

historic FLORAL PARK

neighborhood newsletter



Neighbor Spotlight

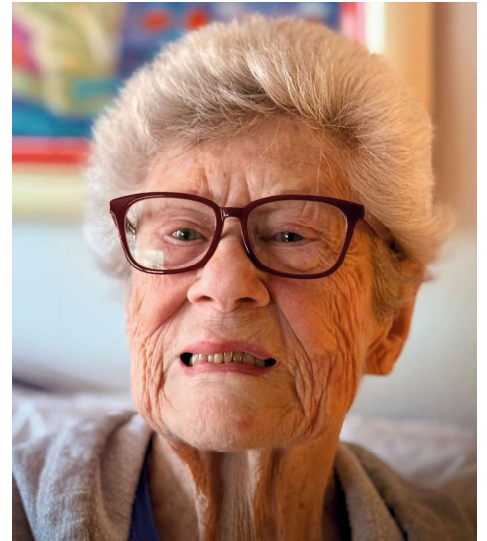
by Mason Nakamura and Alex Hart

In this new feature, we will be spotlighting long-time Floral Park residents, giving you a picture into their lives and contributions to the neighborhood...

Neighborhood Artist, Jan Magdaleno.

In 1958, Bullock's Fashion Square, the predecessor of the Main Place Mall we know today, opened to the public. In 1966, Jan Magdaleno, an advertising director and later Corporate Fashion Art Director for Bullock's Department Stores and her husband Al relocated from Los Angeles to Santa Ana after Jan's transfer to Bullock's Santa Ana. Jan remembers seeing Floral Park and Heliotrope Drive for the first time, and immediately feeling like this was home. Jan and Al fell in love with a Spanish "fixer upper" home on Heliotrope Drive when they discovered it had an art studio perfect for Jan's use in the back yard. After leaving Bullocks, Jan became co-owner of Jebba Needlepoint in Corona Del Mar for over 25 years. She became well-known for her original art works, creating custom canvases for needlepoint clients. Though she sold the business, Jan still creates custom-designed needlepoint patterns for the company. She also practices her love of art by creating original portraits and drawings. Jan has worked in charcoal, watercolor and other media, capturing the essence of her subjects in her works. Her home is filled with beautiful pieces she has created over the years. A lover of animals, she has also captured many neighborhood pets in portraits, such as these of Abby, Gerta, Sammy, and Clara. Some of the animal portraits have also been turned into beautiful needlepoints.

A woman of quick wit and charm, Jan enjoys telling stories of creating the works of art she has painted. This summer, a milestone birthday party will celebrate Jan and several other longtime Floral Park residents. A woman of many talents, Jan is one of the reasons Floral Park is a wonderful neighborhood in which to live.



HONORING FLORAL PARK, ONE HOME AT A TIME.



Scan to preserve
your home's story
– It's still being
written

"Building in a historically sensitive area isn't easy, but Clark and his team made it seamless. Their professionalism, care, and skilled execution brought our vision to life in a timely manner and with remarkable attention to detail."

- Peter & Diana Christoffersen



Major Remodel – N. Heliotrope Dr.

New Builds | Remodel | Restorations



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Owner | General Contractor
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SPRING/SUMMER 2025 FLORAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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for advice.

2025 FPNA BOARD MEMBERS

The board begins its term in July each year

President	Craig Kalthoff-Patti president@floralpark.com
1 st VP/Giving	Stephanie Miles giving@floralpark.com
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Communications	Mason Nakamura Jess Carr communications@floralpark.com
Parliamentarian	Julie Humphreys parliamentarian@floralpark.com

President's Message

by Craig Kalthoff-Patti

As I write this, our Historic Floral Park Neighborhood community is just a few days past having had our spectacular Opening Night Gala as well as our unique Home Tour events. On the Sunday of our 32nd annual Home Tour, I volunteered at the Ticket Booth.



As I helped one gentleman with tickets, he asked "do you live in Floral Park?" I replied that I did and he went on to tell me that he and his wife often walk in Floral Park because of its relaxing atmosphere. He also mentioned the people he has come in contact with "are so friendly". This got me thinking as to who are we as Historic Floral Park? At first glance, one might think we are a collection of beautifully maintained historic homes. And that of course is true. As I come up on the completion of my first year as FPNA President, I have been impressed with the diversity of the people in our neighborhood community.

