



WOOD STREETS QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Historic Wood Streets Association

Volume 9, Issue 3

Riverside, California

September 2010

HWSA President Cindy Jensen

As summer comes to an end, we often start remembering what is important, what is real, and the choices we have made. The "Lazy Days of Summer" are gone, and life takes on the warm colors of autumn both in our hearts and in nature.

Sometimes we are blessed to have an encounter with someone who gives us a perspective on our surroundings that we may not have thought of before or even noticed. One such encounter came my way in August when I was contacted by Denise Lawrence, who had been referred to me by Justin Scott-Coe. (See article on p. 2, [Historic District Research Interview](#).) As Denise described neighborhoods in other cities, it became clear that where many neighborhood associations operate for the preservation of structures or compliance to standards, HWSA's driving concern is people, our neighbors.

I told Denise I believed what keeps us wanting to do better and be better is that many have taken the time to get to know each other. Our neighborhood meets socially and has business meetings several times a year. Our electronic communications are outstanding. We have a neighborhood newsletter that can be matched against the best of them. We have begun to know each other well enough that we know when something doesn't look right. We recognize when someone isn't familiar in our neighborhood. We care about each other, we like where we live, and we strive to keep this a safe place. That makes this neighborhood "a soft place to fall."

Have a great autumn as you remember why you are thankful.

With Sincere Thanks, Cindy

July 10 Meeting Highlights

Chris Jensen, Secretary

A good meeting packed with information in a short amount of time!

Elder Care – Robin McMullen

Robin McMullen of Riverside County Adult Services and the I CARE Elder Abuse Program gave a timely and very informative presentation, primarily on the issue of Elder Care, with additional information on Fraud and Identity Theft. For concerns about a neighbor you suspect may need care, there is an Elder Care Hotline 1-800-491-7123. Robin also reminded us that we are entitled to a free copy of our credit report each year from each of the three reporting agencies, and she encouraged us to request these one at a time throughout the year. See separate article for details of Robin's presentation.

City Updates – Mike Gardner

Mike followed up on the [fraud](#) issue by giving us contact information for Brian Money at the City's Fraud Prevention unit (951) 826-5311 or 787-7911, bmoney@riversideca.gov

Beware of [false address painting scheme](#). There is no company that has an agreement with the City to paint addresses, so don't pay them.

Construction items - The Mission Inn Annex is being considered for rehabilitation. The Convention Center is due for upgrades which would close 5th Street between Market and Orange. The Municipal Auditorium will be getting a new roof and seismic re-fitting. It will close in August and will be closed for approximately 24 months. The Museum will also be re-roofed. The new Museum and Library are in the design stage. The City plans to renew/extend Measure C to fund maintenance of the library.

Ward Elections - Next year will bring elections for the odd numbered wards. Mr. Gardner will run for re-election, and there are two residents of the Wood Streets area who have submitted their names to be candidates.

The City will soon enact a new [animal control ordinance](#) to limit the number of licensed dogs to four per household.

Mr. Gardner told us to report all instances of [illegal fireworks](#) in the neighborhood to 787-7911 and to remind him next year about trouble spots in the area so he can get the fireworks enforcement Patrol to come by next year.

Preferred Parking Program will be modified for the two sections of Ramona Dr. The change will assign different color codes, and new parking permits and passes will be mailed to residents of the two sections. [New signs have not been posted yet, but new passes were mailed to the residents of Ramona and went into effect on September 6.]

Complete minutes are posted on the HWSA website - www.neighborhoodlink.com/Historic_Wood_Streets/home or are available upon request. Call or email Chris Jensen 248-9202, chrisjen28@sbcglobal.net.

A Second Yard Sale?

After the success of the April Wood Streets yard sale, sponsors Rose Mary & Larry Utesch have received numerous requests to hold two yard sales a year. They write, "We would like to do that, but we know it can be annoying for those who choose not to participate. We'll base our decision on YOUR feedback. Email or phone... and give us your opinion." 951-313-2823, LRU@tarbell.com.

They would also like to thank everyone who participated with them in the Troop Comfort Snacks n Stuff Drive.

Historic Wood Streets Assn

President: Cindy Jensen 248-9209
Secretary: Chris Jensen 248-9209
chrisjen28@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Andy Bryant 784-6815
Treasurer: Ursula Vogelsang 328-0160
Hospitality: Terri Donnelly 686-2090

Newsletter, Email Notices:
Judy Mahoney 788-9310
WoodStreets@aol.com

Office of Neighborhoods 826-5195
Preferential Parking: 826-5366
Police non-emergency: 787-7911 or 311

Andy Bryant – Vice President

As your “new” Vice President of the Historic Wood Streets Association, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Andy Bryant, and my wife and I have lived on Castle Reagh since 1999. Earlier this year I took over as Vice President for David Vangsness, who served as your HWSA President and Vice President for over 10 years altogether.

