

Fall and Winter Fun in Floral Park

Fall and winter have been great times for FPNA social events, from the multi-neighborhood Concert in the Park and the Fall Concert in September, to the successful return of the Chili Cook-Off in November, to this year's amazing Holiday Party in December.

Next year proves to be just as, if not more, exciting as we extend a warm welcome to our in-coming FPNA Social Directors, Ashley Lawson and Erin Suica. Get ready for a fun-filled 2014, as we recap the many great events of the last quarter of 2013.

Holiday Party:

Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays – especially when your home is in Floral Park during the FPNA holiday party. This year's fantastically, festive event was held on Saturday, December 14th from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the intersection of North Park Boulevard and N. Benton Way.

The white stuff was back this year thanks to the generous contribution of neighbor Sandy DeAngelis. Kids and parents alike lined North Park Boulevard and eagerly watched as the median was transformed in front of their eyes into a winter, wonderland



playground. Some kids made snow angels, while others threw snow in the air to watch it fall around their heads, and others tried their hand at making mini snowmen.

Santa arrived at “the Castle” on North Park Blvd. in style, on a horse drawn carriage to the tune of *Here Comes Santa Claus*

played by the Santa Ana High School Jazz Band. Children (and some pets) were greeted by Santa's helpers and escorted by elves up the Castle path to meet Santa and have their photo taken.

(Continued on page 6)





FLORAL PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The FLORAL PARK NEWS

is the official publication of the
Floral Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 11366,

Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366.

Website: www.floralpark.com

The FLORAL PARK NEWS is published four times a year by volunteers and friends of Floral Park. Our goal is to provide the reader with accurate, entertaining, enlightening, and informative news from Floral Park and the surrounding areas. It is also our goal to bring the community closer together through communication. The readership is dedicated to keeping our neighborhood and the community beautiful, safe, fun, interesting, and socially and culturally responsible.

News readers are encouraged to participate as contributors, promotional sponsors or simply readers. Views and conclusions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the editors or officers of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association. Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Floral Park Neighborhood Association.

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Thank you Pete & Erin!

Letter from the Editors ...

Here's to all volunteers, those dedicated people who believe in all work and no pay.

~Robert Orben

As always, the Floral Park newsletter is heavily dependent upon the faithful volunteer contributors who send ideas, write articles, send photos, and provide support in so many ways.

Many thanks to the following neighbors and friends who contributed to this issue:

Blake Anderson • Sandy DeAngelis

Darlene Glenn-Wolff • Ellen Friedlander • Sherri Honer

Joe Magaddino • Bev Schauwecker

Jeffrey Smith • Nancy Smith • Ed Trotter

Editorial Deadline for Spring 2014 issue is February 15

We also appreciate our faithful returning sponsors and some that are new to this issue. We are grateful for their support of the FLORAL PARK NEWS and encourage you to support them in return.

Wishing You a Wonderful Winter in Floral Park!

Nancy Smith

newsletter@floralpark.com

Bev Schauwecker

bev_schauwecker@yahoo.com

A New Incoming Board, A Great Outgoing Board and A Promising 2014

A new Floral Park Board was elected during the November 19 General Membership Meeting. The ten board positions for 2014 are:

- President: Blake P. Anderson*
- First VP/Chair of Sponsorship Committee: Mark and Whitney Mittmann, Sarah and John Krutsinger
- Second VP/Chair of Beautification Committee: Darlene Glenn-Wolff*
- Secretary: Kathy Cooper
- Treasurer: Joe Magaddino*
- Membership Director: Jeff Smith*
- Social Director: Ashley Lawson and Erin Suica
- Home Tour Director: Sandy DeAngelis*
- Communication Director**: Nancy Smith* and Bev Schauwecker*
- Parliamentarian: Ed Murashie

* Returning board member

**This position had formerly been "Newsletter Editor" with a smaller scope of responsibilities

I want to acknowledge the great work of the outgoing board members.

- **Randy Harmat** served as First Vice President and Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee. He was responsible for leading our 2013 scholarship and community grants program that support so many outstanding people and organizations in the wider Santa Ana community.
- **Ann Salisbury** was our Secretary and served on the ad hoc Communications Committee. She brought a special talent for detail, discernment and discipline that helped us all face issues with sharper thinking and better outcomes.
- **Vi Pham** served as Parliamentarian and chaired the ad hoc Bylaws Committee. We made a significant advance in improving governance of the association through her hard work.
- And finally, I want to provide a special shout out to **Sherri Honer** for her service as Social Director. She formed a remarkable team of neighborhood volunteers that organized all of the events that made 2013 such a great year. Her enthusiastic and cheerful spirit is a great example of what it takes to make good things happen in the neighborhood we call home.

