

HISTORIC FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD AZETTE

Neighborhoods USA
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Celebrating Neighborhood
Arts & Culture

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Florence Yoch

Helen Jones'
Sign of the Times

Pools of Historic Floral Park

SUMMER issue / 2023



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The Floral Park Neighborhood Gazette is published four times a year by the Floral Park Neighborhood Association. Our goal is to provide accurate, entertaining, enlightening and informative news of the neighborhood and to bring the community closer together through communication. Views, conclusions and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, officers or policies of the Floral Park Neighborhood. The Floral Park Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN: 33-0908244) and contributions are deductible under state and federal law to the extent applicable. Consult your tax professional for advice.

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From The Editor

Dearest Readers,

Well, we did it again! After two consecutive years of being voted as the #1 Neighborhood Newsletter in the country (by Neighborhoods USA), the *Floral Park Gazette* scored the #2 position. If you ask this humble editor, the only reason we didn't score #1 again is Neighborhoods USA was exhausted by our total dominance and decided to spread the love. Candidly, the #1 rag this year simply doesn't hold a candle to *The Gazette* by any measure. So again I gotta throw all the shout-out love to Marc LaFont, Gazette art director, who is nearly singularly responsible for *The Gazette* rising to the top of America's neighborly media print empire.

As always, there is a lot of hard work behind *The Gazette* so we hope you enjoy the content herein. Which brings us to this June issue and it's start-the-summer-right vibe; with all manner of informative and interesting content-from combatting mosquito season to the pools of Floral Park.

What's next? Freedom Fest for one thing! Saturday July 1 from 4-8 pm on North Heliotrope between Santa Clara Avenue and 19th Street. Live music, beer garden, ice cream truck, cake walk, watermelon eating contest and SO MUCH MORE. Come out and prepare to have a blast!

Lastly, my continuing plea for *The Gazette* volunteers; writers, ideas for articles, help with media sponsors, etc. If you'd like to help or have any questions or suggestions, please contact me a editor@floralpark.com.

As of this writing, we've had days and days of overcast gloom...perhaps a portend to an excessively hot summer!? Who knows? In any event...

Stay cool my friends,

Trace Weatherford

Gazette Editor

Upcoming Floral Park Events

**FREEDOM
FEST
July 1**



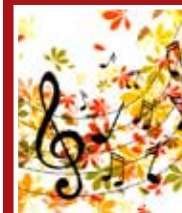
**JAZZ
CONCERT
July 21**



**PACIFIC
SYMPHONY
August 27**



**FALL
CONCERT
September 23**



For more information, go to FloralPark.com/calendar

FREEDOM FEST

Saturday, July 1, 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Heliotrope Drive

(between Santa Clara and 19th Street)



Featuring The Reef Brothers

- ★ **FLAG CEREMONY**
- ★ **FACE PAINTING**
- ★ **CAKE WALK**
- ★ **TABLE DECORATING CONTEST**
- ★ **FIRE TRUCK**
- ★ **ICE CREAM TRUCK**
- ★ **BEVERAGES**
- ★ **WATERMELON EATING CONTEST**

This is a FREE event for Floral Park residents and their guests. Bring a picnic and enjoy a good ol' fashioned patriotic street party!

For table reservations (\$25), Tickets for Cake Walk and Schedule of Events please visit

FloralPark.com.

Letter From The President

by Jeffrey Katz

Embrace the Heartbeat of Our Community

In the gentle embrace of our neighborhood, something extraordinary stirs. It is the whisper of legacy, the soulful cadence of shared stories, and the indivisible spirit that defines us as the Best Neighborhood in America.

My holy grail has been to inspire engagement of each of the 623 homes in Floral Park. If the penetration rate of our 2022 Membership Drive is any measurement – 33% – we have a way to go.

As I enter the last year of my final term as FPNA president, I implore everyone to join me on this amazing journey – a voyage into the depths of our collective existence, where the true power of neighborly kinship resides. As a lawyer by trade, I offer you this final argument as to why you should get involved in our amazing neighborhood:

We live in world divided and disconnected — It is within the microcosm of our neighborhood where the seeds of unity and compassion can truly take root.

Building bonds that transcend

— In our fast-paced lives, it's easy to live side by side with your neighbors yet remain strangers. By getting involved in our neighborhood, we unlock the potential to build bonds. From volunteering / participating in neighborhood events to simply reaching out and extending a hand of friendship, we discover the beauty of human connection.

Tapestry of Tales — Over the last couple of years I've enjoyed bringing the "Floral Parks Got Talent" column in the Gazette. Within our neighborhood countless stories dwell, waiting to be shared. When we get involved, a treasure trove of human experiences - a mosaic of triumphs, challenges, and lessons learned - awaits.

Embracing the Unseen — Often it's the unseen heroes among

us who shape our neighborhood. The caregivers, the volunteers, the silent pillars of strength who sow seeds of compassion with every act of kindness. Let us be their allies, amplify their voices and their efforts and recognize their invaluable contributions. For the future of this historic neighborhood, we can create a safety net of support that uplifts those in need and strengthens the very foundation of Floral Park.

Nurturing Our Youth — For the past two years, Floral Park has experienced its own baby boom. Our future lies in the hands of our children who may one day inherit the neighborhood we call home. With events and activities tailored to the younger family and by our direct involvement

in neighborhood activities, we set an example. We provide them with the tools and support needed to flourish and become compassionate leaders themselves.

Lighting Positive Change

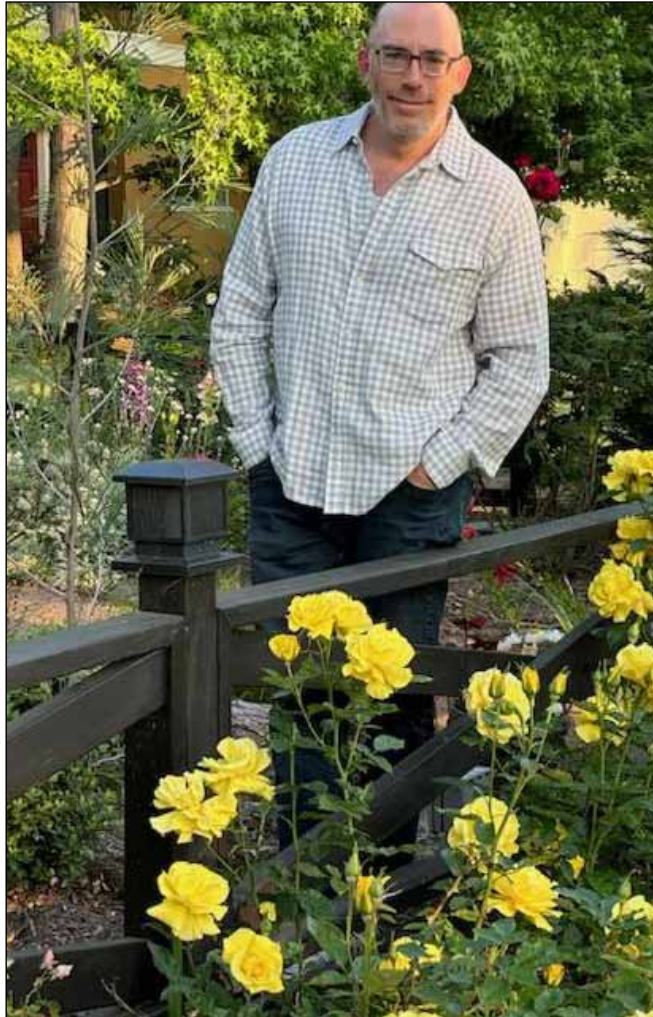
— Getting involved is a catalyst for change. The flame of transformation is ignited through collective action, shedding light on the issues that demand our attention. Whether it's advocating for safer streets (the Flower St. traffic calming initiative), championing sustainable practices, or supporting local businesses (Neighborhood Night Outs in DTSA), our collective voice can be a force for meaningful impact.

