



Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association

Newsletter

January 2006

Volume VII, Issue 1

Neighborhood Tree Survey

We are all aware of the important roles trees play in our lives. They are a source of fuel, building materials, and edible fruits; through the process of photosynthesis they clean the air of harmful carbon dioxide; they are an important element in almost every landscape; they provide us with a shady respite on a hot day and shield us from the elements during unpleasant weather; they provide homes for birds and numerous other wild critters; and they are an ever changing source of visual interest and pleasure.

Here in Whittier our home landscapes, parks and streets are home to tens of thousands of trees.

Those growing in the parkways bordering our streets and avenues are planted and cared for by Whittier's Department of Parks and Recreation which is headed up by Bob Chavez.

WHNA has long been aware of the many vacant tree wells that dot the parkways throughout our neighborhood. We would like to see all of them filled with beautiful, healthy trees. To accomplish this, WHNA has recently adopted a tree planting program. It will be a long-term program that will consist of making a yearly purchase of trees to be donated to the City of Whittier for planting in our neighborhood's parkways.

Before WHNA can begin purchasing trees, we will first need to make a complete survey of existing parkway trees and vacant spots needing trees. WHNA contacted Bob Chavez, who enthusiastically embraced our plan and provided us with a copy of the City's tree survey for our neighborhood as well as a list stating what species of tree is designated for planting on each of our neighborhood's blocks. WHNA plans to work from the City's survey adding additional locations where we feel trees are needed, making note of the existing trees we believe are in ill health, and indicating

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Holiday Decoration Contest



Best Lawn Display

Jason and Monica Redfox's brightly decorated home at the top of Washington Avenue captured the "Star Light, Star Bright" theme award in WHNA's sixth annual Holiday Decoration Contest. The couple says they first decorated their home for Christmas 2002, and each year since have added to their display. Jason built everything himself, including this year's addition of stars on parkway trees and garland around their home's windows.

The 6200 block of Washington Avenue once again won the block award, despite some serious competition from neighbors on the 6300 block of Bright Avenue. The challengers on Bright decorated and hung identical wreaths on every house and apartment building on their block. Their outstanding first time effort wasn't strong enough, however, to top the veteran Washington Avenue decorators, who walked off with the award for the sixth straight year.

Other winners were: *Best Use of Lights*-Matt & Melissa Garrett, 5846 Washington Ave., *Best Design*-Fred & Margaret Ramirez, 6042 Bright Ave., *Best Lawn Display*-Bruce & Rosie Seelt, 6317 Bright

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Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, March 25, 2006
(rain date, Sat., April 1)

WHNA Neighborhood Yard Sale

WHNA will publicize the event and put up "Yard Sale" signs. All you need to do is some old-fashioned spring cleaning of your home and garage. Don't wait! March will soon be here. Begin your cleaning, sorting and decluttering today and come March, you'll be ready for WHNA's first ever neighborhood-wide yard sale.

Meet Your Neighbors

By Rosie Seelt

Neighbors have watched with curiosity and admiration as Jason and Monica Redfox renovated and restored their Washington Avenue home over the past four years. They have successfully transformed a badly muddled 1919 Craftsman house into a remarkable gem that clearly benefits the entire neighborhood. When the couple first saw the house in late 2001, all evidence of the Craftsman era had been stripped and removed. They had already restored a 1929 French revival Tudor house in Downey, so they weren't deterred by the condition of the Whittier house. Renovation began when Monica ripped out the drop ceiling lights in the kitchen on the first night the couple lived there. Since then, they have completely gutted and renovated the house returning it to its original Craftsman roots. Among other things, they have remodeled the kitchen, installed appropriate Craftsman-style Douglas fir woodwork and built-ins, installed period light fixtures, returned an earlier enclosed porch back into an open front porch, ripped off exterior shingles revealing original wood siding, rebuilt the second-story returning the roof to its original orientation, and installed front yard



Jason & Monica Redfox

landscaping that includes a large Koi pond.

The couple shares their home with a number of pets, including an orange Pomeranian named Rosey, a tri-color Collie named Captain, an outdoor tabby named Kitty, and two indoor lilac-colored British Shorthair cats named Gigi and Jack.

