



Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood. July 2023

Washington Square *NEWS*

City of Santa Ana Most Beautiful Yard Award!

For those of you who enter the neighborhood from Civic Center toward Freeman, you may have noticed a small Spanish style house at 811 Freeman Street that always has colorful flowers in front. The home belongs to Ignacio and Irene Velazquez.

Ignacio has worked in landscaping most of his life. He was born in Michoacan, Mexico, in a small ranch town where he enjoyed being outdoors and learned to appreciate the beauty of nature. At twelve years old, he moved to the big city, where he eventually met Irene. In 1985, the newlyweds moved to Santa Ana, and (with Ignacio's brother Martin) were able to purchase the house in 1989. (Martin has since moved to Pomona.)

They raised their four children here: Nadia, Eduardo, Denise and Christian, who all went to neighborhood schools - Wilson, Willard, Mendez, Santa Ana High, and Santa Ana College. Ignacio and Irene were working parents and, fortunately, Ignacio's mother, as well as a good friend and neighbor on Towner, helped them with the children.

Irene now works in the home and helps care for her father and grandchildren. Ignacio works for the Pomona School District in landscaping - installing and repairing irrigation systems. On Fridays and weekends, he maintains the yards of some homes in Washington Square and in other areas of OC.

Irene **loves** flowers! On special occasions like birthdays and Mother's Day, she asks Ignacio to plant new fresh flowers in her yard.

Congratulations to Ignacio and Irene Velazquez for this well-deserved award!

by Sarah Covarubbias



Around the *NEIGHBORHOOD*

WSNA SUMMER GENERAL MEETING



**Where: Heroes School,
Multi-Purpose Room**
When: Thursday, 7.13
Time: 7pm - 9pm

SUMMER General Meeting Speakers and Topics

1. **David Evans & Associates, and Suzi Furjanic** will provide an update on the 10th St. park and will present a first concept plan.
2. **Wendy Haase and team of Travel Santa Ana** will speak of their great resource for discovering what's happening in the city; they curate public Santa Ana events that are of interest to visitors from DTSA, Bowers Museum, Zoo, MainPlace Mall, and more <https://www.travelsantaana.com/events/>
3. **Logan Crow from The Frida Cinema, a downtown favorite and OC's only non-profit theater**, will discuss the old movies they specialize in and how the Frida has taken the reins of organizing the monthly art walk which occurs the 1st Saturday of each month in downtown Santa Ana, since the dissolution of the Santa Ana Downtown Business District.

WSNA 2023 DATES!

WSNA Events

Movie Night	8.26.23	Saturday
Chili Cook Off	9.16.23	Saturday
Oktoberfest	10.14.23	Saturday
Holiday Party	12.10.23	Saturday

General Meetings

	7.13.23	
	10.12.23	
	1.11.24	

Spring Wine Garden



A Word from our Co-Vice *PRESIDENT!*



Happy (hopefully) Temperate Summer!

I am Nina Jirik, your Co-Vice President, and I would like to discuss an exciting opportunity for Washington Square with you: A neighborhood park!

We would like the City of Santa Ana to purchase the property north of 15th Street, between Olive and Lowell Streets, for the purpose of creating a park. Did you know that Santa Ana has only 1.1 acres of parks per one thousand residents? It is the City's goal to increase that amount to three acres soon. As you can imagine, many neighborhoods are competing for park space. Initial discussions for our park have taken place with the property owner, and the City will consider the purchase if the neighborhood is fully supportive. There would be no cost to us. WSNA will circulate a petition, which will be available at the next General Meeting on Thursday, July 13th. Volunteers will also canvass the neighborhood to collect signatures to show the City our support for the project.