Our community is not merely a geographical location – it's a tapestry of souls, intertwined by the bonds of shared experiences, hopes and dreams. By embracing the spirit of neighborly kinship, we unlock the true potential

of our community, breathing life into every street, every doorstep, and every heart.

This is my invitation to you; step out of your comfort zone...engage...contribute. In this pursuit, you will discover the power of community lies not in grand gestures, but in simple acts of kindness, connection and participation. The choice is yours. I for one, hope you choose to build a community where everyone is seen, heard and valued; one that is vibrant, inclusive and filled with joy.

And as the lawyer in me can't help but end: I rest my case!



The Fabulous Florence Yoch: Floral Park's Legendary Landscaper

What movie won best picture in 1940? If you guessed *Gone with the Wind*, you'd be right. When producer David O. Selznick wanted to design the shaded splendors of Tara, he had only one person in mind - Florence Yoch, a landscape architect who'd recently completed work at his estate in Beverly Hills.

We are highlighting Florence Yoch in this issue for several reasons; 'tis the season to garden and Yoch designed several of Floral Park's own gardens for such upper-class, grand matrons as Sophie Zlaket (2409 North Park) and Nellie Segerstrom (1914 Victoria Dr), and because it's PRIDE month and Florence had a life-long partner in life and in work in one Ms. Lucile Council.

Yoch's iconic work on five famous Hollywood movies may be what she's most known for, but her career spanned seven decades and more than 200 completed landscapes. Her designs ranged from intimate, fragrant "outdoor rooms," where families could work and entertain in the California sunshine, to sweeping estates for movie moguls like Jack Warner to public projects like the expansion of the California Institute of Technology.



Yoch was innovative, intuitive, personal, and above all, practical. Born in 1890 in Santa Ana her family lived in a large Italian-Revival with grounds including a fish pond, orange groves, and a grape arbor. Florence began her higher education studies in landscape architecture at UC Berkeley, then Cornell, before finally graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After graduating in 1915, Yoch moved back to Southern California and set up her business in Orange County and Pasadena.

In 1921, a young woman named Lucile Council came to work for

Yoch as an apprentice. The two women fell in love and became partners in business and in life. Lucile encouraged Yoch to find her voice and leave behind the reserved, downcast young woman she had once been. Yoch was also continuously inspired by particular books, which she often brought with her on work sites. Two favorites were Edith Wharton's *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* and Gertrude Jekyll and Lawrence Weaver's *Gardens for Small Country Houses*. She also reportedly adored the travelogue *Viva Mexico* by Charles Macomb Flandrau. This love of the personal and particular led Yoch to design

every aspect of her landscapes, from benches to garden tiles to iron gates. Aiming for the "supreme excellence of simplicity" she became adept at transforming sweeping designs of great European gardens into the smaller scale of the American suburban home.

In 1925, Florence and Lucile made their working partnership official, setting up the landscape design firm of Yoch and Council. Yoch was the principal innovator and lead designer, while Council supervised the office, construction, and procured plants and



Yoch and Council in one of the beautiful gardens they designed for a private residence.

vegetation. Their Santa Ana commissions also included the homes of J. A. Smiley, O. H. Barr, and Mattie Ritchey, as well as Birch Street Park and Santiago Park.

The firm flourished. Yoch only accepted clients based on referrals and developed long-lasting relationships with many of them. She checked in with old clients frequently, no doubt hopeful they were following the detailed, practical maintenance manuals she wrote for each project. Yoch and Council's instructions and notes included practical and useful tips like how to compost, recipes for coloring concrete, and ways to create an opu-

lent outdoor space on a smaller lot.

Ever-evolving, Yoch would encounter a new challenge in the early 1930s; the massive, showy estates of the cash-flush movie elite. Yoch was introduced to this new set of loyal clients by the trailblazing filmmaker Dorothy Arzner (often credited as Hollywood's first female director). Arzner was so pleased with her lush Roman garden created out of a rocky, sloping lot high in the Hollywood Hills, that she recommended Yoch to influential friends. Soon, Yoch was busy with commissions by some of the biggest names in entertainment.

In 1934, Yoch and Council designed

the sweeping family garden and lawn for the palatial new Beverly Hills home of Irene Mayer and David O. Selznick. The project was unlike anything they had ever done before. Both Yoch and Council would make a big impression on one of their next Hollywood clients, the legendary director George Cukor. Hired to landscape his narrow, terraced lot in Beverly Hills, Yoch spent time learning the layout of the land. Cukor considered Yoch an extraordinary woman and found both she and her partner to be 'a couple of tough customers.' He recounted one story of the exacting Yoch's perfectionism in a later interview where she walked down a freshly planted border at his estate, pulled up the plants and tossed them onto the walk and turned around at the end of the border to look the workmen in the eye and snapped, 'Now do it right'.

The next year, Yoch created flooded Chinese rice fields at the MGM Ranch



ABOVE: Yoch's garden design for Nellie Segestrom on Victoria Drive. BELOW: Yoch's design for Mrs. Zlaket on North Park Boulevard.





Yoch had a budget of \$16,000 to create the landscaping for Tara on RKO's backlot in Studio City. Yoch traveled to Georgia, learning how to take California trees, shrubs and vines and do tricks with them so to make a passable likeness to Georgia trees, shrubs and vines. Trees, roots and all, were hauled in on trucks. The huge oak trees were made of wooden framing, chicken wire and plaster built around telephone poles. (ABOVE) Hundreds of fake dogwood blossoms frame the porch of the plantation house.

in Chatsworth for Thalberg's elaborate adaptation of Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*. In 1936, Selznick acquired the rights to *Gone with the Wind*. And once again he turned to Yoch, this time to create the grounds of Tara, giving her a then monumental budget of \$16,000 for the plantation's landscaping alone. Yoch created Tara on 40 acres in the backlot at RKO Studios in Culver City. She traveled to Georgia, learning how to take California trees, shrubs and vines and do tricks with them so as to make a passable likeness to Georgia landscapes. In the movie, hundreds of fake dogwood blossoms frame the porch of Tara. Yoch convinced Selznick to give the

plantation house a more romantic, unkempt appearance, with a front lawn of waving, unmowed grass and a meandering driveway snaking through oak trees.

Yoch made her last foray into film design in 1941, when she designed Welsh rolling hills and valleys for John Ford's romantic family history, *How Green Was My Valley*. For this film, Yoch and Council made 10,000 daffodils bloom at once.

Yoch and Council continued their successful private and public works throughout the 1940s and '50s. In 1958, Yoch began to write an unfinished book on landscaping, scribbling notes of practical advice on any spare scrap

of paper. "Only a flourishing garden is pleasing," she wrote in a longer passage. "Therefore, choose plants that can grow happily in the spot you select for them, with the minimum of care, plants that will develop naturally into such shapes or heights as will best serve your needs with the minimum of pruning or tricky training, plants that have a pleasant restful appearance and whose fruit, flowers or leaf color come at a desired season."

