



Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood. April 2023

Washington Square *NEWS*



When Scott Ary bought his house at 908 N. Baker St. in 2016, little could this old house envision what was in store for it. Scott, along with Melissa Orellana, started on this fixer upper by renovating its interior. Not liking the inexpensive paneling in the living room, they decided to remove it only to find the cut-outs of two former windows.

After the installation of two new windows to let the sun in, they began dreaming about the exterior of the house. Then there was new exterior paint and a new roof. They each discovered green thumbs when they installed a new lawn, roses, and a pigmy palm, which welcome guests to the front porch. After receiving plumeria cuttings from a neighbor up the street, they now bloom and stand out against the soft gray paint of the house.

The front yard is so nicely attended and manicured we couldn't resist looking at the large park-like backyard where Scott and Melissa grow their own vegetables from seeds. The seeds are started in two hot houses and then transferred to their raised planter beds. This spring and summer they will be well supplied with lettuce, melon, squash, and fruit. Their most interesting fruit is the dragon fruit hanging from Scott's custom-built trellises. A pre-existing circular cut out in the cement patio was where Scott and Melissa built a bubbling water element which provides a soothing sound and has changing colored lights at night.

Scott has a 3-D printer and has made planting pots, yard figurines, name tags for the different plants, and the vertical hydroponic planters. The latter grows different vegetables with a circulating enriched water.

There's not much Scott, who is a commercial banker, and Melissa, who is in real estate, can't do once they put their minds to it. They are worthy of receiving The Alan Anderson Award this spring by displaying their pride in their Washington Square home.

Spring 2023

Alan Anderson Award

908 N. Baker Street

Scott Ary & Melissa Orellana

By AAA Committee



Around the *NEIGHBORHOOD*

WSNA SPRING GENERAL MEETING



**Where: Heroes School,
Multi-Purpose Room**
When: Thursday, 4.13
Time: 7pm - 9pm

Spring General Meeting Speakers and Topics

1. Orange County Fire Authority will present on Safety in the Home.
2. City of Santa Ana Public Works Department will present about the new park being installed at the southeast corner of 10th and Flower – right in WSNA!
3. Orange Country Transit Authority will provide an update on the streetcar construction.

WSNA 2023 *DATES!*

| | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Neighborhood Cleanup | 4.15.23 | Saturday |
| Spring Wine Garden | 5.20.23 | Saturday |
| Movie Night | 8.26.23 | Saturday |
| Chili Cook Off | 9.16.23 | Saturday |
| Oktoberfest | 10.14.23 | Saturday |
| Holiday Party | 12.10.23 | Saturday |

Neighborhood Cleanup

The 2023 Neighborhood Cleanup will be held on:

- Saturday, April 15
- 9am
- Meet in front of the home of:

Mike and Susie Maguire
919 N. Lowell Street

Wear your yard working clothes and bring gloves. Join your neighbors in sprucing up a home in need.



A Word from our Vice *PRESIDENT!*

Washington Square is a very, very special place. What makes this place so special is the people. I know the last three years have been hard on all of us. With great pride I watched neighbors helping neighbors during this time.



And we will continue to do so. In the neighborhood this year, our WSNA board will have two vice presidents instead of one president. My name is Carol Frank, and I get to share this position with the lovely Nina Jirik. A little about me: I am second generation in my home which I share with my husband Sam Puzzo and four cats. If you've ever attended our neighborhood movie night, we are the house with the hot dogs. Both my husband and I love to entertain which we do often. I collect cookbooks, love gardening and have a studio in the house where I design beaded jewelry. We are also very active with the Orange County Wine Society. Both of us have been directors and have run major events. I also teach wine and cheese seminars for the Orange County Fair each year for the Society.

Dumpster day was a big success! Thank you to all the homeowners who donated their time and their front yards. Progressive dinner will have come and gone by the time this newsletter goes to print. Happily, it didn't rain!!! Thank you to all the homeowners who shared their yards with us, and all the folks who helped with set up and tear down. A big thank you to Javier Garcia for spearheading this event. This year we will try something new with the wine walk. We will not be walking. We will be at one house for the whole event. Tickets always sell out fast, so sign up as soon as they go on sale.

To have events like the ones noted above requires volunteers. By volunteering you are investing in your neighborhood. If you have volunteered before and did not have fun, please give us another try. We can work to be better.

I would like to give a shout out to Susan Van Der Roest and Tom Lutz. Both go way beyond the normal. I call them guardians of the neighborhood. Be sure to say thank you the next time you see them in the neighborhood, checking on our trees, greeting new neighbors, taking care of the trash cans issues, making sure the city has signs up for traffic control when the stadium has an event, reporting graffiti and all of the other wonderful things that they do.

