



Washington Square NEWS

Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood.

April 2020



2020 NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

EVENTS

Chili Cookoff	7/18
Movie Night	8/22
Oktoberfest	10/17
Holiday Party	12/12

GENERAL MEETINGS

7/9, 10/9

GARAGE SALE WEEKENDS

June 6/7??

Sept. 5/6, Dec. 5/6

Spring in WSNA ~ WSNA President Keren Clark



Dear Neighbors,

As I continue into the second year as your Washington Square Neighborhood Association president, I feel like I am just hitting my stride. I am so grateful to the board, officers and volunteers of this organization! Their service is voluntary and done out of love for our very special neighborhood. Thank you all!

Spring has sprung in Washington Square! Trees, wildflowers and our gardens are green, in bloom and looking glorious! I am composing this letter on my front porch and the ever-increasing evening sunlight is warming me. More things to be grateful for. We are needing these things now.

Despite the increasing vitriol of our State and Federal elections, we as a neighborhood, a community, do what we do so well - care for and support each other. We abide by the simple value of mutual respect, in spite of our differences. We co-exist and look out for one another, no matter. We are also needing these things now.

By now, we are all familiar with "social distancing", a mitigating factor for the spread of a somewhat frightening upper respiratory illness known as the novel coronavirus, or COVID19. The best advice from the CDC and other health organizations is to wash our hands thoroughly and often, stay home and avoid those who appear to be ill. I urge us here in Washington Square to **follow these guidelines and continue to look out for our neighbors**. Even if we need to keep some physical space (6 feet please) between ourselves and others, avoid handshakes and hugs, we can still support one another.

Call your neighbors, text them, check in to see if they need anything. Facetime, Skype, Zoom and other platforms allow us to see each others' faces while we talk. Let's avoid isolation and continue our neighborly contact.

To our increasing health and connection!

Ever Yours,

Spring 2020

Alan Anderson Award: 1135 W. 10th Street *A Yard That Distinctly Celebrates Nature*

by Bobi Keenan



Newlyweds Cristina and Bryan Aamot, the winners of our Spring Alan Anderson Award, are inveterate gardeners and civic-minded people. They met 2 years ago and married in February.

Bryan is an Orange County native, works in computer software, and is an accomplished musician. He has an eye for color, and together they worked out the colors to paint their house, inside and out. They love working together on the house and grounds.

Continued on page 8

Washington Square *UPDATES*

Next issue, WSNA
will have more fun
stuff to announce!!

WSNA Curtailing Planned Activities Due to Coronavirus

The Washington Square Neighborhood Association board is in constant contact with each other, and has come to a very difficult, yet necessary decision. **We are cancelling the April General Meeting, Progressive Dinner, Neighborhood Cleanup and Wine Walk** in order to adhere to the Governor's recommendations - and our own desire to do our best to protect our neighbors and friends—as best we can—from the Corona virus pandemic. At this point, it is too early to tell if other planned neighborhood activities such as the chili cookoff, movie night—and even Octoberfest—will be held this year.

This would be the year that Washington Square celebrates its 35th anniversary. Let's do that by taking care of ourselves and our neighbors. We want everyone in WSNA to stay safe, stay at home if they can, and reach out through email, social media (FB, etc.) and let us know if we can assist you in any way. We will keep you updated on our Facebook page, Instagram and Next Door should anything change.

The General Meeting for Thursday, April 16, has been cancelled.

Street Sweeping Parking Tickets

The City of Santa Ana has suspended street sweeping parking tickets, retroactive to March 15 and through April 30. Due to Gov. Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home order for COVID-19, the public won't have to move their vehicles during street sweeping. All other City parking fees, rules and citations remain in place, including residential permit parking.



Update on Bristol Widening

As per Vince Fregoso of City Building and Planning there are three buildings currently in building plan check on north Bristol Street: two doctors' offices north of Washington Avenue and In-N-Out. All three are nearing the end of plan check, so permits and construction should begin soon.

Dumpster Day was a Success!!



Low Cost Pet Vaccinations

The City of Santa Ana, in coordination with Vet Care Mobile Vaccination Clinics, is offering low-cost pet vaccination clinics every weekend. The vaccination clinics will be every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and every Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Santa Ana Public Parking Garage on the corner of 3rd and Birch streets (310 N. Birch St., Santa Ana.)