Today, the work remains. While her Floral Park gardens may be gone, you can view her film creations from the comfort of your own home any time you want.

(Edited from an article by Hadley Meares)

8 Pools and Spools of Historic Floral Park

by Amy Tsotsis

Historic Floral Park is known for its amazing tree-lined streets and gorgeous historical houses, many of which date back to the early 1900s. I was drawn to the neighborhood by the beauty and variety of its historic homes with their stunning architectural features. But homes are not the only thing that showcase the loveliness of our neighborhood. What about the pools and spools, be them old or new, for a taste of Floral Park elegance and fun?

In 2010, I went to view my first home as a homebuyer in Floral Park, a Spanish Mediterranean on Ross Street built in 1930, a dream home. I was shocked to find it had a pool. An historical pool no less, one built and registered with the city of Santa Ana in 1929, a year before the house was built. This information made me curious and once in the backyard I came upon an elevated rectangular pool built a third above ground and two-thirds below. As I climbed the wide ascending staircase to the pool deck, the Beverly Hillbillies theme song popped in my head, "Beverly Hills, that is. Swimmin' pools, movie stars." And I thought to myself, this could be my very own "cement pond".

Neither myself nor my husband ever envisioned buying a house with a pool, let alone an old, historic pool in such disrepair. Nevertheless, I convinced him that we could not only renovate this awesome Spanish-style home, but we could also renovate and create our own luxurious pool to lounge around in style, despite not having Jed Clampett's bank account!

My curiosity regarding pools, and specifically my pool, led to more research. I found out that our 1929

pool was the oldest pool in Santa Ana, possibly even the oldest in Orange County.

Upon further digging I found a newspaper article that mentioned a residential pool built in January 1914



A mermaid frolics in the pool of Jeffrey and Suzee Katz on Heliotrope Drive.

at a 35 bedroom mansion in Beverly Hills. During the glitz and glamour of the Roaring '20s, (1924 to be exact), Hollywood stars Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks built a pool large enough to float a canoe. And a mere 5 years later our historic cement pont" was built in the frowning residential neighborhood of Floral Park.

Although we are not sure why the pool was built before the house, I like to imagine that the original lady of the house simply dreamt of having elegant, Hollywood-style pool parties and requested that one be built before the house. Whatever the reason, my husband Tom and I are grateful for the vision and perseverance of the first homeowners, as we float above the world in our own cement pond of saltwater luxury.

As I got to know more of my Floral Park neighbors, especially those with pools, I began to develop serious pool envy. It made me wonder... what other swimming holes exist among the homes of Floral Park? So I thought I'd share a few of these gems with you all as part of our Summer Edition newsletter.

Denise and Mike Silva's 1927 Georgian Estate home on Victoria Drive showcases a lovely classic, symmetrically designed pool, exuding the ambience of a royal English countryside manor. Believed to have been built in the 1970s, it blends exquisitely with the house and features an enclosed spa, as well as a sunken interior bench inside the full perimeter of the pool. Parties galore are awaiting this lovely pool.

Lisa La Fourcade and Gary Regalado felt that their 1927 Colonial Revival home on Victoria Drive, with its spacious backyard, was yearning for a Gilded Age pool of yesteryear. So in 2013 they set out to build a pool of their dreams. Their gorgeous oasis is also enjoyed by their two beautiful dogs, Thelma and Louise, who are allowed to take dips but are banned from diving.

Nancy Gallivan raised seven children in her beautiful 1930s Colonial-



Amy and Tom Tsotsis' pool (top) was built in 1929, one year before the house was built. Mike and Denise Silva (middle) and Lisa La Fourcade and Gary Regalado (bottom) enjoy their pools.

(Top) Nancy Gallivan's pool on Heliotrope Drive (Middle) Marc LaFont & Jeff Brumett's pool is known for its early California style tilework (below) rubber ducks enjoy Tom Turnley's pool.

(Top) George and Linda's pool o Heliotrope Drive, (middle) Brian and Cynthia Bell's pool was featured on the Home Tour (below) Ed Trotter and Sandy De Angelis' pool on Victoria Drive.

style home on Heliotrope Drive. The Gallivan's wanted a cool and entertaining spot for the children during the summer months, and so built their pool in 1974, which was recently remodeled in 2019. Nancy has fond memories of her kids playing water volleyball and jumping off the diving board (since removed for safety reasons). Shell-shaped topiaries on the plastered wall around the pool provide a relaxing and nostalgic feeling.

Marc LaFont and Jeff Brumett's elegant Santa Barbara-style home on Heliotrope Drive features a pool built for kings with a spectacular fountain

featuring tile from the renowned RTK Studio in Ojai (famous for their work on Santa Catalina Island, specifically the mermaid mural over the entrance to William Wrigley's Avalon Casino). The opulent pool, which includes a gorgeous peacock tile mural and fire and water features, was built in 2016 and was a featured garden at this year's Home & Garden Tour.

Tom Turnley's 1929 Greenleaf Street home features a mid-century Swan pool surrounded by whimsical décor with lovely flowerpots and mini-gardens. The stamp of this Swan-constructed pool is a beautiful mid-century tile of a pink swan in the

bottom. The 1961 kidney-shaped pool also has rare and retro waved-shaped stairs that descend into the pool and run its full width.

George and Linda Salata's 1953 Colonial-style home on Heliotrope Drive sports a beautiful, modern 2003 pool. Their two adult sons complain that they never had a pool while they lived there, but now the Salata's five grandchildren get to enjoy it when they visit! The pool comes equipped with a pair of lifeguard chairs and a "grandma shelf" in the interior, so that Linda can wade in safely and hang out with her grandchildren. A retro fish tile in the shallow end of

the pool is a throwback to the mid-century style.

Cynthia and Brian Bell’s 1933 Spanish Colonial Revival house on Flower Street has a beautiful balcony that overlooks a large custom pool with vintage Spanish tiles from the 1960s or 70s. Cynthia loves the reflection of the vibrant pool tiles and how it glistens in the sunshine, adding a pop of color to the backyard.

Sandy De Angelis’ and Ed Trotter’s 1970s unique geometric pool blends nicely with their 1963 French Mansard home on Victoria Street. The original owner, Sandra B, a Hollywood actress, originally built the pool with gold and glitzy tiles. Sandy and Ed maintained the unique original shape, but retiled and replastered the pool with more subdued, neutral colors. The classic modern sculptures around the pool were designed by the renowned James Kanan of Tustin, California.

Jeanette and Michael Mustafa, of Riverside Drive, have created a mas-

terful water feature in the center of their backyard, which they like to call a “Spool” (Spa + Pool) or otherwise known as a “cocktail pool”. This elegant cocktail pool, built in 2021, is only 11 by 15 feet in size. Perfect for floating in relaxation or entertaining family and friends with cocktails in hand. The pool features a unique copper scupper waterfall feature and custom lighting system with perfectly placed spa jets situated on lower and higher seats custom for the small to the tall. The spool is used as a warm-water spa during the cold months and a cool-water pool during the summer months, allowing for “fun”ctional use all year-round.

Jeff and Suzee Katz’s mid-century kidney-shaped pool on Heliotrope Drive is utilized for the grandest of pool parties, and is a feature point at their big annual Halloween Bash, with the most recent “Davy Jones’ Locker” theme party that produced a real-life mermaid! WOW, that sets the bar for pool entertainment and envy!



