

# FLORAL PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD GAZETTE

VALENTINE'S ISSUE

**Valentine's Brunch  
& National  
Margarita Day  
Celebration**

**Winter Holiday  
Parties in Photos**

**Getting Ready for  
the 2020 Home &  
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*The Historic Roy Russell Mansion:  
House of Dynasties*



WINTER 2020 ISSUE

**FLORAL PARK GAZETTE**

is the official publication of the

Floral Park Neighborhood Association

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## 2nd Annual Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch Coming Sunday, February 9

The Floral Park Neighborhood Association cordially invites you to the 2nd annual Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch, a celebration of heart, love & food. The Sunday, February 9 event at Perla Mexican Cuisine in DTSA, is open to both singles and couples alike. The menu includes enchiladas verde, fajitas trio (NY steak, shrimp and chicken), tacos y papas, rice & beans and fruit-topped cheesecake for dessert. Tickets are available online at [www.FloralPark.com](http://www.FloralPark.com) at \$50 per person and \$100 per couple. The price includes a margarita, well cocktail, wine, beer or soft drink along with live entertainment, souvenir photo and a memento gift to take home. Last year's event sold out and this year's brunch is limited to 25 couples and 10 singles. So be a sweetheart and purchase your tickets now at [FloralPark.com](http://FloralPark.com).

### VALENTINE'S SWEETHEART BRUNCH

Sunday, February 9, 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Perla Mexican Cuisine

400 W 4th St., Santa Ana, 92701

Private indoor room upstairs

## LGBTQ Center OC To Hold Community Open House in Floral Park

The LGBTQ Center OC will be holding a community open house on Sunday, March 15 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at 2204 N. Victoria Drive hosted by Floral Park residents Craig Benedetti and Pablo Ochoa-Mayo. You are invited to come and learn about the many important programs and services of the Center. Contact [Jasminne.Rara@LGBTQCenterOC.org](mailto:Jasminne.Rara@LGBTQCenterOC.org) to RSVP or for information.

## Upcoming Floral Park Events

VALENTINE  
SUNDAY BRUNCH  
February 9



NATIONAL  
MARGARITA DAY  
February 22

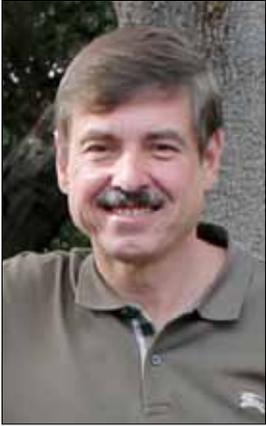


HOME &  
GARDEN TOUR  
April 25 & 26



# Letter From The President

by Ed Murashie



Happy new year! One minute I'm sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner and the next I'm opening presents with the grandkids. Now it's the end of January; where has the time gone?

In that blink of an eye, we had the fun-packed holiday party, attended yet another city council meeting on the 2525 development, held the holiday decorating contest, strolled the Walk of Lights, lit the Hanukkah menorah at Jeff and Suzee Katz's home on Heliotrope, and held a special meeting on the new water rates. It has been a full and fulfilling holiday season. Thank you to the many volunteers and social committee members who put on the holiday party and hosted tables at the Walk of Lights. Congratulations also to the winners of the decorating contest.

Thanks to those of you who attended the water rate increase meeting. If you were unable to attend and want to figure out how the rate increase will affect you, email Kathie Reyes at [kreyes2@santa-ana.org](mailto:kreyes2@santa-ana.org) with your address. She will email you back the information you need to use on the [www.santaanautilityrates.com](http://www.santaanautilityrates.com) website to calculate your new bill. You can also email Nabil Saba, the interim executive public works director, at [nsaba@santa-ana.org](mailto:nsaba@santa-ana.org) and view a presentation at <https://www.santa-ana.org/sites/default/files/pw/documents/Water-and-sewer-rates-Presentation.pdf>.

In the coming months we will be sending out an email survey, so please be sure you're on the eblast list. If you're not on the list, contact [communications@floralpark.com](mailto:communications@floralpark.com) to join. The next general membership meeting will be held in March so if you have any topics you would like covered, please email any board member. We hope to be on the State Office of Historic Preservation's meeting agenda on March 21 regarding our application to become a national historic district. When that happens, everyone will get a meeting notice from the state as well as a ballot. We will have a special general membership meeting to discuss and answer everyone's questions on what this means for the neighborhood, what the ballot looks like and what the next steps will be.

Here's to a new year in our great neighborhood.



## 2020 Census Coming to Santa Ana And Every Person Counts

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a population and housing count mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all people who respond to the census.

The results are used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and to define representative boundaries for congressional, state and local legislative districts. Additionally, census data is used to distribute over \$675 billion in federal funds to states and local governments for vital community services such as public safety, housing and community development, workforce development, health and human services, education, transportation and environmental protection.

The City of Santa Ana receives over \$50 million in federal funding. It is estimated that California and local communities could lose \$1,950 per year for 10 years for each person not counted in the decennial census. A complete and accurate 2020 census count is, therefore, critical for ensuring that California gets a fair share of Congressional representation and federal resources.

The primary response option for the 2020 census will be an online questionnaire, accessible from desktop and laptop computers, tablets and smart phones but you can also take the census by telephone. Approximately 95 percent of households will receive correspondence via U.S. mail starting March 12, 2020. Up to two reminder notices will be sent in March with a fourth contact attempt in April 2020. In May 2020, the Census Bureau will begin conducting follow-up visits to non-responding addresses at the door.