Please have dogs on leashes and cats in carriers if you plan to attend. Additional dates may be announced without prior notice. For more information, please visit <https://www.vetcarepetclinic.com/> or call Vet Care at (800) 988-8387.

Please contact the business directly
for updated hours and availability.



The Washington Square Neighborhood Newsletter is published quarterly by the Washington Square Neighborhood Association. WSNA is a non-profit mutual benefit community association established in 1985. Washington Square is an officially recognized neighborhood by the city of Santa Ana, California. The volunteer Newsletter Committee is looking for neighbors who want to contribute! If you have suggestions or story ideas, or know InDesign and want to help with layout, you can email us at newsletter@washington-square.org

Featured *NEIGHBOR*

Adventurer: Victor Gomez

After seeing a picture of Victor Gomez atop Mt. Kilimanjaro, it was decided that he would be a great candidate for our featured neighbor article, but, "Is one page really enough room to write about this amazing gentleman?"

Victor was born in Chula Vista and grew up in Gardena and Tijuana. He was a football player and wrestler in school and played the Alto Sax. Victor came to Washington Square when he and his wife purchased their first house in 2008, and eventually bought a rental property in the neighborhood in 2012. He was always interested in law enforcement and received his degree in Criminal Justice from SD State University. When he moved here, he was commuting to the San Diego County Public Defender's Office. Fortunately, he got a position in Santa Ana where he is a Criminal Defense Investigator for the federal court. His territory covers Orange County, the Inland Empire up to San Luis Obispo County. Though he is travelling a lot for work, at least it's not daily.

Traveling is one of Victor's passions. He has been to different countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa, as well as Israel, Palestine and Japan. 2016 took him to New Zealand, where he and his wife did a lot of hiking. The hiking experience and being in nature really set the stage for his mountain climbing expeditions. At the suggestion of Martin and Susie Van der Roest, Victor enrolled in the Sierra Club's Wilderness Travel Course. He learned map and compass navigation, snow camping, rock climbing and mountaineering. He was asked to become an instructor and he happily accepted the volunteer position. He has also taken advanced rock climbing and mountaineering courses.

Victor is able to explain the equipment, technology and maps that climbers use. It is extremely technical and precise. He has summited over 75 peaks including Mt. Whitney and Mt. Baldy here in CA, and he hopes to climb Shasta (CA), Denali (AK), Rainier (WA) and Aconcagua (Argentina). Last year he went to Tanzania to climb. The group made their way from the rain forest, to the moors, to the Alpine desert to Base Camp, and up the mountain. The trek to Kilimanjaro took seven days, in order to acclimate to the changing altitude. But Victor's adventure did not stop there. He went on safari, and then to Zanzibar where he learned scuba!

Victor is a multi-talented, adventurous spirit - a true renaissance man. He is very generous with his knowledge and willing to point an aspiring outdoors person in the right direction. In his "free" time, he enjoys cooking, reading and relaxing.

by Sarah Covarrubias



City Contact Information

Police Services West End Office	647-5062
Police (non-emergency)	834-4211
Police admin. business	245-8665
Police and Fire (Emergency)	911
Animal services (lost pets, barking)	245-8792
Code Enforcement	667-2780
Graffiti Hotline	877-786-7824
Obstructing Trees & Bushes	647-3380
Permit Parking (Frank Orellana)	647-5614
Permit Parking Complaints	245-8225
Potholes (Public Works)	647-3380
SAUSD School Police	558-5535
School Traffic Concerns	647-5619
Street Cleaning (Public Works)	647-3380
Street Lights (Edison)	800-655-4555
Street Lights (City)	647-3380
Traffic Engineering	647-5619
Traffic Signals	647-5620
Trash Pick Up (Waste Mgmt.)	558-7761
Tree Trimming	647-3380
Vector Control (County)	971-2421
Water Bill	647-5454
Wilson School	564-8100

All numbers (714) unless indicated otherwise

A more complete listing can be found on the WSNA website.