We all owe David and his wife, Beth, a debt of gratitude for their early involvement in the formation of our neighborhood association in 1999. This was at a time when RCC was in the planning stages for the Great Red Roof library and when the newly created HWSA was in early discussions with the city on the neighborhood’s parking problem. During David’s tenure, he was very diligent about attending meetings with the City of Riverside and RCC, giving a voice to the needs of the Wood Streets residents. David also served on the RCC Community Task Force, representing our neighborhood interests to the RCC community. Because of David and the HWSA’s Board of Directors’ hard work, RCC recognizes us as stakeholders in this community and has been diligent about seeking our input for the new nursing school and other campus projects that impact this area.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue along the path David, the other members of the HWSA Board, and our neighbors have begun - helping to make this area not just one of beautiful homes, but a community with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for everyone in it. My wife and I could not be happier to live and raise our children here, and I hope that my efforts on the HWSA Board will have outcomes similar to those that have been achieved in years past.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at bryantsaema@gmail.com or at (951)732-7814.

Andy

Pets Lost and Found

We love our pets, and when they get out or go missing we drop everything and go out searching! Through emails we’ve been able to see pets and owners reunited most of the time. If you find a lost animal, or have lost one, please email WoodStreets@aol.com, and also phone me right away (in case I’m not sitting at the computer), and I’ll get the word out immediately. – Judy (951) 788-9310.

Recently this worked so well we didn’t even have to send out a message. An email came in from Larchwood that Lindy and Lindsay had found a puppy, and would we send out the word. While I was preparing it, another message came from Castle Reagh that their puppy was missing. We called and connected the two right away. Thank you, lovely neighbors! (See letter from Aurelio & Erica Melendrez on page 4.)

Historic District Research Interview

Cindy Jensen

Denise Lawrence is a Ph.D. Professor, Department of Architecture, Graduate Coordinator, Master of Science in Regenerative Studies College of Environmental Design Cal Poly Pomona. She is writing a book about five cities in Southern California that have historical significance because of their architecture. The city of Riverside is one of them. She met with me and Judy Mahoney, and by phone interview at a later date with David Vangsness.

Denise was very interested in how we as a neighborhood designated by our city as Historic restores, cares for and keeps up the values as the official caretakers of our homes.

What was of real interest to me, however, was to learn that neighborhoods in other cities actually have individual residents assigned as block captains to a particular street for the sole purpose of reporting homes that didn’t conform to what was expected. We seemed to stand out by contrast in that we are really people-driven, not rules driven. Our concern is for the welfare of our neighbors.

As I began to reel at these concepts, I thought of all the things I was thankful for. I was grateful we don’t have block captains patrolling our streets to write up infractions. I was glad we have a city with tools and resources in place for our use. I was pleased we have a Mayor, City Hall, Code Compliance, City Councilmen, Office of Neighborhoods, Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, Public Parking Services, Police Department, Fire Department and all the countless departments, services and staff that are there to help us. I was happy for the effort and investment we’ve made into making ourselves known to the city and RCC. It has paid off.

We are blessed with the many City services available to us and that the City is active in helping us as individuals and as a neighborhood. Our city isn’t perfect, and neither is our neighborhood because human beings are involved, but when we approach issues in a calm respectful manner and let others know that we are willing to be part of the solution, we make far better strides in getting problems resolved. I was proud to share with Denise that people who move into our neighborhood come with the desire to live in a Historic District. They don’t seem motivated to turn their homes into futuristic buildings of steel. They are already self-motivated to take part in preserving their homes and neighborhood. We take pride in where we live and are eager to help each other.

Denise promised us a copy of her book when it comes out, and wrote to us this nice note after the interview:

“I enjoyed getting to know you and your approach to community organizing. I am impressed with your achievements and hope your neighbors recognize them, too. Good luck with all your endeavors!” –Denise Lawrence.

CARE – Curtailing Abuse Relating to the Elderly

The July 10 presentation by Robin McMullen of Riverside County Adult Protective Services-CARE Program was very informative and timely. The Adult Protective Services (APS) program is set up to provide assistance for elderly or disabled people who are in need of some kind of assistance. Robin outlined what we can do if we see an elderly person in decline and want to help; someone who could become a victim either of their own frailty or of a scam artist. The department is very careful not to violate a person's privacy - either yours or the subject's. Personal autonomy is also protected. Robin recommended if we are concerned not to hesitate to contact APS. Rather than be "nice," be "nosy and concerned" instead, as it may save someone's health or bank account.

