

## Quarterly Business Meeting

Saturday, July 10th, from 10am-noon

Alumni House - 3564 Ramona Dr

Special Guest:

**Robin E. McMullen, Adult C.A.R.E. Program**

Riverside County Adult Protective Services, C.A.R.E. Program - 2nd District  
will speak on issues involving the elderly

Coffee, tea and water will be provided

Additional agenda items will include regular reports and -

- The Mayor's Neighborhood Governance Initiative
- Councilman Mike Gardner with relevant updates
- National Night Out August 3
- End of Summer BBQ September 18

RSVP Cindy 248-9209

or email Judy at WoodStreets@aol.com

Tuesday, August 3 – 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Free!

## National Night Out & Ice Cream Social

Join us for ice cream,  
and enjoy visits from City of Riverside  
Police and Fire Departments!

Mahoneys' front yard – 3465 Ramona Drive



### HWSA President Cindy Jensen

Well, troops, here we are half way through the year already! It never ceases to amaze me how fast time goes by. There are always lots of activities going on in and around our neighborhood. Several of our teenagers graduated and are about to embark on a new phase in their lives. A big congratulations to all! We wish them the very best life has to offer. Our own Rakiah left three weeks ago to San Diego for her first paid job ever after graduation. Chris and I are trying to get used to this empty nest thing. It is quite an adjustment after four decades and five children. The first week and a half we ate out every night just because I was too down to cook dinner. Now I am having a hard time adjusting to how much to cook. We have way too many leftovers. Don't be surprised if I call you one by one to bring meals on wheels from our house to yours until I can reorganize my cooking habits!

Speaking of habits. Our National Night Out Ice Cream Social is becoming one of the best habits of the year. We had over one hundred come out and participate last year. Our thanks to Bryan & Judy Mahoney for hosting our NNO Ice Cream Social last year – they look forward to it again this year. Chris got the Fire Department to come out and see us again this year with the truck and ladder company. They will be delivering our own councilman Mike Gardner to us that night. We will also be visited by our generous Police Department as well as other city officials. Don't forget to mark your calendars for a wonderful event. Make this your best summer ever!

Fondly, Cindy

### April 17 Meeting Highlights

#### Chris Jensen, Secretary

16 members attended the April meeting, along with guests Councilman Mike Gardner, Nancy Parrish of Old Riverside Foundation, and RCC Student Body representatives Israel Landa (President), Diana Meza and James Barsalon.

Cindy encouraged everyone to participate in the Annual Neighborhood Conference June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy read the HWSA Mission Statement (see page 2), and invited everyone to create a motto for our neighborhood that can be memorized and will sum up our purpose. Entries will be read at the September 18 barbecue.

#### Nancy Parrish, Old Riverside Foundation

Nancy presented a very nice PowerPoint peek at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Home Tour and Restoration Faire, which was to take place May 15<sup>th</sup>, and offered flyers, booklets and

contact and other related information. Homes from Historic Wood Streets are among the homes selected this year.

#### Mike Gardner

**Neighborhood Governance** proposal is coming before the City Council. (See Cindy's article on page 2.)

**BUILDINGS.** The Sav-a-Minit convenience store at Market and 3<sup>rd</sup> has been purchased by the City. After current contracts have been honored, the market will be closed down in an effort to clean up the area.

The City also bought the building at 6<sup>th</sup> and the Mall in order to help keep the tenants and restore the building before selling it.

A **Hyatt Place** hotel is to be built at 5<sup>th</sup> and Market.

**Fox Garage** will be built just north of the theater on Market Street at 6<sup>th</sup>. It will park 400 cars.

**PARKS. Tequesquite Park's** master plan will go for an environmental Impact Report soon

**Fairmount Park** band shell is to be updated; playgrounds are being rebuilt to meet safety standards.

#### Green Team Report

#### Magnolia Ave Elementary Community Garden

Justin Scott-Coe and Pat Silvestri reported on the work they are doing in the City and with RCC to promote sustainable living. Of special note, Pat is working with the PTA of Magnolia elementary school to get a community garden started on their campus.

For complete minutes, contact Chris Jensen (see below).

### New HWSA Logo – Open Gate

Many thanks to Chris Jensen for the new logo design!