If you have a smartphone or a tablet, you'll want to download the free "My Santa Ana" app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. With it you can report graffiti, street light problems, potholes, tree issues, water wasting, etc as well as get phone #'s



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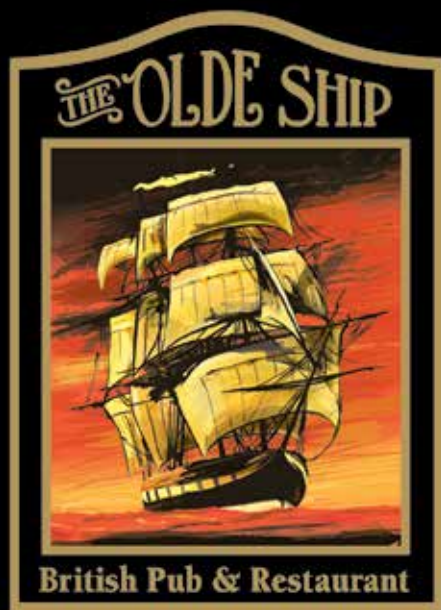
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White Zinfandel

\$4 Baskets of Chips or Basket of Onion Rings

\$6 Garlic Mushrooms

\$8 Fish Bites or Calamari

Whazzup?

in Downtown Santa Ana

What's going on in and around DTSA? -- By Sam Puzzo

COVID-19 Advisory: Business operations may be affected

Due to ongoing precautionary measures, please contact the business directly for updated hours and availability.

Restaurants:

- Perla has replaced Fleenors at 400 West 4th Street. Washington Square residents say it is very good upscale Mexican food and they recommend it highly.
- Gus's Fried Chicken has opened at 102 N. Sycamore at the corner of 1stth Street. The line has been too long to wait.
- Bird and Barrel has opened at 305 West 4th Street. They opened with the purpose of creating a family run, community driven establishment specializing in poultry-centric cuisine, focused on Asian fusion delicacies. Check out their website, birdandbarrel.com for details.
- Dos Chinos and VLVT Lounge are closed
- At 4th Street Market, there are new food booths, which I plan on visiting soon. Please let me know if you have been there.
 - Buqqa Mediterranean Grill lists itself as Authentic Halal Mediterranean grub. The menu looks very good. My Wife and I are big fan's of Zov's Mediterranean Restaurant in Tustin, and there is the Mediterranean Guys in the mall at Tustin and 17th St., but it is good to have a closer choice.
 - Faka's Island Grill is described as authentic and traditional flavors of the Hawaiian Islands, prepared with a modern approach and includes a spam dish. Their website is www.fakaislandgrill.com.
 - Naughty Panda is described as "Collaborative plant-based Asian fusion cuisine concept where foodies can indulge in vegan burgers, bowls, sushi rolls and more". Their website is www.myveganpanda.com.

Other Downtown News:

- The Streetcar project has fallen behind due to removal of contaminants but is still expected to be done as planned in Spring 2022.
- The Clean and Safe Program run by the police department continues to have results with a focus now on graffiti. They are actively chasing after taggers.
- The homeless have increased their presence in the parking garages. A program called Quality of Life program has begun, and any possessions picked up at illegal campsites are moved to a city yard for later pick up and people are taken to a shelter or ticketed if they refuse to go. The shelter in the DTSA location will continue to stay open indefinitely.
- The city continues with the 2 hour free parking initiative.
- The city is working to provide more lighting on Broadway and Main Street.
- Ryan Smolar reports they are working on a dining guide for DTSA and there are plans for a "Taco Tuesday Crawl", in the future after the success of the tamale event.

As always, lots happening, and since most of the events my wife and I had in March and April have been cancelled due to the coronavirus, we **hope** to get out and try more new food places soon.

Hope you all stay healthy.

Please let me know of places in Downtown Santa Ana or close by that you have enjoyed. My email is sampuzzo@gmail.com



Light it UP!!!

Hello neighbors!

Lights, lights, lights!

Step outside your home around 8pm and notice how dark the houses look on your street. My brother is a retired police officer and has told me many times that every break-in call took place at a home without porch lights, landscape lights, or even inside lights being on. FBI statistics support this too. They claim that neighborhoods having porch and/or landscape lights turned on decreases crime by 25%-39%. That's huge!

A very easy first step is to turn on your porch light with an LED light bulb. LED lights are inexpensive and have little to no impact on your energy bill, and they last for



many years. In addition, add a couple of solar powered LED motion sensor lights near your driveway.

If you want to add landscape lighting and budget is a concern, Amazon has some great solar LED lights that cost around \$10.00

instead of the \$30.00 hard wired type.