President's Podium

I also want to take a moment to thank the people who served in 2013 and are remaining on the board for 2014:

- **Sandy DeAngelis** served as our Home and Garden Tour Director has done so all of the years we have been conducting it. Attendance and income were both up. The tour is our largest source of income and provides the funds that allow this neighborhood to do so much.
- **Darlene Glenn-Wolff** served as our Second Vice President and Beautification Committee Chairwoman. She worked tirelessly with the City in coordinating and communicating maintenance of our streetlights, parkway trees and landscaping improvements. She coordinating the placement of the big trash bins in the spring.
- **Joe Magaddino** served as our treasurer and provided the board with concise and understandable reports on our income and expenditures during the year. He also handled some of the permitting and reporting tasks that the neighborhood conducts with government agencies.
- **Jeff Smith** served as Membership Director and was responsible (with some of Nancy's help) for the membership drive and the mixers around the neighborhood. Contributions from our members topped \$10,000 this year and Jeff's affable style and welcoming spirit helped make that possible.
- **Nancy Smith** acted as Newsletter Editor and provided considerable time and effort on the Communications Committee that, among other things, provided as with a new website. Our ability to have a well-coordinated set of communication tools managed by Nancy as our first Communications Director should allow us to do great things.
- **Bev Schauwecker** served on the board as Newsletter Co-chair. She served on the ad hoc Communications Committee, the ad hoc Bylaws Committee and

Our incoming and, as of yet, untested new board members look very promising.

provided me invaluable counsel and advice during my first year as board chairman.

- Kathy Cooper will be our new Secretary. She comes to us after retiring from a career of County service. Her administrative skills and understanding of how organizations work should provide invaluable help for capturing the essence of our deliberative process and conveying the results out to the neighborhood.
- Ed Murashie joins us as our Parliamentarian. Ed's early interest in the neighborhood and Santa Ana politics in general should provide us with an activist board member who is willing to take on a bit more than the office requires and help to promote the interests of Floral Park.

- A four-person team of two young couples will fill First Vice President and Sponsorship Chair. They will provide energetic and imaginative support to this essential part of the Floral Park charter and mission. As a 501(c)3 organization, we have a special obligation to the community around us. Mark and Whitney Mittmann and Sarah and John Krutsinger understand this, in part, by virtue of the regular jobs that Whitney and Sarah have.
- Two people will share Social Director: Ashley Lawson and Erin Suica. Ashley is brand new to the neighborhood and Erin has lived here for years. They share several common attributes: Certifiable characters, fun and enthusiastic. As our cruise directors for 2014, I anticipate a year filled with good times and plenty of laughter.

2014 FPNA Board

President:	Blake P. Anderson BlakePAnderson@gmail.com
First VP/Chair of Sponsorship Committee:	Whitney & Mark Mittmann mmittmann@canterburyconsulting.com Sarah & John Krutsinger sarah.mittmann@gmail.com john.e.krutsinger@gmail.com
Second VP/Chair of Beautification Committee:	Darlene Glenn-Wolff darlene_glenn@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Kathy Cooper kscoop@pacbell.net
Treasurer:	Joe Magaddino treasurer@floralpark.com
Membership Director:	Jeff Smith jeffrey@smithtribe.com
Social Directors	Ashley Lawson & Erin Suica lawson.at.law@gmail.com suicaerin@hotmail.com
Home Tour Director:	Sandy DeAngelis sandy@historichomes.com
Communications Directors	Nancy Smith newsletter@floralpark.com Bev Schauwecker bev_schauwecker@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian:	Ed Murashie emurashie@att.net

Amendments to Bylaws Approved on November 19

A majority of the general membership approved amendments to the bylaws on the November 19. The amendments were first drafted during 2013 by an ad hoc committee of the board of directors formed for that purpose. On November 4, the FPNA board unanimously recommended approval of the amendments and authorized they be conveyed to the general membership for its consideration on November 19.

The most important changes are as follows:

Article IX: Duties of Board Members. We added more detailed job descriptions.

Article X: Election of Officers/Board Members.

Beginning November 2014, nominations for FPNA officers will be accepted and announced at the general membership meeting. Ballots will be distributed to every household in Floral Park. Each family will have ten days to vote and mail the ballots to the FPNA PO Box in an envelope previously addressed and stamped by FPNA. Ballots will be opened, counted and announced in public at a time and place announced by the FPNA board.

