



# Washington Square NEWS

Real Neighbors. Real Neighborhood.

January 2022

## We had our first ever Washington Square Holiday Decorating Contest!

Our expert panel of judges were Valerie, David, Pat, January, and Jeff. They met, they decided on categories and criteria, they drove around, they met again, they drove around together, they met again, they decided, and they delivered prizes. They were busy!!

The Square  
Got FESTIVE  
...with Decorations!!!

Also busy were the decorators. Did you drive the neighborhood?? There was so much participation that “they “ are brainstorming about other categories for next year, (best window?) and expanding awards to other holidays (Halloween?). Please share your ideas with us. This was fun for so many, and why not do it more often??

But back to this contest. The categories for awards were Most Whimsical, Best Door, Best Use of Lights, and The Clark Griswold Award. Winners received a yard sign and a Christmas ornament indicating their award category.

And the winners were... drum roll...

### Most Whimsical:

Aurora and Marcello Escalera, 1101 W. Washington

### Best Door:

Miguel and Sarah Serna, son Michael, 1407 N. Lowell

### Best Use of Lights:

Don Harvey and Carlos Araujo+ Julian Galindo and Fernanda Guadalupe, 1011 N. Towner & 1005 N. Towner

### The Clark Griswold Award:

Blair and Brett Sternad and kids, Teddy and Caroline, 1020 N. Lowell



Most Whimsical



Best Door

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone for lighting up the square!



The Clark Griswold Award

by Pat Lenahan  
and Jeff Qualey



Best use of Lights

### 2022 WSNA EVENTS

Dumpster day March 12  
Progressive Dinner March 26  
Wine Talk May 14  
Chili Cookoff July 23

### MORE EVENTS

Movie Night August 27  
Oktoberfest October 15  
Holiday Party December 11

### GENERAL MEETINGS

February 24  
April 14  
July 14  
October 13

### GARAGE SALES

March 5-6  
June 4-5  
September 3-4  
December 3-4

# Washington Square (and Santa Ana) *UPDATES*

## WSNA WINTER GENERAL MEETING



**Where: Carol Frank's  
Backyard**

**When: Thursday, 2/24**

**Time: 7pm - 9pm**

## Dumpster Day!

Dumpster Day 2022 is happening on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon. Once again there will be seven (7) large dumpsters in the neighborhood, an eWaste collection at 1118 N. Freeman and document shredding at 904 N. Louise. Look for details, dumpster locations (and the WSNA membership drive letter) in a mailing from the City in late February. Shredding hours may be shorter so check the mailer and social media to be sure.

***ALL DATES are subject to change or cancellation. It's another weird year.***

## WSNA 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Dinner is Coming up on March 26!

The Washington Square Progressive Dinner has been a neighborhood favorite since its inception. It is a unique opportunity for you to show off your culinary skills and enjoy dinner with your friends and neighbors. This annual potluck will be hosted by three residents who volunteer their homes: we start with appetizers and salads at the first home; we then make our way to the second home for entrees; desserts are at the third. A sign-up list will be emailed for participants to sign up and indicate the dish that you will provide. This adult only event is extremely popular and limited to fifty (50) people. We look forward to seeing you for dinner!

By Javier Garcia, WSNA – Progressive Dinner Committee Chair

### 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](mailto:newsletter@washington-square.org)

# Thank you, *SUSAN VANDER ROEST!!*

Susan van der Roest is our neighbor, friend, and a highly active member of WSNA. Her hallmark is generosity and service to friends and neighbors, and we thank her!

Let us revisit a handful of ways she has tackled issues with the City of Santa Ana and local businesses, not to mention our neighborhood.



