



WOOD STREETS QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Historic Wood Streets Association

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Riverside, California

June 2011

HWSA President Cindy Jensen

Well Troops,

I am sorry it has been several months since we've produced a quarterly newsletter. All our lives seem to be extremely busy anymore (what happened to retirement?). Judy and I seemed to have been beyond busy of late. I just turned in my time card to The Assistance League® of Riverside for my 1,200 volunteer hours for the year. Being the Teen Coordinator to 40 teens has only added to my already busy life. I do however enjoy seeing their growth and maturity into young people.

Judy's life was changed this year when she became the full-time caretaker to her dear mom who passed away on Mother's Day. Many of us know how challenging that time can be, but also how precious it can be to be there with your loved one in the last days and moments of their life. We applaud Judy for honoring her mother with this extraordinary gift of love but for also showing her love of our neighborhood and each of us by never failing to keep us informed of every upcoming event and newsworthy incident over these last several months. She has never wavered once during this time or forgotten to let us know when a beloved pet has gone astray. When you see her next, please say a thank you to this faithful and committed servant to our neighborhood. Judy from grateful hearts, thank you.

This last week I was interviewed by *Inland Empire Magazine*. They are doing an article about the Wood Streets and featuring us. They informed me that our neighborhood was one of the top ten places to live, and wanted to know why it is such a great place, and why so many people are looking to buy in our neighborhood. There are many reasons, but when I stop to count my blessings the Mahoney family is at the top.

As we move closer to becoming more prepared for "Disaster Preparedness" I would like to ask all of you to step up to the plate in helping our neighborhood achieve this goal. Some of our streets have already received an information sheet to be filled out to help us track the needs of our residents. Please return them to your block captain ASAP. If you have forgotten your block captain or their name please contact Judy or myself. Remember it is not "IF" but "When" a disaster will come.

When your block captain knocks on your door please help them and us out by participating. We still have some streets and blocks that are in need of block captains. Won't you please consider volunteering for a block or two? All you have to do is pass out information sheets and then collect them. It is just one more tool that keeps our neighborhood a step above all others. Thanks for being great neighbors and wonderful residents. I always knew you were in the top ten.

Cindy

HWSA Vice President Andy Bryant

Beautiful weather must mean spring is here and summer is just around the corner. While anytime is a good time to be in the Wood Streets, it's particularly nice when it is not too hot, trees and flowers are flourishing, and we are seeing more of each other while walking or exercising around the neighborhood.

Just as the time change sparks reminders to change smoke alarm batteries, spring and summer are coupled with fun water activities and the need for safety involving kids and water. For the pool owners in the neighborhood, it is helpful to designate adults or responsible teens to always be present and watching the pool when friends are visiting – especially when a party is on. Often, the initial attention to pool safety fades as the party goes on and no problems surface. It's that phone ringing in the house that needs answered, or someone at the front door, which will sometimes cause a lapse in attentiveness. This is precisely the time when the worst will happen. The same diligence around the large, inflatable water slides/jumpers, and even the plastic child pools we often get so the dog can stay cool, will go a long way to having a fun, safe and cool summer!

On another topic, the watchfulness consistently demonstrated by our fellow Wood Streets neighbors, for unusual things occurring around the neighborhood, is one of the many reasons this is a wonderful place to live. The e-mail notifications forwarded by Judy Mahoney when something happens, or when suspicious behaviors are noted, are very valuable (not to mention the reuniting of pets with their owners – thank you, Judy!).

Recently a Wood Streets resident saw an adult male riding a bicycle through the neighborhood, intently looking at each house as he rode by. The man did not look familiar to our neighbor and was clearly behaving in a way that really stood out as suspicious. The resident briefly considered alerting the Riverside Police to this suspicious person, but thought that may be an over-the-top response to what was happening. Later, our neighbor read the HWSA e-mail reports about a suspected mail thief, whose description matched the person seen riding through the neighborhood, and reflected how it is so important to follow your instincts. Our neighbor commented how, if something like that were to happen again, RPD can expect a call from them.

We all sometimes face similar dilemmas. I only mention this conversation to illustrate that calling the police about something that strikes you as odd is welcomed, and you should not feel like you are bothering RPD. The police department really does not mind investigating suspicious people, suspicious vehicles, or things that are out of the ordinary.