Adult Protective Services - Elder Hotline:
1-800-491-7123

Also, the County has in-home supportive services for low-income residents that need help. If they have a problem with plumbing or electricity, the City has low cost loans. Often, APS seeks to locate family members and conduct mini-exams and interviews to determine the person's abilities and needs.

The goal of social services is to bring resources to bear upon situations to enhance the elder's quality of life while continuing to safely live in their own home.

CARE is a subunit of APS that manages the County's three elder abuse multi disciplinary teams. The teams include many agencies such as animal control, code enforcement, police, fire, etc., to more efficiently resolve elder issues. They also investigate consumer fraud issues and speak at community functions. The full description of CARE services may be obtained by contacting the C.A.R.E. Program at 1-800-476-7506 or on the web at <http://dpss.co.riverside.ca.us/AdultServices.aspx#CARE>

Break-In Incident Report Online

Nancy Castillo reminds us – If you've had a break-in, you should report it even if nothing was taken. You can file a report online at www.rpdonline.org. Police non-emergency number is 787-7911, but if you need to call and can't remember it, you can call 3-1-1.

Printed Newsletter

Normally we deliver only to homes without email, unless you request otherwise. With the December issue we will begin having printed newsletters available for you to pick up at 3465 Ramona Dr. Just call ahead so we can have it out for you. Judy – 788-9310, or email WoodStreets@aol.com

Keep in Touch

If you are new to the neighborhood, Welcome! Let us know you are here, and we'll keep you updated and informed. The Email Notices alert you to suspicious and potentially threatening situations, or help locate a lost pet, or provide reminders of meetings.

If you moved away, please let us know.

Treasurer's Report

Annual \$12 dues are voluntary. Your generosity helps fund the newsletter, meetings and events during the year. Balance at August 31 was \$602.49 after National Night Out expense of \$41.24 and June Newsletter \$21.00.

A Secret Space on Larchwood

History Corner – by Ann Frenkel

Wood Streets houses are always full of surprises, and the Spanish Mediterranean cottage at 3657 Larchwood Place, built in 1931 by builder Harry R. Low for \$4,000, is no exception. The Depression caused several initial years of unstable tenancy; however, in 1938 Tolbert M. and Marian Perrin, owners of Perrin's Jewelers on Main St., moved in. The next long-term owners were Palmer C. and Fern Risley who spent almost 30 years in the house. Palmer was an accountant for the IRS, and Fern was a school teacher. The Risleys undertook several upgrades, including excavating the basement and adding a half bathroom, but not touching the striking green, white and mauve deco tile in the main bathroom. Palmer left a fascinating find tucked away in the attic, a ledger book marked "Old personal records of no value to anyone else," in which he records every single expense from 1914 to 1924 ("piece of pie, .05"). Lynne Seymour purchased the home in 1985 and has really developed the Mediterranean feel, landscaping the front and back with drought tolerant plants (with Nan Simonsen's Nanscapes), fountain, pond, fire pit, and colorful ceramic tile. Lynne also added a studio space to her garage. French doors originally from a California Baptist University building flank the studio back giving a lovely airy feel.

Fraud, Credit Reports

Robin McMullen also reminded us that every person is entitled to receive a copy of their own credit report once a year from each of the three credit reporting agencies. It is recommended you request one three times a year by making the request from these spaced throughout the year.

Experian 1 (888) 397-3742

Transunion 1 (800) 680-7289

Equifax 1 (800) 525-6285

Wood Streets Green Team

Pat Silvestri

Planning for the Community Garden Is on the Move

The detailed planning for the Community Garden has begun!! After our initial planning meeting on August 16, we began to form smaller work groups to focus on specific tasks that need to be done. At this stage we have three small work groups organized with the following focus and membership:

FUNDING AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

Madeline Pruitt-Group Leader

Jessie Fuller

Preston Galusky

Kim Hammond

Pat Silvestri

Resource Persons: Heather Smith, Eva Courtney

SITE SELECTION

Susan Devries

Melissa McClusky

Charlotte Mckenzie

Marilyn Morris

Carrera Peterson

Resource Person: Mike Gardner

GARDEN PLANNING

Amy Bonczewski

Chuck Chojnacki

Marilyn Morris

Susan Pickens

Aloha and Bob Smith

Resource Persons: Claire Carbonell, Amelia Herndon

These volunteers are the core of our planning organization, and we are fortunate to have their help. If anyone in the neighborhood is willing to help us with this, or if you have any questions, please contact PAT SILVESTRI at 369-5223.