Jeanette & Michael Mustafa (top) recently built their cocktail “spool” as a combination pool/spa. Jeffrey & Suzee Katz’s pool on Heliotrope Drive has hosted many a great neighborhood party.

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BUILDING BUZZ

**CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS IN AND
AROUND FLORAL PARK**
by Jeffrey Katz

Excitement will hopefully soon be buzzing in our neighborhood as we prepare for a few construction projects that hold some promise to transform and enhance our community. Get your hard hats on and let's embark on this thrilling journey together!

THE 17TH STREET SHOPPING CENTER

For nearly three years, the FPNA board has worked – nay coaxed -- the property owner, Brian Silver, to gentrify his circa 1990 shopping center. It has been a struggle, but significant movement has occurred in the last 6 months.

In December 2022, Silver and FPNA president, Jeffrey Katz, brought an ambitious set of drawings to the Planning Department for its review. The City was pleased and gave Silver until March 2023 to submit final concept drawings and July 2023 to submit final plans.

In order to meet the deadlines, Katz helped Silver secure the services of Phil Ribaldo of South Stone Construction, to serve as the project GC. Unfortunately, due to rising costs, the original plans which were inspired by Floral Park's historic homes, have been diluted. Nonetheless, the remodel promises to be a substantial



Conceptual drawing of the new Floral Park Plaza on 17th Street by Ladwords Architectual Design

improvement over the status quo.

Currently, the center only has two tenants. This is intentional as Silver intends to attract, once the project is commenced, businesses that will cater to Floral Park and the abutting neighborhoods. He hopes to keep Peking Kitchen, but his intent is to dedicate the smaller structure to 4 to 6 kitchens with different operators, including Peking Kitchen. A single server will take orders for all kitchens from customers sitting on a newly designed outdoor space.

On May 3, 2023, the architect submitted revised plans to address comments made by the Planning Department. Ribaldo remains confident that he can complete the project by

December 2023. He has already commenced remodeling and repairing interior vacant units which were devastated by squatters during the past 3 years. If you have any interest in becoming tenants, please contact Katz (president@floralpark.com).

18th Street Construction

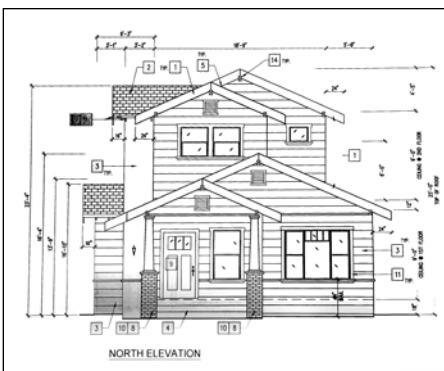
FPNA has exerted a concerted effort in the last two years to beautify 18th Street. In 2021, FPNA provided both a grant and a substantial amount of volunteer time to support the block's effort in the City's Most Beautiful Block competition. The effort paid off with the City's recognition of the block as one of the most improved in the City.



Next, FPNA pressed forward with addressing the homeless encampments in both the front and in the parking lot of the 3-story County Building at the corner 18th and Broadway. After a year-and-a-half, FPNA persuaded the County to hire a private security company for a 5:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. shift. The new protocol commenced on March 29 and has been successful.

During working hours when a sheriff was on premises, the encampment shifted to an empty lot in the middle of the block on 18th Street. After years of squatting and graffiti plaguing the lot, the nuisance has been resolved. In April, the new owner of the property started construction on two craftsman homes which will come on the rental market in the near future.

The Gazette secured from the City's Planning Department a rendering of the 18th Street elevation which will be visible as neighbors drive down the street. With the opening of the Farmers & Merchants Bank, the arrival of new businesses opposite Baskin Robbins and the imminent remodel of the 17th Street Shopping Center, there is a palpable change happening to the southern border of Floral Park.



MainPlace Mall

In last year's Spring Issue of The Gazette, we featured the Paloma – phase one of the MainPlace 5-phase project – an apartment complex at the corner of Memory and Broadway. MainPlace anticipates opening by the end of October 2023. Greystar will be managing the building and will start pre-leasing in June. The building will feature efficiencies, one- and two-bedrooms. Visit greystar.com soon for rates.

Phase 2 is already underway. The interior of Nordstrom's has been completely gutted. Demolition will be completed by the end of year making way for the Park Plaza which will feature open green space and four restaurants (see pictures.) The current parking structure in front of Nordstrom's will be demolished soon making way for a 5-floor apartment building. The current plans show a recreation area on the fourth floor overlooking the Park Plaza. The entertainment complex is still in the planning stages and will be featured in phase 3. The complex will include a 4,000-seat venue just north of the Paloma. Phase 4 will focus on the area where the Tesla charging stations currently exist. The plan calls for a new office building, but that plan is subject to change in light of market conditions. Phase 5 is not anticipated to begin until 2028. This phase includes a new grocery market that will back up to the 22 freeway.





OCVibe

While this project is not in Santa Ana, it is 4 miles due north and is bound to have an impact on our neighborhood. OCVibe is the \$4 billion project headed by the Samuelli family to turn nearly 134 acres surrounding Honda Center into a vibrant and walkable mixed-use community with apartments, retail, office and open space uses. Here, you'll find all kinds of entertainment. Like sporting events and live music performed in multiple state-of-the-art venues, complementing the iconic Honda Center. A bustling market hall, filled with restaurants and cafés, immersive art installations and creative office spaces. Over 20 acres of public parks and trails with 1,500 residences for people to make home. All in a walkable area designed to spark creativity and foster culture for Orange County and beyond.

From an iconic arena, an outdoor amphitheater, and a 6,000-person concert venue to multiple clubs and unique immersive spaces, OCVibe hopes to offer guests a variety of unique experiences. The project will boast over 20 acres of public parks, trails, plazas, and open space to be enjoyed by all, accessible by public transit and pedestrian walkways. More than just a vibrant entertainment and commercial district, OCVibe is a new kind of community, designed to bring people together through shared experiences. The developer hopes to have most of the phases completed by 2028 when the Honda Center will be

the volleyball venue for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Soon the dust will settle, and the sounds of hammers and drills will fade. As we eagerly await the grand unveiling, let us welcome this exciting chapter in our neighborhood's story, embracing change while cherishing the unique character that brought us here.



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Historic Floral Park Home & Garden Tour Celebrated 30th Anniversary

by Ed Trotter



It's now been 30 years and counting for the annual Historic Floral Park Home and Garden Tour. What began with a few neighbors and some great properties has now blossomed into

one of the greatest neighborhood charitable undertakings in Orange County, if not Southern California.

Walking among the Tours participants, visitors, and vendors provides

ample evidence of the joy we experience every day of the year but especially on Home Tour weekend. The event epitomizes what a special place this neighborhood really is. It's far more than beautiful houses and gardens. It's about beautiful people of all kinds. We are truly blessed.

Beginning with the Opening Night Gala fundraiser, a recent addition to the Home and Garden Tour, where about 140 neighbors kicked off this year's activities. Daron and Jilly Toll of Riverside Drive graciously opened their magnificent home and the evening began with a silent and live auction. Music was provided by the dulcet tones of Elena Gilliam and the George Gilliam Quartet and Collette's (owned by Floral Park neighbor Duane Greenleaf who also organized the auctions) catered to delight of everyone's palette. The funds raised will go a very long way to providing scholarships to Santa Ana's best and brightest.

