

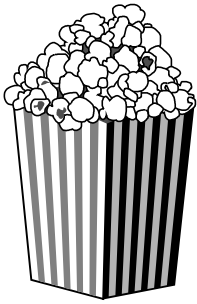


Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association

Newsletter

May 2006

Volume VII, Issue 2

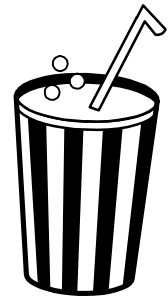


WHNA Annual Meeting &

Old-Fashioned Movie Night

Thursday, May 18, 7:00 P.M.

First Friends Church - Fellowship Hall
Corner Washington & Philadelphia, Whittier



Refreshments

Elections

It's WHNA Membership Month

May is the month to renew your Annual membership to the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association. Or if you are not currently a member, it is a good time to become one. Membership is open to all residents, both homeowners and renters 18-years-old and older, within WHNA's boundaries.

WHNA is a nonprofit corporation organized to protect and promote the common good and general welfare of residents living within its boundaries, and to preserve the historic integrity and natural resources of the area by developing a sense of community pride and civic betterment.

Over the past eight years, WHNA has pursued a number of activities including sponsoring an annual



Neighborhood Home Tour in October, a Holiday Decoration Contest each December and this year, held its first Neighborhood Yard Sale. WHNA also addresses issues of local concern, holds general meetings with programs that cover a wide variety of topics, and

publishes a neighborhood newsletter. It has made donations to Hoover Elementary School, the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter, the Whittier Public Library and the American Red Cross, and has designed and funded the construction of two neighborhood stone monument signs.

Your support and volunteer participation is important in helping WHNA continue its work of making our neighborhood a safe, comfortable and enjoyable place for all of us to live. It's also a great way to get to know your neighbors and build friendships. So won't you please complete and return the membership form on the back page and mail it along with your \$10 check to: WHNA, P.O. Box 754, Whittier, CA 90608.

Calendar of Events

Weds., April - Oct. **5 - 9 P.M.**
Uptown Family Fair Farmers' Mkt.

Sat., May 13 **9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.**
Founders' Day Celebration
 Central Park

Thurs., May 18 **7:00 P.M.**
*WHNA Annual Meeting
 & Movie Night*
 First Friends Church
 Washington & Philadelphia

Thurs., June 15 **7:00 P.M.**
WHNA Board Meeting
 6016 Painter Avenue

Mons., July - August **7:00 P.M.**
Concerts in the Park
 Central Park

Thurs., July 13 **7:00 P.M.**
WHNA Board Meeting
 6252 Washington Avenue

Tues., August 1 **7 - 10 P.M.**
National Night Out
 Turn on you porch light as a symbol of neighborhood unity. Send the message that we are watching, listening and will call the police if anyone brings criminal activity into our neighborhood.

Thurs., August 17 **7:00 P.M.**
WHNA Board Meeting
 6201 Painter Avenue

Welcome

WHNA welcomes the following neighbors who became new members between January 1 - April 30, 2006.

Kevin & Jan Hussey

Uptown Specific Plan Public Meeting Dates Set

The Whittier City Council has chosen the firm of Moule & Polyzoides to revise the Uptown Specific Plan. Any revisions made to the plan could substantially impact the quality of life we enjoy here in our neighborhood. So it is extremely important that area residents express their thoughts and ideas on such issues as traffic, parking, new residential development, and design standards at public meetings that will be held during the revision process. The meetings will be conducted in a charrette format during the week of June 5-9. For additional information, please contact Sonya Joe at Whittier's Community Development Department. She can be reached by phone at 562-464-3380, or you can email her at sjoe@cityofwhittier.org.

WHNA Yard Sale A Huge Success!



Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association Yard Sale, Saturday, March 25, 2006

Neighborhood Survey Results

Last September, WHNA distributed approximately 500 Neighborhood Surveys with its newsletter. Fifty-four of the surveys were completed and returned. Following are the results of that survey. As you read the answers and resulting numbers, please keep in mind that not every respondent answered every question and some respondents gave more than one answer per question. To keep the results manageable, we have combined similar answers into one concise reply.

Fourteen of the neighbors who responded said they have family members who were born in Whittier. Six of them were born at Murphy Memorial Hospital.

When asked how long they have lived in Whittier, half of those responding said they have lived here for twenty years or less and half said they have lived here over twenty years. The longest any one respondent has lived in Whittier is 80 years, 49 of those in the same house.

Respondents were pretty much in agreement about what they like best and least about living in our neighborhood. Most said they like our older homes, architecture, historic charm, the ambiance and good neighbors. The majority also said what they like least about living here is the traffic, graffiti, noise, street parking, lack of good shopping and the poor conditions in Uptown.

When asked what decade their household members were born in, neighbors responding stated 62% were born before 1960.