Bringing diversity and variety into a community neighborhood association requires a multifaceted approach, including your Board leadership, inclusive practices, and a focus on building relationships across differences. It involves ensuring that everyone regardless of background, feel welcomed, valued, and have an opportunity to participate in association activities and decision-making as offered in our quarterly General Membership meetings. You have a diverse board of directors that fosters diversity and inclusion. I'm proud of the fact that we have an incredible Board who is transparent about decision-making processes that ensure voices are represented in Historic Floral Park activities. All of our events and social activities celebrate our diversity and foster a sense of community belonging. Yes, we are unique!

As we progress into 2025, I would encourage you to volunteer for an event if you haven't already done so, step-up for one of our open board positions and/or attend our quarterly General Board meetings at the Assistance League of Santa Ana. All events and meetings are posted on our social calendar on FloralPark.com, our wonderful NEW website.

Pride Month is just
a rainbow's leap
away! Swing by our
website to snag
your very own
Floral Park Pride
Flag today! 🌈



The Butterfly Garden at Sarah Mae Downie Park

by Chris Switzer

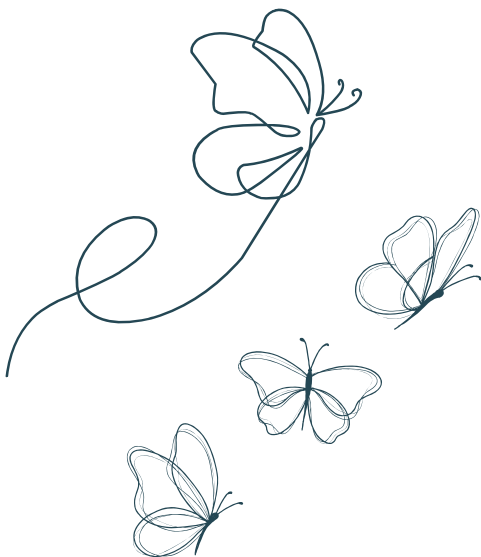
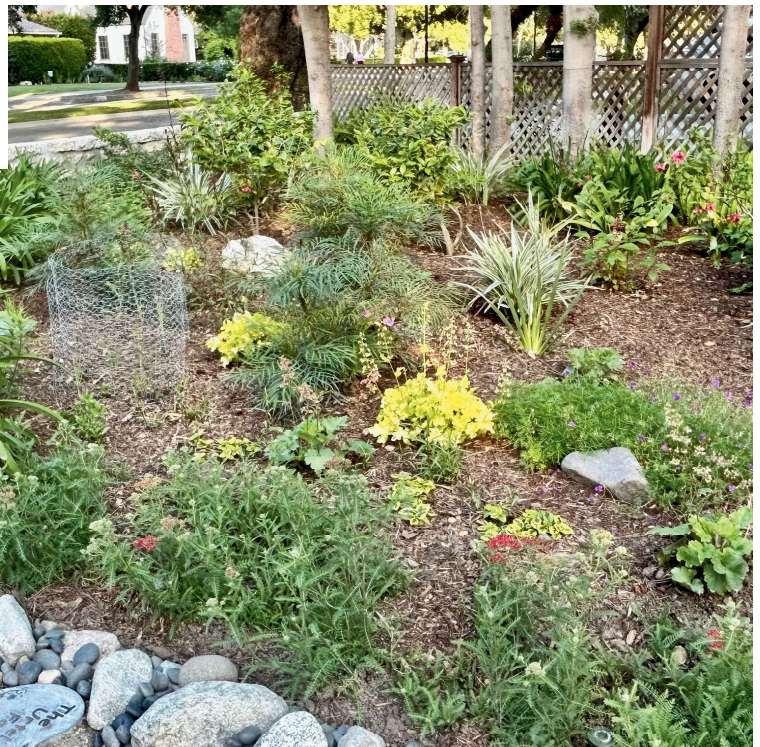
Nestled in a charming corner pocket park on North Park and Flower Streets, lies a butterfly garden, a serene oasis meticulously maintained by dedicated volunteers currently dubbed the Wise, Wonderful Wednesday Weed Whackers. This garden started in 1938 when Adeline Walker started a community herb garden, and volunteers have maintained it for 67 years. The garden has seen many changes through the years.

Currently, the park faces a challenge, primarily due to the large trees that surround it. The towering oaks cast extensive shade, creating an environment where sunlight is sparse. This lack of adequate sunlight poses a problem for planting, as many butterfly nectar plants require at least 8 hours of sunlight to grow and flourish and the bearded irises that have been a focal point in the garden for many years, are struggling to bloom. The shade from one mighty oak tree is causing the lime tree to die a slow death.

Volunteers continue to explore creative solutions to overcome the shade by moving the irises to the sunniest areas of the park and by experimenting with shade-tolerant, native plant species that provide butterfly and caterpillar food. We are striving to create a balanced ecosystem that supports butterfly life and maintains the history of the original garden.