Look at that *SMILE!!*

- The City agreed to remove diseased trees in imminent danger of falling and has accelerated the process of replacing dead and dying trees, as well as in-filling the parkways between trees in advance of their removal.
- The City will now include emptying the community trash barrels - without charge - in the new trash contract, saving us thousands of dollars a year.
- Susan has joined with other neighbors in working with City Planners and Transportation Officials regarding the Bristol Street Widening project. Our voices together kept the height of the sound walls that back Louise Street at nine (9) feet instead of the seven (7) the planners intended. Additionally, we weighed in on what can be built on those rezoned lots.
- A commercial structure on Civic Center created an abundance of noise and water pollution which adversely affected neighbors on Olive Street, and Susan went to work. She negotiated with the property owners for years, and because of Susan's finesse and tenacity, a 20-foot-high sound wall was built to lessen the noise. Wow!
- At the north end of Louise Street, in the Memorial Health Care parking lot, people had been engaging in unsavory activities. So, who ya gonna call? Susan! Her perseverance with the management of Memorial Health Care and with the Santa Ana Police Department resulted in a plan of action.
- She writes letters of thanks and praise to the City Departments, Public Agencies, or Private Property Owners who have made improvements and solved problems,
- Susan has participated in every event and general meeting and is often the first to arrive and the last to leave, helping with set-up and takedown.
- Regularly walking or driving through the neighborhood, her eagle eye is always alert for graffiti, trash in public areas, traffic hazards, and code enforcement violations. Susan is immediately in contact with people who can fix the problem, and she ALWAYS follows through.
- Susan as opened her home for monthly WSNA Board Meetings for many years. When COVID came along, she offered her yard for General Meetings, as well as for committee meetings working on solving neighborhood problems.
- Christmas carolers from Godinez High and trumpeter friends from the neighborhood have entertained us for many years

And

- Susan will quietly and privately assist neighbors when they are experiencing trouble and need help. Her acts of kindness may go unnoticed by the neighborhood, but certainly not by those who have benefitted from her gracious acts.

She always, always, always has a smile that lights up her face and the hearts of those who know her. Unfortunately, Susan is stepping down as president, but has assured us she will continue her efforts on behalf of our neighborhood in preserving and improving the quality of life we all enjoy.

Thank you, Susan, from all our hearts, with all our hearts,

Your *Grateful* Neighbors

# Our Hero, *STEVE WIDDOSS*

## NEIGHBORHOOD HERO AWARD



Steve Widdoss is our WSNA 2021 Neighborhood Hero. We all know that! Now it is official, and his award was presented at the November, 2021 Community Linkages Meeting. This meeting was attended by Santa Ana City Council members, as well as Steve's family, some of whom drove in from San Diego County.

Having lived in Washington Square for more than four years now, Steve and his wife Christina came to us from the San Fernando Valley with their two dogs (previously featured in "The Square is Going to the Dogs" article). From the beginning of his residency here, he has made a difference.



The first year that Steve lived in Washington Square I had posted a photo on Facebook, showing that someone had dropped an old Christmas tree in my front yard. Suddenly it was gone. Steve had stopped by, chopped it up and disposed of it. I hadn't even met him yet.

Early in the pandemic, Steve organized a car show to provide an outlet for the neighbors. It was such a hit that Steve and Christina along with Susan and Martin van der Roest held the event again on Towner Street this December 11<sup>th</sup>.

He has shared great information regarding home lighting options, making homeowners aware of the positive effect this has on home security.

His immediate neighbors are elderly, and when they needed help, Steve organized a yard cleanup. Steve has since provided additional services for them while alerting all of us to their needs. Steve owns his own business, works full time, and volunteers. He will help you out, and then refuse reimbursement, including dinner. This is Steve's gift to the neighborhood and we, in WSNA, are grateful to have him as a neighbor.

*by Pat Lenahan*

The Square  
Got *FESTIVE*  
*...with a Car Show!!*



The attendance at the Washington Square Neighborhood 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show on December 11<sup>th</sup> was great! It was fun to see all, including those who walked around simply enjoying the

neighbors' cool vehicles.

With twenty-six (26) cars, trucks, and motorcycles on display, there were seven (7) more than last year. Wouldn't it be fun if there were thirty (30) plus in attendance next year?

This year was very festive with red ribbons and bows, Christmas music blasting from Don Harvey's Tesla, and there were photos available with Santa Claus in front of a classic car. The kids were laughing and smiling. I even heard parents commenting "I finally have a photo of my kid(s) with Santa, and I didn't go to the mall." The street was alive, and it helped to have perfect sunny blue skies!