It's never been more important to ensure that everyone in Santa Ana is counted. An under-count means millions of dollars lost in federal funding, which equals less money to improve our schools, fix our roads and highways, and provide vital programs for our community. So please, stand up and be counted!

## April Is The Deadline to Nominate Floral Park's Most Beautiful Yard

The Most Beautiful Yard Awards are a recognition of the hard work and pride exhibited by Santa Ana residents. We are proud to have neighbors who strive to beautify their homes and communities in the City of Santa Ana. This marks the 33rd annual "Most Beautiful Yard" contest. The contest was created to recognize Santa Ana residents who have maintained or improved the exterior appearance of their homes. The entries were evaluated on maintenance, landscaping and overall general appearance. Three homes from each participating Neighborhood Association are nominated and a winner is then selected for each neighborhood. The winners are honored at a reception and are presented a "Most Beautiful Yard" sign to proudly display in their yard. Yards will be judged during the last 2 weeks of April. To nominate a yard, please send 1 or 2 photos to [Beautification@FloralPark.com](mailto:Beautification@FloralPark.com) no later than April 27, 2020. When nominating, look for excellence in landscape design, aesthetic balance between the yard and the property, general maintenance, and special creative efforts. Nominated properties should be free of driveway issues and visible storage. So get those garden gloves out and let the competition begin! Congratulations go to Floral Park's Most Beautiful Yard winner last year at 2307 N. Riverside Drive.

## Sarah Mae Downie Park Gets Makeover

We finally have approval from the city regarding the barrier wall in Sarah Mae Downie Herb Garden as a border for the butterfly sanctuary and construction started in January. Thank you to Kathy and Clive Skilton for purchasing a heart stone for the SMD garden. If you would like to order a heart stone, please contact Nanci Zinngrabe at [zcasasucasa@yahoo.com](mailto:zcasasucasa@yahoo.com)

The Spring Sarah Mae Downie Clean Up Days are coming. In anticipation of the park being on the 2020 Floral Park Home and Garden Tour, we're planning a major clean up and planting. Please join us on April 3 and 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Bring your gardening gloves and tools and be watching for news regarding the new Butterfly Sanctuary coming soon. We always welcome new members to join the Floral Park Beautification Committee. For more information, questions, or concerns, contact Chris Switzer and Nanci Zinngrabe at [Beautification@FloralPark.com](mailto:Beautification@FloralPark.com).

## Before Lighting Up The Logs, Sign Up To Receive No-Burn Day Alerts



As we head into our traditional Orange County version of Winter, we love our wood burning fireplaces more than ever. But before you light those logs, you should check to see if there is a No-Burn rule in place. Burning wood or wax/paper logs in both indoor and outdoor fireplaces is prohibited during No-Burn Days. No-Burn Day Alerts are issued when levels of fine particulate air pollution are forecast to be high. Particles in wood smoke can get deep into the lungs and cause respiratory problems including asthma attacks. Gas and other non-wood burning fireplaces are not restricted. South Coast AQMD's *Check Before You Burn* program is in effect through the end of February when particulate levels are highest. Please do your part to reduce the harmful health effects of wood smoke and sign up to receive e-mail alerts at [www.AirAlerts.org](http://www.AirAlerts.org) to learn when a mandatory No-Burn Day alert is issued and check before you burn.

## Welcome New Floral Park Neighbors

Floral Park would like to welcome our new neighbors who have moved into Floral Park. Please keep an eye out for these new homeowners, make introductions and give a friendly "Hello!" We look forward to meeting you at an upcoming Floral Park event.

**Maria Del Val**, 2500 N. Park Boulevard

**Brent Ferdig**, 2010 Greenleaf Street

**Aurelia Gongloff**, 1801 N. Greenleaf

**Cynthia Holloway**, 2481 N. Riverside Drive

**Kyle & Kelsey Houlton**, 1711 N. Heliotrope Drive

**Ben & Katie Mayberry**, 2405 Bonnie Brae

**Ernie & Sydney Reinhardt**, 2302 N. Heliotrope

**Raul Mendina & Raquel Ulloa**, 2301 N. Park Blvd.



## New Recycling Guidelines, Penalties and Rewards Issued for Santa Ana

Nearly half of the items placed in recycling containers don't belong there and are actually contaminating clean recyclable materials. In order for the city to comply with State mandates and increase recycling, we all need to do our part and know what belongs in our recycling bins and what doesn't. If you don't, it could cost you. The city has established a contamination penalty with the first and second offenses resulting in a courtesy notice. The third and subsequent incidents may each result in a penalty of \$10.77 through your trash bill.

Here's a list of things that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- No plastic bags, including trash bin liners, shopping bags, grocery bags, bread wrappers, and black bags. These items are known as "tangles" which can get stuck in sorting equipment at recycling facilities. This includes other forms of loose plastic packaging. Most grocery stores now offer plastic bag recycling.
- No pet food bags or pouches
- No plastic film, cling film, wrappers, bubble wrap
- No tin foil or tin trays, i.e. disposable barbecue trays, take-away food containers
- No meat, poultry or fish wrappers, trays or packaging
- No paper napkins, plates, cups & tissues
- No polystyrene foam.
- No plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons
- No coated paper coffee cups, fast food cups or other waxy or coated food containers.
- No zip-lock bags

What should go in your recycling bin?