Multiple native plants were placed in the ground so please stay on the paths and not to step on the new starts. A new Floral Park Historic District monument will be placed in the park.

Stayed tuned for the next issue of the Newsletter to learn more about all areas that the Beautification Committee maintains for Floral Park - i.e. planting and maintaining the Exits and Entrances, Heart Stones, Tree Committee, Curb Appeal, Utility Box Wraps (hopefully!) and planting along North Park adjacent to Broadway. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome. Contact Beth or Chris at beautification@floralkpark.com.



Communications

by Mason Nakamura and Jess Carr

In our Spring 2025 newsletter, we are thrilled to introduce a revamped newsletter format. The new layout features a modern, visually appealing design, and is produced on a web-based platform (Canva) that makes it easier for people to collaborate on newsletter production. It takes a literal army of people to produce and organize the content; a process we're trying to make simpler and easier. We've streamlined newsletter content to focus on the people and events in our neighborhood. We are bringing back previous favorites such as the Floral Park Grapevine, for residents to share recommendations on contractors and other service personnel with their neighbors. We will be integrating the newsletter with our recently upgraded FloralPark.com website, allowing articles from the newsletter to be seamlessly transitioned into website content. We are also in the process of revamping existing Social Media accounts (Facebook/Instagram/BlueSky) for the neighborhood and for the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour with our existing Constant Contact email capability to improve the dissemination of information. We look forward to hearing from you on our latest changes as we take Floral Park Communications to the next level.

We have a moderated Facebook and BlueSky page that are ready to go for just neighbors. We will use this to communicate events and other info relevant to Floral Park Residents only. Look for Historic Floral Park on both platforms. We will start using soon!!

Help Wanted and Desperately Needed

by Jess Carr

I am making a big plea for help. Some of us old dogs are just that....old and dog tired. We need some new blood and volunteer help. Everything that happens in the Neighborhood is because of Volunteers! We can't do anything without help. So here is a short list of where we need help:

Social Media Coordinator - Update Facebook, Instagram and BlueSky with info and events. 1-2 hours/month

Webmaster Apprentice - Learn how update FPNA site and learn WordPress. Super easy! 1-2 hours/month

Content/Writer Newsletter - Write stories or assist in writing articles. 1-2 hours/month

Media Sponsorship Newsletter - Solicit and follow up on all media sponsorships. 1-2 hours/month

Home Tour Hospitality - Provide coffee and donut holes for Vendors. Start to finish is max 3 hours each day.

Home Tour Ticket Booth Coordinator - Manage Ticket Booth Volunteers along with managing the technology used at the booth. Be present first and second shift for a an hour at most, but be on call in case of issues.

Social Chair - Manage the Committee and plan at least 4 events a year.

Home Tour Co Chair - Manage the Committee and processes. Sandy will do Board Meetings and recruitment.

Sip 'n Shop

Come to the Assistance League of Santa Ana's Sip 'n Shop Open House on Saturday, June 21, from 4 to 6 pm!

Sip a complimentary glass of Prosecco, sample some hors d'oeuvres, and enjoy some great entertainment while you shop sustainably in our newly refreshed Thrift Shop!

We have specially curated a collection of handbags, clothing, jewelry and household items for your shopping pleasure. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, June 21st!

With Special Guest

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Rain or Shine, the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour Blossoms Once Again

by Denise A. Silva



On this rainy Saturday morning, I glance out the window and witness something extraordinary: our close-knit community rallying together to breathe life into a beloved tradition—the Floral Park Home & Garden Tour. Despite a torrential downpour, a small army of volunteers assembles tables, chairs, canopies, stanchions... The bar is stocked with wine and beer, sound systems are being tested, the energy is undeniable.

Food trucks roll into place, vendors unfurl their wares, and classic car enthusiasts proudly line the streets with polished beauties gleaming through the mist. Golf carts zip by, ferrying supplies and volunteers. Neighbors stroll through the scene under umbrellas and ponchos, smiles undampened by the weather. There's a tangible excitement in the air—the kind that only comes when months of planning finally come to life.

What many may not realize is that this magical day began long ago—back in August 2024, when a dedicated committee gathered at the home of founder and director Sandy DeAngelis to start planning the 32nd annual Floral Park Home & Garden Tour.

