should last the season and can be purchased at Orange County Farm Supply.

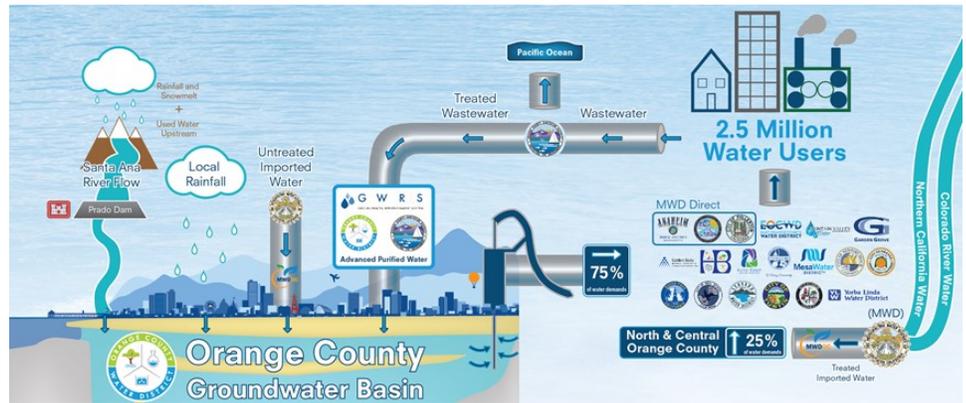


One consideration for your garden planting and landscaping revitalization is understanding that we are likely headed into another drought. 70% of the state is currently in a moderate drought or worse and 29% is in a severe drought. Extreme drought is affecting between 57% and 90% of the land in Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona and that means a decline in snowpack that supplies water to 40 million people from Denver to Southern California, according to the US Drought Monitor.

75% of our water comes from the Orange County Groundwater Basin and 25% comes from imported water sources including snowmelt from the Sierra Nevadas and the Rockies. With the likelihood of a drought it is even more important to be water wise as it is certain that we will have either voluntary or mandatory water restrictions in the near future.

Think about saving water when doing your spring planting. Consider using plants that are native to California and ones that are drought tolerant. Some plants such as Bougainvillea produce great color when they are slightly stressed. Succulents are also a great choice. Talk to your local nursery about which plants might work best for you. Use mulch around your plants to reduce evaporation and keep roots cool. Water during the early morning to prevent excess evaporation and water less frequently for longer periods to ensure water is reaching the roots of your plants. Adding a drip water system is another way to water plants efficiently.

Options are available for decreasing water runoff and promoting water absorption into the soil. Consider removing your lawn and replacing it with artificial turf. Artificial turf stays green all year long without watering and allows water to soak through to the soil and replenish the aquifer. If you're looking to change your hardscape, consider options that promote water percolation rather than runoff. There are many permeable or green pavement options ranging from pervious concrete, permeable asphalt, pavers, interlocking pavers and plastic grid pavers that can be filled with sand, grass or other materials. Invest a few rain barrels to collect rain water to use on your plants later. Preventing water runoff helps promote a healthy water basin and goes a long way to keep us out of a severe drought.



The possibilities for your spring garden and yard renovation are endless. Have fun with your projects and think about saving water and beautifying your yard at the same time. The work you do today will payoff in greater enjoyment in the future.



**Saturday, June 19**

We're back this year! The **Open Garden Day** Committee is pleased to announce that we have set the date for **Saturday, June 19, 2021** (the day before Father's Day) for this year's event. The event will be modified because of the pandemic requirements but we will still offer guests the opportunity to visit beautiful and inspiring gardens. Our committee is looking for homeowners who would like to open their gardens to the public for a few hours on June 19. If you are interested, please contact me at 714-791-2858. Each home will have two docents, but it's always great when homeowners are present to talk about their garden and share their garden journey with visitors.

So, **put the date on your calendar** for a great event. COVID-19 safety protocol of wearing masks, social distancing, and limiting visitors in the gardens will be in place.

In the meantime, go to our website [www.opengardenday.com](http://www.opengardenday.com) to get inspired ahead of time. As the event develops, more information will be posted on our website. You can also purchase your presale tickets there as well. Stay Tuned! *-Donna Layne, Co-Chair*

# Spring Refresher Tips

Try these simple home improvements that can add instant curb appeal:

## Paint your front door

Here's what to consider when planning it:

1. Choose one color
2. Finish in style
3. Be daring
4. Use a favorite color
5. Consider the history of the home
6. Make a statement

## Add mulch to your planter beds

A layer of mulch on flower beds and around trees and shrubs 2-3 inches around the base of plants reduces weeds, conserves moisture, and prevents disease.

## Update your outdoor lighting

Replace broken or install new solar lights around your yard. It's amazing what a little accent lighting can accomplish!

For more information and ideas, check out [www.homesandgardens.com](http://www.homesandgardens.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 Claudia Jordan at [jordansincali08@gmail.com](mailto:jordansincali08@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](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.



# FAMILY FUN PAGE



Joey fell off his bike and mixed up all his words!  
Can you help him put them in the correct order?

n i d y w    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 g e g        \_ \_ \_  
 a w h t      \_ \_ \_ \_  
 t e k i        \_ \_ \_ \_  
 s s a r g     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 s p o c r     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 l m b o o     \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## WORD LIST

bloom      kite  
 crops      thaw  
 windy      egg  
 grass

## Spring Word Search

B Q T Y N N U B N G  
 G A R D E N H Q E G  
 R O K A T Y S U E E  
 G N I W O R G M R B  
 E L D D U P S G G C

bunny  
 egg  
 garden  
 green  
 growing  
 puddle



## Neighborhood Walk Scavenger Hunt

1. Stop Sign
2. Fire Hydrant
3. Fruit tree
4. Dog on a leash
5. Insect crawling on the ground
6. Bird on a tree
7. Cat
8. Flower that smells really good
9. Parked motorcycle
10. Bird Feeder/House



## Welcome New Neighbors!

We would like to welcome the following people who moved into West Floral Park this winter. These new neighbors, along with others from 2020 will be invited to our New Neighbor Social later in the year when it is safe to gather. If you happen to see them, be sure to say hello and welcome them to our neighborhood!

**Federico Alonso  
& Karla Salinas  
of Towner St.**

**Chad & Melody Bair  
of Rosewood Ave.**



## Newsletter Staff



**Editor**.....Claudia Jordan

**Design & Production**.....Harrison Zierer

### Contributing Writers:

Judi Fine, Diana Espinoza, Claudia Jordan, Donna Layne, and Harrison Zierer

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](mailto:jordansincali08@gmail.com)



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## Congratulations to our Garden of the Season!



### Home of Drake Kerby & Anthony Martinez at 1814 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.

Over 20 years of experience  
selling homes in our neighborhood

*One door closes, another one opens*



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