For the tour weekend itself, a whopping 450 volunteers made it all



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possible. These efforts ranged from artistic to zealousness! Without volunteers, there would be no Home Tour. We are ever so thankful for the support.

In all, there were seven houses and five gardens available for viewing. Homeowners and gardeners reported a wonderful response from visitors. The effort to prepare those properties was outstanding as well.

Home Tour weekend has seriously upped the “fun” factor over the years with a Wine & Beer Garden, Classic Car Show, and the popular Street of Treasures. The Wine & Beer Garden was implemented to great success about 5 years ago. This year, 41 neighbors donated \$120 each to purchase wine and beer. This venue netted some \$15,000 for scholarships which meant that nearly every expense was covered.

John Richmond and Richard Terrones once again drew a fantastic array of vehicles for the car show. And, even a couple of dozen or so antique,



century-old bicycles (some ridden by era-attired residents from all across Orange County).

Our Street of Treasures continues to improve year by year, with a truly remarkable array of vendors and items to shop and enjoy. Under the guidance of Rich Silva (who you probably saw running around all weekend with partner Jerry attending to one detail or another) vendors and shoppers alike are singing the praises of their experience and look forward to coming back!

You can't really assign a monetary value alone to the tour. Benefits abound in knitting together a neighborhood of folks who simply want to improve the world around them. And as for looking to next year, perhaps it's your turn to contribute to making Floral Park the best place to live; from having your home and/or garden featured, to donating a service or item to the Opening Night Gala fundraiser. There's no time like the present to move on it. We'll be on the north side of Santa Clara. Get ready dear neighbors!

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Helen Jones' Floral Park Slogan Board

by Trace Weatherford



Helen Jones of North Park Boulevard decided the neighborhood needed a little pick me up. In the early throes of the COVID lockdown she noticed (and heard of some) heart-warming stories of neighbors leaving their neighbors' hand-written notes on home windows. Just as a general... *thinking of you, hang in there, we're all in this together* gesture. Helen loved the idea.

Thinking we could all use some feel-good inspiration, on the morning of March 27, 2020 she and her husband, K.C., hauled out front a large wooden sign (DIY'd headboard painted black with chalk paint) and using a white stick of chalk wrote her first quote on it. She's done so every single day since. I asked if she remembered the very first quote and she doesn't, only that it was funny.

Anyone who likes to take walks in Floral Park has likely noted the sign, resting prominently as it does in front of a large oak tree at the end of the North Park Blvd. cul-de-sac. If you haven't, I highly encourage you seek it out. It's pretty cool.

Helen has just a few rules she sticks to; the quotes must inspire, make people happy, or make people laugh. They can't be political, singularly religious, divisive, or about death. She'll search for quotes based on certain themes if

something strikes her fancy and she likes to be topical whenever possible. For instance, the day we were scheduled to speak for this article the board read; People are always asking me in interviews "What do you think of foreign affairs?" I just say, "I've had a few." – Dolly Parton

The reaction she's received about her board has been far and away positive. She's received thank you notes, kids wrote thank you in chalk on the sidewalk, folks have dropped off home-baked cookies and once, even left a bottle of wine. People have come from afar in cars or bikes, just to read the quote and take a picture standing next to it. Then there are those, Helen included, who take pictures of the board and send it regularly to family and friends. It's been shared across emails, texts, social and print media. It's our own little Floral Park phenomenon.

It's no surprise that the pandemic spawned the need for this small but mighty act to lift spirits. What may be a bit of a surprise is Helen's staying power. As of the date of this writing, that's 1,146 daily quotes to be exact. I for one, dear reader, marvel at her commitment and hope she stays with it for years to come. And just like the little girl who cried out, "I really like your slogan board" to Helen one day as she rode past on her bike... I'm thinking, don't we all!

Never regret anything that made you smile. –Mark Twain

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. –Marcel Proust

IF life gives you lemons, make margaritas. –Jimmy Buffett

Some days are diamonds, some days are rocks. –Tom Petty

In a dark place we find ourselves and a little more knowledge lights our way. –Yoda

Dream until your dreams come true. –Aerosmith

You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you'll find you get what you need. –Mick Jagger

IF you plan to face tomorrow, do it soon. –Gordon Lightfoot

Mother is a verb. It's something you do, not just who you are. –Cheryl Donovan

You never truly understand something until you can explain it to your grandmother. –Albert Einstein

I love you more than coffee. But please don't make me prove it. –Anonymous

Marriage is about the most expensive way for the average man to get laundry done. –Burt Reynolds.

Merry Christmas you filthy animal –Home Alone 2

Like the trees, we are visitors, guests of the earth. –Kim Stafford

Floral Park Blooms With Artistic Brilliance

by Jeffrey Katz



ABOVE: Dr. June Jin performs a piano duet at the Floral Park Arts & Culture event on Victoria Drive.

Drop everything, put on your metaphorical berets, and get ready to dive headfirst into a world where colors dance, melodies paint the air, and the beating heart of creativity reverberates throughout our neighborhood.

FPNA, with the introduction of its Arts and Culture Committee, is here to grab you by the artistic collar and pull you into a wild and wondrous exploration of why incorporating arts and culture is the secret sauce that makes a community truly sing.

Picture this -- strangers transformed into friends, barriers shattered by a shared language that bypasses words. Arts and culture create space where we can gather, dance, laugh, and cry together. They are the threads that weave us into a tapestry, where differences are celebrated and bonds are forged. For just a moment, we're able to ditch the virtual world and immerse ourselves in the tangible magic of concerts, art exhibits, poetry slams, and more; where connection thrives and souls come alive.

Our neighborhood's Arts and Culture Committee began auspiciously in April with a piano recital attended by 50 neighbors in the living room

of Mike and Denise Silva on Victoria Drive. The afternoon opened with a surprise treat: a short performance by Mark and Lauren Rothenberg's son, Alex (Ross St.), a student at Orange County School of the Arts, who will be attending the prestigious Piano Institute at Florida State University this summer. Alex delighted the crowd with his own arrangement of movie scores from the 1990s. The main event, however, was a 30-minute performance by Ross Street neighbor Dr. June Jin. A Juilliard-trained, globe-trotting concert



"The Descendants" Maleficent, played by Sophia Beas, poses with residents Seylah Miles and her mother Stephanie Miles.

pianist, June played Rachmaninoff, Mozart and more, masterfully.

The second event by the Arts and Culture Committee took us on the road to Santiago Elementary where neighbors enjoyed the performance of "The Descendants: a Disney Musical." FPNA is a sponsor of the elementary school's drama program. Fingers crossed, two of the play's stars may be making an appearance at the neighborhood's July 1 Freedom Fest.

And then in May, Linda Duffy (Greenleaf St.) brought her French horn and the rest of her South Coast Brass Quintet to FPNA's third annual Memorial Day ceremony where they played Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for a Common Man" – a salute to the men and women who gave their lives to protect our country.