This cherished event wouldn't be possible without the incredible generosity of neighbors who open their homes and gardens to the public. A heartfelt thank you to this year's gracious hosts: Dave Kosak and Crystal Tavor-Kosak, Julie and Gary Humphreys, Eric Finley, Angel Barnes and John Richmond, Sandy DeAngelis and Ed Trotter, Nena and Alex Niessen, Denise Ryan and Patrick Johnson, Craig Benedetti and Pablo Ochoa-Mayo, Suma Verghese and Duncan Simcoe, Wayne Suraci and Merle Craig.

For anyone who's ever considered joining the tour as a host, Eric Finley's story might offer inspiration. A first-time participant this year, Eric was honored—and admittedly a little daunted—when asked. His initial excitement quickly gave way to practical concerns: What could realistically be done in time? What would it cost? But he approached the project with purpose, prioritizing the garden with the help of creative partner Kelli Will. His advice: mark your calendar early, break projects into weekly goals, and don't be afraid to scale smartly. "There's a reason your home is being considered," he reflected. "Trust that and build from there."

Eric was initially unsure if he should be present during the tour, but a conversation with previous participant Kathy Skilton changed his mind. Encouraged to greet visitors firsthand, he found it deeply rewarding. Guests appreciated his presence, asked thoughtful questions, and offered heartfelt praise—leaving Eric with a renewed appreciation for his own home and garden.

In the days leading up to the tour, preparations reach a fever pitch. The Monday before is filled with texts, calls, and final touches. Hot off the heels of the "Opening Night Gala," volunteers press forward, fine-tuning every detail. By Friday morning, as rentals arrive, the transformation of Floral Park truly begins. As of this article's date, final numbers aren't available, but the total impact of the Home & Garden Tour was roughly \$104,246 including Opening Night, and the Wine and Beer Garden, roughly \$60,000 on its own.



To the countless volunteers—seen and unseen—who make this event a success year after year: Thank you. If you cross paths with one in the coming weeks, be sure to show your appreciation. I would personally like to thank our phenomenal committee: Angel Barnes, Jess Carr, Wendy Currlin, Merle Craig, Eric Finley, Charles Graeber, Julie Humphreys, Dave Karaffa, Riva Knapp, Jeanette Mustafa, Mason Nakamura, Richard Payne, John Richmond, Bev Schauwecker, Richard Silva, Wayne Suraci, Allyson Thompson, Ed Trotter, Cindy Wilsie and, of course, Sandy DeAngelis.

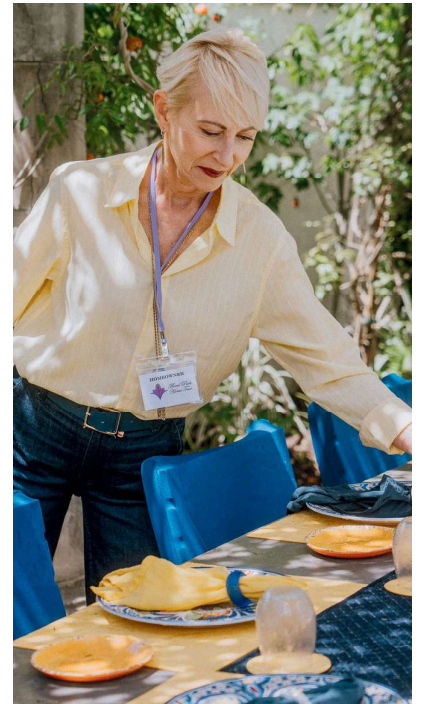
Special thanks also go to our tireless setup crew: Stephen Amsler, Laszlo Biro, Brian Byrd, Charlie Currlin, Adam Laughlin, Jonathan “Red” Rosenberger, Jaime Saleta, Tony Sherman, Eric Stein, Marc Thompson, and crew leader Mike Silva. As well as our amazing Water Crew: Director Jess Carr and Joy Ridout, Alex Martinez, Dave Hoen, Stacey and Neal Olson, Joe Rodriguez and Obed Garcia-Colato.

A heartfelt thank you to Johnny B. Hix for his exceptional photography. Every image captured through his lens brings the spirit and beauty of the Home & Garden Tour to life. All photos featured are generously provided by Johnny—thank you for helping us preserve these memories so beautifully.

This event is fueled by passion, collaboration, and pride. If you've ever wondered how to get more involved, now's the perfect time to raise your hand. We're always in need of helping hands, fresh ideas, and community spirit. Join us and help make the next tour even more unforgettable.

For more pictures please visit www.floralpark.com/gallery. Photo Credit: Johnny B. Hix and Jason Neidle





Floral Park Opening Night Gala Polynesian Style

by Alison DeMark



Six years ago, Wayne Suraci had an idea that would come to define a new tradition in Floral Park. As neighbors prepared each spring to open their historic homes for the annual Home Tour, Wayne proposed a festive kickoff event – one that would bring residents together in celebration of their community and, at the same time, raise funds to support local students. That idea became the FPNA Opening Night Gala.