- Clean drink cans and food tins
- Empty, clean & Dry Tetra-Pak cartons (juice or soy milk cartons)
- Newspapers, pamphlets, envelopes, books, junk mail
- Clean glass and plastic bottles and jars

## Free Trash Pickup Services And Dumpster Day Coming To Floral Park

Floral Park Neighborhood Clean-Up Day is Saturday, April 11. There will be five large dumpsters located throughout the neighborhood from 8:00 to noon where you can get rid of household trash and large items such as washers, sofas, etc. Televisions, computer monitors, batteries, glass or household appliances will not be accepted. Dumpsters locations are listed below

Floral Park residents are now eligible for a free door-to-door collection of "universal waste," including household batteries, florescent tubes and bulbs, electronic devices such as TVs and computers, and mercury-containing devices such as old thermostats. To receive this service, call 800-4498-7587. No hazardous chemicals such as motor oil, paint or pesticides are accepted through this program. To dispose of these items, take them to a household hazardous waste collection center in Anaheim (1071 N. Blue Gum Street), Huntington Beach (17121 Nichols Street), or Irvine (6411 Oak Canyon). For information, call 714-834-6752.

### Neighborhood Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 11, 8:00-Noon

#### Five locations:

1816 N Heliotrope Dr. • 2360 N Park Blvd.  
2415 N Riverside Dr. • 2121 N Victoria Dr.  
2108 N Greenleaf St.

- Clean & dry cardboard (including pizza boxes)
- Molded pulp or paper egg cartons

To help in recycling, flatten your cardboard boxes, tins, cans or plastics and fold any paper to take up less space in your bin. Shampoo bottles, bubble bath, lotions and potions all come in containers that can be recycled, so placing a small bin in your bathroom can be a good idea. Remember to empty recyclables directly into your bin, no bagged recyclables. And don't forget to thoroughly rinse all items before placing them in your bin, as dirty or unsuitable items could contaminate the entire contents.

The city, in partnership with Waste Management, is looking to reward neighborhoods who recycle right. If your recycling bin is randomly selected and has no contaminating items, you'll receive a \$25 gift card.

For a comprehensive guide to recycling, go to [ocrecycleguide.com/RecycleGuide/AZGuide](http://ocrecycleguide.com/RecycleGuide/AZGuide).

# The Historic Russell Mansion House Of Dynasties

by Dylan Almendral

The stately Neo-Classical Revival home at 2009 North Victoria Drive is easily one of the most recognizable homes on the street. Set back generously from the curb with a central portico framed by 4 fluted Tuscan columns, this home was the first home that Roy Russell (1881-1965), a well-known developer in Santa Ana, built on North Victoria Drive in 1927 at a cost of \$35,000. That is over \$517,000 in today's economy. This was far more than Russell would spend on other houses he would build in his own subdivision after he purchased the entire street and named it Victoria Drive.

From 1927 to 1934 this was the Russell Family residence and its design was heavily influenced by Maurine Russell (1889-1960), Roy's wife. She favored Plantation-style architecture as she was born in Salisbury, Missouri. She even built a grand ballroom on the top floor for entertaining. In the home, circa 1930, were Roy, his wife Maurine as head of household, daughter Nancy and son, Roy Jr. They also had a live-in housekeeper, Lottie Steskal, who hailed from Vienna, Austria.

The lasting legacy of the Russell family is in every home they built and the success they experienced in the transition of Santa Ana from town to city and the massive growth that they had their hands in. Roy Sr. kept a close connection with Santa Ana and in 1925 constructed the Pacific Building on Broadway and Third St. in Santa Ana, where he would maintain his own offices on the second floor. In 1937 he was joined by his son, Roy Rodney Russell, and in 1945 the two formed a partnership, Roy Russell & Son. The firm was active in the development of Victoria Drive and other residential tracts as well as numerous commercial improvements.

Unfortunately, during the Great Depression, the Russells were forced to sell the home and moved to 220 South Batavia Street in Orange. The house was sold to Hugh A (1878-1965) and Ethel Bosworth Gerrard (1884-1966) who would reside in the home until the late 1950s. Hugh arrived with his family in Southern California from Ontario, Canada in 1892. In the fall of 1915, Albert and Hugh Gerrard, the sons of a Disciples of Christ preacher, used their entire pooled \$300 savings to bankroll the first Gerrard's Market in Pomona. They were later joined by a third brother, Will.





By 1917, the butcher shop was flourishing and they moved operations to Orange County, opening 4 stores locally. Originally the stores were called Triangle Cash Markets, a reference to the Holy Trinity. The Gerrards' "grocerterias" offered something new. While competitors like Piggly Wiggly and Morrisons were using clerks to fill orders for customers, the Gerrards introduced self-service to their stores. Groceries were stacked in alphabetical order. As a result, "the ant powder might be next to the applesauce" (*The Alpha Beta Story by Esther R. Cramer, 1973*) and shoppers were encouraged to find their own merchandise without the aid of clerks. This new concept proved so popular that in 1919, the chain was renamed "Alpha Beta"--a reference to the alphabetical stocking system.