Thanks again to this special neighborhood!

Until next year,  
Steve and Susan



**Things  
will be  
great  
when  
you're**

# Downtown Downtown

***Covid-19 Advisory: Business operations may be affected. Due to ongoing precautionary measures, please contact the business directly for updated hours and availability.***

**D**owntown Santa Ana is still offering shopping and dining at old favorite and new places, alike.

Downtown Santa Ana Tamale Fest:

The Tamale Fest, on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street took place on December 16. There were eight (8) tamale providers this year, some old and some new. Perla Restaurant with their upscale Mexican cuisine is a favorite, and they delivered again. The biggest surprise was Pizza Press featuring a pepperoni tamale. It seemed every restaurant had multiple offerings. Other restaurants attending were Café Cultura, Chapter One (my wife's favorite), Casa Oaxaca, Tamales Dona Soco, El Indio and La Vegana Mexicana (vegan food). Our food adventure ended when we saw a food truck called Don Churros. These were fresh churros offered in assorted styles and we loved what a good churro can taste like. Their store is in Anaheim at 1440S Anaheim Boulevard.

There were numerous places selling beverages and there were also nonfood vendors. There were many more vendors than last year, so it is good to know small businesses have survived the pandemic and road construction in Santa Ana.

Changes noted on 4<sup>th</sup> Street:

- Good Beer company is permanently closed, but there was a beer provider pouring in the same location. I will see if they are permanent.
- An Asian restaurant called Lava Kitchen and Bar, 416 W. 4th Street in the old VLVT location. Happy hour features \$1. 00 oysters.

Remember, The Boca de Oro - or "mouth of gold" is a curated festival of literary, visual, and performing arts with diverse and evocative storytellers to present their work through readings, workshops, panel discussions, poetry slams, and visual art experiences. The event is scheduled in Downtown Santa Ana March 4-6 in 2022.

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy.

by Sam Puzzo

***Please let me know of places in Downtown Santa Ana or close by that you have enjoyed. My email is [sampuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:sampuzzo@gmail.com)***



Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey regarding the newsletter. If you volunteered, you will be contacted. Count on it!

# Residents' *BUSINESSES*

Accounting/Tax Prep.	Alex Schneider	364-5173
Arbonne Consultant	Gloria Chavez	280-5723
Attorney, Business Specialist	Ashley Bolduc	949-852-1800
Audio-Video Production	David Jirik	543-9079
Avon Representative	Maria Guzman	904-1973
Baby Sitting	Leila Rodriguez	727-8313
Computer Specialist	Randy Simons	423-0810
Decorative Ironwork	Marco Coronado	852-1363
Editor	Maureen Tiritilli	309-2229
Farmers Insurance	Gonzalo Guzman	669-3930
Flooring, Floor Repairs	Tuzos Flooring	720-7793
Graphics & Signage	Kirsten Sketch	721-8795
Heating and Cooling	Adam Garcia	263-6443
Insurance Agent	Albert Durazo	657-667-0225
Landscape Maintenance	Rick Mora	721-3897
Mortgages/Loan officer	Victor Gallardo	697-7564
Natural Healing Center	Renee Ascencio	5994435
Notary/Loan Signing Agt.	Sasha Lopez	496-7969
Notary Public Comm#:2333888	Robert Bolton	702-498-9832
Origami Owl Ind. Design	Jennifer Begen	606-0830
Painter	Eric Torres	292-4038
Personal Injury Attorney	Moses Yneges	591-0661
Prayer – FREE!	Pastor Ben	949-295-4980
Prof. Photographer	Ricardo Barrera	715-1747
Realtor	Alton Hitchcock, Jr.	775-0779
Realtor	Sarah Covarrubias	928-1303
Realtor	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Rodan & Fields	Christina Moreno	425-2311
Trash Bin Cleaning	Noah	717-1079
Wedding Planner	Christin Wilson	337-2903
Window Coverings	Krystal Wallinger	632-7744
Wine Club/Skin Care	Yolanda Valdivia	317-4152

\*\*Unless otherwise noted, all area codes are 714\*\*

### Members of WSNA



### Where to Find Stuff

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
- WSNA Board Officers
- Businesses
- Block Representatives



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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Our neighbor Jeanette McMahon, the Choir & Musical Theatre Director at Godinez Fundamental High School, brings her choir to the neighborhood every Christmas season to perform at the home of Martin and Susan van der Roost. After the performance, we returned home to sit

around the fire pit. Later Jeanette and her choir were walking by and they saw us on the patio and stopped to sing one more Christmas song for us. You would have thought it was a scene from a Hallmark movie (without the fake snow).