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, the Floral Park Neighborhood Association (FPNA) celebrated its 5th Annual Opening Night Gala – and with it, Wayne's final year serving as Gala Lead. What began as a grassroots effort (tickets were still being sold at the door that first year!) has now grown into one of the most anticipated events in the neighborhood. This year's Gala was so popular, it even had a waitlist of over 20 hopeful guests eager to join in the festivities.

The 2025 Gala, hosted at the incredibly curated home of Alex Hart and Mason Nakamura, was a night to remember. With perfect spring weather, an inspired theme, and an incredible turnout, the event raised more than \$30,000 for Santa Ana student scholarships.

The evening began on the front lawn, transformed into a vibrant silent auction venue. More than 40 items lined the space, ranging from curated gift baskets and dining experiences to home goods, services, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Guests were welcomed with signature Mai Tais, wine, and beer, setting the tone for a warm and celebratory evening. Laughter echoed, hors d'oeuvres were hand passed, and neighbors generously outbid one another, resulting in over \$10,000 raised from the silent auction alone.

But the night was far from over.

After the silent auction closed, guests made their way through the hosts' home into the backyard, where the evening truly came alive. In keeping with this year's Polynesian theme, the backyard had been transformed into a tropical oasis complete with island-inspired décor, twinkling lights, and the rhythm of Polynesian music in the air. As guests found their seats, they were treated to a captivating performance by Polynesian dancers – bringing energy, elegance, and authenticity to the ambiance.

Dinner was provided by the ever-reliable and crowd-pleasing Colette's Catering. Owned by Floral Park's own Duane Greenleaf, Colette's has catered the last three Galas, and this year's feast may have been the most memorable yet. The menu, thoughtfully designed to complement the Polynesian theme, included flaky Mahi Mahi, rich coconut curry chicken, perfectly grilled vegetables, and a crisp salad tossed in a vinaigrette created exclusively for the event. Guests raved over the presentation and flavor, with many going back for seconds.

As the last plates were cleared, the stage was set for one of the most exciting parts of the evening: the live auction. Emceed by the charismatic Jim Nye, the live auction brought together charm, wit, and heartfelt generosity. Jim made an unforgettable entrance, opening the auction by selling a \$100 bill for \$300—an act that set the tone for what would be a spirited and wildly successful segment of the night.

The auction featured seven standout packages, each one drawing enthusiastic interest and competitive bidding. Two of the items generated such excitement they were sold twice, doubling the impact. From exclusive getaways to premium experiences, the items reflected both the creativity of the committee and the passion of the community.

And the generosity didn't stop there.

During the “Paddle Raise” portion of the auction, guests were invited to donate directly to support Santa Ana student scholarships. With levels ranging from \$100 to \$2,000, guests raised their paddles high in an overwhelming show of support. All told, the live auction including the Paddle Raise brought in over \$20,000.

By the end of the night more than \$30,000 had been raised to support educational opportunities for local students. It was a stunning success, a record-breaking result, and a powerful testament to the Floral Park community’s commitment to giving back.

As the stars came out and the music played softly in the background, guests lingered, reluctant to let go of the joy, connection, and pride that had defined the evening. The Gala after all, is about more than just fundraising. It’s about celebrating the neighborhood: its people, its values, and its tradition of hospitality and service.