Terms of office are expanded to alternating two-year terms as follows: The First Vice President and Treasurer will

be elected to two-year terms beginning January 1, 2015. The President, Second Vice President and Secretary will be elected to two-year terms beginning January 1, 2016. Membership Director, Social Director, Home Tour Director, Communications Director and Parliamentarian will continue to be elected to one-year terms.

Article XVI: Conflicts of Interest.

We expanded and clarified the language.

The amended Bylaws can be found on the FPNA website located at www.floralpark.com

The Year Ahead

A board transition meeting was conducted on December 9 and a board retreat will be conducted in January. These two meetings will be important for establishing the Floral Park social and event calendar and for setting goals for 2014. The board will address the three major objectives of Floral Park: neighborhood preservation and beautification; social events; and community sponsorship and giving.

If you have suggestions or concerns please contact any member of the board of directors or write directly to the board or show up at the board retreat to voice your concerns. All meetings of the FPNA board of directors are open to all members of the association, excluding the very rare occasion when an executive session is declared by the president of the board for personnel or litigation matters.

North Santa Ana Traffic Committee

I reported in the last newsletter that Floral Park, West Floral Park, Morrison Park and Jack Fisher Park formed an ad hoc North Santa Ana Traffic Committee. The committee's purpose is to evaluate traffic-related issues common to the north end neighborhoods and convey its findings to its neighborhood association boards for action there. Other neighborhoods can join. It is established very informally for now.

Its next meeting is set for January 7 at 7 pm at Jeff and Nancy Smith's home, 2442 N. Heliotrope. We are waiting to see the draft Circulation Element revision to the City's Master Plan and are tracking the I-5 Improvements between CA-57 and CA-55. A guest speaker from the City, Carlos Castellanos, will describe the scope of work

President's Podium

and anticipated traffic impacts of the North Broadway improvements from the Civic Center to the Main Place Mall. That work begins soon and will continue until mid-2014. Interested members of the four neighborhood associations are welcome to attend.

If you have a particular concern, interest or idea about Floral Park traffic please contact either Jeff Smith (949) 292-0676 or Blake Anderson (714) 801-3931

We Get Letters!

*This years party was great!!!
The santa house, the hot drinks,
the firetruck, the music, the horsedrawn
trolley...and the snow!!
Great turn out as well.
Please thank the committee
... great job this year!!!!*

Dr Amy Stark

An open invitation to meet

I am always open to meet over a cup of coffee or a meal. Just drop me an email at BlakePAnderson@gmail.com and let's set something up. Or, if you would prefer a phone call, you can reach me at (714) 801-3931.



See you on the street

Blake P. Anderson
BlakePAnderson@gmail.com

Holiday Party

(Continued from page 1)

Photos, which were taken by Shadia Masri Photography, may be downloaded at www.shutterfly.com
Login name:
floralpark2013@yahoo.com
Password: santa2013,
go to My Pictures.



In addition to snow-play and Santa, neighbors enjoyed cookie decorating for the little ones (offered by neighbor-owned, Flour Empower), caroling on a horse drawn carriage ride, hot chocolate, hot cider, and cookies, along with music and entertainment provided by the Santa High School Jazz Band and the Orange County School of the Arts' (OCSA) Montage singing group.

In the spirit of giving, neighbors filled two barrels of unwrapped toys



for the Spark of Love Toy Drive, sponsored by the Orange County Fire Authority. For those who arrived early,

they were treated with the opportunity to meet some of our local firefighters and have pictures taken in a fire engine. All-in-all, a wonderful day was had by all spending time with good friends, neighbors, and invited family.

Immediately following the holiday party, lights were lit on the pine tree at Sarah Mae Downie Herb Garden at the corner of North Park Boulevard and Flower Street. The original tree was donated years ago by long-time resident, Lou Pecora, who donated the tree in loving memory of his parents, who also were long-time Floral Park residents. If you're out and about observing the lights in the neighborhood, swing by the Herb Garden to take a look and enjoy.

A very special thank you goes out to Ann Walsh and Ashley Blanke for all their hard work and talents in co-chairing the event and to the many volunteers who helped make this year's event such a success.

Happy Holidays to All!!

