



FIG · GARDEN
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 5796, Fresno, California 93755 • www.oldfig.org • March 2007

Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 7 p.m.

Powers Elementary School Cafeteria, 110 E. Swift Avenue

Meeting Agenda:

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| 1. Call to order | 4. Nomination of Directors and voting |
| 2. Introductory remarks | 5. Discussion of matters of general interest |
| 3. Treasurer's report | 6. Adjournment |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Louise Yenovkian

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am honored to be serving as the incoming president of our Fig Garden Homeowners Association. Throughout the years, many fine Old Fig residents have served in this capacity and it is my goal to continue this tradition. FGHA was incorporated April 5, 1947 and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Let us continue the tradition by welcoming new members and encouraging existing members to continue their support of this vital neighborhood.

A sincere thank you goes out to our Board members. The men and women that make up our volunteer board are committed to the preservation of our historic neighborhood. Each brings a level of expertise, intelligence and genuine caring to the table. This Board is engaged and involved. They attend public hearings and maintain public policy for the betterment of our neighborhood. We have members who drive the neighborhood and report issues that catch their eye on a regular basis. We deal with issues pertaining to graffiti abatement, code violations, variances, etc. While you may not notice immediate action on issues, we are all striving to raise the bar.

The Board members would also like to extend a special thank you to Phoebe Wall Howard. She has efficiently served as the president of FGHA for the past five years. Her dedication to our organization and commitment to this fine neighborhood will be missed.

FGHA has completed another successful Christmas Tree Lane season. This tradition marked its 84th year in 2006. The non profit event is funded solely by the generosity of public donations. Donations allow for restoration of electrical equipment, manpower of installation and tear down, and overall upkeep. This event would not have been possible without the volunteer service of Dean Alexander and his committee of Old Fig families. This year brought a first - a proposal and acceptance of marriage. Thank goodness she said "yes". Christmas Tree Lane continues to be a magical and memorable event throughout our valley and the entire state of California. Mark your calendars for the 2007 walk nights to be held on Saturday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 11.

I would like to invite all of you to attend our annual FGHA membership meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Powers Elementary School, 110 E. Swift. Residence will discuss issues of concern. Three board members are up for re-election. Representatives from County Offices, Fire District, Sheriff's Department, Highway Patrol, and Police Protection District will be in attendance. They are all committed to Old Fig.

- If you would like to receive e-alerts that involve law enforcement issues and/or notices of public hearings that pertain to Old Fig, please log on to our website at www.oldfig.org and submit your request.
- Stay informed by viewing our website at www.oldfig.org. Monthly Board

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meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Wishon Firehouse.

Fig Garden Homeowners Association would like to thank you for your support. We encourage you and your neighbors to join. Our membership dues are \$60.00 per year. Please mail to FGHA, P.O. Box 5796, Fresno, CA 93755. While your dues are voluntary, the monies are spent on preserving the integrity of our neighborhood, maintaining public policy, producing and mailing newsletters and maintaining the web site.

Finally, Fig Garden Homeowners would like to express genuine heartfelt gratitude to Jan Booth. Jan has served as the FGHA secretary for over 20 years. Her dedication, historical knowledge, and countless hours of work will be unmatched. She is truly a grand lady in our hearts.

Here's to the wonderful year ahead

Louise Yenovkian

Lyenovkian@wctlaw.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE DESK OF LIEUTENANT LOUIS HERNANDEZ SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A proactive law enforcement presence and a strong partnership with both the Police Protection District and the Homeowners Association have contributed to the continued success and commitment to the safety of the residents within the Fig Garden area again this past year.

Crime statistics for the area remain very low. The Christmas Tree Lane operation was once again a success this year.

As the Sheriff's Department Lieutenant responsible for the Fig Garden area, I would encourage residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity no matter how insignificant it may be or seem to be. We look forward to serving the community in the coming year and for years to come. Thank you for your time and support.