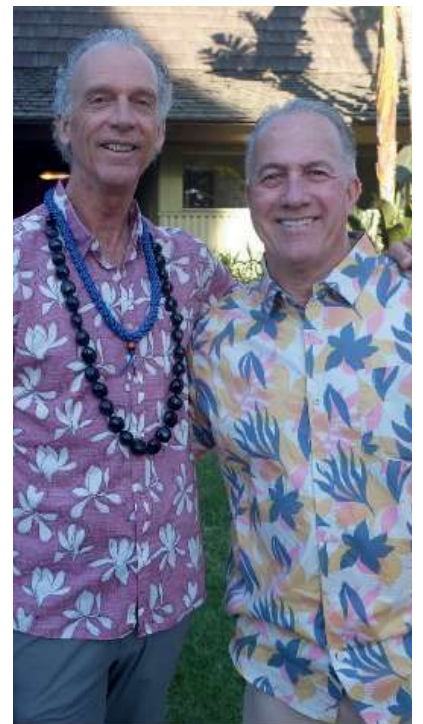
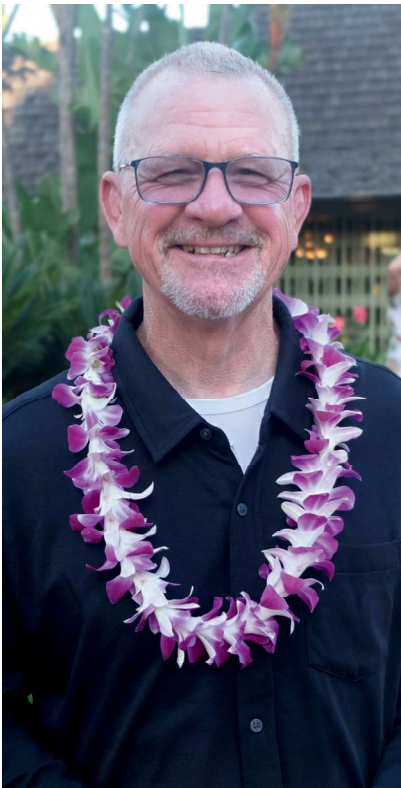
This year’s event also marked a meaningful transition, as Wayne Suraci handed over the reins after five incredible years. His leadership transformed a simple idea into a beloved tradition. Through his passion, creativity, and perseverance, he helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for students and brought together hundreds of neighbors year after year. While he may be stepping down as Gala Lead, his legacy will remain a guiding light for the Opening Night Committee—and for the entire community.

Wayne will continue to be a valued resource and supporter, and his influence will be felt in every detail of Galas to come. From the generous donors and volunteers to the performers, caterers, and enthusiastic attendees, the 5th Annual Opening Night Gala was a celebration of all that makes Floral Park special. It was a night of purpose and pride, of laughter and community. And most importantly, it was a night that will help make a brighter future possible for the students of Santa Ana.

Here’s to Wayne. Here’s to the future. And here’s to the next five years of Opening Night magic.

For more pictures, visit www.floralpark.com/gallery. Photo Credit; Ron Wilsie and Alison DeMark





We Grew That

by Summer Taylor Martinez

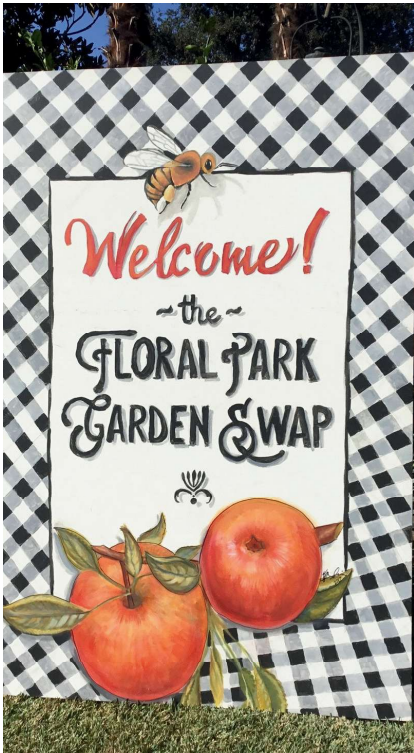
Pride. That's what I feel when I harvest a tiny little tomato from my small garden.

Excited. Oooh...a volunteer strawberry! What shall I make with it?

Happy. I walk out my kitchen door to harvest fresh thyme & rosemary for that roast chicken I'm making.

Relieved. I run out of lemons or limes for my cocktail, and my citrus trees greet me with their bountiful replenishment, just when I need it.

Thankful. I've just popped open my neighbors pomegranate, swapped for my kale, & I sprinkle the little gems on my salad.



Floral Park has so many talented home gardeners that get fulfillment from their own plots! However, one can only eat so many zucchinis...so what's the solution? The Floral Park Garden Swap! The Floral Park Garden Swap was started by former neighbors Sue McManus & Ashley Lawson as a way to share the bounty of a particularly robust tomato season. What started with a handful of devoted gardeners, quickly grew into one of the favorite events in the neighborhood. Sadly, Sue & Ashley moved back to Ohio for work and to be closer to family, but the Swap continues! Now run by yours truly!

How does it work? About 4 times per year, we pick a theme, a neighbor opens their backyard and gardeners pile in with baskets of homegrown goodies. Nothing to harvest? Bring a garden inspired good to swap. We've shared granola, lip balm, plant markers, cookies, bread - be creative! Place your goods on the neighborhood shopping table, and then we proceed to swap in order of arrival. If you brought a lot, take a lot, if you brought a little, take a little. Easy peasy.