Viva Las Vegas – 12th Annual Concert in the Park:

On September 7th, the residents of Floral Park, along with Fisher Park, Morrison Park, Riverview, Washington Square, and West Floral Park came together to enjoy each other's company and spend the evening listening and dancing to the classic rock music of the



talented and entertaining cover band, The Answer. In keeping with this year's theme ("Viva Las Vegas") many of those in attendance got into the spirit by decorating tables and dressing in Vegas style. It was a great event and a wonderful chance to meet our fellow neighbors and make new friends from surrounding neighborhoods.

Fall Concert – Dancing Under the Stars

On September 21st, neighbors enjoyed a night under the stars listening and dancing to a wide-range of great music provided by the band, Blues Racket. Those in attendance also were entertained by the singing and dancing talents of students from the Orange County School of the Arts (“OCSA”), who donated their time and



performed various dance styles and entertained the audience during the band’s breaks. Some of those who attended came dressed in clothing from their favorite musical era, most brought a picnic dinner to enjoy, and all who attended had a good time.

The FPNA would like to acknowledge and thank Blues Racket for providing a sizeable, non-profit discount in their performance fee, as

well as the following businesses and individuals listed below who generously donated to the Fall Concert raffle. The raffle raised

\$1,000 for the Orange County School of the Arts (“OCSA”) Foundation, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to offering financial support

to the OCSA’s tuition-free artistic programs and ongoing capital expansion plans. Congratulations to raffle, grand prize winner and new neighbor, Anne Rabasco, who won a week-long stay in Orlando, Florida.

Please show your appreciation for the business donors who contributed, most of whom are local, by patronizing the businesses whenever possible.

Chili Cook-Off & Block Party

The Chili Cook-Off returned on November 9th and was a resounding success. Neighbors enjoyed terrific music provided by local favorites, Peanut, as well as an opportunity to taste some delicious chili served with cornbread and/or chips. Many of the participants went all-out decorating their booths.

Special thanks to judges Bruce Marsh from the Little Sparrow Café, Richard Espinachio from Diego’s, and Tristen Beamon from Best Wines Online for undertaking the difficult task of judging the competition.

(Continued on page 8)



Social

Thank You Fall Concert Donors

Aladdin Gift Flower
Angel Nail Spa
Barnes, Angel
Best Wines Online
Big 5 Sporting Goods
Biro, Tricia and Laszlo
Country Trails Riding School
C Salon
Edwards Cinema
Flippen, Lexie
Honer, Sherri and George
Little Sparrow
Montanya Spa
Mother’s Market
Pepito’s
PinkBerry
Spa Aesthetica
The Olde Ship
Z Pizza

A special thank you goes out to Amy Tsotsis, Salina Miller, and Erin Suica for doing an outstanding job co-hosting the event.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place – Lady Bird Johnson Chili

2nd Place – Julia’s Love Child Chili

3rd Place –Chili Raphael

People’s Choice Chili – Coops Chili

People’s Choice Booth – Triple K

A special thank you goes out to Pete Suica who chaired the event with assistance from Jessica Carr.



The Social Committee welcomes new members, new ideas, and volunteers. The committee may be reached via email at social@floralpark.com.

Beautification



Holiday Lighting Contest

The winners of FPNA's Annual Holiday Lighting Contest have been selected! Homes were judged for exterior holiday lights and decorations in Floral Park will be on Saturday, December 13th.

The categories were:

- Most Beautiful - 2450 Riverside
- Most Creative - 2463 N. Heliotrope
- Most Whimsical - 2457 N. Heliotrope
- Most Old Fashioned - 2038 N. Ross
- Best Use of Lights - 2440 Riverside

Winners received a yard sign and a pair of comp Floral Park Home & Garden Tour tickets valued at \$50.



Memorial Stone in Sarah May Downie Herb Garden

A beautiful memorial stone has been placed under the center tree in the Sarah May Downie Herb Garden. The memorial stone is from our neighbor, Lou Pecora, in



Darlene Glenn-Wolff
darlene_glenn@hotmail.com



Oak Street Trees Trimmed

The City of Santa Ana pruned the street oak trees during the months of October and November. The City hires professional arborists to oversee the pruning of the beautiful and old oak trees. The trees are generally pruned about once every four-five years.

If you have any questions or concerns about the street trees, please contact Darlene Glenn-Wolff, 2nd VP Beautification.

Street Tree Care Guide

Please see page 25 for information from the City regarding a street tree maintenance. There are pointers about how to prolong the lifespan of your street tree. Although you are not allowed to prune the tree itself, you are allowed (and asked by the City) to trim the sucker growth on the street tree that is in front of your house.