FIG GARDEN HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2007

President:	Louise Yenovkian	Lyenovkian@wctlaw.com
Vice President:	Tony Pings	anthony@pings.com
Treasurer:	David Boyd	dboyd@communitymedical.org
Board of Directors		
	Merilee Amos	merilee@towerusa.com
	David Carlson	dnc@sportspoint.com
	Christopher Campbell	clc@bmj-law.com
	Magda Gilewicz	mgilewicz@myway.com
	Phoebe Wall Howard	phoebe@phoebehoward.com
	Nick Hustedde	hhustedde@sbcglobal.net
Secretaries:		
	Jan Booth (until March 31)	boothfres@aol.com
	Chris Darling (as of April 1)	darbal6@comcast.net

SLATE OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors nominates the following people for three year terms on the Board (all are incumbents):
Merilee Amos, Tony Pings, Nick Hustedde

ANNEXATION

By Tony Pings

As reported in The Fresno Bee, the City of Fresno is moving ahead with plans to annex some county islands into the city. What makes this effort unique is that it takes advantage of a new state law that does not require the affected island voters to approve annexation. Historically under state law, to be annexed into a city, the voters must be given a voice on the outcome. What makes this new law appealing to city governments, is that they can annex areas of 150 acres or less without the need to listen to the affected constituents. This method of annexation is becoming popular in other cities and the City of Fresno is poised to proceed with annexation under its terms. Our Fig Garden area significantly exceeds the law's current 150 acres limitation for a vote-less annexation. At this time we are protected under the decades old requirement that we must vote to become part of the city. While we still have this protection, it is clear that annexation of county islands by the city is a fresh new focus by the city. Privately, it is a widely held belief in both the city and county governments, that annexation of Fig Garden will become a future issue we will face. As is our function, the FGHA Board will continue to monitor this situation and the overall governmental climate.

FGHA success on major issues always requires direct action by our many members. Without your direct support of time and money, we cannot succeed. When it comes to annexation, our goal is to be proactive by ensuring the process does not start. We do not want to be in a reactive position or trying to stop an already started process.

WATER "REHABILITATION"

By David Boyd

Neighborhoods like Old Fig require ongoing maintenance and, eventually, rehabilitation. Unfortunately, our water main system is aged and failing, in many cases connected to residences via steel water main pipes over 60 years old, running through backyard easements, often buried several feet under mature tree roots. When these pipes fail, crews from the

City of Fresno/Water Division tackle costly repairs to maintain our vital water service, day or night. Recently, I spoke to Michael Carbajal, Supervising Engineering Technician from the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities/Water Division, about the City's plans to replace the aged and failing water system in Old Fig. He shared the following list of upcoming projects slated to "rehabilitate" our old pipes.

Beginning in Fall 2007 the City of Fresno/Water Division will hire a contractor to complete the remaining water service transfers for the new water mains recently constructed in N. Van Ness and N. Wilson between E. Ashlan and E. Gettysburg. Residences located along these streets will have their water service disconnected from the backyard main and reconnected to the new water main constructed in the street right-of-way.

The City is currently designing new 8 inch water mains in the vicinity of N. Palm, E. Ashlan, N. Maroa and E. Dakota to replace the 60 year old steel mains located in backyard easements. The full extent of this project includes water main construction in E. Buckingham between N. Palm and N. Wishon, in E. Hampton between N. Palm and N. Maroa, in E. Sussex between N. Palm and N. Wishon, and in E. Griffith, E. Pontiac, E. Saginaw and E. Lansing between N. Palm and N. Van Ness. This project will also include water main construction in N. Palm from E. Ashlan to E. Gettysburg. Construction is estimated to begin late Summer to early Fall 2007. After completion of the water mains, service transfers to connect residences to the new mains will begin in Spring or Summer 2008.

With the construction of new water mains, Old Fig customers will enjoy improved water quality and increased fire suppression capability (along with likely improvements in water pressure).