Carol Frank

MARY LOU HEARD MEMORIAL GARDEN TOUR

May 6th & 7th, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM



The self-guided Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour offers "Real Gardens for Real People." This is the twenty-second year and has over forty gardens on tour, from Long Beach to San Clemente, and Washington Square is proud to have three gardens participating. The tour is free (donations are accepted at the homes for the Sheepford Women and Childrens Center) as well to support the next year's tour. The proud Washington Square Gardens on display are located at 1310 N. Louise St., 925 N. Lowell St., and 1110 W. 16th St. Come and see these beautiful gardens. Visit Heardsgardentour.com for information and a list of all gardens.

Santa ANA

Save the Date - Free Family Community Event

To kick off National Public Works Week in May, the City of Santa Ana Public Works Agency invites you, your family and friends to a **free** community event on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Walnut Water Pump Station located at 723 W. Walnut Street. There will be free tacos for the first 500 guests, prizes, tours of the state-of-the-art water pump station, a water pipe connection competition, various Public Works exhibits and large equipment displays, including exhibits from the Neighborhood Initiative and Environmental Services team, Santa Ana Library, Police Department, and Orange County Fire Authority. Plus captivating musical performances by student groups from Santa Ana High School.

Free event parking is available in the lot at Flower Street and Pine Street. For more information, contact Michelle Micallef at mmicallef@santa-ana.org or 714-647-5091.



2022 Public Works Event

Now Enrolling 2 year olds

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Can't wait to hear from you again!

Our NEIGHBOR....

Love and the Liquor Store

Spring is upon us! Why not stay indoors and play some games? In 1980 just down the street from my house on the corner of Euclid and Edinger was the coolest shopping center in the world. It held Perry's Pizza, Alpha Beta and the liquor store owned by the first Asian Americans I ever knew. Not many 8-year-olds can say this, but that liquor store was my favorite place in the world. It was the "outback" to me. It was the epitome of wonder. It was a quixotic destination for a child because it held the Holy Grail... PAC MAN.

I recall my father driving me to this liquor store when it was first released. It was a special trip just to play a video game. I remember standing in the corner (just a quick left as you entered the store). It was always a little musty in there, wood paneling on the walls, candy displayed as brightly as the cigarettes. I could barely see over the console and my dad stood behind me, watching patiently. I don't remember how I played, if I passed a level, ate a power pellet or swallowed a ghost, but I remember how excited I was. I remember the feeling of being transported to a different place, being gifted powers and purpose. I fell in love with video games that day.

I didn't know I was a "gamer" then. I was just a kid who liked games. Come to find out... that's the definition. Gamers have gotten a bad rap in the last forty years. The word "gamer" evokes images of an overweight youth sitting on a couch, barking orders into a headset with soda cans and empty Dorito bags strewn about. There are healthy kids with glowing skin standing at the front door asking his mother if he can come out to play. Sadly... NO. He's busy wasting his life on a video game.



I have owned a video game system since pong was released at Sears and Roebuck in 1975. I own one today and

I played games last night. I graduated from college. I have a great job. I have friends and family that I love, I'm married to a beautiful, funny, smart girl (granted she does hate my video games), and I am a father obsessed with the most interesting little girl I have ever met. I turned out ok. I don't love video games. I love what they offer me: brief moments to be a champion, to conquer evil, to save the day. I lose but it's not the end. I get another chance. In truth you can't lose; you can only start over. Despite the odds I overcome sometimes. Often, I do better than I thought. I win.

Let me tell you this much... I plan to take my daughter to the liquor store. I hope she falls in love with that place. I know where I'll be. I'll be standing behind her, patiently watching. I didn't see my father's face that day. I have no memory of it. But I am sure he was smiling; watching me discover something I love.

Thanks for taking me to the liquor store, Dad.

Alton Hitchcock

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Downtown Downtown

Much has been going on in Downtown Santa Ana and some of it is sad. We have seen Michelin recognized Mix Mix close and move to South Coast Plaza as Populaire. Much to my wife and my personal regret was the closing of Electric City Butcher (still open in Claremont as Graze and Gather). Also ending business is the entire Downtown Association I have referenced regularly in my Downtown report. You can read about it in the Voice of OC. The website is voiceofoc.org. In the future I will rely on other sources for what is happening in OC. A Santa Ana magazine named Cultura publishes lists of upcoming events. A recent issue reports the events listed below. Check the City of Santa Ana recreation website for details <https://www.santa-ana.org/city-events/>.