If you would like to become more involved in the neighborhood and have an interest in improving the public areas, please contact Darlene Glenn-Wolff via tel 714-558-6091 or e-mail:

darlene_glenn@hotmail.com



Dear Neighbor,

Need a tax deduction? Not much time left but a contribution to FPNA could be deductible. For those who have given generously in 2013 FPNA thanks you.

Your contribution helps keep the Association running so it can react to neighborhood needs as they arise, provide social events, and maintain the newsletter and website. Any amount is appreciated.

We thank you and invite you to participate in your neighborhood!
It's fun!



Jeff Smith

FPNA Membership Director
jeffrey@smithtribe.com

Your support is appreciated.
Contributors are thanked in the newsletter.
Simply use the coupon below
or pay online with



Go to: www.floralpark.com

The Floral Park Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable association so your contribution may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax professional for advice.



ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTION

Supporting	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sponsoring	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefactor/ Corporation	\$200 +	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Amount \$

Please please make checks payable to: **FPNA**
and send to:
**FPNA, P.O. Box 11366,
Santa Ana, CA 91711-1366**

Name(s)

Address

Telephone(s)

* Email Address 1

* Email Address 2

*To be used exclusively for email announcements related to the Floral Park Neighborhood Association and its events.

2013 CONTRIBUTORS

\$11,613 WITH 163 HOUSEHOLDS CONTRIBUTING!



BENEFACTOR/CORPORATION \$200 +

Blake Anderson
& Giovanna Piazza
Earnie & Diane Eady
George Hanna
& Joan Hanna-Borack
Randy Harmat
& Eugenio Vasquez
Sandy DeAngelis & Ed Trotter
Ruth Ann Moriarty
Nancy St Jacques
Alex Hart & Mason Nakamura
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David & Mary Lang
Helen Alberts
Kerri Stork
Paul & Sylvia Andersen
Marc & Lisa Garnica
Joe & Katie Chally
Jim & Sue Ellsworth
Phil & Heather Garcia

Are you new to the neighborhood?

Welcome!

We are happy that you have chosen Floral Park as your new home.

Whether you have come to raise a family, work at a new job, retire, or perhaps start a business, we hope you enjoy your new life in our beautiful neighborhood. The FPNA would like to "officially" welcome you to the neighborhood with a welcome gift.

If you moved here in the past 6 months and have not been contacted, please let me know your name and contact information.

Jeffrey Smith, Membership Director: jeffrey@smithtribe.com

A very special
Thank you

to Alex Hart & Mason Nakamura
for hosting the September
Neighborhood Mixer!

A great time was had by all!!

See photos on pages 12-13

Floral Park Neighbors



Thank you, Alex, for these wonderful photos!

Floral Park Neighbors



Watch the website for the first mixer of 2014

Treasurer's Report

Floral Park Year-to-Date Budget vs. Actual

	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>
General Fund:		
Beginning Balance as of 01-01-13		\$ 104,136
Contributions/Promotional Sponsorship Funds		
Investment Income	\$ 200	\$ 77
Membership Contributions	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,243
Newsletter/Website Promotional Sponsorship Funds	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,335
Subtotal	\$ 16,200	\$ 12,655
Expenses		
Administrative	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,312
Membership/New Neighborhood	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,727
Newsletter/Website	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,618
Subtotal	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,657
General Fund Ending Balance	\$ 1,700	\$ (2,002)
Sponsorships Fund:		
Contributions		
Home Tour	\$ 50,000	\$ 62,415
Heartstone Income	\$ -	\$ 249
Miscellaneous Income	\$ -	\$ 2,725
Subtotal	\$ 50,000	\$ 65,389
Expenses		
Home Tour	\$ 30,000	\$ 19,849
Special Events	\$ 10,500	\$ 9,468
Planned Sponsorship Commitments	\$ 2,000	2,248
Neighborhood Special Projects	\$ 15,000	\$ 2.79
Scholarships	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000
Charities	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,000
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 1,918
Subtotal	\$ 66,000	\$ 44,486
Sponsorship Fund Ending Balance	\$ (16,000)	\$ 20,903
Total Unallocated Funds	\$ 89,836	
Floral Park Ending Balance as of 11-1-13		\$ 123,037



Joe Magaddino, Treasurer
treasurer@floralpark.com

2014

Home & Garden Tour

We are about to turn the corner on the calendar year and that means only one thing: the Floral Park Home and Garden Tour is on the horizon. And as that new-year sun rises, we will find ourselves short of both homes and gardens to show off to our visitors. So, we need your help. We need about three more homes and two more gardens. Trust me, you don't want the neighborhood Realtor knocking on your door begging, pleading, cajoling!