<u>Decade Born</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>
1920's	5
1930's	14
1940's	16
1950's	14
1960's	14
1970's	7
1980's	5
1990's	3
2000's	1

When asked what their occupation is, one-third stated they work in the education field. Thirty-seven percent of the respondents are retired and twenty-two percent have children in school.

When asked about their pets, 17 households said they have one or more cats for a total of 29 cats, and 17 said they have one or more dogs for a total of 22 dogs. Other neighborhood pets include birds, fish, turtles, a hermit crab, a hamster and a snake. The most pets any one household admitted to having are seven cats and three dogs. Twenty households that replied have no pets. The most unusual animal sighted by a neighbor was an aardvark seen in a Washington Avenue yard!!! An aardvark???



an Aardvark

The list of favorite hobbies neighbors enjoy is long and varied, running the gamut from sports of all kinds to musical talents and artistic endeavors. It is the long-standing leisure pastimes of gardening and reading, however, that respondents picked as their favorite hobbies. Not as many neighbors collect as have hobbies. In fact, 21 stated they don't collect anything. Of those who do collect, the most popular items are teapots, china, cups, pottery and figurines.

An overwhelming 90% of those neighbors who responded stated they would like to see our alleys cleaned

up and an effort made to make them more attractive. And 72% stated they call the City and report graffiti near their homes.

Respondents listed an international smorgasbord of favorite foods that range from American backyard BBQ and Dodger dogs to Cuban, Brazilian, Indian, prime rib, sea bass, eggs benedict, fruits, salads and "anything my husband cooks." Nine people chose some kind of Italian food as their cuisine, making it the number one favorite and Mexican food came in second with six people picking it as their favorite. Chocolate is the favorite neighborhood ice cream flavor. Rocky Road and Vanilla tied for the second overall favorite flavor of ice cream.

The list of all-time favorite movies includes perennial favorites like *White Christmas* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, as well as many well-known epics like *Gone with the Wind*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *The Ten Commandments*. Additionally the cartoon *The Little Mermaid* and a number of westerns, musicals, religious, romance, adventure and fantasy movies made the list. Six respondents chose *The Sound of Music* as their favorite, easily catapulting it into the top spot of all-time favorite movie.

Seventy-two percent of the respondents stated they regularly walk in our neighborhood and 74% say they feel safe in our neighborhood. Of those who don't feel safe, most state it is only at night that they feel that way. And 78% of those responding say they know their neighbors well enough to borrow a cup of sugar.

Ninety-four percent of the neighbors responding recycle on a regular basis and 87% would like to have apartment buildings required to

Continued on page 4

Neighborhood Survey Cont.

recycle. Fifty-five percent think there is too much traffic going through our neighborhood and 68.5% feel traffic goes too fast in our neighborhood.

The 54 neighbors responding own a total of 118 cars. Only 58 of those cars are regularly parked in a garage.

<u>Number of Cars in Household</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>
One	7
Two	28
Three	14
Four	4
"Lots of cars"	1

The most frequently requested neighborhood improvement was repair of curbs, sidewalks and streets. Close behind was the request for better street lighting. *Ed's Note: As this is being written, the City is working in the area north of Hadley Street repairing some of our*

neighborhood's curbs and sidewalks. Some of the other improvements requested were more trees, no motor homes on streets, historic signs, entrance gates on Painter at Hadley, get rid of apartment buildings, more stop signs, gang abatement, a bookstore, control packs of youths in Uptown and shut down Ibiza.

Some of the major concerns those responding would like to have WHNA address are Uptown's fate, form a network of neighbors to check on people who live alone, hold apartment owners accountable for maintaining their buildings, support a shopping center at Nelles, continue to focus on keeping the area safe and clean, street lights, traffic and speed, compile a list of contractors that neighbors have found to be reliable, preserve wildlife and hills, gangs, require city officials to regularly visit Uptown to

see firsthand how it is deteriorating, home remodeling and improvements that stretch out for many years, and do all that is possible to impact the lives of young children with a healthy environment.

Overall, the neighbors who responded to WHNA's questionnaire seem to be a pretty caring and homogenous group. Most of them know their neighbors and enjoy living in our neighborhood. They do, however, have concerns they would like to have WHNA help them address. As volunteer manpower and time allow, we are trying our very best to do so.

WHNA sincerely thanks each and every one of our neighbors who took time to participate in the survey. We believe that it will help us to better serve you. We hope that you had fun participating and that you enjoyed learning about your neighbors.



Have you Noticed?

Have you noticed how good our neighborhood is looking? In fact, it just keeps looking better and better with each passing month. This is due in large part to the ever increasing number of houses and apartment buildings sporting new exterior paint and improved landscaping.