Previously, developers considered apartments or modular housing, undesirable options for the property in our neighborhood. One advantage of the city purchasing this land is that the property will not be developed, and will be designated as open space, like the potential park at 10th and Flower Streets. Once it is designated an open space, WSNA will be able to provide ideas for park amenities. Imagine a dog park, playground equipment for our children, benches, and even a meeting space for our general meetings! It would be a walkable park, only accessible from within our neighborhood, with no parking

lot. Security would be provided 24/7 by the City's new park patrol service. WSNA is working hard to get the project on the agenda at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

At our upcoming General Meeting on July 13th, we will have an update on the design of the park at Flower and 10th Street. This is an excellent time to see how the process works to purchase land and obtain the open space designation, and more. Please attend and ask your questions!

If you would like to get involved in this project or any other activities in the neighborhood, please contact me at nina.jirik@washington-square.org.

WSNA *Membership*



Spring
Wine Garden

Washington Square Neighborhood Association (WSNA) Membership

When you bought your home in Washington Square perhaps you didn't know what a great neighborhood it is and all the activities and services available because of our Washington Square Neighborhood Association. Our association is completely voluntary!! Membership donations help to offset the expense of WSNA activities such as: our quarterly newsletter, dog depot supplies (about 42,000 bags were bought last year!), seasonal decorations at the entries to Washington Avenue, the highly anticipated wine walk and the chili cook-off, family summer movie night, Santa event for the kids, and more! If you are not already a member, please consider a donation. You can read more at ... <http://www.washington-square.org/Membership.htm>.

The 14th Annual Free WSNA Movie Night

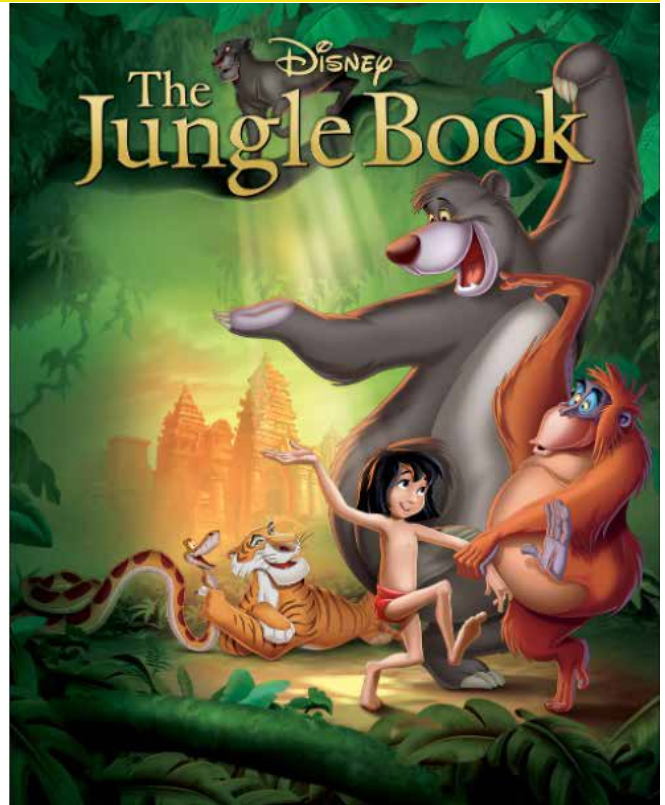
This year, it's a flashback to 1967 with "The Jungle Book." As always there will be free popcorn, candy and water, plus fresh-grilled hot dogs for a buck. Special for this year is cotton candy! We'll have chairs but you're welcome to bring your own. Nights can get chilly so check the weather and bring sweaters and blankets. Everyone is welcome, it's a fun movie for kids and nostalgic adults!

Where: Cul-de-sac on 16th Street west of Towner

When: Saturday August 26th 7:30-8:15 pm hot dogs & snacks.

"The Jungle Book" is one of Disney's classics, with great characters, an awesome story and terrific music and animation. Join Mowgli, Baloo, King Louie and Bagheera for a fun night outdoors in the cul de sac on the 26th.

Movie Starts about 8:15 pm



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Can't wait to hear from you again!

Alton tells a TALE!



Hot spring. Not a hot pool of water emanating from the earth, but the season spring... only hotter. That's what we have now. And as we enter hot spring be aware that even hotter summer is right behind. With the warmer weather comes more outdoor activities and trips. Just be careful out there Washington Square.

