



WHNA Crosses 10-Year Mark

This past November marked the tenth anniversary of the first meeting of the Whittier Historic Neighborhood Association. At that first meeting, about 40 neighbors gathered to explore the possibility of forming a neighborhood improvement organization. The association has met on a regular basis ever since, growing by leaps and bounds.



Pat O'Toole

The first meeting came about as a result of neighbor Pat O'Toole's concerns that the neighborhood was on the decline, neighbors didn't know each other and there was no sense of neighborhood or community. Pat single-handedly walked the entire neighborhood, knocked on doors,

talked with neighbors and handed out flyers inviting residents to that first exploratory meeting.

In the association's early days, its meetings were often sparsely attended and funds were scarce. Nevertheless, under Pat's leadership, the group's first members moved ahead organizing the association and obtaining its nonprofit status.

During the ensuing years, due in large part to the activities and efforts of WHNA volunteers, the neighborhood made a remarkable turnaround. A large number of homes have been restored, renovated and repaired. Neighbors now take pride in their surroundings, picking up litter and reporting graffiti and crime. Young people once again find it a desirable place to buy a home and raise a family.

Most importantly, WHNA has created a real sense of neighborhood among its residents who now talk and look out for one another resulting in a friendly, clean and safe neighborhood environment—A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE!

**Mark
Your Calendar**

Saturday, March 29, 2008
(rain date, Sat., April 5)

**WHNA
Annual
Neighborhood
Yard Sale**

As with past years' Neighborhood Yard Sales, all neighborhood residents (homeowners, renters, apartment and house dwellers) are invited to participate in this year's event. Each resident must set up and conduct their own sale. WHNA will provide advertising and publicity.

TO BECOME A WHNA MEMBER, SEE PAGE 4.

WHNA Says Thanks

The WHNA Board would like to thank all of our neighbors and friends for their support of our activities and events over the past ten years. We would also like to thank the many neighborhood volunteers who helped to make 2007's Home Tour a big success.

We look forward to 2008 being another successful year. In addition to our annual Home Tour, Neighborhood Yard Sale and Holiday Decoration Contest, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of our Built Date Plaques and the first phase of plantings in our Neighborhood Tree Planting Program. And we will, of course, continue to address issues of neighborhood safety and beautification as well as any new concerns that may arise during the coming year.

We encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the value of our neighborhood association. If you have not yet contributed your voluntary dues for the 2007-2008 year, please turn to the back page of this newsletter and invest in the ongoing success of our neighborhood by mailing in your dues with the membership coupon.

Quick Home Security Tips

1. Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars. Thieves are also quick to spot weak locks that may be easily forced open. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three inch screws. All windows should have window locks.
2. Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TV's. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, will deter criminals.
3. Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate. You can also ask a neighbor to park in your driveway or parking place to make it appear that you are present.
4. Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal, everyday appearance in your residence.
5. Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home. A message that you will return at a certain time leaves your home vulnerable in the interim.
6. Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. While large, ornate hedges may be beautiful, they also provide a hiding place for burglars who need only a minute to break in through a window or door.

Washington Avenue Takes Back Award

After losing the Block Award in the 2006 WHNA Holiday Decoration Contest, the 6200 block of Washington Avenue was once again declared the best decorated block in last month's contest making it the top block six out of seven years. The block's only real competition for the award was the Central Park Area, which, despite its top-notch effort wasn't able to muster up the pizzazz necessary to outshine the dazzling displays along Washington Avenue. The winning block's most creative and unusual display was the front yard of Glen and Mary Valuet at 6242 Washington Avenue, which won the Most Innovative Award. On the night of the contest, "snow" fell over several people who sat around a roaring fire watching a group of adorable white bears frolic in the

Valuet's "snow"-covered front yard.

Other winners were: Theme Award: Leroy & Vivian Schmaltz, 6012 Painter Ave.; Best Design: Jose & Linda Lara, 6216 Friends Ave.; Best Use of Lights:



Most Innovative Winner

John Swick Family, 5857 Friends Ave.; Best Lawn Display, Jose Rios Family, 5851 Painter Ave.; Best Window Display: Maureen Dickson, 6303

Painter Ave.; Most Elegant Ron & Barbara Light, 5854 Painter Ave.; Olde Time Holiday, Fred & Margaret Ramirez, 6042 Bright Ave.; Inspirational: Jason & Monica Redfox, 5802 Washington Ave.; Front Porch, Robert Ramirez Family, 6537 Washington Ave.; Best Tree in a Window, Sergio & Olivia Brown, 6021 Washington Ave.; and Best Handcrafted/Handmade, Melinda & Rosemary Bond, 6212 Washington Ave.