### Neighborhood Governance

#### Cindy Jensen

Some of you know that I have been on the subcommittee looking into the mayor's proposal for the introduction of a formal neighborhood governance approach using existing neighborhood groups, and to recommend formal procedures for recognizing neighborhood councils. After several meetings numerous conversations and countless questions about what is needed in Riverside's neighborhoods right now, our committee came to the conclusion that endorsing this initiative will provide:

- A framework for neighborhoods to define and declare their own values;
- Expand opportunities for neighborhood organizing and leadership training;

- Enhanced communication among neighbors and city staff;
- And a formalized manner for neighborhoods to create themselves as essential components of the City of Their Dreams.

This initiative will make it possible for our city to “Seize Our Destiny” one neighborhood at a time.

The proposed neighborhood governance approach may draw on the current neighborhood groups. There are a number of neighborhood associations whose boundaries are those of one of the City’s 26 community neighborhoods. They meet regularly, elect officers and network with electeds. Most if not all the neighborhood groups have, or have had, representation on the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership Board, and have been actively involved in various City-hosted /City-sponsored neighborhood programs.

The City Council also had questions and concerns about this introduction of a formal neighborhood council approach. They sent it to the Governmental Affairs Committee on May 5, 2010 with 16 guidelines. The Governmental Affairs Committee recommended approval. On May 25 the Riverside City Council approved the Neighborhood Governance Initiative. Our HWSA is recognized by City officials and staff as an example of one of those associations. I hope this will shed some light on this neighborhood council approach.

## Wood Streets Area Yard Sale April 24

Tarbell realtors Rose Mary & Larry Utesch (682-6789 or [lru@tarbell.com](mailto:lru@tarbell.com)) really had a great idea. Several families in HWSA participated, and we hope to see this as an annual event. Even the rain cooperated, ending by Friday so we would have clear weather. Great turn-out. Apologies to the neighborhood for the extra traffic. Our thanks to Larry and Rose Mary for all the work they did in organizing and advertising the event. Plan ahead for end of April 2011.

## Have You Moved?

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 but are still receiving the newsletter by email, please let us know. We deliver to homes for which we show no email. So if you aren’t there now, the house you lived in isn’t getting a newsletter. You can remain on the email list if you wish, but 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 May 31 was \$575.90.

## Mission Statement

As reported in our last issue, HWSA’s Mission Statement was formulated using suggestions from residents.

“The mission of the Historic Wood Streets Association (HWSA) is to speak in a unified voice in addressing concerns and maintaining a high quality of life in this neighborhood of unique and historic homes. Collectively, we will strive to maintain a communication network to ensure a safe and secure neighborhood to care for each other and our homes.”

## HWSA Motto Contest

We’re still gathering ideas for a neighborhood motto. There’s still time to send us one or two lines, something easily memorized, based on the Mission Statement. Send by September 1 to: Chris Jensen, 3475 Ramona Dr (or email). We will read the best suggestions at the September 18 BBQ.

## Former Castle Reagh Residents Say Hello

Greetings,

For nearly four decades we were residents of Castle Reagh Place. Five years ago the opportunity arose for us to acquire a wonderful home on the Texas Gulf Coast, and we made the decision to leave Riverside.

This March we returned to southern California to spend time with our children and grandchildren. While in the Riverside area, we took the opportunity to visit Castle Reagh Place and some of the wonderful people that were our long-time friends.

While visiting we drove the Wood Streets and marveled at how beautiful it still is. Yes, some house colors have changed, shrubs have grown taller, and a tree or two has been removed – but it was still the lovely community that we remembered. We both repeated the words that we had spoken so often in the past: *it was a wonderful place to live and raise our children.*

Congratulations to all who share in keeping the Historic Wood Streets a beautiful and wonderful place to live!

Murray and Doug Schiller, Port Lavaca, TX

## HWSA Website

At the Neighborhood Conference we started up the Historic Wood Streets Association’s website, with the help of session leaders Guru Khalsa and Janice Bielman. We are a work in process, but have begun to add content. Look us up at [neighborhoodlink.com/Historic\\_Wood\\_Streets/home](http://neighborhoodlink.com/Historic_Wood_Streets/home). Send us your email if we don’t have it – don’t miss out!