Within a decade, the Gerrard brothers were overseeing a business that generated sales of \$3 million a year. The 25 stores were operated by other individuals or partnerships, with Gerrard family members owning a majority interest in each. As the business became more complex, the owners decided in 1929 to incorporate--in part, to take advantage of federal tax laws providing benefits for corporations.

The chain grew rapidly, opening its first two supermarkets in 1932 as part of an "experiment." The stores--one at 318 4th Street in Santa Ana and the other in Pomona--featured huge, open cases of merchandise--the sort of no-frills display used in today's big warehouse markets. "Basically, they advertised huge displays at the bare-bones, lowest price possible," said historian Esther Cramer. "Alpha Beta was the first in the nation to have anything like a supermarket."

A Huntington Beach meat-packing plant was added in 1935 and within two years, the company bought cattle-feeding ranches, one in Santa Ana Canyon and another near Mission Viejo. The first warehouse was built in La Habra, soon after the chain moved its headquarters there in 1952. Eventually, the company opened a creamery, a bakery, Alphy's coffee shops, and even an Alpha Beta Travel Service.

The acquisitions included Alpha Beta's purchase of 13 Raisin Markets in 1959, bringing the chain to 49 stores. Ironically, Alpha Beta passed up a chance to buy out Lucky in 1950. Alpha Beta became part of American Stores in 1961 and was later purchased by Lucky Brand and the Alpha Beta name was defunct as of 1995.

Alcohol wasn't sold in Alpha Beta stores until 1975, reflecting the attitude of the Gerrard brothers, who were "dead against it," recalled Claude Edwards, whose 51 years with the chain--25 of them as president or chairman--earned him the title of "Mr. Alpha Beta." Popular rumor had it that the family's Mormon faith was the reason Alpha Beta didn't sell alcohol, but the story proved to be only an urban legend.

From the 1960s to the early 2000s, the house had a succession of owners who appreciated the home, its architecture and elegance and maintained the property. In 1976, owner and local attorney David Ure installed a pool and spa on the rear of the property. The home was a Philharmonic House of Design in 1980 and was most recently featured on the 2019 Floral Park Home & Garden Tour. It sold for a record-breaking 2.45 million dollars at the end of 2019. An historic landmark, the home is #344 on the city's list of historic properties.



Historic Homes & Architectural Estates

# It's time for something new.



[www.NorthSeventeenBlog.com](http://www.NorthSeventeenBlog.com)



## Floral Park 2019 Social Scene Wrap-up

by Tammy Heider  
Floral Park Social Director

It's been a pleasure to serve this amazing neighborhood as the FPNA social director for the past year. As a community, we've enjoyed several memorable gatherings throughout 2019. Floral Park residents enjoyed the festivities spending time with friends, sampling amazing food and meeting and welcoming new residents to the neighborhood.

The year started with a newly added event; a Valentines Sweetheart Dinner. Our hosts, Rocke & Alison DeMark, opened their home to 20 couples. The Italian-themed evening started with a prosecco bar & appetizers, a lovely Italian meal and a classic Frank Sinatra & Dean Martin soundtrack for ambience. The ladies received a long stem rose, a photographer took photos for the couples to take home, and everyone received a hand painted Valentine wine glass. Karen & Steven Amsler won a gift as the longest married couple (35 years). The evening concluded with an array of desserts and a chocolate fountain. It was a memorable evening. The event continues this year with a Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch on Sunday February 9 at Perla Mexican Cuisine. Reservations are available at FloralPark.com.

We followed with National Margarita Day hosted by Karen & David Aeppli on Flower Street. Guests brought all sorts of Mexican tapas and enjoyed sipping salt-rimmed margaritas by a blazing outdoor fireplace. It was a great time for all who attended. So, who's ready to join in the celebration this year? If you missed last year's National Margarita Day event, make sure you attend this time! It's coming up Saturday, February 22 from 3-7 PM at Michael & Jeanette Mustafa's home on 2366 N Riverside Drive. You can RSVP and get more information at FloralPark.com.

Next up was Cinco de Mayo! VIVA LA VIDA FIESTA (Live the party life!), hosted by the fabulous gents, Nicholas & Johnny B. Many folks got into the fiesta mood and dressed in theme fashion! Jenny Hazen created a fabulous photo op and Sara & Tracie brought an awesome piñata filled with adult fun. The yard was packed! It was one of the best turnouts yet and is sure to be even better this year.

On to summer - FREEDOM FEST Mayberry RFD-style celebrated our nation's freedom and honored all who have served our country. What a great crew of volunteers we had, led by event chairs, Suzee & Jeff Katz, who did a tremendous job organizing and executing our community Fourth of July celebration. New in 2019 was a home brew tasting with beer created and donated by Floral Park's finest home brewers. Our local Santa Ana Fire Department visited with their bright red fire engine and judged both the best dressed doggy contest and the bike parade. *(continued on Page 12)*

## Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

Competition was fierce for the annual Floral Park holiday decorating contest, as was evident at the Walk of Lights. Congratulations to everyone who decorated your homes so beautifully, you made the neighborhood and the season more festive.



MOST BEAUTIFUL - 2409 North Park Blvd.



MOST OLD FASHIONED - 2009 Victoria Drive



MOST WHIMSICAL - 2319 Benton Way



MOST CREATIVE - 320 W. Santa Clara Avenue



BEST USE OF LIGHTS - 1919 N. Heliotrope Dr.