So, as you admire your lovely home this holiday season, please give a thought to how well it would look as a centerpiece on the 2014 Home and Garden Tour.

Over and over, I hear those who have volunteered their homes saying that they should have done this years ago. And, I can speak from experience, having had my own home on the Tour twice. There is nothing like the Home Tour to get you "over the hump" of doing those finishing touches you've been considering. And, you have would have the opportunity to contribute to the quality of life in Floral Park.

Further, I can say professionally that the Home Tour adds significantly to the value of each and every home in Floral Park.

This coming year, we will be featuring homes on Santa Clara and north. We're set for Saturday and Sunday, April 26th and 27th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. And, as usual we'll have all of the other festivities such as the collectibles vendors, the antique auto show, and food and beverages. It truly is the highlight event of the year.

Further, it is an excellent way to be involved in the neighborhood. There is no end to the number of family relationships that have begun with the Home Tour either

through volunteering a home or garden or participating in any of the numerous support activities that make the event the outstanding success it is. You newcomers may not know that the Home Tour and all of the volunteer support it generated were the reason Floral Park was named the 2005 Neighborhood of the year by Neighborhood USA.

If you would like to be a member of the planning committee, you are more than welcome to join us. We meet six to eight times a year to build upon the previous year's efforts and new members are vital to our discussions. For

example, Wayne Saruci has just come aboard in the past few months and has brought a passel of new ideas and suggestions. That's what we need.

If you'd like a more limited engagement with the event, we can always use docents, someone who can get sponsors and/or advertisers, and many other fun tasks. And, we need vintage cars for the car show.

Our next planning committee meeting is set

for **January 20, 2014, at 2121 Victoria Drive**. We'll even feed you a few goodies and pour your favorite beverage.

If you feel you can make any contribution call me at 714-357-8565. We need you!

Finally, let's all remember that this is also the event that funds so much of our charity work. We provide five separate \$1,000 scholarships each year, support for other charitable organizations, and support neighborhood beautification projects.

Each year, when we take account of all we've done with that year's Home Tour, we say that it was the best. And, in fact, it was. We keep improving and we do not want to break our string in 2014. As we say where I originate, "Ya'll come on down!"



Sandy DeAngelis,
Home Tour Director
sandy@historichomes.com

*Let's continue to be even more successful
with each passing year!*

Home Tour Committee Meetings:

2121 N. Victoria Drive - 7pm

January 20, 2014



with Ed Trotter

As some of you may recall, Sandy and I visited China nearly three years ago and came away with many good culinary experiences. Well, as I was nearing retirement from Cal State Fullerton, I was asked to make one more recruiting trip for our Extended Education program to work with universities in China to send mid-career delegations for training in administration and other academic activities.

On the previous trip, we had visited Shanghai and the province of Hainan, which is an island off the southern coast of China, not all that far east of Vietnam. On our recent trip, we were in Beijing, the southern cities of Nanning and Guilin, with a stop in Xi'an to see the terra cotta warriors on our way back to Beijing.

While the trip was amazing (and we'll be glad to bore you with the slideshow any time), it was also the opportunity for expanding the culinary repertoire. Upon my return from any travel that includes interesting food (Don't they all?), I like to explore what is available locally to reproduce some of the highlights of visiting another country.

So, with that in mind, let me give you a couple of great suggestions, both in Irvine, home to Orange County's largest Chinese contingent.

I have very much enjoyed Sichuan food while in China, its spicy redness just brings me to tears, both literally and figuratively. Sichuan is probably the most renowned province in China for cooking. It's not the most common Chinese cuisine you'll encounter but it's worth the experience.

One of the secrets to Sichuan is their use of a unique peppercorn that will provide an oiliness that coats the palate and makes the taste linger far longer than other food. It's truly something you need to try. Luckily, we have a Sichuan place for you to enjoy just down the 5 freeway at Jeffrey and Walnut. **Chong Qing Mei Wei** (pronounced *Chong Ching May Way*) Szechuan Restaurant is located in what amounts to a Chinese shopping mall that backs right up to the freeway. The restaurant itself can be found way at the back on the right. While parking can be a hassle, it's worth the trouble, trust me.

I've been there twice since returning from China in September and have been delighted on both occasions. My personal favorite is won ton tossed in spicy chili sauce. These delicate noodles float in a bath of redness that just begs you to have more and more. Another must-have is spicy eggplant, a dish we ate frequently in China. It combines the sweetness of Asian eggplant with the same Sichuan spiciness that also dares you to try to stop at one serving. It can't be done, trust me. (Sandy and I so much loved this dish that we reproduced it at home with, we must say, remarkable success.)