## 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](http://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.

## Wood Streets Green Team Report

Pat Silvestri

The WSGT had a very busy month in April, when it presented a workshop on VERMICULTURE (composting with worms) and Natural Pest Control (INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT), as well as a very successful HOW-TO GARDEN TOUR. The workshop was attended by over 40 neighbors, and the evaluations indicated that the information was helpful.

**Vermiculture.** Master Gardener Marge Yeager’s presentation on Vermiculture was both practical and humorous. Marge has worked with worms a long time and knows more about them than most people. Worms are hard-working organisms that can transform organic material into the COMPOST that is called “black gold.” This workshop marked the first year of WSGT educational events since the group started last year.

Jim Bethke, an entomologist with the University of California Cooperative Extension Service, was also entertaining as he discussed various methods to control pests in your garden. He showed us what some of the common insects are in this area that are harmful to plants.

**Garden Tour.** Marilyn Morris, a Master Gardener and member of the WSGT board, organized and spearheaded the GARDEN TOUR, which showed four gardens in the Wood Streets that demonstrate various plants that are water-wise and attractive. Each garden had a resource person to explain about the plants and the how they are maintained. More than 300 people participated in this event with dozens helping in various ways. This event was so successful that it will be an annual event of the WSGT.

**Community Garden.** The current major project for WSGT is the starting of a COMMUNITY GARDEN for the Wood Streets area. Pat Silvestri and Marilyn Morris are co-leaders of this project, which will begin to organize this summer. The plan is to create a broad-based organization to work on various tasks such as choosing a site, determining the rules and guidelines for managing the garden, financing the garden, etc. All Wood Streets neighbors interested in being part of this project are encouraged to contact either Pat (369-5223) or Marilyn (276-1213). This ambitious project will require the help of many resourceful and motivated neighbors. This also will help us to build better relationships among our neighbors, which is one of the goals of the WSGT beyond any other tangible benefits (like flowers, fruits, vegetables) that come from the project.

Check out more activities at the WSGT website: <http://woodstreetsgreenteam.ning.com>.

## History on the Wood Streets

[www.riversideca.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-wood.asp](http://www.riversideca.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-wood.asp)

This neighborhood was devoted to orange groves until 1913 when fill was introduced to the Tequesquite Arroyo, allowing Magnolia Ave to connect with Downtown, making the area desirable for residential subdivision. A subdivider named Wood suffixed his name to a street, and so began a series.

Perhaps the most cohesive neighborhood design to be found in the City of Riverside is the Wood Streets, reflecting a very traditional aesthetic. The layout of the community streets, coupled with their narrow width and beautiful landscaping, perpetuates a 1920s neighborhood character. Nearly all the homes were built prior to World War II. A tour of this area can quickly demonstrate the remarkable variety, and beauty, of architectural styles in use at that time.

This region has a strong sense of community and a tradition of home ownership.

## Thanks, Neighbor - Tribute to Don Zimmer

We extend our thoughts and prayers for our good neighbor Cathy Zimmer. On May 14, 2010 Cathy’s dear husband Don passed away at the age of 76. He will certainly be missed by all of us and our neighborhood. Riverside and our community are diminished by his passing.

Don Zimmer was truly an insightful and accomplished man. He was a pilot for the U.S. Air Force and served at March AFB during the Korean War. He worked his way through RCC and the USC School of Law while raising a family here in Riverside. He became a pillar of the legal community of Southern California. He was a partner in one of Riverside’s most prominent law firms and started his own firms as well.

He and Cathy were active in community service clubs, Little League and church as long time members of the St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church parish. They were also very active in our neighborhood group.

Don set a wonderful example for all of us to follow as good neighbors. He was generous with his time and knowledge as he assisted many of his neighbors. In his memory we will begin a column in the Quarterly Newsletter called “Thanks, Neighbor.”

## Calendar

- **Quarterly Business Meeting July 10**, 10 AM  
Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr (City College Dr)
- National Night Out Ice Cream Social August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Mahoneys’ 3465 Ramona Dr
- HWSA Annual BBQ September 18 (afternoon)
- **Quarterly Business Meeting October 9**, 10 AM