WHNA has an on-going program of placing door-hangers, similar to the one at left, on the front door of all neighborhood properties that have improved exteriors. This is WHNA's way of letting property owners know that we have noticed and greatly appreciate their contribution to improving and beautifying our neighborhood. Following is a list of addresses where WHNA left door-hangers over the course of the past year. All but two are for exterior house painting.

- Greenleaf Avenue: 5836, 5857, 6041 and 6058
- Bright Avenue: 5817, 5821, 6037, 6056, 6227 and 6235
- Washington Avenue: 5802, 5813, 5846, 6226 (landscaping), 6251, 6308, 6311, 6318, 6521 and 6531
- Friends Avenue: 5810, 6256 and 6231
- Painter Avenue: 5831, 5837, 6257, 6315 and 6354
- Beverly Blvd.: 13207
- Hadley Street: 13113 (painting & landscaping)
- Park Street: 13217

If you know of a neighborhood property that you believe is deserving of a door hanger, please call Judy at 562-693-4119 and let her know.

WHNA Block Representatives

Block representatives are a key component of our organization. They are the direct line of communication between neighborhood residents and WHNA. One resident from each block within WHNA's boundaries volunteers to act as a block representative for their respective block. Together the block representatives make up the Association's governing board, attend monthly board meetings where WHNA's affairs and activities are managed, and interact with the neighbors on their block to bring their interests and concerns to the Board's attention. They also welcome newcomers, distribute WHNA newsletters and fliers, and participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program.

If you have a block or neighborhood issue that concerns you, or if you would like to know more about WHNA, please locate the WHNA representative for your block on the list below and give them a call. If you live on a block that does not currently have a block representative and would like to volunteer to be your block's representative, please call Rosie at 562-698-1457.

<u>Block</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Phone</u>
5800 Greenleaf Avenue	Vacant	
6000 Greenleaf Avenue	Aracelia Ortiz	505-2787
6200 Greenleaf Avenue	Cecilia Perez	693-6218
6300 Greenleaf Avenue	Vacant	
5800 Bright Avenue	Kathy Goldman	696-2050
6000 Bright Avenue	Debra Canham	693-7918
6200 Bright Avenue	Jo Sarachman	698-7152
6300 Bright Avenue	Rosie Seelt	698-1457
5800 Washington Avenue	Monica Redfox	696-3518
6000 Washington Avenue	Karen Bennett	696-4458
6200 Washington Avenue	Doris Arcadi	693-5283
6300 Washington Avenue	Bob & Karen Stoltz	464-9543
5800 Friends Avenue	Gwen Woirhay	696-6405
6000 Friends Avenue	Janice Harbin	696-0543
6200 Friends Avenue	Jeannette Thom	789-9135
6300 Friends Avenue	Sabron Newton	693-1845
5800 Painter Avenue	Shylo Gray	556-9007
6000 Painter Avenue	Risha Schodlbauer	693-4913
6200 Painter Avenue	Margo Smith	693-1019
6300 Painter Avenue	Vacant	
Central Park	Myra Hilliard	693-9963

2006/2007 WHNA Officer Nominees

The WHNA Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate to the Board of Directors for elections to be held at the WHNA Annual Meeting on May 18, 2006:



President
Rosie Seelt



Vice President
Joseph Aguilar



Secretary
Molly Mendoza



Treasurer
Karen Bennett

Whittier Declares War on Graffiti



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, Kathy Goldman,
Shylo Gray, Janice Harbin,
Myra Hilliard, Sabron Newton,
Cecilia Perez, Monica Redfox
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.



Graffiti in Whittier has almost doubled in the past year causing Whittier maintenance works to remove graffiti at over 4,000 more locations than the previous year. The \$300,000 the City budgeted for graffiti removal fell far short of what was needed, so that the Public Works Department was forced to break its budget trying to remove all of the graffiti.

In an effort to fight the ever increasing problem, the City Council is spending \$11,000 for security cameras in Uptown. And with the help of a facilitator, the City plans to hold a series of public meetings where participants will discuss graffiti prevention, abatement and enforcement. A report with recommendations will then be submitted to the City Council for consideration and action. For more information on

these upcoming meetings please call 562-464-3301.

We all know that graffiti leads to blight and blight leads to crime. So it is extremely important that **all** Whittier residents join the fight to rid our community of these unsightly markings. Whether you're out for a walk or driving in your car, always keep a small pad of paper and a pen handy to write down addresses where you observe graffiti. Then call and report the addresses to Graffiti Removal at 562-464-3540. If you see someone in the act of spraying graffiti, immediately report it to the Whittier Police Department by calling 562-945-8250.



Neighborhood Notes

Welcome New Block Reps.

WHNA welcomes Cecilia Perez as its new block rep. for the 6200 block of Greenleaf Avenue and Monica Redfox who is the new block rep. for the 5800 block of Washington Ave.



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