# Please Welcome and Thank Our Media Sponsors

We'd like to thank the sponsors who have signed on to support Floral Park and this newsletter. We're thrilled to welcome back Kevin Shuler of **Neighbors Real Estate Partners** and Sandy DeAngelis of the **DeAngelis Realty Group** as major media sponsors. We can't thank them enough for their continued support.

Our new year-long sponsors include financial advisor Diana Navarre with **Cambridge Investment Research**; flower meisters Lisa and Albert Darmousseh at **Grand Floral Events**; Ernie Aguilar at **North Seventeen Real Estate Group** boutique brokerage, local Floral Park insurance agent Eddie Quillares, Jr. at **State Farm**; Allen Bisbee at **Saddleback Chapel** serving Floral Park since 1963, and **Victory Diner**, serving seriously the best burgers and breakfast burritos around.

Returning as a year-long sponsor are Floral Park resident David Buster with **Meridian Property Management**; real estate specialist Nichole Doughty at the **Nichole Doughty Group**; and **Window Replacement & Repair** whose sponsorship continues from last year. Back again as sponsors this issue are Pedro Arizmendo and Duane Greenleaf of **Benchmark** restaurant, possibly the best modern eatery in Santa Ana; **The Olde Ship**, our very own neighborhood British Pub; Jason Isley of **Seven Gables Real Estate**, Northern Santa Ana real estate professional; and Nancy Collins of **Simplified Spaces** who will help you start the new year right and un-clutter your space.

New to the Gazette is the **LGBTQ Center OC** in Santa Ana whose Community Open House is taking place right here in Floral Park on March 15. We encourage you to patronize our wonderful sponsors, frequent their businesses and thank them for supporting our neighborhood!



## Annual Hanukkah Celebration Lights Up Heliotrope Drive

Once again, residents Jeff and Suzee Katz hosted a special celebration for the neighborhood on the second night of Hanukkah at their home on N. Heliotrope Drive. Jeff spoke of the universal message of the holiday after which Rabbi Shuey Eliezrie from Chabad of Tustin recited the blessings and lit the menorah. Following, sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and latkes (potato pancakes) were served to the many residents who braved the cold night to observe this Festival of Lights.



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# Walk of Lights

The Floral Park Annual Walk of Lights on Wednesday, December 18, brought out residents and friends to enjoy the dazzling holiday displays and enjoy libations at the many drink stations throughout the neighborhood.



# Holiday Party

The Floral Park Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7 was once again the event of the season with festive carolers, a horse-drawn trolley, many family activities, hot cocoa, real snow, and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus.



(SOCIAL EVENTS continued from page 8) Angelica Romeo donated gifts for the bike winners. A picnic style event, Floral Park's Freedom Fest street party featured a table decorating contest, watermelon eating contest emceed by Jeff Katz, and a touching salute honoring servicemen & women and first responders led by our very own Zoey Boyd. Many thanks to Kevin Shuler and Sandy DeAngelis for their continued support year after year!

Late August featured our Summer Luau where we turned the Heliotrope cul-de-sac into a Hawaiian paradise. It was my personal favorite event of the year. Again, thanks go to Suzee Katz, who secured an amazing group of Tahitian musicians and dancers for a spectacular show! Lit by tiki torches and lights strung over the street, it was an amazing summer evening as we danced the night away.

We welcomed the fall season with the Chili Cook-Off by moving it back to North Park Boulevard. There was a record-breaking group of neighbors who made chili for the contest: Sixteen entrants in all! We had fabulous judges who could not pass up sampling 16 different varieties of chili. Floral Park's Representative, Lou Correa, Dylan Almendal, our historical guru and Eddie Q with State Farm served as our judges.

Wrapping up the year was the annual Holiday Party. It was truly a Winter Wonderland! Many thanks to Rocke & Alison for decorating their fairy-tale style "Castle House" which hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus. Dave Fink, Lazslo Biro, David Aepli and George Honer were instrumental in putting up all the festive lights and decorations. As always, a huge thank you to Sandy DeAngelis for providing real snow for kids of all ages to enjoy. The Caroling Connection, featuring Floral Park's own, Liza & Tom Protofsky, caroled throughout the event, taking requests from guests and we look forward to having them return in 2020! Along with the snow, the horse drawn trolley was the neighborhood favorite. It was fun to see the kids write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, get their faces painted and have animal balloons made. The apple cider and hot chocolate rounded out this Winter Wonderland in Santa Ana. It was one of the most fun and best-attended Floral Park holiday parties to date. It took a village to put FPNA's largest event together, so huge thanks and appreciation go out to each of you who graciously volunteered an hour or more to make this extravaganza happen. We could not have done it without you!

I am truly blessed by all who supported me the entire year by volunteering in various ways, from attending

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A Gift From The Heart!*



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Floral Park's 2nd Annual  
**VALENTINE'S**

*Sweetheart Brunch*

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE, HEART  
& GOOD EATING

**SUNDAY, FEB. 9 / 12-3 PM**

PERLA MEXICAN CUISINE

**Private Upstairs Dining Room**  
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and planning at committee meetings, setting up and tearing down at events, installing barricades and posting no parking signs, decorating, hosting, donating, chairing, cooking; it truly takes a village!