When we moved to Washington Square last year the first thing I did was add plug-in LED landscape lighting (\$500.00 for the front and \$500.00 for the backyard). If you have an electrical outlet on the front of your house, you're halfway there. I also added 2 solar powered LED



motion sensor lights near the driveway (\$40.00, 2 lights). If interested, I would be happy to have a 10-15 minute talk in front of my house to share some insights about landscape lighting. Please stop by our house at

1116 Westwood Avenue at night to see the impact of the lights and/ or **check out my post on the WSNA Facebook page for links to the products discussed.**



Please, let's pull together and improve an already fantastic neighborhood! Light this place up!!

Thank you!

Steve Widdoss / Washington Square Neighbor

Your WSNA Block Representatives

Area 1: Louise North of Washington	
Randy & Tracy Simons	(714) 423-0810
Area 2: Louise South of Washington	
Bobi Keenan	953-9516
Area 3: Baker North of Washington	
Laura Ruiz	568-1660
Area 4: Baker South of Washington	
John McGuinness	836-1971
Area 5: Rosewood	
Barbara Holmes	(619) 851-8123
Area 6: Westwood North of Washington	
Noe Vasquez	851-6767
Area 7: Westwood South of Washington	
Karen Blue Wevers	(949) 295-4979
Area 8: 16th/Towner North of 15th	
Gil Melendez	542-3398
Area 9: Towner North of Washington	
Russ Bartlett	564-9080
Area 10: Towner South of Washington	
Ivy Poggi	(925) 354-2214
Area 11: Freeman North of Washington	
Margaret Klase	972-8951
Area 12: Freeman South of Washington	
Jason & Elise Athas	270-4654
Area 13: Lowell South of Washington	
Carina Franck-Pantone	675-3653
Area 14: Bomo Koral	
Juan Miramontes	309-6491
Area 18: Washington St.	
Kurt & Jen Preston	547-4895
Area 19: 10th between Westwood and Baker	
Cheryl Yarnall	542-7512
Area 20: Flower St. between Wash. and 15th	
Dellah Mendez	725-6357
Area 21: Flower St. between 10th and Wash	
Maco Long	(949) 387-4446
Area 22: Flower St. between Civic Center and 10th	
Jose Palcacios	835-0980

All numbers are 714 unless otherwise indicated

Sarah's Neighborhood *NEWS*

Homes for Sale	beds	baths	Sq. Ft.	list/sold price	DOM*	Sale Type
1426 N. Olive	2	1	1520	\$ 675,000.00	28	Standard
910 N. Flower St	3	2	1434	\$ 585,000.00	87	Standard
1324 Louise St	4	2	1951	\$ 675,000.00	4	Standard
Homes in Escrow						
1116 N. Olive	2	2	937	\$ 625,000.00	40	Standard
Welcome to Our New Neighbors						
1302 N. Flower	2	1	1264	\$ 475,000.00	228	Standard
1517 N. Baker	3	2	1577	\$ 699,400.00	43	Flip

**THE ABOVE SOLD STATISTICS ARE FOR THE TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH MARCH 28, 2020
COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AND COUNTY
RECORDER'S OFFICE.**

**DAYS ON THE MARKET*

Many of you have been thinking of buying a new home or selling your home this spring, and are probably wondering if you will get a good price, or if you will be able to afford to purchase something. I wish I could provide you with solid answers. Here is what I know right now (March 29, 2020): Even in this time of uncertainty homes are still selling and some with multiple offers. There is a demand for homes because of the low inventory.

Interest rates are low and hovering around 3.75% to 4.25%. The Federal Rates have lowered for short term loans, but that has not really affected mortgages. There are some types of loans that have completely halted. Things keep changing.

Yesterday, the CISA (Homeland Security) included conducting real estate transactions as an essential business, but it is not business as usual. In order to keep the public safe, the California Association of Realtors does not want open houses or any situation where the public can gather. For those people who must physically see inside a home, it is being done with booties, gloves and Clorox wipes. It is really the twilight zone, but people still need to sell and buy, and we are taking every precaution to keep you safe while doing so.

If you want or need to sell now, please contact me—I am happy to have a conversation and provide you with sound, confidential advice. If you want to sell later this year, now is a great time to plant flowers, veggies, fix up your yard, and maybe do some spring cleaning inside your home and garage. Perhaps the silver lining to these trying times: we have more time now to do the things we have put off.