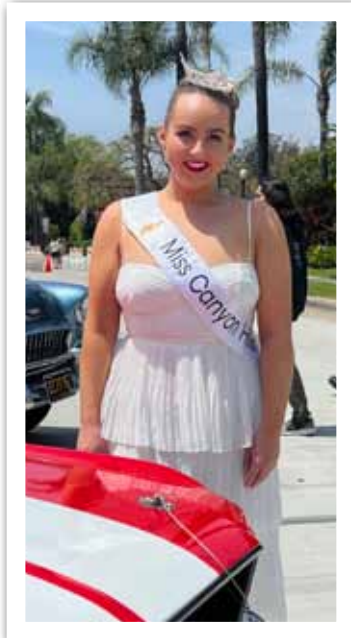
As for the slate of upcoming Arts & Culture events – it's impressive – so mark your calendars!

- July 21 – John Reynolds (Ross Street), the head of the jazz program at OCSA, brings his own quintet to the neighborhood.
- August 20 – it's the Pacific Symphony's return to Victoria Dr. as we relive the magic of their first Floral Park performance from last summer.
- September (exact date TBA) – the neighborhood hits the road with a private tour of the OC's newest museum, the Orange County Museum of Art. Brunch included!
- Fall 2023 – Eric Stein (Flower St.) takes us on a journey through his photographic evolution including a presentation of his stunning landscape photography.
- November 4 – the Acjachemen Indian Tribe, who's land originally included Floral Park, will hold a Tribal Gathering in our neighborhood featuring native Indian dance, song and food.

So neighbors...let us unleash our collective imagination and dive into a world where art is the universal language. Let's dance like no one's watching, sing like we're center stage, and paint our dreams onto the canvas of our community.

Floral Park in Pictures

With the Arts & Culture series and both the annual Memorial Day Observance and the Historic Floral Park Home & Garden Tour getting bigger and better each year, it's a good time for photos in the neighborhood. Thank you to Johnny B Films, Marc LaFont and George Will for this batch of photos. If you have photos to share, send them to Editor@FloralPark.com.





Quintet from the Pacific Symphony Orchestra

in concert in
Floral Park



**Sunday
August 27
5:30 pm
Victoria Drive**

**Bring a chair,
a picnic
and enjoy
a free, live
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Taking The Bite Out of Mosquito Season

by Trace Weatherford

According to all the experts, this year will bring the worst mosquito season in many years. Beyond the nuisance of these little flying biting insects, mosquitoes can cause illness and even death through diseases like zika, dengue, yellow fever and west Nile virus.

Mosquito facts:

- They require water to complete their life cycle which can occur in as little as 5-7 days.
- A large portion of mosquitoes are produced in residential backyards.
- Any water-holding container as small as a bottle cap can produce them.
- Mosquitoes do not develop in grass or dense shrubbery, although adult mosquitoes like to rest in these areas during the day.
- There are two types of mosquitoes prevalent in Orange County; the house mosquito and the Aedes "ankle biter" mosquito.
- House mosquitos prefers to breed in large yard water sources such as gutters, ponds and green pools. They are active during dusk and dawn. Can transmit west Nile virus.
- Aedes mosquitoes lay eggs individually on the inside of water-holding containers and the eggs can stay dormant in dry conditions for years. They prefer to breed in small sources such as plant saucers, plants, tires, buckets, and still water fountains. They are aggressive daytime biters

Mosquito Prevention

Preventing mosquito bites is critical. Below are some helpful tips:

- Apply mosquito repellent to exposed skin before going outdoors; re-apply as recommended.
- Wear EPA-registered repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, lemon eucalyptus oil, etc.
- Close ALL unscreened doors and



windows to prevent mosquitoes for entering the home and repair broken or damaged screens.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and opt for lighter colored clothing.

Eliminating Mosquitos

Eliminating mosquito breeding is even more critical. Below are some helpful tips:

- Dump and drain any contained filled with water daily.
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls at least 2x a week.
- Dump water from potted plants and saucers daily.
- Do not transport or share plant stems rooted in water.
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water.

The hands down best way to eliminate the sheer number of these truly pesky buggers is to scour your entire property for standing water and get rid of it. Again, do this as often as you can. If not daily, then several times a week. If everyone in Floral Park did this, our mosquito season would be a mild one. Speaking personally, as someone who must emit an intoxicating blend airborne carboxylic acids and therefore suffers from these bites mightily, I implore us all to practice elimination over treatment!



MOSQUITOS SUCK!



KICK OFF SUMMER WITH THESE DELICIOUS RECIPES!

by Flora Park

Summer's here and that means backyard parties, picnics and BBQs. Here's some sure-fire recipes to add some spark to your summer entertaining.



TO DIE FOR CROCK POT BACKED SPINACH ARTICHOPE DIP

From Yvonne Castanos

Makes 10-12 servings, prep time about 10 minutes

Ingredients:

- One 14-oz. can artichoke hearts, drained and roughly chopped
- One 10-oz. package frozen spinach, thawed and drained, or 10 oz. fresh chopped spinach
- 1 block (8 oz.) cream cheese
- 3/4 cup mozzarella, shredded
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
- 1/2 cup whole Greek yogurt
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Pita chips, tortilla chips, sliced

baguette and/or sliced veggies for serving

Instructions:

Place all the ingredients into a slow cooker and stir to combine. Cover and cook on low heat for 2 hours.

After 2 hours, stir until ingredients are well combined, and transfer the dip to the vessel of your choice. Serve warm!



BLOW YOUR SOCKS OFF STRAWBERRY COFFEE CAKE

From the kitchen of resident
Alison DeMark

Serves 10-12, prep time 30 min or less

Ingredients:

Cake:

- 1 box vanilla cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 box 3.4 oz vanilla pudding
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 cup liquid (I use boysenberry

juice- but you can sub for another berry juice)

- 1-2 tbsp vanilla (use high quality extract!)

Crumb:

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup quick oats, pulsed in blender to resemble powder
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1-2 pats butter (soften, not melted)
- ^ Combine with crumb mixture until it looks yummy ;)

Instructions:

Mix all dry ingredients together. Beat eggs. Add vanilla to eggs. Pour egg mixture, oil, and liquid into dry ingredients and beat until smooth.

Liberal spray non-stick of choice and coat interior of 8x13 baking dish OR Bundt Pan. If using the 8"x13" pan, pour half the cake mix into baking dish. Cover with 1/2 crumb topping. Then pour remaining cake mix on top of crumb, cover with remaining crumb. Bake at 350 for 30-35 min.

If using the bundt pan, crumb mixture first, then cake mix, then crumb, then cake mix. Bake at 350 for 45-50 minutes.

HILDA'S RANCH BACKED BEANS

From Floral Park Resident

Kelli Will

Serves 6, prep time 5 min

Ingredients

- 6 slices bacon



- 1 large onion, thinly sliced (optional)
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ½ cup thinly sliced green • bell pepper (optional)
- 1 (28 oz/800g) can pork and beans such as B&M Baked Beans
- ½ barbeque sauce such as Sweet Baby Ray's
- 2 tbsp molasses or honey
- 4 cups of lemonade

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350. In a large saute pan, cook the bacon over medium-low heat until almost crispy. Remove and drain. Reserve 3 tablespoons rendered fat from skillet. Add the onion,

garlic and pepper. Cook over medium heat for 5-7 min, or until tender. Add the beans, barbeque sauce and molasses and thoroughly combine. Pour ingredients into a 1.5 quart casserole dish. Crumble the bacon and sprinkle over the top. Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes.

BOOZY LEMONADE

*From Floral Park resident
Trace Weatherford*

Serves 2



Ingredients:

- 2 trays of ice cubes
- 4 cups of lemonade
- 2-3 ounces vodka
- 1 cup Limoncello

- Sugar
- Lemon wedges (for garnish)

Instructions:

Mix and serve.