It should be noted that all new water services will be installed with a meter box located in front of the residence. Although water meters will not be installed as part of this project, placing a meter box is standard operating procedure for all new water service installations throughout the City service area, to prepare for meter installations sometime in the future.

If you have questions or concerns about this important project please feel free to contact Michael Carbajal at 559-621-5319

COUNTY CURBSIDE COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Fresno County has completed the first annual community clean up program for the Fig Garden area. The County will send you information on the date, what materials are accepted and other particulars such as size of pile, placement or designated location to take items prior to next year's cleanup. For questions, please contact Allied Waste Services at (559) 275-1551.

The County offers special programs for the following items: E-Waste (i.e., televisions, computer monitors) and Tire Amnesty Days and Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Events. Please call Resources Division at (559)262-4259 for disposal options or additional information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The annual Old Fig Garden dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2007. Barry and Becky Barisic will host the barbecue dinner at home on the northwest corner of Van Ness Blvd. and Ashlan for the fifth year in a row. We are grateful to the Barisic family for their generosity. Families are welcome. Details to come in our website and the fall newsletter.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA BLOOD BANK

The Central California Blood Bank will be sponsoring a bloodmobile on June 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fig Garden Woman's Club located at 4550 N. Van Ness Blvd. It is the understanding that the mobile unit will not be in Fig Garden Village this year, so this would give those in the Fig Garden area who would like to participate in a blood drive the opportunity to do so. Contact Margaret Nordstrom for details 431.3416

FIG GARDEN WOMAN'S CLUB ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE

By Margaret Nordstrom

Twenty antique charity shows took place at the Fig Garden Woman's Club before 1981. There were no more shows until 1002. The decision had been made to stop the antique shows as a fundraiser in favor of a fashion show and boutique. During the earlier shows the Food Committee cooked turkeys and prepared all the trimmings for the lunches served. It is rumored many people came just for the lunch.

This year we will be presenting our 35th show. Before the show resumed in 1992, those of us involved attended every show we heard of to observe, take notes, and ask questions. We learned about dealers, contracts, tables, security, programs, publicity, signs, staff, etc. We now have a variety of high quality dealers from cities outside Fresno and also top quality local dealers. Thus, our show offers for sale antique silver, jewelry, linens, furniture, paintings, china, porcelain and primitives.

Because it is a small charity show, it is popular with both dealers and the public. We have added a Thursday evening (March 15) pre-party from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Donations for this pre-party are \$15.00 per person or two for \$25.00. Tickets may be obtained at the door. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served and the ticket is also good for the three days of the show. Antique show times are March 16, 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and March 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Donations are \$5.00 for the public showing and are valid for all three days of the show. Tickets may also be obtained at the door.

Sandwiches and desserts are available. There will also be a silent auction (featuring antique items donated by club members) the results of which will be announced Sunday March 18 at 1:00 p.m.

If you would like something appraised, you may bring in one or two items to have them appraised by Frank Brandow. The appraisal cost is \$5.00 per item, two item maximum. This service is only available Saturday, March 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Fig Garden Woman's Club is located at 4550 N. Van Ness Boulevard. For more information, please contact Margaret Nordstrom at 431.3416

FAMILY PROFILE: RYAN & WENDY TURNER MOVE TO OLD FIG

By Phoebe Wall Howard

Old Fig always starts to buzz when homes sell before an owner has a chance to put up a “for sale” sign. In this case, a big beautiful home on Van Ness Boulevard had people wondering if a congressman had moved to the neighborhood. Someone said it was Bill Gates. A few people thought it was a former governor of California. The sale happened around Thanksgiving 2006.

Our new neighbors: Ryan and Wendy Turner, the parents of three beautiful children: Lauren 6; Luke 5; and Kate 1 ½.

“Old Fig is an absolute dream of ours,” Ryan said. “My wife wanted to move into this house since she saw it with her parents at age 10 ~ in the mid 80s. I love the mature grounds and the old red brick. We have a lot of friends who live in the neighborhood.”