Jason teaches drafting, architecture and landscaping at Downey High School, and Monica is the assistant principal at Bell Intermediate School in Garden Grove. Monica recently received her Doctorate in Organizational

Leadership from the University of La Verne. Jason is a landscape designer and last year was featured as the winning designer on an episode of the Home and Garden Network's "Landscapers Challenge." Jason has been designing and building award-winning floats for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade since 1992 and Monica has her own floral design business.

When they find time, the busy Southern California natives enjoy traveling, especially overseas. In the eight years the couple has been married, they have been to Paris, Versailles, London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Madrid, Ireland, and the French West Indies.

Before doing any traveling this year, Jason and Monica plan to spend time at home working on their next project—a complete renovation of their backyard. Jason's design for the new garden includes several water features as well as a barbeque and dining area, a vegetable garden, and a greenhouse for Monica's collection of orchids.

Home Renovation & Remodeling Tip

Always check with the Whittier Planning & Building Departments before beginning any home repair, renovation or remodeling to find out if a permit is required.

Uptown Specific Plan Revision

The City of Whittier recently conducted interviews to select a consultant for revising the Uptown Specific Plan. According to Jeff Collier, Director of Community Development, he anticipates that the City Council will review submissions from the top two consulting firms and make a recommendation at its January 17 special meeting.

Any revisions made to Uptown's Specific Plan will have the possibility to make a substantial impact on the quality of life we enjoy here in our neighborhood. So it is extremely important that you attend all public forums the City will hold during the revision process, and express your thoughts and ideas on such issues as traffic, parking, new residential development, design standards, etc.

Welcome

WHNA welcomes the following neighbors who became new members between September 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005:

James & Debbie Cross
Rudy & Maria Ortega
Laurel Meyer
Carlos & Cecilia Perez
Alfonso & Angela Salazar

Hoover School Opens New Library

Lou Henry Hoover School's long awaited *Wonder of Reading Library* opened with a grand celebration on September 16, 2005. During the course of the celebration ceremonies, Principal Kathy Schmierer singled out and gave special recognition to WHNA neighbor and member Jo Wheeler for her dedication and contributions to the library. Schmierer then presented WHNA with a special plaque that reads: "IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF OUR WONDER OF READING LIBRARY." At the celebration's close, guests and visitors were ushered along a path lined with all of the school's students standing and reading books.

The new library was made by removing the wall between two existing classrooms. It contains u-shaped book stacks filled with a wonderful and varied array of books (cuddly stuffed animals are placed here and there among the books), an amphitheater where an adult can comfortably read to several children at once, a computer center, and many comfortable child-sized easy chairs for reading. The well-lighted, colorful and beautifully decorated library is a much needed addition to Hoover. It is sure to inspire a love of reading in all children who pass through its doors.

WHNA is proud that we were able to participate in contributing funds towards the new library's construction. Being aware of the vital role Hoover plays in our children's lives and the community, WHNA plans to continue our support of the school through a program of an ongoing annual donation.

Calendar of Events

January 19	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6314 Friends Avenue	
February 16	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 5811 Bright Avenue	
March 16	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6318 Washington Avenue	
March 25	
WHNA Neighborhood Yard Sale	
April 20	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 5810 Friends Avenue	
April 22	8 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Uptown Antique Street Fair Philadelphia Street	

2005 WHNA Home Tour

By Bob Stoltz

Saturday, October 22, 2005, was a good day for our neighborhood. It was the date of the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association's Fifth Annual Home Tour and marked the culmination of months of effort on the part of five homeowners and many volunteers. Our annual home tour gives us the opportunity to encourage those within our neighborhood and share our vintage homes with those from beyond our borders. Through our tours we attempt to emphasize the importance of preserving the unique architectural features our houses still possess and correctly restoring the details that have been lost over time. We are able to highlight the personality and individuality of the people who have lived in these homes over



2005 Home Tour

the years, as well as the families that take pride in them today.