We encourage everyone to participate in this year's fun by joining the Social Committee team. We welcome both past members and new residents who would like to be a part of this great group of neighbors who enjoy planning activities & parties. Please contact me at [social@floralpark.com](mailto:social@floralpark.com) to be included on the e-mail list to receive social committee updates, meeting dates and times, volunteer opportunities and upcoming events.



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## Community Open House

Please join us for a community event in Floral Park to meet your neighbors, friends, allies, and members of the LGBTQ community. Come support our community and learn about the important work, including immigration, that is being done by your LGBTQ Center Orange County. Complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served.



# Valentine's Day Blessings Come All Through The Spring In Floral Park

by Ed Trotter

As some of you may know, I spent nearly four decades of my career at Cal State Fullerton. Being an emeritus member of the faculty and administration, I still get many emails from the campus, including periodic campus greetings that kick off the new academic term. One of the special treats is the message from president Framroze Virjee, who is a very talented writer. Here's something he wrote in late January as the campus was reconvening for the spring semester.

"Home. Without the people who fill it with warmth, love, and laughter, that word is just that: a word. A monosyllabic noun with as little life to it as the brick and mortar that make up the walls and foundations of the structures it conjures up."

With that in mind, the expression "Home is where the heart is," refers not to the places where we eat, sleep, study, and play, but rather to the people with whom we enjoy (and sometimes endure) those experiences. Indeed, home might be thought of as the sum of shared

experience — vulnerability and victory, teamwork and tradition, kinship and camaraderie — that forms the bedrock of our foundation, the walls of our support, and the roof under which we gather for inclusion, acceptance, safety and success.

In other words, it is how a house becomes a home, a home becomes heart, and the people we share it with who become family.

I thought what a wonderful way to describe our Floral Park neighborhood as well. We are indeed a family here. Sandy and I often tell prospective home buyers from places away from our little venue in the world that while they may admire the lovely houses and gardens in Floral Park, they can't really see the beauty of it until they live and breathe it for themselves.

So, as we approach two events that may not seem connected (but in some ways are), I think the quote above encapsulates how most of us feel about this lovely place. The first is Valentine's Day, an occasion to observe love for a spouse, other family, and even friends and neighbors. One doesn't need to experience romantic love to signal deep emotional feelings of togetherness.

Let's raise a toast this year to one another on February 14 and express how much we have to be thankful for. But, another way to express those emotions is to



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connect through our biggest event of the year, the 28th annual Floral Park Home and Garden Tour set for April 25 and 26. As usual, homes and gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days with the Wine & Beer Garden lasting until 6 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday.

*“Home. Without the people who fill it with warmth, love and laughter, that word is just that: a word.”*

Neighbors will be planting flowers and freshening their gardens, and the neighborhood is abuzz with anticipation. We can just feel the excitement building.

We are heading to our most wonderful Home Tour Week ever. We continue to tinker with and add to the Home and Garden Tour with a few surprises and an exciting new twist this year.

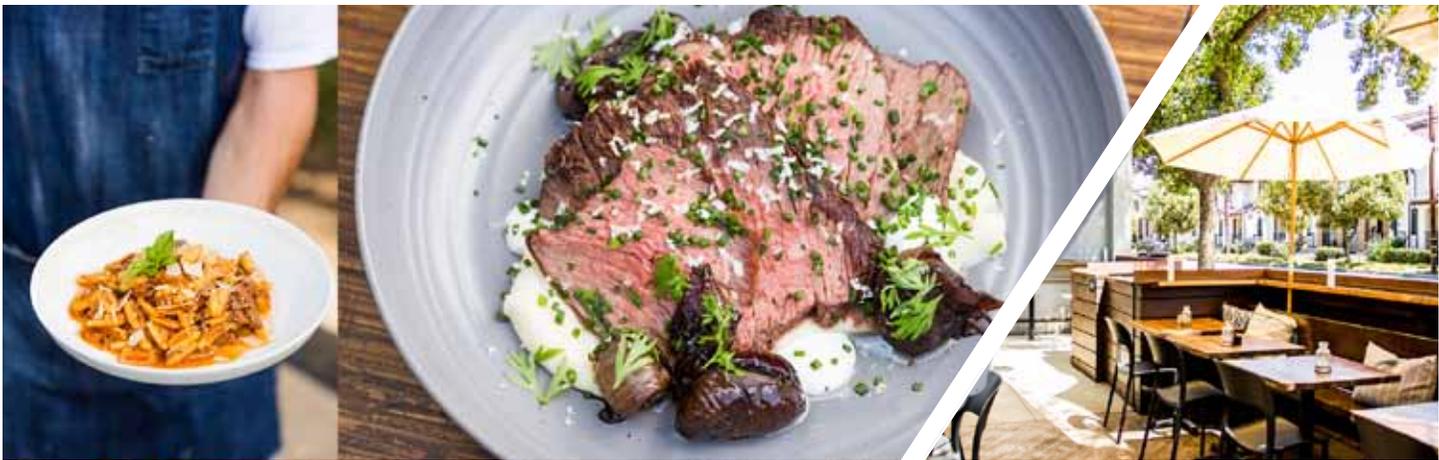
In addition to the incredible homes and gardens,

we will have a beautiful display of classic cars and the Street of Treasures is not to be missed as vendors display unique arts and crafts as well as delectable items such as chocolates.

This year we kick off with an incredible Opening night celebration on April 18 with a wonderful venue for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, music and a fabulous silent auction.