Ryan grew up in Redondo Beach, graduated from Stanford and moved to a cotton and tomato farm in Firebaugh co-owned by Bill and Maurine Jones. (Bill Jones is a former California Secretary of State and Republican candidate for governor. Maurine Jones serves on the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts Board of Directors.)

In 2002, Ryan Turner and Bill Jones together founded Pacific Ethanol, a bio-fuels production and marketing company. Ryan now is a real estate investor. Wendy, the mother of three children and expecting a new arrival in May, spends her days at home with the children. The family is moving from northwest Fresno to Old Fig because they feel it is the one “True” community that captures wheat they wanted for their children.

“It’s so nice to be surrounded by tall trees and unique houses. We love to ride bikes on Van Ness and Wilson.” Ryan said. “We spend a lot of time in Fig Garden Village and the Tower District.”

As a condition of purchase, Ryan and Wendy had the previous owner decorate for Christmas Tree Lane.

“We couldn’t handle the pressure,” Ryan said. “Wendy is so excited about this December. She is a lane fanatic. Our kids walk the lane every year.”

Wendy Turner is a Cal-Poly graduate who spent a year in the Stanford married housing while her husband finished his last year of school. “We couldn’t afford rent anyplace else,” Ryan said laughing.

Now they live across the street from the president of Fresno State.

Maurine Jones said, “It was just meant to be.”

SPRING CLEANUP AND REMODEL

Now that the holidays have passed and spring is around the corner, many homeowners begin to think about home improvement projects. We have listed a few names of folks who have done work throughout Old Fig.

General Contractor: Trinity Construction –
Jayson Emerian 559.313.9612
trinity@emerian.net

Brick Work: Jeff Ogle 559.804.6416

Electrical: HEP Electric 559.276.2889

Handyman: Mike Colby 559.977.9868

FUN FACTS BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: What We’re Reading Now

By the FGHA Board of Directors

Merilee Amos: “*Honeymoon with my Brother*”

Jan Booth: “*The Mermaid Chair*”

Dave Carlson: “*Captain Underpants*”

Madga Gileqicz: “*Perfume*”

Phoebe Wall Howard: “*The Measure of a Man, A Spiritual Autobiography by Sidney Poitier*”

Nick Hustedde: “*Green Eggs & Ham*”

Tony Pings: “*Harry Potter*” (the British version of the series)

Louise Yenovkian: “*The Heartbreaker*” and “*The Reader*”

David Boyd: “*Coronary*”

Coronary: A true story of medicine gone awry by Stephen Klaidman. This non-fiction account of unnecessary cardiac procedures performed in 2002 at a renowned hospital in Northern California give one pause. Whether a provider or consumer of health care services, you will identify with someone in this riveting recounting of medical misconduct and corporate obfuscation which generated a criminal fraud investigation, federal government fines and malpractice litigation. Scary stuff. A gripping & important read.

Lemon-Walnut Vinaigrette

Wendy Carroll

Seasoned to Taste ~ www.seasonedtotaste.com

- 1 tbs cider vinegar
- 2 ½ tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- Kosher salt
- Fresh ground pepper
- 1 tsp Dijon Mustard
- 2 tbs walnut oil
- 3 tbs Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Yields 1/3 cup of vinaigrette to dress salad for 6-8

Measure vinegar, lemon juice and zest into a small cup or bowl. Add salt and pepper. Let dissolve a few minutes. Add mustard. Slowly add oils and whisk to emulsify. Use to dress greens or roasted beets.



Thank you for supporting Old Fig. Please join the Fig Garden Homeowners Association. Our finances are fragile. Please mail in your dues if you are able. The cost is \$60/year. Mail a check payable to FGHA, PO Box 5796, Fresno, CA 93755. Unlike most homeowner groups, our dues are voluntary. Money goes to pay fees associated with filing documents that protect the integrity of the neighborhood, producing and mailing newsletters and running the web site. We monitor permit requests for commercial activity and work to prevent actions that hurt the neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

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