Carnival rides are dangerous. I don't know if that's true but it feels right to me. Look at the guys who put you on these rides. They don't appear to be the pinnacle of safety and good decisions. None the less... I ride them, bad decisions that feel good.

In early 2007 my friend Jason and I headed to Orlando for work. With an afternoon to kill we decided to drive International Blvd. This is the main drag in the area surrounding Disney World. There's a lot to do here. Dining and shopping is everywhere along with some mini-golf courses and the occasional bar. After dinner and a couple beers we passed by something that couldn't be refused... THE SLINGSHOT.

The Slingshot is just what it sounds like, a giant slingshot. Two enormous towers are erected next to each other. Between them is a capsule with what appears to be giant bungee cords attached to each end that are attached to the tops of the tower. You are then strapped into the capsule with a harness and then it is stretched and released. According to the makers of The Slingshot you will be propelled more than 150 meters high at over 160 kilometers an hour. I have no idea what that means but take my word for it... that's really high and really fast. The website literally says at the bottom "No Lasting Side Effects". This is not true. If you mess your pants at this speed and height you will never be the same.

Jason and I boarded this contraption with the simple intention of having a thrill. It was easy enough at first, the simple exhilaration of a climbing roller coaster building in my stomach. We sat looking up at the towers in the night sky clear, stars winking at us as if already aware of the outcome. The sounds of Orlando faded into the background of white noise as the machine lowered us into the earth (a hole designed to allow the capsule the distance it needed to propel you into the sky). I remember a click. That was all I heard. My vision blurred after that and everything was completely silent... for a moment. When my vision cleared sound exploded in my head. It was a mixture of two women's screams, Jason's and mine. They don't tell you that this machine will hurl obscenities out of you like a drunken sailor, but it will. They also don't tell you that the capsule rotates as it flies so you are never really right side up. I found that after the initial climb we headed back to earth... face first. I was beyond scared. Millions of thoughts raced through my head about steel fractures and elasticity limits. Then as if hidden beneath my fear... laughter erupted. Laughter forced its way out of both of us. We bounced around 100ish meters from the earth laughing like two schoolgirls. It was awesome.

Behind our blinding fear was laughter. Had I tasted the fear all by itself I would have opted for another beer, but would not have known that exhilaration and joy. I would have missed a story to share with my great friend. I'm sorry for screaming those obscenities at you Jason, but seriously... let's do it again.

As you prep for warm weather I hope to see you outside having fun, but since this is a family neighborhood let's limit the amount of profanity that we use.

by Alton Hitchcock



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Our Neighbor, Ben Wevers!!



Being on the Washington Square Newsletter staff has its benefits. Along with great food at our neighborhood events, we get to interview our neighborhood celebrities. The other night we had Ben and Karen Wevers over for dinner. Rev. Dr. Ben Wevers is an Ordained Nondenominational Christian Pastor, a semi-professional drummer, and has worked as an Administrative Specialist at the UCI School of Medicine for the past 25 years. Yeeow!

Born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Holland) of Dutch and Indonesian parents, the family immigrated to the US in 1962, landing in Toledo, Ohio. Ben's father always wanted to live in California but didn't make it. Two and a half decades later, Ben arrived in California, and met his future wife Karen Blue at a Bible study 23 years ago! The Wevers discovered Washington Square in 2007 while Karen was teaching elementary school in Santa Ana. They fell in love with this neighborhood and moved in later that year. Two years after that, Karen began teaching at WSNA's own Wilson Elementary School. She is extremely popular there and has taught many of the children in Washington Square (and throughout the city of Santa Ana). It is hard for Karen to go anywhere and not hear a previous or current student yell, "Hi, Miss Blue (or) Hi, Mrs. Wevers!"



Playing drums since he was 12 years old, Ben describes his early drumming as "self-taught", benefiting from the type of education where "everybody teaches you". Because California has a multitude of excellent musicians where the competition can be tough, Ben decided to put his drum sticks down for a little while and started taking classes in law enforcement. Then a friend from class told him that he needed to start playing drums again.