The 2020 Home and Garden Tour is quickly coming upon us. This year will be the fourth year of our beer and wine garden and the second year for our opening night fundraiser. We promise to be more refined and polished from our years of experience and the desire to provide a great experience while raising money for our scholarship fund. Funds provided by the proceeds from the Home and Garden Tour originally funded five \$1,000.00 scholarships to Santa Ana youths pursuing a higher education. In 2020, with last year’s two new fundraising programs and the generosity of several Floral Park residents, we can provide fifteen scholarships.

Our second year opening night gala and silent auction will again be in a beautiful Floral Park home. In addition to food, beverages, entertainment and the auction itself, we will be *(continued on page 17)*



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## Lawsuit and Referendum Drive Opposition to 2525 Main Street Project

Despite objections by north Santa Ana neighborhoods, the 2525 North Main Street apartment project was adopted by city council on January 21. A lawsuit has been filed by a coalition of neighborhood advocates and opponents who also intend to gather signatures in support of a referendum. At last count, the project will include 256 apartments. The 5.93 acre site has been bifurcated with a portion of the site being either leased or sold to the Discovery Cube (on the other side of Main Street) for museum parking. In addition to an uptick in vehicular traffic, we can also anticipate throngs of pedestrian traffic crossing Main Street. At the city council meeting, Mayor Pulido made a thoughtful proposal to join forces with the Discovery Cube and acquire the Red Roof Inn to resolve the Discovery Cube's parking concerns. Councilmembers Bacerra and Vice Mayor Villegas also made valiant efforts to either deny the project or submit it to the voters. However, the project was ultimately approved by a vote of 4 to 3. Councilmembers Solorio, Iglesias, Sarmiento, and Penaloza voted for the project. It should be noted that Councilman Solorio continued to drive the project forward despite a groundswell of opposition from neighborhoods both in our ward and throughout the city.

The 2525 project will generate significant additional vehicular traffic on Main Street and could adversely impact property values. Proponents of the project (including Councilman Solorio) have argued that residential uses generate less traffic than commercial uses. However, there are significant differences in the timing for traffic flow between office and residential uses. The presence of museum parking on site will further compound problems associated with traffic flow in and out of the project and create significant and ongoing uncertainty.

The project also sets terrible precedent for two reasons. First, the city amended the land use designation for the property prior to completing a global update to the general plan. It's like buying a car before updating the family budget. Second, the city council has apparently accepted the argument that a long-standing office and/or other commercial use should be re-purposed for apartment use. Therefore, what happened on Main Street could just as easily happen on Broadway or 17th Street. The Floral Park Neighborhood Association is therefore remaining steadfast in its opposition to the project.

The North Santa Ana Preservation Alliance is seeking volunteers to start gathering signatures for a referendum



petition. A referendum would place this issue on the ballot to let the registered voters of Santa Ana decide the outcome of the project. To get it on the ballot, 15,000 signatures from registered voters must be gathered by February 21. You needn't be a registered voter to volunteer, as long as you're at least 18 years old. The Orange Neighborhood Association recently gathered over 13,000 signatures to oppose a project so we know it can be done. To volunteer, contact [NSAPAinfo@gmail.com](mailto:NSAPAinfo@gmail.com). You can look for news and updates on our Facebook page and [FloralPark.com](http://FloralPark.com).

## Silent Auction Items Needed For Home & Garden Tour Opening Night Gala

Last year's home tour opening night event featured a silent auction that contributed significantly to our scholarship funding efforts. It was almost a last-minute add-on to the event and we were flabbergasted with the outcome. This year, we're soliciting well ahead of time for contributions. Last year, for example, we featured a night on a boat during the Newport Beach Boat Parade in December. We had neighbors donate tickets to Angels, Dodgers, and Ducks games, several three-bottle superior wine collections, restaurant meals, and more. We'd like to kick it up significantly with other contributions.

Do you have a vacation home in the mountains or beach to offer? Maybe a time-share you won't use? Live performance theatre tickets? How about services that you or your company could provide that would be a draw? Please contact Ed Trotter at 714-519-1739 or [ETrotter@Fullerton.edu](mailto:ETrotter@Fullerton.edu).

*(VALENTINE'S DAY BLESSINGS continued from page 15)* offering the first 25 people that purchase tickets to a private tour of the house the evening of the gala.

Our beer and wine garden in its fourth year will be spread over two yards on North Park due to its popularity. We will again offer an assortment of wines and craft beers as well as entertainment. In addition, we will have specialty food available for purchase that may be enjoyed at one of our tables.

Please watch the neighborhood for the thermometer signs which will be on display in late February. We need docents, ticket sellers, wine and beer pourers, setup and tear down staff, street monitors and a host of others. If you can smile you qualify. To volunteer, contact Bev Schauwecker at [Bev\\_Schauwecker@yahoo.com](mailto:Bev_Schauwecker@yahoo.com) or sign up at [FloralParkHomeTour.com](http://FloralParkHomeTour.com).

## Thank You to Our Generous 2019 Floral Park Patrons

One of the missions of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association is to give back to the community. Charitable donations have given us the means to award scholarships to deserving Santa Ana students as well as donate to worthy charitable organizations, in addition to funding the preservation and beautification efforts of the association. Last year we welcomed a record number of Floral Park Patrons, and we sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generosity and support! To become a patron, go to [FloralPark.com/shop](http://FloralPark.com/shop).