Over 700 people were in attendance at this year's tour, including approximately 100 volunteers who gave their time to make this event a success. The proceeds from each tour are devoted to improving our neighborhood. Previous home tour monies have been

used to build, install and landscape around two stone monuments identifying our Historic Districts and have also benefited the Hoover School library fund, the local chapter of the American Red Cross and an Uptown Whittier shelter.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to this year's homeowners, the volunteers who served in so many different capacities, the businesses which supported us and allowed us to advertise through their establishments, and the staff, parents and students of Hoover School who created such an inviting environment for lunch and refreshments. We are also grateful to the original residents of our homes who created the neighborhood we now cherish.

Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 754, Whittier, CA 90608
www.whittierhistoric.org

The Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit membership organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosie Seelt, President 698-1457
Janice Harbin, Vice President 696-0543
Molly Mendoza, Secretary 907-0726
Karen Bennett, Treasurer 696-4458

BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

Doris Arcadi, Karen Bennett, Debra Canham, Stefano Fierro, Nick Fusano, Matthew Garrett, Kathy Goldman, Shylo Gray, Janice Harbin, Myra Hilliard, Nancy Mary, Sabron Newton, Arcelia Ortiz, Jo Sarachman, Risha Schodlbauer, Rosie Seelt, Margo Smith, Bob & Karen Stoltz, Jeanette Thom, Gwen Woirhaye

Boundaries

North: Orange Drive
West: Greenleaf Avenue
East: Painter Avenue
South: Central Park Historic District

Dues are \$10 per year (June 1-May 31) per household.

The WHNA Newsletter is published three times per year in January, May and September.

News Wanted!

If you have something to share about a neighborhood event, anecdote, human interest story, special anniversary or birthday, new baby, gardening tip, home repair or maintenance tip, or other suggestion for an article to include in WHNA's Newsletter, please call Rosie at 562-698-1457.

Tree Survey Cont.

locations in parkways that have cement or bricks that need to be removed to make way for trees.

Neighbor Judy Jansen has volunteered to act as chair for WHNA's tree survey and planting program. The survey will cover the entire neighborhood within WHNA's boundaries, which includes the area around Central Park and the 20-block area between Greenleaf Avenue, Orange Drive, Painter Avenue and Hadley Street. This is a big undertaking and will require the help of several neighbors to make the survey. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the survey, please call Rosie at 562-698-1457.

Decoration Contest Cont.

Ave., Best Window Display-Darrell & Anna Saucedo, 13218 Hadley St., *Most Innovative*-Ron & Pam Reeder, 6316 Bright Ave., *Most Elegant*-Art & Melinda Aceves, 6027 Friends Ave., *Olde Time Holiday*-Paul & Margaret McCann, 5834 Washington Ave., *Inspirational*-Glen & Mary Valuet, 6242 Washington Ave., *Best Animation*, Jose & Linda Lara, 6216 Friends Ave., and *Front Porch Display*-Dan & Monica Washburn, 6307 Bright Ave.

On the evening of the contest, judges gathered at the beautifully decorated home of neighbors Joe



Neighborhood Notes

Welcome New Block Reps.

Welcome Stefano Fierro as the new WHNA Block Representative for the 5800 block of Greenleaf Avenue, and Shylo Gray, the new WHNA Block Representative for the 5800 block of Painter Avenue.

New Board Member

Congratulations to Friends Avenue neighbor and WHNA member Angela Acosta-Salazar on her recent election as a trustee to the Rio Hondo College Board.

and Kathy Goldman where they enjoyed a reception before being driven through the neighborhood by Painter Avenue neighbor Michael Long. A fire engine from L.A. County Station #17 on Hadley St., whose Captain, Cindy Barbie was a judge, followed the judges as they viewed decorations. Other contest judges this year were Whittier Mayor Greg Nordbak, Sandra Hahn-Whittier Uptown Association, Ben Baeder-Whittier Daily News, Bonnie Weber-Whittier Public Library, and Painter Avenue neighbor Margo Smith.

Join Today! Annual dues of just \$10 per year (June 1-May 31), per household, help WHNA pay for flyers, three yearly newsletters, cost for general meetings, the Annual Holiday Decorating Contest and miscellaneous administration costs for its ongoing operation.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to: WHNA
P.O. Box 754
Whittier, CA 90608