Realizing he needed to up his musical game Ben prayed for the right teacher. At one of the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) annual conventions in Anaheim, renowned drummer Jim Chapin saw Ben playing drums and invited him to attend Chapin's one night Master Class at PIT (Percussion Institute of Technology) in LA. It was at this event that Ben met Ralph Johnson, who was in a band called Earth Wind and Fire. Wait, what!??? Yeah, that Earth Wind and Fire. Ben studied jazz, funk and sightreading with Ralph for the next three years. During that time Ben also studied Jazz Big Band drumming with Ed Shaughnessy, the drummer for the Tonight Show during the Johnny Carson years.

Locally, Ben played drums several semesters in the Jazz Big Bands of Irvine Valley College (IVC) and Orange Coast Community College (OCC). During this time, he also played drums for the Musical Theater Academy of Orange County, the Gem Theater, and the Rose Center Theater. He continues to play in various bands, as well as freelancing as a sub drummer for local combos, recently playing seven different gigs with seven different bands in 21 days. Currently Ben plays in worship bands, a classic jazz trio, a 60s rock band, a country band and his own group, The Ben Wevers Smooth Jazz Quartet which played for us recently at the WSNA Spring Wine Garden. I think we have covered about six different musical genres so far, wow. That's a lot of gigs! Fortunately, Karen is always there supporting Ben and the bands, helping set up and break down equipment for the performances.

Ben describes his teachers and fellow musicians as, "Cats." I'm square, but I have a feeling this term is reserved for the coolest of people. Ben is a very cool Cat in my book (and I didn't even get to write about his rescue cats)! WSNA is a truly special place to live, and neighbors like Ben and Karen make it more so. Who knew Washington Square was so cool?

by Mike Maquire

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
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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



First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana

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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Join our Facebook group: "Washington Square Neighborhood Association" We have 844 members!



Sarah's Real Estate *REPORT*

Look at the incredible home values in our neighborhood! The asking prices are over \$900 thousand for a typical three-bedroom two bath home. Note the "days on market" are less than two weeks before going under contract. With the rapid rise of interest rates, I was concerned that housing prices were going to drop. It "sort of" happened for about three months, as people adjusted to the new rates, but prices are now at an all-time high in Orange County.

Here are interesting facts (as of June 25):

- There are sixty-eight properties for sale in Santa Ana
 - twenty-one condos
 - Forty-seven houses.
- There are twenty-three properties for sale in the 92703 and 92706 zips (Washington Square straddles both)
 - Nineteen houses
 - Four condos for sale.
- Santa Ana has twenty-four days of housing inventory.
- Orange County has a one-month inventory. The average market would be four months.
- National statistics (end of 2022) state that over 50% of home-owners have interest rates below 4%. Understandably, most owners are deciding to keep their properties, and will do whatever they can to avoid foreclosure. With unemployment at just 3% in Orange County as of April 2023, most will do so.

I wish I had a crystal ball, but when I look at the data, I continue to see a strong real estate market! Call me to chat if you have more questions!

Enjoy your summer, Sarah C.

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Summer 2023

	Beds	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold \$\$	DOM*	Sale Type
Homes for Sale						
1330 N. Olive	3	2	1432	\$ 870,000.00	2	Standard
New Neighbors (SOLD)						
1122 Freeman	5	3	2356	\$ 4,080.00	22	LEASE
1119 Freeman	3	2	1491	\$ 901,000.00	7	Standard
1427 Louise	3	2	1727	\$ 980,000.00	14	Trust
915 Westwood	3	2	1460	\$ 999,000.00	2	Standard

The above SOLD statistics are for the dates March 18, 2023 through June 25, 2023 compiled from information provided by the California Regional Multiple Listing Service and the OC Recorder.

*Days on Market



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DOG OWNERSHIP...Courtesy

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?!