- On April 21 and 22 there will be a 5K/10K Fun Run and Fit Fest at Santa Ana Stadium at Civic Center and Flower.
- April 29 at Santa Ana Library is the 15th Annual Dia de los Ninos, Día de los Libros from 10:30 to 2:00
- Starting June 2 summer movies will rotate in different parks.
- On June 17 is the Juneteenth Festival in Centennial Park.
- The Santa Ana Library is undergoing significant renovations, but many activities continue to run. Please check their website <https://www.santa-ana.org/departments/library>

My wife and I enjoy restaurant week in OC and try to support Santa Ana establishments. We give a big shout out to Benchmark in general and their brunch in particular. They have a newly covered section on the patio. We also always enjoy Chapter One during restaurant week. For a nonevent pleasure we went to Tuk Tuk Thai Street Food in 4th Street Market. I have not had a lot of Thai food, but we were very impressed with their food and we highly recommended. Also in 4th Street Market is a place new to me, Gina's Crepes & Waffles. They proudly serve freshly made crêpes, waffles, açai bowls, smoothies and more. First a food truck, Gina's has grown to become a local favorite and has expanded their offerings within the DTSA venue. At Gina's, guests will experience a diverse menu, great quality, and good vibes.



Please keep me informed of discoveries, events, and news of Downtown. I will be relying on neighbors for updates in the newsletter more than ever.

Special note: on May 6 and 7 is the long-established Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour. There will be three homes from Washington Square featured so try to stop by. The Heard Tour is for gardeners, wanna be gardeners or garden lovers. Check their Web site at <https://heardsgardentour.com/>.

Washington Square Neighborhood Association *MISSION STATEMENT*

The Washington Square Neighborhood Association is an organization working to foster a sense of community by promoting public awareness, developing an appreciation of the historical significance of our homes, bridging the cultural, generational, and economic diversity of our residents and bringing about communication between the community, local businesses and city officials.

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

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Residents' *BUSINESSES*

| Business Name | First | Last | Phone |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Accounting/Tax Prep. | Alex | Schneider | (714) 364-5173 |
| Arbonne Consultant | Gloria | Chavez | (714) 280-5723 |
| Attorney, Business Specialist | Ashley | Bolduc | (949) 852-1800 |
| Audio-Video Production | David | Jirik | (714) 337-0732 |
| Avon Representative | Maria | Guzman | (714) 904-1973 |
| Babysitting | Leila | Rodriguez | (714) 727-8313 |
| Computer Specialist | Randy | Simons | (714) 423-0810 |
| Decorative Ironwork | Marco | Coronado | (714) 852-1363 |
| Editor | Maureen | Tiritilli | (714) 309-2229 |
| Farmers Insurance | Gonzalo | Guzman | (714) 669-3930 |
| Flooring and Floor Repairs | Tuzos | Flooring | (714) 720-7793 |
| Graphics and Signage | Kirsten | Sketch | (714) 721-8795 |
| Heating and Cooling | Adam | Garcia | (714) 263-6443 |
| Insurance Agent | Albert | Durazo | (657) 667-0225 |
| Landscape Maintenance | Rick | Mora | (714) 721-3897 |
| Mortgages/Loan Officer | Victor | Gallardo | (714) 697-7564 |
| Natural Healing Center | Renee | Ascencio | (714) 697-0644 |
| Notary/Loan Signing Agent | Bob | Bolton | (714) 925-8226 |
| Origami Owl Ind. Design | Jennifer | Begen | (714) 606-0830 |
| Painter | Eric | Torres | (714) 292-4038 |
| Personal Injury Attorney | Moses | Yneges | (714) 591-0661 |
| Prayer - FREE! * Pastor Ben * | Ben | Wevers | (949) 295-4980 |
| Professional Photographer | Ricardo | Barrera | (714) 715-1747 |
| Realtor | Christina | Hernandez | (626) 221-6870 |
| Realtor | Sarah | Covarrubias | (714) 928-1303 |
| Realtor | Alton | Hitchcock | (714) 775-0779 |
| Realtor/Rodan & Fields | Christina | Moreno | (714) 425-2311 |
| Trash Bin Cleaning | Noah | | (714) 717-1079 |
| Wedding Planner | Christine | Wilson | (714) 337-2903 |
| Window Coverings | Krystal | Wallinger | (714) 632-7744 |
| Wine Club/Skin Care | Yolanda | Valdivia | (714) 317-4152 |

Where to Find Stuff

WSNA your non-profit neighborhood association is CELEBRATING 37 years strong!!