**DIAMOND PATRONS:** Bret Bagne & Bud Franz; John Coil; Sandy DeAngelis & Ed Totter.

**GOLD PATRONS:** Richard & Mila Payne; Mike & Betty Zachan.

**SILVER PATRONS:** Stephen Amsler; Kevin Barber & Stacey Clinesmith; Annie Burns; Brian & Denise Byrd; David & Linda Chapel; Karyn Cripps; David & Gloria Crockett; Diana & Peter Christoffersen; Roche DeMark; Talin Sonata Espinoza; Mike & Robin Evans; Jenny Hazen; Gary & Julie Humphreys; William H. Ihrke; Garrett & Erica James; KC & Helen Jones; Frank & Craig Kalthoff-Patti; Jeff & Suzee Katz; Erik Kinas; racey & Eric Stein; Brian Stoddart & Kevin Shuler; Christine Switzer; Ed Trotter & Sandy DeAngelis; Amy L. Tsotsis; Tracie Turrietta & Sara Camm-Turrietta; Trace Weatherford; Kevin & Nancy Zinngrave.

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**PURPLE PATRONS;** Gary Barton Ph.D & Aleda Barton; Mike & Robin Evans; Nancy Groner; Paul Groner; Linda Koesell; Gerald Marley; Louise Medina; Anna Nalie; Chris & Kelly Reinberger; Kerri Stork; John & Karlene Von Szeliski.



## Scholarship Applications Now Available

Every year the Floral Park Neighborhood Association awards scholarships to Santa Ana high school and community college students. The scholarships are funded by proceeds from the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour and Floral Park Patrons. These scholarships are not based on academic achievement or financial need, but are instead designed to recognize and honor young people for their own individual volunteerism. This serves to acknowledge their efforts in giving of their time and commitment to the community in hopes that they will be encouraged to continue their educational goals and service to others. In 2019, we awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to deserving students. Applications are now available online for 2020 scholarships at [FloralPark.com/documents](http://FloralPark.com/documents).

## Floral Park Legacy Award Nominations Now Being Accepted Online

The Floral Park Legacy Awards were established as a way to recognize those who have made significant and lasting contributions to the development and preservation of our neighborhood, including important contributions to the historic, social or aesthetic quality of Floral Park. Guidelines as well as nomination forms are available online at [FloralPark.com/documents](http://FloralPark.com/documents).

## Iconic Cocktail To Be Honored at 5th Annual Margarita Day Celebration.

Join us on National Margarita Day, February 22 from 3:00-7:00 pm as once again we honor this sacred tequila, triple sec and lime drink enjoyed and consumed by millions. Please bring a Mexican style appetizer or creative dish to share for six people to 2366 N. Riverside We'll be serving Cadillac margaritas along with bottled waters. Be sure to RSVP online at [FloralPark.com](http://FloralPark.com) by Thursday February 20 and feel free to bring your own tequila if you're a connoisseur.

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# Mark Your Calendars Now for 2020

Here's a quick reference for some of our planned meetings and events this year. Dates and times are subject to change so look for more details in eblasts and at [FloralPark.com/calendar](http://FloralPark.com/calendar). Locations and dates not listed are yet to be determined.

## FEBRUARY 2020

- Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch .....2/9, Noon
- FPNA Board Meeting .....2/18, 7 pm
- National Margarita Day .....2/22, 6 pm

## MARCH 2020

- Yard Sale Weekend ..... 3/7-8
- FPNA Board Meeting .....3/17, 7 pm
- Spring Mixer .....3/29, 3pm
- FPNA General Meeting .....

## APRIL 2020

- Neighborhood Clean Up Day .....4/11
- Home Tour Opening Night Gala.....4/18
- Floral Park Home & Garden Tour .....4/25-26  
*Tour: 8am-4pm, Wine Garden: 11-6 pm*

## MAY 2020

- Cinco de Mayo Party ..... 5/3, 3-7 pm
- FPNA Board Meeting .....5/18, 7 pm
- Board Elections.....

## JUNE 2020

- Yard Sale Weekend .....6/6 & 7
- FPNA Board Meeting .....6/16, 7 pm
- General Meeting (*Scholarships, Charity & Legacy Awards*).....
- Freedom Fest .....6/27, 3-7:00, *Heliotrope*

## JULY 2020

- FPNA Board Meeting .....7/20, 7pm

## AUGUST 2020

- FPNA Board Meeting .....8/18, 7pm
- Summer Concert ..... 8/22, 5-6 pm

## SEPTEMBER 2020

- Yard Sale Weekend .....9/5 & 6
- FPNA Board Meeting .....9/22, 7pm

## OCTOBER 2020

- Chili Cook-Off & Block Party ..... 10/3, 3-6 pm
- FPNA Board Meeting .....10/20, 7pm

## NOVEMBER 2020

- FPNA Board Meeting .....11/17, 7pm
- General Meeting (Budget Approval) .....

## DECEMBER 2020

- Holiday Party ..... 12/5, 3-6 pm, *North Park*
- Decorating Contest Judging.....
- Walk of Lights .....

# Sewer Construction Planned For March

Check your email, Facebook and [FloralPark.com](http://FloralPark.com) for upcoming information about a neighborhood meeting to address major sewer repair work planned for March which will close some streets and intersections in Floral Park.



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