Hello WS Neighbors!

I am not an expert on dogs and speak as the owner of four dogs over the years, with a simple enthusiasm for dogs, and a wish to keep all four-legged wonders happy and safe.

Here's a little story that happened with one of my dogs in a previous neighborhood.

One day walking my overly friendly and curious lab-retriever mix on the sidewalk, we came to a house with a super friendly husky who was leashed, but un-supervised in the front yard. My dog suddenly barked something the husky didn't like. The friendly husky broke through her leather collar, ran at my dog, and bit my dog's rear end! I lost my balance in the ruckus and all three of us ended up on the street. The owner of the husky retrieved his dog.

The lesson learned was MY friendly dog could and did create a threat to himself and another dog. It could have gone much worse if the dogs were known to be violent dogs.

Know that your friendly dog can be unpredictable. Especially know if your dog cannot or should not be out front on a leash, or around other animals or strangers. Know that in Orange County it is illegal to have a dog off leash in your own front yard and/or public walk areas.

BASIC Ownership RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Know all your dog's escape routes. Keeping your dog safe means keeping your community safe.
2. Clean up after your dog! There are many dog depots with bags around WS.
3. Know your dog's mental and physical dispositions.
4. Keep your dog safe - have your dog always wear a collar, especially if out front, even on a leash.
5. Keep your dog healthy – have regular vet and grooming visits.
6. Accept all basic responsibilities of owning a dog and NEVER bring a dog home because they are “cute.” Over time the dog will be rehomed.
7. LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, ENJOY, PLAY, LOVE, LOVE YOUR DOG!



Steve Widdoss, aka, Toga's Dad

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DOG OWNERSHIP...the Law

Dog Ownership Comes with Responsibility

Dogs are called “man’s best friend,” and have a special place in many of our hearts and homes. However, dog ownership comes with responsibilities and obligations. Here in Washington Square, we have had a number of issues arise with dogs running loose in the neighborhood, threatening people on the street and even attacking neighborhood dogs. While this is happily a rare occasion, all dog owners should not only be considerate of their neighbors, but also understand the law as it pertains to their pets. Here are some basics every dog owner should know.

- **Dog owners are *strictly liable* for the damages caused by their dog if it bites someone in a public place or lawfully in a private place.** (Civil Code §3342) This means if your dog is in a public place such as the streets or sidewalks and it bites someone, you are legally responsible for the damages caused by the dog’s bite - not only medical bills and lost wages, but also pain and suffering of the person bitten. Strict liability means it does not matter whether or not you intended the harm, were negligent in managing your dog, or even extremely careful: **You are financially responsible for the damages caused regardless of how careful you were.**
- **Dog owners can also be responsible for any damages caused by their dogs resulting from negligent, reckless or intentional conduct.** If the dog is running free and causes property damage, the owner is liable if the damage is attributable to their negligence. For example, if a dog knocks down a small child, an elderly person, or a runner, attacks another dog, its owner may be liable for the damages caused. What constitutes negligence can vary, but there are many laws that are specifically designed to protect the public from harm caused by dogs running loose.
- **The law also generally requires dogs to be restrained at all times, whether on public or private property.** In Orange County, dogs are required to be on a leash (or chain) six feet in length or less at any time they are in a public area, and under the charge of a person competent to exercise care, custody, and control of the dog. **On private property, dogs must be “restrained thereon by a fence, wall, substantial chain, leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, other appropriate physical restraint, or (be) under the charge of a person competent to exercise care, custody, and control over such dog.”**

A full analysis and discussion of the laws applicable to dog ownership – and even the laws we briefly addressed above - is well beyond the scope of a brief article in a neighborhood newsletter. However, it is important to understand that if you are a dog owner, you are required to be a responsible dog owner. Most of these laws are basic common sense. Be respectful of your neighbors, be informed, and remember that these laws are designed to protect your pet as well.

B. James Pantone is a Washington Square resident, an attorney for over 30 years, and a past president of the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association.





Proud **Washington Square Resident**

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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!



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