Pet Story – Letter from Residents

Hello Judy and Members of the HWSA,

Recently I was contacted while at work by my brother-in-law while he was doing work at our home. He called to tell me a co-worker of his had left a door open at our house and our Golden Retriever “Edward” had gotten loose. My brother-in-law had driven around the neighborhood for nearly an hour before contacting my wife or me. As I was on the phone with him I received an e-mail from Judy about an upcoming HWSA event. When I saw the e-mail I responded to it, informing her about our dog getting out. I gave her a description, his name and left a phone number where she could reach me with any additional questions.

The minute I sent the e-mail to Judy, I began gathering my things to head home to help with the search. I also began

thinking about what I was going to tell my 7-months pregnant wife who loves Edward but hates cleaning up after him. Before I even had a chance to call my wife or get into my car I received a call from Judy, telling me that Edward had been found. Judy had received a call about Edward and was preparing to send out an e-mail asking for information when she saw what I had sent her. She gave me the name and phone number of the neighbor (Lindy) who had found him. I called her and arranged to pick him up. When I arrived I was told that while on a walk she had come across him at the corner of Beechwood and Riverside; he looked confused and tired. Her first thought was to call Judy so an e-mail could be sent out in hopes of finding his owner, and we all know what happened after that.

We just wanted to take a moment to share this story. All too often we hear there is not a sense of community left in the world. How neighbors don’t know each other or care about what goes on their neighborhood – but that is not true here in the Wood Streets. Judy and the other members of HWSA have worked hard to maintain a sense of community and caring in our neighborhood, and we feel blessed to live in such a wonderful area. Thank you to Judy, Lindy and Lindsey for facilitating Edward’s safe return and taking care of him. Most importantly thank you for showing us how special it is to live in this neighborhood.

Sincerely, Erica and Aurelio Melendrez

Security System Alert

This month we received quite a few emails from residents concerned about home security system representatives.

One resident wrote that a man approached their home on Beechwood and talked about the change from Brinks to ADT. Apparently he makes his pitch to whatever security sign is at a home. Police non-emergency told her to call 826-5314 to report the incident. The woman was very impressed that we have an e-mailing available for such things. Police non-emergency is 787-7911. If you feel at all threatened, call 911.

Cindy Jensen added – It would be my council to call the security systems themselves and inquire what the protocol would be for their salesmen in contacting potential customers. It still sounds to me like this could be a sales pressure technique to gain entry. If we are going to err, let us err on the side of caution. My husband and I have Protection One. Our last bill included a “security alert.” The brochure told customers what to be aware of. (See page 6.) You can log on to ProtectionOne.com/StopFraud for more information on how to avoid being taken by deceptive sales tactics. Please be cautious and safe.

Sincerely, Cindy Jensen

Title / Grant Deed Scam

Nancy Castillo alerted us about a Title Compliance scam. In response to our email inquiry, the County Assessor's office responded with the following:

As you are aware, recently there has been a mass mailing of notices to Riverside County residents from a private, non-governmental company called TITLE COMPLIANCE OFFICE (Records Retrieval Division). These notices appear to be official county mail recommending that all property owners should have an official or certified copy of their grant deed. They are offering the service of providing the grant deed for a fee of \$167. In an effort to inform the public regarding this matter, several press releases have been issued and our website has been updated.

The Riverside County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder does not endorse this company. You may purchase a copy of your official grant deed in person from one of our offices, online or via mail request for substantially less (approximately \$10 depending on the number of pages).

In person - the cost of an official record is \$7 for the first page, \$1 for each additional page, and an additional \$1 for certification of the document.

Online - Go to www.riversideacr.com select "Online Services", "Records Index Search". The cost is the same as above however, VitalChek charges an additional \$5.00 fee for the online service when purchasing with a credit card.

Mail - Mail requests to: Assessor County Clerk-Recorder – P.O. Box 751 – Riverside CA 92502-751 Attn: Certified Section. Mail processing time is 2 - 4 weeks.

Please advise if you have any additional questions regarding this matter.

Respectfully, Ashley Pinkham

ACR Technician I, Public Service

National Night Out Ice Cream Social

This year's event was attended by about 120 people, with a few visitors from nearby areas. It was a great time for mingling, meeting new people, and learning more about Police and Fire Department services!

The big ladder fire truck was a huge hit. Children and adults alike sat in the cab and had their picture taken.

