



# Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association NEWS

September 2007

Volume VIII, Issue 3

## WHNA Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2007, 7:00 PM

American Red Cross  
6702 S. Friends Avenue

Meet Lieutenant Bill Webster  
Whittier Police Officer in command of Public Service Area #1  
Bring your questions and concerns - Get to know your neighbors  
Find out what's happening in our neighborhood

All Neighborhood Residents Invited

---

## 2007 Neighborhood Home Tour

By Michael Long

Imagine a time when televisions, cell phones and computers did not exist, demanding our time and dominating our days. Instead, time was spent on front porches visiting with neighbors on sultry summer evenings. Imagine a time when microwaves and fast food were unheard of. Instead, dinner was an event, not "fast," and beautifully crafted dining rooms were the central focus of homes filled with friends and families, who gathered for delicious home cooking and meaningful conversations.

You can catch a glimpse of this era gone by at the 2007 WHNA Home Tour on Saturday, October 27, from 10AM to 4PM. Don't miss this



Spanish Revival 2007 Tour Home

annual opportunity to get an inside look at five of Whittier's most stunning and charming homes of the past. Let our expert docents guide you through a nostalgic journey of Whittier in the early 1900's. This year's tour will feature an English Cottage,

a Spanish Revival, a Colonial Revival, a Mediterranean and a Craftsman duplex; all built between the years 1915 and 1930. In addition to seeing these five homes, distinct in architectural style and details, you'll see an impressive collection of vintage cars and an incredible display of hand-made quilts. Remember, the tour only happens once a year, so this will be your only chance to see this year's homes. All proceeds benefit the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association, which vigilantly helps to preserve and protect our beautiful neighborhood and helps our local Hoover Elementary School.

Advance ticket sales begin

Continued on page 4

# Miracle On Washington Avenue

By Rosie Seelt

Ruben and Elizabeth Cruz moved into their Washington Avenue home never suspecting that one day an extraordinary miracle would take place within its walls.

Ruben, a barber/stylist and hair salon manager from Norwalk, and Elizabeth, a teacher and private tutor who grew up in Whittier, met when Ruben sang in a choir performance at Whittier College where Elizabeth was finishing her education. Seven years ago the couple was blessed with a beautiful little girl named Alissa Michelle.

The family was happy and content with life in their Washington Avenue home. But on the morning of March 31, 2006 all of that suddenly and unexpectedly changed. Alissa, the picture of health, went off to her kindergarten class at Hoover Elementary School just as she had every school day for the past seven months. While playing in the schoolyard she became dizzy. She told her teacher she wasn't feeling well, and then her words began to slur, her eyes rolled back in her head and she lapsed into a coma. She was rushed to

Presbyterian Hospital where, after a short stay, she was transferred to Children's Hospital in Los Angeles.

Alissa was diagnosed with encephalitis, a swollen brain, caused



Alissa

by an unknown virus. After a 42-day stay a Children's Hospital Ruben and Elizabeth were told that nothing could be done for Alissa and that she would probably be severely impaired. The frightened parents took their daughter

home where Elizabeth, who has had no medical training, cared for Alissa around the clock.

Ruben and Elizabeth along with their church, family, friends and neighbors steadfastly prayed for Alissa's recovery. Washington Avenue neighbors gave a yard sale to help the family out with medical expenses. Then, this past February, eleven months after she became comatose, Alissa began to recover. Today she is without impairment but will continue to be under a neurologist's observation for the next year. Alissa does not remember her illness. It's as though she fell asleep and woke up a year later.

Elizabeth has written a book, *There's An Angel In My Tree*, about the miracle of her little girl's recovery. When it is published, she would like to have it placed in hospitals throughout the country where it will spread hope and her belief that, "with prayer and love miracles still do happen."

## Welcome

WHNA welcomes the following neighbors who became new members between May 1, 2007 - August 31, 2007:

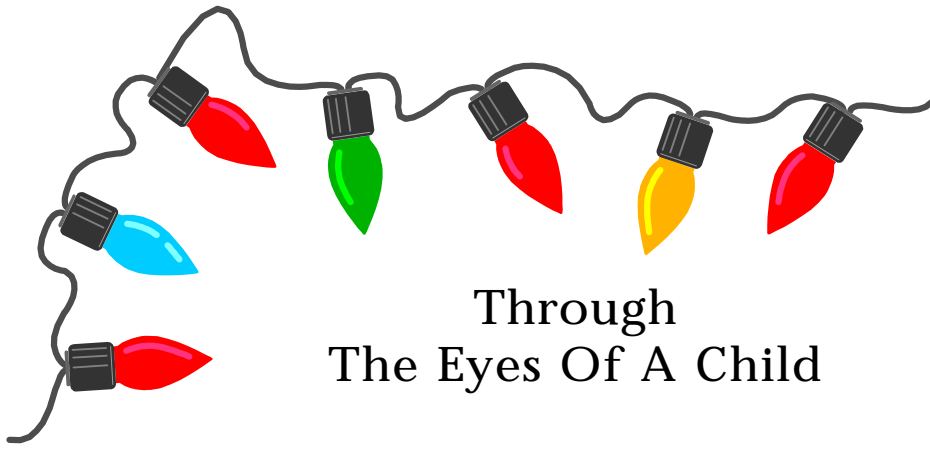
Beverly Dean - Painter Ave.  
Tomoko Okahara - Bright Ave.  
Jerry Preciado - Bright Ave.  
Raquel Preciado - Friends Ave.  
Ruth Thomason - Bright Ave.