Themes in 2024 included Oktoberfest, Bluegrass Night (complete with live band!), Garden Party, and some of my favorite past themes included Homemade Ice Cream Night, Mimosa Brunch, Pizza Night, St. Patrick's Day (with a surprise vow renewal!), and Speakeasy Night. Participants BYOB and bring a dish to share that aligns with the theme.

Not on the invite list? You can sign up by visiting floralparkgardenswap.wordpress.com. There you can register to receive updates on swaps and get fun seasonal recipes shared by neighbors. Swaps are announced roughly 1 month in advance and RSVPs are kindly requested. Want more info? Email sumtaylor@deloitte.com.

I look forward to seeing our neighbors at our next Swap!

Save the dates for our calendar 2025 events: May 25, June 21, July 12, November 9



Become a donating member of Floral Park Neighborhood Association

Make a difference today!

There's no better time than now to contribute to your community.

Your generous donations play a vital role in preserving this wonderful place we all call home.

www.floralpark.com/donate



Social Scene

by Allyson Thompson

Dear Neighbors,

It has been an absolute joy serving as Historic Floral Park's Social Director over the past two years. In this role, I've had the privilege of working alongside dedicated neighbors who generously volunteer their time and energy to bring our cherished community events to life. I'm excited to see what the future holds as the Social Committee continues its magic under the leadership of our new Social Director(s).

Coming up next is something special – our first-ever joint event with West Floral Park: The Sock Hop on May 17th! Don your poodle skirts and leather jackets for a night under the stars, filled with classic '50s tunes, dancing, and mingling with neighbors. TK Burgers will be serving up delicious cheeseburgers and fries, and we'll have a float table with root beer and orange cream floats, plus some vintage cars on display. Don't miss out...get your tickets now at Floralpark.com/events.

Looking ahead, our Fall Concert is set for September 27th, and it's sure to be a hit. This year's theme is "Latin Fusion," inspired by the dynamic sound of Santana. Expect an evening filled with vibrant colors, Latin culture, rock-and-roll energy, and iconic hits like "Oye Como Va" and "Black Magic Woman."

We'll close out the year with a community favorite, our Annual Holiday Event on December 13th. It's always a magical time and it remains my personal favorite celebration of the year.

This year, we made an important structural shift: all neighborhood events now fall under the umbrella of the Social Committee. Subcommittees like Neighborhood Nights & Days Out, Arts & Culture, the Fourth of July Bike Parade, Walk of Frights, and Walk of Lights will now coordinate directly with the Social Director(s). This change will help ensure consistent budgeting, scheduling, and support across all events. If you're interested in chairing or volunteering on any of these subcommittees be on the lookout for a kick-off meeting invitation from the new leadership as we plan for an exciting 2026.

This neighborhood is special because of all of you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to play a part in making our events so memorable.

With gratitude,
Allyson

Neighborhood Calendar

MAY 2025

DATE

Board Meeting
Neighborhood Clean Up
FP and WFP Sock Hop
Garden Swap

Tuesday, May 13
Saturday, May 17
Saturday, May 17
Sunday, May 25

JUNE 2025

DATE

Scholarship/Awards Ceremony
Garden Swap
Freedom Fest

Saturday, June 14
Saturday, June 21
Saturday June 28

JULY 2025

DATE

Board Meeting
Garden Swap

Tuesday, July 8
Saturday, July 12

AUGUST 2025

DATE

Board Meeting
New Neighbor Mixer

Tuesday, August 12
Sunday, August 24

SEPTEMBER 2025

DATE

Board Meeting
General Meeting
Fall Concert

Tuesday, September 9
Thursday, September 11
Saturday, September 27

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I've got Curb Appeal, Have you?

By Diana Christoffersen

By general definition, curb appeal is the attractiveness of a property and its surroundings when viewed from the street. You may have noticed the "I've Got Curb Appeal" signs that appear within Floral Park each month at two homes, one north and one south of Santa Clara. These newly worded signs are a continuation of a program started by a subcommittee of the Floral Park Beautification Committee in 2023 (and should not be confused with the City of Santa Ana's annual "Most Beautiful Yard" program).

The objective of the Curb Appeal Committee is to recognize homeowners for their contribution towards making our neighborhood a beautiful place to live; i.e., a little pat on the back for a gardening job well done. Homes are identified by the following criteria: consistent maintenance/upkeep, a nice change via plant material/new focal point, or a general refresh. After that, the selection each month is made by the members of the Committee. Selected homes have a sign placed in front for the month, receive a well-deserved thank you note from the Committee along with an exclusive oval FP sticker, and photos and a short description are placed in the newsletter and/or on Floral Park's social media platforms.