There were children's faces smudged with ice cream, and smiles all around. Nancy Castillo and RPD officers handed out sidewalk chalk, and the Mahoneys were recipients of some great artwork by some talented children. We were sorry we didn't have bubble blowing this year, but it didn't seem to be missed with all the other excitement of the evening. We thank everyone who came and participated. Many stayed late to help clean up – special thanks! - and we ended the evening tired but very full of joy and wonderful memories.

– Judy & Bryan Mahoney

Thank You, Neighbor

Chris Jensen – Don Zimmer Tribute

Our neighborhood sentinel

His name is Glenn Furukawa. Perhaps you have seen him; he's tall, slender, and walks his large, white poodle "Cooper" through our streets every morning and evening. Glenn is a retired Police Officer from Honolulu and he is watching over us all.

He always carries his cell phone and while on his walks he is keeping an eye open for potential problems or trouble. Over his years here Glenn has reported many incidents to the police department including traffic accidents, thefts from yards and garages, graffiti, suspicious vehicles and people being in places he knew that they didn't belong.

If you have seen Glenn, I'm pretty sure you have spoken with him as well, because he is so very friendly. Glenn always has a smile and open greeting for everyone. He loves that our neighbors are so friendly and enjoys the friendships that have begun with his walks.

Glenn was a corporal in the Marine Corps and served two tours of Viet Nam, first in Da Nang and then in Chulai. In his 32 year career as a Honolulu County Police Officer he served as a patrol officer, a combined 20 years in the Narcotics Division and 11 years in Intelligence fighting organized crime. He was awarded many citizen citations for excellence in service and intradepartmental awards as Officer of the Quarter. After he retired from H.P.D. he worked four years as the Chief of Security for a large Development Company in Hawaii.

Glenn and his wife Gloria retired to Elmwood Ct. in 2006. They retired here in the Wood Streets to be close to Gloria's family. Gloria was raised here in Riverside on Jane St. and is a graduate of Poly High School and RCC. Glenn says that he and his "California-Girl" have always loved the Wood Streets and have owned their home here for 15 years (they rented it out until they retired.)

Illegal to Block Sidewalk With Vehicle

Please see the enclosed for City and State of California ordinances against blocking your sidewalk with a vehicle. The sidewalk is a public walkway. Not everyone can step around your vehicle when it spans across the sidewalk. Please keep this in mind and – be neighborly!

Calendar

- **Annual Barbecue September 25**, 4 PM-6 PM
3465 Ramona Drive
- **Quarterly Business Meeting October 30**, 10 AM
Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr (City College Dr)
- **October 9 PanHellenic Home Tour**

Graffiti Reporting

The City of Riverside has raised the reward for helping catch a graffiti vandal to \$1000. Riverside is a leader when it comes to graffiti awareness, education and eradication.

Over the last few years, the average time for a reported case of graffiti to be removed has been greatly reduced and is now well under 24 hours. The community outreach is tremendous and the volunteer “paint out” events are inspiring, with so many people, particularly our youth, giving their time and energy.

Removing graffiti from the City is truly a community effort, and with the help of you and your neighbors, we can continue to improve our City’s results, showing those who perpetuate graffiti that Riverside won’t stand for it.

Here are a few ways you can help in this effort:

1) Call 311 to report any graffiti visible from the street.

For more information on how 311 works and how the service can help, see <http://crmweb.riversideca.gov/>

2) Put together a group to complete a “paint out” or “green wall” (vines, etc.) planting at a neighborhood park or other space visible to the public.

3) Schedule an assembly to educate a group of young people at a school, church, after-school program, community center, etc.

For coordination information on the above programs listed, please contact Cindie Perry at 951-826-5975 or cperry@riversideca.gov. Please see the brochure at <http://www.riversideca.gov/graffiti/pdf/BizBrochure-2010.pdf> for more ways you can help in the fight.

Watch Out for Security Sales Fraud

Beware of:

- Salespeople offering free monitoring
- Discounts for placing a sign in your yard
- Claims about competitors going out of business
- Tactics to get your signature before you can read/understand contract

You Should Always:

- Review every contract before signing
- Do not rely on what the salesperson tells you as factual
- Ask for proper ID and confirm the rep’s standing with company
- Call your Security company to report any deceptive sales tactics

Saturday, September 25 – 4pm to 6pm

Annual HWSA Barbecue

Potluck – bring side dishes, condiments, salads, desserts, etc.

(We’ll provide burgers, dogs, buns, water,
iced tea & lemonade)

Mahoneys’ front yard –
3465 Ramona Drive

Quarterly Business Meeting

Saturday, October 30, from 10am-noon

Alumni House - 3564 Ramona Dr

Special Presentation: Identity Theft

Coffee, tea and water will be provided

RSVP Cindy 248-9209

or email Judy at WoodStreets@aol.com