## 2007 WHNA Audit Report

On June 12, 2007, we the undersigned examined the financial records of the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association Treasurer for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2006 and ending May 31, 2007. We do hereby stipulate that we find them correct; and that the balance in hand on May 31, 2007 for the General Operating Checking Account was \$664.83; and for the Home Tour Checking Account \$11,835.87, and for the Certificate of Deposit \$15,529.59 (as of 5/28/07).

Audit Committee

(signed)  
Barrie Cruickshank  
James S. Sass  
Maureen C. Dickson



## Through The Eyes Of A Child

The theme for the 2007 Neighborhood Holiday Decoration Contest is THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to participate in the contest which will take place on Thursday evening, December 13.

As in past years, there will be no fees or entry forms to fill out. All you will need to do is have your decorations on display and your lights turned on and the contest judges will automatically look at your home as they drive through our neighborhood looking at decorations. Awards will be given out in several different categories including Best Decorated Block, Best Lawn Display, Most Elegant, Best Front Porch Display and more.

Surely you won't want to miss out on all the fun and excitement of this annual neighborhood event! So now is the time to start planning and preparing your decorations. Then come December, they'll be ready to entertain and greet your neighbors, holiday guest and contest judges.

## 3rd Monument Sign Installed

Central Park visitors entering and leaving near the park's southeast corner were pleasantly surprised this past June with the appearance of a third neighborhood monument sign. Like the other two located in median islands on Hadley Street and Painter Avenue, this most recent sign was paid for with funds raised by WHNA's Annual Neighborhood Home Tour. Cost for construction and installation of



Central Park Monument Sign

the new sign was \$6,630.09.

The long-awaited Central Park sign is part of WHNA's ongoing program to establish a neighborhood identity and inform people when they are in an area officially designated as an historic district (a geographic area with specific boundaries, set aside for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the architectural and historic integrity within the area).

## Calendar of Events

Thurs., September 20 7:00 P.M.

WHNA  
Neighborhood Watch Meeting  
American Red Cross Building  
6706 Friends Avenue, Whittier

Thurs., October 18 7:00 P.M.

WHNA Board Meeting  
6314 Friends Avenue

Sat., October 27

WHNA Home Tour  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Uptown Antique Street Fair  
Philadelphia Street

Thurs, November 15 7:00 P.M.

WHNA Board Meeting

Sat., December 1

Uptown Christmas Parade  
Greenleaf Avenue

Thurs., December 13

WHNA  
Neighborhood  
Holiday Decoration Contest

## Coyote Alert!

Over the past few months a number of neighborhood cats have been lost to coyotes. The coyotes' principle diet is composed of mice, rabbits, squirrels and other small rodents. But it loves nothing better than cats and small dogs. Steps you can take to discourage coyotes from visiting our neighborhood include: close garbage can lids tightly, do not leave pet food outside and do not leave small pets outside unaccompanied, especially after dark.

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**

Joseph Aguilar, President 693-1208  
Araceli Ortiz, Vice President 505-2787  
Diane Parra-Wilcox, Secretary 945-9914  
Don Mathews, Treasurer 698-1912

**BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES**

Doris Arcadi, Karen Bennett, Deba Canham,  
Fran Coeur, Kathy Goldman, Shylo Gray,  
Janice Harbin, Myra Hilliard, Molly Mendoza,  
Sabron Newton, Araceli Ortiz,  
Diane Parra-Wilcox, Jo Sarachman,  
Risha Schodlbauer, Rosie Seelt,  
Margo Smith, Bob & Karen Stoltz,  
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.

**Home Tour Cont.**

September 22, 2007, for \$15 at the following Whittier locations: Pour Le Bain, 6721 Greenleaf Avenue, the Whittier Museum, 6755 Newlin Avenue, and the Whittier Art Gallery at 8035 Painter Avenue. Tickets may also be purchased at Whittier's Farmers' Market on October 12, 19, and 26. Ticket prices on the day of the tour will be \$18 and can be purchased at the Home Tour Ticket Booth, located at 6318 Washington Avenue. For more information check out our website at [www.whittierhistoric.org](http://www.whittierhistoric.org).

**Wanted**

Good, loving homes for four adorable tabby kittens born in July. For more information please call 562-693-4119.

**WHNA Makes Annual Donation**

At its May General Meeting, WHNA presented Hoover Elementary School Principal Cathy Schmierer with a \$500 check to be used to help the school pay for field trip transportation cost. According to Principal Schmierer, the rising cost of gasoline created a shortfall in the school's budget for field trip transportation. The check was one of many WHNA has given annually to the school over the past several years as part of its ongoing program of supporting our neighborhood's elementary school.

**Thank You Surveyors**

WHNA would like to thank the following neighbors for helping with our neighborhood tree survey: Joseph Aguilar, Debra Canham, Kathy Goldman, Janice Harbin, Judy Jansen, Shelia Kerz, Rick, Molly & Christopher Mendoza, Sabron Newton, Araceli Ortiz, Diane Parra, Jo Sarachman, Risha Schodlbauer, Rosie Seelt, Karen Stoltz, Gwen Woirhaye, and Anne Young.

The WHNA Tree Committee is currently working with the Whittier Parks Department to identify neighborhood parkway locations in need of trees. Once that is completed, WHNA will donate funds to the City to purchase and plant the needed trees.

**2007/2008 WHNA Membership**

**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

Renewal \_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_