Are you missing some information usually included in this newsletter? Check out The Washington Square website at <http://www.washington-square.org> for these and more:

City Contacts
Block Representatives
Photos from prior events



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Our Mission

Celebrating that which unifies us and that which makes us unique, we are intentionally building an intercultural, intergenerational community of faith in Jesus Christ that cares for, and serves, one another and our city.

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AT 6PM

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SEVEN GABLES

REAL ESTATE

WOW! This is a **FIRST**—nothing for sale or in escrow currently in Washington Square, with only two closed sales in three months!! Countywide, this is the second lowest inventory since 2019. It is a sellers' market, with nicely presented houses selling at amazing prices. If you are thinking of selling, contact me to brainstorm if this is the right time to sell or how you can prepare your home for sale.

| | Beds | Baths | Sq. Ft. | List/Sold price | DOM | Sale Type |
|--|------|-------|---------|-----------------|-----|-----------|
| Homes for Sale/Lease | | | | | | |
| 1122 Freeman-lease | 5 | 3 | 2350 | \$ 4,080.00 | 8 | |
| Meet Our New Neighbors !!! | | | | | | |
| 1028 N. Olive | 3 | 2 | 1372 | \$ 855,000.00 | 34 | Standard |
| 1104 N. Flower | 3 | 1 | 1448 | \$ 635,000.00 | 73 | Standard |
| THE ABOVE SOLD STATISTICS ARE FOR THE TIME DECEMBER 23, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 18, 2023 | | | | | | |
| COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AND COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE. | | | | | | |
| *DAYS ON THE MARKET | | | | | | |



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2023 Progressive *DINNER!!*

Saturday, March 25, 2023, saw the return of another WSNA Progressive Dinner. Forty plus neighbors of all ages gathered for the annual tradition of sharing three courses in three different homes in our delightful neighborhood. The festivities began on Lowell Street at Beth and Kelly Thomas's home. Beth remarked that she was delighted to be able to host part of the Progressive Dinner again after five years as it gave them a great motivation to finish up some projects. The golden hour light was a perfect backdrop for people to sip glasses of wine and munch on handheld bites of bruschetta or a twist on the classic caprese with tomatoes, mozzarella, and cucumbers. Next, we headed to Towner to Kyle Walker's home for the entrées. Her backyard positively glowed with strings of cafe lights and the warm chatter of new friends and old enjoying all sorts of salads, meats, sandwiches, and other tasty sides. The final leg of our tasty adventure took us to Louise to Valerie Boulter and Bob Bolton's home. There were sweet treats galore from individual panna cottas to a berry cobbler to a show stopping chocolate cake made by the hostess herself! All attendees are eagerly looking forward to next year's festivities.



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The Square is Getting *YUMMY!!*

Mom's Easy No-Bake Strawberry Pie

By Julie Seyler

This is an easy, no-bake dessert to make when fresh strawberries are at their peak of flavor. One bite of this pillow of pink fluff encased in its graham cracker crust brings me back to my childhood growing up in Anaheim. With an April birthday, smack-dab in the middle of strawberry season, this was the pie I begged Mom to make every year to celebrate. She would whip up a double-batch in a 13" x 9" pan to feed our large family and spell out "Happy Birthday" in strawberries across the top. This is the perfect pie to make for an Easter celebration, capturing the essence of Spring as well as an ideal dessert option for Summer barbeques since it doesn't require turning on an oven or burner.

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs (about 11 graham crackers)
- 7 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 8 oz. mini marshmallows
- ¼ cup whole or 2% milk
- 4 cups (about 1 ½ lbs.) cleaned, hulled, and thickly sliced strawberries
- 2 cups (1 pint) heavy whipping cream

Directions

1. Combine graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press along bottom and sides of a 9" pie plate. Set aside.
2. In a large microwave-safe bowl, melt mini marshmallows and milk in the microwave for approximately 2 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until marshmallows are completely melted.
3. While marshmallow mixture cools slightly, whip heavy cream until stiff peaks form.
4. Stir sliced strawberries into marshmallow mixture. Fold in whipped cream in four additions. Spoon filling into crust until heaping full. Chill for at least 4 hours before enjoying.

Check out more recipes at my irreverent blog TwoBitTart.com





Proud **Washington Square Resident**

Representing Washington Square residents for over 20 years

I am passionate about my profession and the clients whose properties I am entrusted to represent. When you hire me to assist you in the sale or purchase of your home, you're not only benefiting from my local knowledge & experience, but from the support services provided by my expert team.

I cherish my neighbors who make up this wonderful community steeped in history, beautiful homes and gardens. As a proud resident, it would be my pleasure to work with you!



SARAH COVARRUBIAS
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