Contest judges were Whittier Mayor Owen Newcomer, Whittier Daily News Editor Tim Traeger, Whittier High School Staffer Janice Zolnekoff, Whittier Director of Parks Jim Kurkowski, Pour Le Bain Owner Marilyn Brinegar, and WHNA Members Pat O'Toole and Vivian Schmaltz.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Painter Avenue neighbor and fourth-grade Carmela Elementary School teacher, Michael Long. He was honored last fall by being named one of five 2007-08 California Teachers of the Year. Before



Michael Long

winning the prestigious award at the state level, Michael was first named Teacher of the Year at the school level, and then at the district and county levels.

Michael earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, a master's degree in education and a teaching credential from Biola University prior to beginning his teaching career at Carmela seven years ago. He and his wife Traci and their three young children have lived in their Victorian home on Painter Avenue for the past five years.

According to an article in the Whittier Daily News, Michael was quick to share the honor with the school, staff and students. He said he is "completely honored and really grateful for this because I wouldn't be the teacher I am if not for my co-workers, professors and my family."

Calendar of Events

January 17	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6211 Bright Avenue	
February 21	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6016 Painter Avenue	
March 20	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6048 Greenleaf Avenue	
March 29	8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Neighborhood Yard Sale	
April 17	7:00 P.M.
WHNA Board Meeting 6031 Bright Avenue	
April 26	8 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Uptown Antique Street Fair Philadelphia Street	

Uncover the History of Your Home at the Whittier Public Library

1 – Ascertain Your Home's Old Address:

Street Addresses in Whittier were changed in the mid-1960's to conform to Los Angeles County's numbering system. Whittier Street Number Changes - R388.41 – contains both old and new addresses for properties in Whittier.

2 – Find the Names of Former Occupants:

Names of occupants of a home or business are listed in City Directories. Central Library has City Directories from 1903 – 1977 (after which they were no longer published), and Haines Criss-Cross Directories from 1972 to present. The date of a building's construction may be indicated by the first appearance of its address in a directory.

3 – Look for Your Home's Original Footprint:

Central Library has Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1888, 1891, 1894, 1900, 1907, 1912 and 1925, on microfilm – WH 912.794 – for use in the library. Ask at the Reference Desk. These maps show the footprint of buildings extant in Whittier in the years the maps were published.

4 – Check for Articles in the Newspaper:

There may be articles about your home or its former residents in the newspaper. The Library's Newspaper Index covering 1892 – 1910 is being digitized and will soon be available online.

5 – Search Memorabilia and Photographs:

Make an appointment to visit the Whittier History Room to see the collection of photographs, clippings and ephemera at Central Library during regular library hours. A partial index to the Whittier History Collection is located at the Reference Desk. Read the following Local Histories available at Central and Branch:

R979.493 PEA Founders and Friends
R979.493 WHI Old Whittier – 1904
R979.49492 MAT Pioneer Families of Whittier

Reprinted from the Whittier Area Genealogical Society's Nov. 2007 Newsletter

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
Janice Harbin, Treasurer	698-1912
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BLOCK REPRESENTATIVES

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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.

REMINDER

Please help to keep our community clean and safe. Call and report all graffiti to the Whittier Graffiti Hotline at (562) 464-3540.

Welcome

WHNA welcomes the following neighbors who became new members between September 30-December 31, 2007:

Jose Aviles	Friends Ave.
Ivan Castellanos	Painter Ave.
Charles & Maria Claver	Friends Ave.
Tony Edelen	Washington
Ceci Medina	Painter Ave.
Rudy & Marie Ortega	Bright Ave.

Block Representatives Needed

WHNA is in need of neighborhood residents to volunteer as block representatives for the following blocks:

- 5800 Greenleaf Avenue
- 6300 Greenleaf Avenue
- 5800 Painter Avenue
- 6300 Painter Avenue

A block representative distributes WHNA newsletters and flyers to the neighbors on their respective block and attends WHNA Board Meetings held the third Thursday of each month. If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer, please call Joseph at 562-693-1208.

2007/2008 WHNA Membership Coupon

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 ____