Thank you, Jeanette!

text and photos courtesy of Leonard Ortiz

The Square Got *FESTIVE* ...with a *Choral Concert!*



# Sarah's Neighborhood *NEWS*

Homes for Sale	Beds	Baths	Sq. Ft.	List/Sold Price	DOM*	Sale Type	Sale Date
1001 Louise	3	2	1864	\$ 800,000.00	58	Standard	
<b>Homes in Escrow</b>							
806 N. Lowell	2	1	1091	\$ 595,000.00	166	Standard	
1033 Civic Center	2	1	1141	\$ 595,000.00	107	Standard	
1014 Louise	3	2	1812	\$ 876,000.00	4	Standard	
<b>Our New Neighbors!!!!</b>							
1055 Civic Center	Duplex		1586	\$ 700,000.00	198	Standard	10/29/2021
1605 Rosewood	2	1	1183	\$ 750,000.00	5	Standard	11/10/2021
1501 Freeman	3	2	2190	\$ 858,000.00	5	Standard	12/6/2021
911 N. Towner	3	1	1100	\$ 710,000.00	5	Standard	12/7/2021
1023 Freeman	3	2	1781	\$ 920,000.00	9	Standard	12/21/2021

THE ABOVE SOLD STATISTICS ARE FOR THE TIME PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2021  
 COMPILED FROM INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE AND  
 COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.

\*DAYS ON THE MARKET

As you can see from the above stats, 2021 was a good year for our neighborhood with 22 closed sales as of December 30<sup>th</sup>. In 2020 there were only 12 closed sales. The number of residential properties sold in 2021 is starting to resemble something "normal." With that said, the number of sales county-wide is still very much below "normal," so we are starting to see buyers who would have never considered living in Santa Ana, now discovering our wonderful, unique neighborhood. Many of our neighbors who have sold their homes in 2021, have taken their equity and moved out of the area and several have moved out of state.

Interest rates are projected to go up a bit this year which will slow the market down briefly, but if we look back at the last 10 years' trends, sales eventually pick up steam after a few weeks. With the low number of projected home sellers for the coming year, we can expect prices to continue to increase.

If you want to sell your home, but don't feel comfortable with lots of people coming through your home, I have many buyers looking to purchase in Washington Square, and we can arrange a private, confidential showing. As always, I am here to answer your real estate and mortgage questions and provide you with information.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2022!



## Sarah Covarrubias

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## FROM EYE-SORE TO EYE-CATCHER

The house at 826 N. Towner stood empty for several years and nearly succumbed to neglect and vandalism. The three bedroom, two bath house was on a double lot, mostly undeveloped. This vacant land became a dumping ground for unwanted items and extra dirt. Except for nearby neighbors, the mess went largely unnoticed.

Dulce and Marcos Tello had been renting a house on Raitt Street when their first child Priscilla (now 6) was born, but that house was too small to accommodate more Tellos. With their second child, Johan (now 4) on the way, a more peaceful and secure neighborhood was desirable. They purchased the house on Towner, but it was not habitable. The Tellos were determined to move in before their second baby came.

When they first saw it, Marcos said, "It was like something out of a horror movie". The kitchen had been previously gutted, and a good deal of the house's floor was missing, exposing the basement. The house was a wreck.

Luckily, Marcos works in construction and has the skills required to build and rebuild a structure, so he restored what he could and rebuilt what he couldn't. Dulce's background is in floral design, and she drew up plans for the yards. Marcos switched the kitchen and the front bedroom. He created an open space between the kitchen and the living room, which now has up-to-date appliances, abundant cabinets, granite countertops and a new dining area. Natural light pours through the windows. The exterior siding was badly damaged. Marcos replaced it. He built an attractive horizontal wood fence which separates front and back yards.