Also try a seafood stew of some sort. As I recall there are several. The light filets of fish are brought to life in this restaurant. So, this is one of my top two favorite all-around Chinese restaurants in Orange County, the other being Ma's Islamic Chinese Restaurant in Fullerton.

And, the September trip gave us our first opportunity to try Chinese hotpots.

Think of fondue, if you will, without the cheese. Hotpots are typically a wonderful way to have a community dining experience. Each person has his or her own pot of broth into which one puts any variety of food . . . lamb, chicken, shrimp, fish, beef, mushrooms, lotus roots, and all kinds of other vegetables. All of these are cooked in the broth, pulled out when done, and then eaten from a bowl with one's own mixture of sauces to include sesame (my favorite), peanut, black vinegar, and on and on. And, of course, noodles.

As I had only heard of hot pot before, this was a new experience. Upon return I looked for something like it here and, sure enough, right there in Irvine on Culver is **Little Sheep Mongolian Hotpot**. There are a string of them around Southern California and other parts of the country as well.

We joined some Irvine friends a few weeks back to share with them our now budding expertise. Everyone pronounced it a delight and said they'd be returning for more. And, both Sandy and I were impressed with how similar it was to what we had in China.

They say travel makes you appreciate home as much as where you visit. This couldn't be truer than our two "finds" in Irvine.

* * * * *

A tad closer to home, I had been reading about a new place that was to open in Orange, a few blocks east of the circle. Described as an oyster house, it turned out to be anything like what we were expecting . . . a rustic shucking shack. Hardly. **Ways and Means Oyster House** is a wonderful addition to the local restaurant offerings.

We were there about a week after

(Continued on page 17)

Neighborhood Notes

Join the FPNA email list ... Stay in the Loop!

The FPNA Email List is used for email announcements pertinent to the Floral Park Neighborhood Association and its events. This list is maintained by the FPNA Board and is not shared or sold.

If you live in Floral Park and want to join over 480 Floral Park residents and stay informed about the neighborhood, just email:

webmaster@floralpark.com

with your street and email addresses and your name will be added.

Need Minutes?

If you've missed a neighborhood general meeting and would like to obtain a copy of the minutes, you can request a copy to be mailed (or

emailed) to you. Monthly board meeting minutes are also available on request. Just send your request with name, street address and/or email address to email:

secretary@floralpark.com

or via mail to:

FPNA (Minutes),
P.O. Box 11366,
Santa Ana, CA 92711-1366

Garage Sales

Garage sales in Santa Ana are limited to the first full weekend of the months of March, June, September and December.

Com-Link - Meets the fourth Thursday of the month in the SAPD Community Room, 60 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana. For agenda and directions visit:

www.ci.santa-ana.ca.us

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Out & About (Continued from page 16)

it had opened and found an amazingly sophisticated restaurant in what had been Spiro's and before that a Coco's. So, you can imagine our surprise. Our waiter, formerly with Charlie Palmer's in South Coast Plaza, was the epitome of professionalism. He suggested a prix fixe with a wine pairing. I'm always a sucker for those things. I like to let the chef and sommelier show off. So what if I pay a premium, it's all part of the entertainment.

Well, what we had literally took our breath away. Nice courses, starting with the mandatory amuse bouche (a scallop ceviche) and finishing with an amazing

array of desserts on a single dish. In between? How's this? Aria champagne. Lobster bisque. Fanny bay 6. Oysters Emanuel. Chablis. Tuna tartar. Oyster malbec. Halibut on oxtails. Duck breast on lentils. Luberon wine. Sanford pinot noir. And, I left some out. But, you get the picture.

Two bottom lines: one, it's pricey and, two, it's definitely something to revisit. We'll be back, that's for sure.

* * * * *

And, finally, a little bit of news from the downtown Santa Ana restaurant scene. Daniel Godinez of **Anepalco's Café** will be opening a new place in the spring sometime at 301 North Spurgeon

near the Playground. And, **Paninoteca Maggio** reports on its website that it will be opening a new location at 601 East Santa Ana. The City Place location has closed until the second restaurant opens. Check out both restaurants' Facebook pages for updates.