4TH OF JULY COCKTAIL

Ingredients:

- 1 part grenadine
- 1 part Blue Curacao
- 1 part Cream or Vodka

Instructions:

Fill a shot glass 1/3 of the way with grenadine. Put a spoon in the glass and pour the Blue Curacao over the back of it. With the spoon, pour cream or vodka over the back of it to make the top layer.



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The Ultimate Sacrifice: A Memorial Day Tribute

by Semone Aye

Nearly 250 neighbors gathered at 19th and Heliotrope on Memorial Day to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. FPNA president, Jeffrey Katz's opening remarks reminded us that "Today, we shine a spotlight on the unsung champions of our nation—the common men and women who, through their unwavering commitment, have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our history."

Oscar Garibay performed *Sunset* – a clarion call – to kick off the event, along with the OC Sheriff Bagpipers who marched to the melodic tunes of their bagpipes. Pastor Tony Simon of Santa Ana's Covenant City Fellowship said an opening prayer followed by the Second Baptist Church Choir's *Goodness of God* with neighbor Mary Pero (Greenleaf Street) in the lead. And standing strong throughout the program was the impressive Santa Ana Police Department Honor Guard.

Distinguished speakers included Mayor Valerie Amezcua, whose message was one of thanks; about remembering, thanking, and appreciating our fallen heroes for the most precious gift – our freedom. Assemblyman Avelino Valencia and Congressman Lou Correa, who calls Floral Park his home, reaffirmed the message of remembrance and gratitude.

Marc LaFont read an excerpt from Ernie Pyle, a reporter who chronicled his experiences in war and who died off the coast of Okinawa with the 77th Infantry Division. Below is perhaps the most poignant passage within Pyle's account:

"Now to the infantry — the God-damned infantry, as they like to call themselves. I love the infantry because they are the underdogs. They are the mud-rain-frost- and-wind boys. They have no comforts, and they even learn to live without the necessities. And in the end they are the guys that wars can't be won without."



Other neighbors joined in reading various patriotic works. Gene Andres, a resident of Floral Park for over 52 years, recounted his military experience during the Cuban Missile Crisis and conducted the traditional reading of *In Flander's Field*.

Neighbor Armando Varela read of Marine Lance Corporal Kenneth Worley's courageous acts during the Vietnam War. Inspired by President Lincoln's Gettysburg address, Katz highlighted the importance of Memorial Day; "War is a time when our fallen heroes give their 'last full measures;' they gave away their tomorrows so we can have our todays."

Musical performances included The South Coast Brass Quartet featuring Linda Duffy (Greenleaf Street) on French horn, Joseph Kaye, and the talented Santa Ana High School Chamber Orchestra and Choir with an emotional piece, *In the Company of Angels*. The Santa Ana High School Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Yesenia Navarro Garcia, performed *The Star-*



Spangled Banner, God Bless America, and Let the River Run. The Second Baptist Church Choir performed *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Finally, the traditional tolling of the Freedom Bell, accompanied by reminders of what each of the seven solemn tolls represent, as read by various neighbors. Katz's closing remarks said that the greatest tribute we can give to our fallen heroes is to live each day with intention and purpose. "In their memory let us rise, not with heavy hearts burdened by grief but with spirits lifted by the light of their legacy."

(Photos by Eric Stein and Marc LaFont)





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Bakers Sought For Annual Freedom Fest Cake Walk

One of the highlights of Floral Park's annual Freedom Fest is the Cake Walk, sort of a musical chairs of baked goods. To play, participants walk around the path in time to music, which plays for a duration and then stops. A number is drawn at random and called out, and the person standing on that number wins a cake as a prize (hence the name).

This is where you come in. We need bakers to donate baked goods for the Walk: cupcakes, cookies, pies, cakes or other delicious baked items that are either homemade or store-bought. To donate, visit the web site at FloralPark.com/calendar and sign up with your full name and a brief description of what you'll be bringing. Then make sure it's on the Cake Walk table in the middle of Heliotrope Drive on Saturday, July 1 at 4:00 pm when the event begins.

Tickets for the Cake Walk can be purchased in advance for \$5 each online at FloralPark.com/calendar or at the event.



Bike Parade Kicks Off Holiday Fun

The 4th of July is traditionally a day of family fun, barbecues, pool parties and fireworks. Here in Historic Floral Park, that's no exception. The festivities will start earlier this year with a kids bike parade.

Floral Park's youth are invited to decorate their bikes, scooters, and even their pets, and parade up and down the streets of the neighborhood. Line up begins sharply at 8:30 am with the guided parade starting at 9:00. From there, you'll do two loops up Benton Way, west on Riverside Drive, east on North Park Boulevard and back down Bonnie Brae.

There'll be \$25 gift cards awarded to the most patriotic, more creative and best pet. To watch, simply bring your folding chairs, or stand, and cheer on the participants as they pass by. For more information, email Katie.I.Mayberry@gmail.com.



Independence Day Fun Facts

Who doesn't love fireworks, Freedom Fest, parades and barbecues? July 4th is full of fun, but how much do you know about this patriotic holiday? See how many of these 4th of July facts you know.

- The Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. Despite John Adams wanting the holiday to be celebrated on July 2, that's not the day we celebrate our nation's independence. We celebrate on July 4th since it was the day the Declaration of Independence was formally adopted.
- President Zachary Taylor died in 1850 after eating spoiled fruit following 4th of July speeches.
- In 1781, Massachusetts became the first state to declare the 4th of July an official state holiday. Despite its early adoption as a state holiday, July 4th wasn't declared a Federal holiday until 1941.
- The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped 13 times every July 4th in honor of the original 13 colonies.
- Americans spend more than \$1 billion on fireworks annually.
- The Star Spangled Banner became the United States' national anthem in 1931. The ballad was written by Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814.
- Hospitals have an influx of patients each July 4th as a result of fireworks-related mishaps. Close to 16,000 people were hospitalized with fireworks-related injuries in 2020. If you're planning to use fireworks at home, be sure to learn proper safety protocol beforehand.
- While you may enjoy the excitement and sound of fireworks, your pets do not. It's best to leave your pets safely indoors, preferably with a radio or TV turned on to soften jarring noises. If you're unable to leave your pet unattended at home, keep them leashed and under your direct control at all times. If your pet is scared by fireworks, ask a veterinarian for help.

Santa Ana Poet Reads to Neighbors

by Jeffrey Katz

It was a great afternoon dedicated to the power of words, emotions, and the artistry of poetry. Gathered in the backyard of Matt and Ana Llamas (Heliotrope Dr.), 50 neighbors immersed themselves in the beauty of language and experienced the profound impact it can have on our souls.

On Sunday, June 11, Floral Park had the honor of hosting Gustavo Hernandez, a remarkable poet whose verses have captivated hearts and minds, bringing to life the essence of Santa Ana.

Gustavo, a resident of Santa Ana has become an emblematic figure in the local poetry scene. With his evocative verses and profound insights, he masterfully weaves together the fabric of life, artfully capturing the spirit of our beloved city. His poems paint vivid landscapes, filled with the colors, sounds, and emotions



that makes Santa Ana truly come alive.

Gustavo read selected poems from his debut poetry collection, "Flower Grand First" -- a nod to the Santa Ana streets on which he grew up after his family moved from Jalisco.