Following are the homes selected for May and a list of those selected from earlier months in 2025:



May selection 2300 N. Park This "secret" garden leads one right into a fairy tale. The garden perfectly suits the old-world style of the home. Most amazing is the consistently tidy upkeep which can only be a major feat under the long-reaching branches of that giant live oak. An added plus is the chalkboard on the curb that the homeowner's update each day with an entertaining or inspiring quote.



May selection 2216 N. Flower The update to both the home and garden coordinates modern horizontal lines via the perimeter fence, front door and driveway gate. Large offset polished concrete squares set in round stones lead from the street to the front door and are paralleled by trees and slab stone benches. Plantings are simple and support the contemporary design concept.

April selections
2344 N. Riverside
2038 N. Ross

March selections
2010 N. Greenleaf
2321 N. Park

February selections
2341 N. Riverside
2116 N. Ross

January selections
2121 N. Greenleaf
2468 N. Riverside

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Locals Only

Fat of The Land - DTSA

by Ed Trotter

Over the past couple of decades, Sandy and I have been fortunate to travel to many amazing places around the world. One of our absolute favorites was San Sebastián, in northern Spain. What made it so special? The food! Now you don't need to cross the ocean to enjoy that same culinary magic.

There's a relatively new restaurant in Santa Ana called The Fat of the Land (700 N. Main St), a short drive—or a pleasant walk—from Floral Park, it brings a taste of Basque cuisine right to our neighborhood.

You've probably had Spanish tapas before, but the Basque region (straddling the border of Spain and France near San Sebastián) small plates are called pintxos. Sandy and I visited San Sebastián about 8 years ago. One evening, we joined a guided pintxos tour hosted by a charming, knowledgeable local who led us through a culinary adventure of unforgettable delights - we're now thrilled to find just down the street. The Basque community has a long history in So Cal, especially in Chino with traces in Orange County too. (Think Bastanchury Rd in Fullerton).

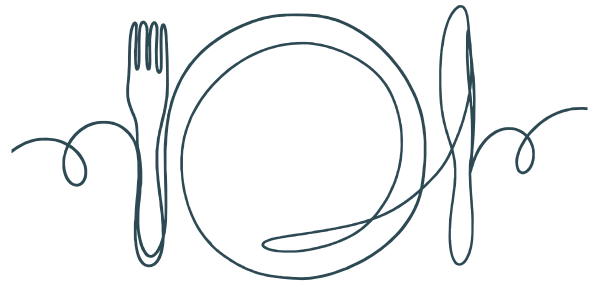
So when Jeff Katz, former FPNA president, encouraged me to check it out and write a review, I eventually made it there. And wow, was Jeff right. What a gem!

The restaurant is intimate with about 25 seats between the bar and tables. Run by Robert Paetz and his wife Iri, it's a charming spot perfect for a casual evening out. The staff is fantastic, especially Chris who handles things smoothly when the owners are away. And there's the talented chef, Van Duong.

According to their website:

"After a couple decades working as a travel and wedding photographer, Rob returned to his birthplace in Orange County dreaming of creating the smallest restaurant he could find. He wanted a place that had the intimate, crowded feeling you get in bars all over the world, but that seemed to be missing at home. One night in Madrid, he got a little drunk and at 2 a.m. decided to name his new place."

So, what's on the menu that makes this place so special? Let's start with dessert because it's that good. The Basque cheesecake is a must. Known for its deeply caramelized top and creamy interior, it's served warm and is as beautiful as it is delicious. Do not miss this—even if it's the only thing you order.





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Floral Park Community Market Update

THE FOLLOWING IS LOCAL HOUSING ACTIVITY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2025 TO PRESENT

Address	Square Ft.	\$\$\$ / Sq. Ft.	Sales Price	Status
2310 N. Flower Street	2,352 SF	\$560.37	\$1,318,000	SOLD
*1715 N. Flower Street	3,250 SF	\$515.00	\$1,675,000	ON MARKET
*2042 N. Ross Street	2,862 SF	\$611.00	\$1,775,000	ON MARKET
*2003 N. Victoria Drive	4,042 SF	\$742.21	\$3,000,000	SOLD
*2020 N. Victoria Drive	3,945 SF	\$786.00	\$3,100,000	ON MARKET

**Denotes A Buyer Or Seller Represented By Kevin Shuler*

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TOTAL SALES IN UNITS | ZIP 92706

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Property Types: All Property Types - All Property Statuses - All Properties | Date Range: (3/1/2024 - 2/28/2025) | Price Range: \$500,000 - No Limit | Sorted By: Total Sales in Units - DESC | Broker: Aggregated Brokers Only