What a joy seeing many of you out and about walking/jogging alone, with your families, children and doggies. I am sending you all a big "air hug." Hope to be able to give you a real hug or handshake soon. Stay safe and healthy!



Sarah Covarrubias

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Alan Anderson AWARD.....continued from page 1

Cristina came to the U.S. from Romania in 1992, is a nurse practitioner and works at the Santa Ana and Theo Lacy Jails. In 2011, she was looking for a safe, stable neighborhood, close enough to walk or bike to work, a place to have chickens and bees, and to build a beautiful garden that could feed body and soul. She found it on the corner of 10th and Westwood. Washington Square residents are familiar with her because she has long been very active in our neighborhood association.

The house was built in 1954 and she wanted to keep the mid-century character of it intact. It has beautiful hardwood floors which were refinished last year. The kitchen has the original pale yellow ceramic tile counters, which they both really like. Cristina refinished the cabinets and chose a bold Tuscan yellow for the walls. Over two summers, she refurbished the 15 wood windows in the house, opting for “upkeep” over “update” to maintain the integrity of the home.



But it was the vision of a garden that drew her. Being a corner lot, there is a lot of space. Cristina is a very energetic woman and right away removed the lawn surrounding the house. She worked every inch of the dirt between her hands, to remove the roots and aerate the soil. Then she started planting... beautiful things that flower and nutritious things to eat.



Most of the plants are drought tolerant, and many are native to this area. In the spring, the yard all around the house is a riot of both common and unique flowers and colorful foliage. A path of decomposed granite wanders through the garden, and a drip irrigation system ensures the plants get just the right amount of water, with no waste or run-off.



“I love just walking out the door and getting something delicious to eat”, she says. There are lemon, lime, kumquat, loquat and tangerine trees... guava, persimmon, peach, apple and pomegranate trees, and grapes. There are raised garden beds tucked away in a side patio area where several varieties of lettuce, tomatoes and vegetables grow. No other place in the Square has such an eclectic array of plants.

Additionally, a chicken provides the freshest of eggs. They kept bees for several years, which unfortunately have not survived, but there are still many, many bees, and butterflies too, which constantly visit the abundant flowers surrounding their home. Christina uses no herbicides or pesticides, so every time she goes out the door, she pulls a few

weeds to keep them in check and picks off any bugs that damage the plants. It looks like she is winning.

Cristina has a love of, and a reverence for, nature’s beauty. She puts each plant in the ground with a prayer to Mother Nature: “Take and nourish and cherish this plant; make it grow to celebrate your creation.”

Mother Nature has been answering her prayers.

The Square is Going to the *DOGS*

4 Girls, 3 Cats, 2 Dogs and 1 Hamster!

The Nelsons, Jana and Marcus, and their four daughters are a very busy family who have lived in Washington Square for 8 ½ years. Jana is a stay-at-home mom whose daughters are involved in gymnastics and soccer. Marcus, is a middle-school teacher in South Los Angeles.

The Nelsons are a big pet family. Seven years-ago they adopted Herman from the OC Shelter. They were told he was a mixed breed, but the first trip to the veterinarian proved that Herman was, indeed, a pure-bred PBGV (Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen), a small French hunting breed known for their vivacious personalities and big barks in small bodies. Herman was four when he joined the family and Leia, now seven, also came from the shelter on the day Carrie Fisher died. Leia was a 6-8 weeks old pug-



continued on page 11



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Website David Jirik	543-9079
Ad Manager Martin van der Roest	834-1200
Trees Susan van der Roest	319-4457

unless otherwise noted, all area codes are 714

DOGS.....continued from page 9



maltese mix.

Jana, who grew up with dogs, said Herman bonded with them immediately and was great with their then two daughters, ages 4 and 2.

Now, Herman sleeps with the oldest daughter.

The Nelsons also have three cats: two sisters, Georgie and Delilah, and an offspring of the sisters, Cocoa Fluff-ers. The animal family is rounded out by Billy, a guinea pig.

I was privileged to meet and spend some time with the Nelsons and their pets (except Cocoa Fluffers). I enjoyed the time with the Nelsons and yes, I underwent the "sniff inspection" from my dogs when I got home.

by Pat Lenahan

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