In his words, Gustavo channels the voices of the unheard, amplifying their stories and shining a light on the struggles and triumphs of marginalized communities. His poems are like slices of life, sprinkled with a generous dose of humor that leaves you laughing in the most dignified way possible. He takes the ordinary and turns it into something extraordinary, reminding us that even the simplest moments can be infused with poetry.

SANTA ANA: DOWNTOWN by Gustavo Hernandez

Sometimes the cold evenings after work are filled with parrots. No one knows how they got here, how a couple of feathers fanned out into this squawking-green sky netting. Where do they sleep? A white woman writes in an article, her surprise in finding them in the city. She admits her family knew there would be changes when they moved, but screaming parrots? She calls this place her hood, she takes the hood's good with the bad: the Mexican food, the rest of the unpalatable characteristics. Writes about its history. All architecture. Wonders if she'd been better off with a Spanish-style home. It's not too late. History. I think about how the Black woman who lives across the street from the house where I grew up had to fight in court to lease an apartment where she and her sweet husband could sleep. History. Gardeners in front of glowing donut shops before the sun comes up. The neon signs, the tired jokes on the AM radio. The laughter of men who could make even coffee

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bloom. Saving to buy a home of their own. Renting garages and tiny rooms in the meantime. Their children carving out land for themselves, quiet places for homework, where they can shyly radiate with new words, long division and dreams. Still, the new investors make promises to bring the shine back. Exorcise the downtown scrap yards—you, tell me whether you are of this world or the next, and I'll tell you where to eat. The streamlined storefronts, cold windows radiating the cleansing frost. I once heard a man at the barbershop give his reasons for splitting a small stretch of Fourth Street into an east and a west, in this place where ten years ago cardinal directions would have squealed out of his head in a wrong-turn panic. But where the hell do these parrots come from, man? Damn invasion. Oh, that house we just got is going down next week, tearing the yard out too, but we're definitely eating the tangerines. And at the edges, I can see the chayote vines reduced to border filigree, swinging their spiny pendulums below the living, floating, breathing down, the mystifying cover that is questioned then dispersed.



What an honorable event to put on in Floral Park (*the Memorial Day observance*)! This is my second time to attend this special event in our neighborhood. Last May, my parents were visiting from Dallas for my daughter's high school graduation, so I thought it would be nice to take them to this event.

My dad was absolutely touched

and impressed by the tribute honoring our fallen. Having spent his military career in Japan, as a Staff sergeant in the Air Force during the Korean War, he was extremely moved by the ceremony. In his later years, most of the memories he would reflect on, would be of his time in the service. He would share his war stories, and tell us about his relationships that he shared with those lost during combat. My mom and dad, both instilled my patriotism for our United States, and I am eternally grateful for their gift. Unfortunately, my 93-year-old father passed away in January. So glad that he was able to experience such a special Memorial Day tribute for fallen, right in our very own Floral Park!

—Heidi Miles (*Ross Street*)

To write the editor, send an email to editor@floralpark.com.

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Interview With Steven Horowitz

Floral Park's Famous Basset Hound

By Mark Rothenberg



We recently sat down with Ross Street's own Basset Hound, Steven Horowitz, for a quick chat about his life, loves, and a disappointing end to his Olympic sprinting career.

Steve, thank you for agreeing to do an interview. It has been a quite a month for you. Were you disappointed with your results in the So Cal Basset Hound Olympics?

Uh yeah, well I won't lie it's been a difficult journey. Frankly, the Basset Hound Olympics have become a disgrace and I won't put much stock in them anymore.

It was a disappointing finish. You ran the 10-foot dash in 5 minutes and 30 seconds. We understand it was a 5-way tie for 5th place?

Like I said, this competition has become a disgrace. I have nothing left to prove. I knew it was rigged

when I got third place in the lowest ground clearance competition. I don't want to talk about this anymore.

Fair enough. So despite your fame you remain somewhat of a mystery to our readers. Let's start at the beginning. Where are you from?

France. I am a direct descendant of the French royal family of Basset Hounds.

But our research indicates you were born in Oklahoma?

That's fake news. Ask your next question.

Okay Steve, well...what motivates you?

The usual...philosophy, art, architecture, Netflix.

Great. What advice would you give to all the Basset Hound pups out there who look to you for inspiration and want to replicate your success?

I would say be yourself. No, that sounds trite. Be interesting. Find your truth and stick with it—until your truth isn't interesting. Then find another truth. Roll with it. Roll in it. I mean really get your nose in there and roll around in it.

Steve, rumor has it your love life is as legendary as your sporting career. What's your secret?

Puhleeze. Look at me. That's my secret.

Fair enough, fair enough. So Steve, I am going to end our interview with the questionnaire invented by the great Bernard Pivot from the hit show, "Bouillon de Culture"—and made famous by James Lipton on his series, "Inside the Actor's Studio"—What is your favorite word?

Massage time.

That's two words.

No, it is a conjunctive "massage-time."

What is your least favorite word?

Squirrel.

What turns you off?

Poodles.

What turns you on?

Poodles.

What is your favorite curse word?

Share.

What sound or noise do you love?

Cheese wrapper opening.

What sound or noise do you hate?

Fridge door closing.

What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

Philosopher.

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?

Cheese.

Thank you Steve.

Go away.

Editor's Note: Steven placed 5th in the 10 foot sprint at the Southern California Basset Hound Olympic Games in April 2023.

If you are interested in having your beloved cat or dog or other fully domesticated pet interviewed, please email us at editor@floralpark.com.



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Neighborhood Calendar

*Dates and times are subject to change.
Check details at FloralPark.com/calendar.*

JUNE

- Scholarship & Charity AwardsSunday, June 25

JULY

- Freedom FestSaturday, July 1
- Independence Day Bike ParadeTuesday, July 4
- FPNA Board MeetingTuesday, July 11
- Arts & Culture Salon Series #5
Jazz ConcertSunday, July 21

AUGUST

- FPNA Board MeetingTuesday, August 8
- Blood DriveFriday, August 25
- Arts & Culture Salon Series #6
Pacific Symphony ConcertSunday, August 27

SEPTEMBER

- Yard SaleSaturday & Sunday, September 2 & 3
- Fall MixerSunday, September 10
- FPNA Board MeetingTuesday, September 12
- Fall ConcertSaturday, September 23

OCTOBER

- Walk of FrightTBD
- FPNA Board MeetingTuesday, October 10

NOVEMBER

- Arts & Culture Salon Series #7
Indian Tribal GatheringSunday, November 4

DECEMBER

- Yard SaleSaturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3
- Holiday PartySaturday, December 9
- Menorah LightingTuesday, December 12
- Walk of Lights(Tentative) December 21

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Floral Park Community Market Update

The Following Homes Sold In The Second Quarter 2023 To Present

ADDRESS	SQUARE FOOTAGE	\$\$\$/SQ. FT.	SALES PRICE
2208 N Flower St.	2,026 SF	\$505.92/SF	\$1,025,000
2009 Greenleaf St.	2,000 SF	\$600/SF	\$1,200,000
2332 N Riverside Dr.	2,211 SF	\$542.74/SF	\$1,200,000
407 W. Santa Clara Ave.	2,260 SF	\$685.84/SF	\$1,550,000
*2340 N Park Blvd.	3,056 SF	\$539.92/SF	\$1,650,000

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