An abandoned koi pond, lots of junk, trees, and overgrown plants populated the backyard. It took twelve (12) dump trucks to carry away the dirt and plant material that had accumulated over the years!! The Tellos kept the avocado tree which is more than 50 years old and prolifically yields delicious fruit. Marcos installed a playground for kids. The rest will have to wait, but Dulce has plans to make it beautiful.

Dulce's vision for the front yard was for two landscapes, one tropical, one desert, on either side of the driveway that divided the two lots. In a month, they transformed the front yards into beautiful landscapes. Directly in front of the house, plumeria, banana, bird of paradise and hibiscus are framed by a lawn. On the south side of the driveway, decomposed granite was installed, a variety of succulents and cacti were planted, and a picnic table was set into a seating area. It is a great spot to entertain, relax and watch the kids play.

In seven (7) months, they improved the house enough to make it livable, and they moved in before their 2nd child was born.

Two months ago, little Mia joined the family, and Priscilla and Johan adore her! Marcos and Dulce are so happy to live in Washington Square, because it is safe and so family oriented.

Congratulations on this Award, Dulce and Marcos! Your Washington Square neighbors are happy to have you here!



2008 - "BEFORE"



Winter 2021  
**Alan Anderson Award**  
 826 N. Towner  
 Marcos and Dulce Tello  
*By Bobi Keenan*



### Michael Briones and Friends Trombone show

The Square Got *FESTIVE* ...with a *Trombone Concert!*



On December 16, Washington Square was treated to a trombone concert, held in front of the Van Der Roest home on Towner. This is the fifth year that a holiday concert has been gifted to Washington Square by Michael Briones and Friends! It was delightful evening full of old favorites!

Michael Briones is a music professor at Santa Ana College. The group that played in Washington Square are all longtime friends from college days at CSU Long Beach. They are not a formal group and have no name. They are simply friends playing music together!!

Michael and his wife and four kids have lived on Rosewood for many years. Unfortunately, they have just sold their home and moved in with his dad and are sad about leaving Washington Square. Really SAD!

Good luck and don't be a stranger, Michael!!

by Susan van der Roest



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# The Square is Going to the *DOGS* - **Canine Flu**

## Canine Influenza and What We All Should Know

Canine influenza, also known as the dog flu, is spreading fast in Southern California. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all dogs are susceptible to canine flu infection, which tends to spread rapidly in kennels and shelters. Be aware of the risks when boarding your pets.

Madeline Bernstein, the president of the SPCA LA, stated: "There's currently an outbreak in Los Angeles that's bigger than the outbreak that happened in 2017." The best tracking and reporting of the outbreak has been provided by the County of Los Angeles Public Health: "Between July and October 2021, approximately 800 confirmed and suspect cases of CIV [canine influenza virus] "were reported. "Sadly, 7 deaths in dogs have been associated with this outbreak...most were associated with attending boarding kennels or dog daycare settings." Some dogs "were exposed while on walks in their neighborhood, at dog parks, groomers, or at veterinary clinics."

The CDC says canine influenza viruses pose a low threat to people. To date, there is no evidence of spread from dogs to people and there has not been a single reported case of human infection with a canine influenza virus in the U.S. or worldwide. To treat canine influenza, the CDC recommends keeping the dog hydrated and comfortable while its body mounts an immune response to the infection to facilitate recovery. A dog flu infection can last 10 days.

The good news is that there is a vaccine available to prevent your dog from becoming ill in the first place. The vaccination is given in two doses, spread over two to four weeks. Your veterinarian can provide these injections.

Dog owners can practice social distancing with their pets and not let them share food bowls or toys. Experts also recommend keeping them away from other dogs who may be experiencing symptoms, which include sneezing, coughing, wheezing and discharge.



by Pat Lenahan



## PROUD WASHINGTON SQUARE RESIDENT

### REPRESENTING WASHINGTON SQUARE RESIDENTS FOR OVER 20 YEARS

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