So, folks, happy eating in the new year. We have a lot to look forward to. (Yeah, I know the "rule" to never end a sentence with a preposition. So, to balance the preposition, let me offer you a proposition. I challenge you to make 2014 a year of culinary and cultural exploration. Travel the world right here in The OC. It's a delightful, hungry world right here in our back yard.)



The Floral Park Neighborhood Association welcomes promotional sponsorships from Floral Park residents, Santa Ana businesses or businesses within an eight mile radius of Floral Park.

Each quarter, the newsletter is placed on the porch of Floral Park homes.

Promotional Sponsorship Deadlines

2014:
 Spring – February 15
 Summer – May 15
 Fall – August 15
 Winter – November 15

Artwork

Preferred formats:
 PDF • JPEG or TIFF
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 or send via email to:
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Size	Dimensions	1 issue	4 issues
Business Card	3" x 2 ¼"	\$60	\$215
Quarter Page	3" x 4"	\$120	\$430
Half Page	7" x 4"	\$240	\$850
Full Page	7" x 9 ½"	\$480	\$1,600
Back Cover	7" x 9 ½"	\$525	\$1,750
Inserts (Qty: 650)	8 ½" x 11"	\$125	N/A

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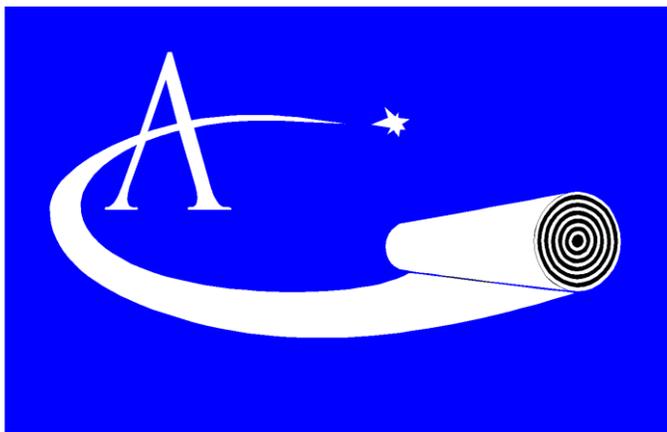
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Street Maintenance Division

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Dear Residents:

It is the desire of the City of Santa Ana to instill community pride and responsibility to each citizen. For this reason, it is our desire to inform you of various responsibilities that you as a resident can initiate to help the City instill this community pride.

- 1) Keep yards clean and trimmed. A clean and trimmed yard reflects pride of each household whether you own or rent the property. Every neighbor wants to turn around the unsightly images that may occur in their neighborhood.
- 2) Parkway maintenance is the responsibility of each resident. Just as you maintain the front yard of your home, that responsibility also extends to the maintenance of the parkway (the area between the street and sidewalk).
- 3) The City will continue to strive for a 4.2 year tree trimming cycle for its 65,000 trees throughout the City. Because several species are prone to sucker growth we ask that you assist us in maintenance efforts to eliminate this extra growth from City trees. **Budgetary and manpower restraints have not permitted us to initiate extra trimming work to be done on these specific varieties of species, for this reason we are asking your assistance in this effort.**
- 4) **Trim the sucker growth from the parkway trees. Various species of trees produce rapid sucker growth at the base of the tree. This sucker growth can easily be trimmed off with regular garden tools, such as a hand pruner or hand lopper. It is recommended that this sucker growth be cut as sprouts first begin to appear.**
 - a. **Sucker growth can be cut off from the base of the tree trunk up to 10 feet of the tree trunk. The best time to cut sucker growth is when it first begins to appear. This will prevent the large sprouts from growing out from the base of the tree.**
 - b. **Do not cut into the bark of the tree, but at the collar of the sprout growth (the round, hard base of the sprout).**
 - c. **Do not cut into the roots of the trees. Do not use an axe or Maddox shovel to cut the sprouts.**
- 5) DO NOT USE A "WEED EATER" OR LAWNMOVER AROUND THE BASE OF THE TREE
- 6) Keep vines, such as ivy, from growing on the tree
- 7) Watch for damaging insects.
- 8) Do not spray any kind of chemical or fertilizer around the base of the tree. Do not dump oil, gasoline, or other hazardous substances into the tree wells.

The Santa Ana Municipal Code prohibits trimming of City trees by the property owner, and also prohibits planting of additional shrubs or tree on the parkway. Grass and low-growing covers are acceptable.

We hope these tips will assist you in maintaining the neighborhood and keeping your neighborhood safe and attractive. Should you have any questions, you may call the Maintenance Division Tree Section at (714) 647-3330.