Historic Wood Streets Assn

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|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| President: Cindy Jensen | 248-9209 | Vice President: Andy Bryant | 784-6815 | Newsletter, Email Notices: | Office of Neighborhoods | 826-5195 |
| Secretary: Chris Jensen | 248-9209 | Treasurer: Ursula Vogelsang | 328-0160 | Judy Mahoney 788-9310 | Preferential Parking: | 826-5366 |
| chrishen28@sbcglobal.net | | Hospitality: Terri Donnelly | 686-2090 | WoodStreets@aol.com | Police non-emergency: | 787-7911 or 311 |

Even if what is being reported does not result in any enforcement action, the mere presence of a uniformed officer driving through the neighborhood, or talking with people, will often deter those individuals who may be here intending to commit a crime. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of all of you who play a role in helping to enrich this community in all the ways that you do.

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

Andy

February 5 Meeting Highlights

Chris Jensen, Secretary

Nearly 40 from HWSA and neighboring streets attended our first meeting this year, which combined HWSA business and an informative Disaster Preparedness presentation. Council Mike Gardner attended and updated us on pertinent issues.

State's Bid to Take Cities' Funds

Councilman Mike Gardner

California under the new Governor is seeking to take the City's funding for the Redevelopment Agency; this would affect construction of the new Fire Station 1 on University Ave., the Graffiti Abatement program, and the Convention Center remodeling, among other things. Mike and other city officials will testify in Sacramento on behalf of the city.

California Seismic Commission

Mr. Gardner has been appointed to the State Seismic Commission. Since Riverside is so near the San Andreas Fault it is good that we have a City representative on this important commission.

Mike addressed the cost of re-roofing Heritage House. The work is complicated by the age of the building and the desire to keep it authentic. Shingles for the vintage house are no longer manufactured, and thus required a special production run.

Disaster Preparedness

Gina Perez, City of Riverside Fire Department

Riverside Fire Department's program is designed to get citizens prepared for large scale emergencies. Some basics she covered:

- Get a kit •Make a Plan •Be informed •Be involved.
- Kits should include clothing, shoes, gloves, flashlight and extra batteries, radio and extra batteries, manual can opener, and enough food and water to last the household 3 to 5 days. Store in dry, safe, easily attained place.
- Food items for the kits are available at sporting goods stores, on-line and other resources.
- Have a "To Go" kit in your car and another at work.
- You should have important papers and personal contact telephone numbers in your kits as well.
- Conduct Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH) to be ready for the real event that may be in the middle of the night.
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank at least half full.
- Keep cash available (in small dollar increments).

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

CERT training for citizens equips trainees in several skills that will assist them and their neighbors in an emergency. Classes are 20 hours and are conducted throughout the year.

CPR methods no longer require breathing into the person who is down. CERT trained citizens are given certificates and can volunteer to assist at emergencies within the city.

Block Captains Sought

Cindy Jensen shared a "Know Your Neighbor Phone List" and asked for volunteers to be Block Captains within the HWSA. Those who signed up will be contacting residents to get the phone list started on their block.

Citizen Police Review Board

HWSA member Robin Jackson has been appointed to the Citizen Police Review Board. The mission of the Community Police Review Commission is to promote public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the sworn staff of the Riverside Police Department (RPD). This is done by reviewing citizen complaint investigations independently, recommending changes in departmental policy, on-going public outreach and, when deemed appropriate by the Commission, conducting an independent investigation of citizen complaints.

Pets Lost & Found

Have you found a lost pet? Or lost one? Email or call us at 788-9310 or 255-4712, WoodStreets@aol.com and we'll put the word out. Many pets have been reunited with their owners! (More on Pets at June 4 Meeting – see announcement.)

HWSA BBQ and National Night Out

This year we will combine National Night Out with our Annual Potluck Barbecue, to be observed Tuesday, August 2. We've had a lot of fun in past years, and we know this will be another great event. There is no lack of excitement when the big fire truck arrives – lots of photo ops! See flyer back page.

Street Sweeping

Reminder – Beginning April 20 our schedule changed to first and third Wednesdays, odd numbered addresses from 7:30a-11:30a, and even numbered 11:30a-3:30pm to allow for people with limited parking choices.

HWSA / Conference Date Conflict

We always try to keep the date for Riverside's Annual Neighborhood Conference available –the City goes all out to make this a very worthwhile event. But we goofed this time. Both the conference and our meeting are June 4. Which brings up a question. Should we change future meetings to a weeknight? What say all of you? Contact Cindy at 248-9209 or Judy at WoodStreets@aol.com

Not Too Late to Vote for City Council

Didn't mail your ballot? Take it in the envelope to City Hall 3900 Main St, 7th Floor – City Clerk - by June 7.

To receive updates, let us know who you are, your address and email. Contact Judy 788-9310 - WoodStreets@aol.com

Help offset HWSA costs: Suggested donation \$12 annually payable to HWSA, 3581 Elmwood Ct 92506

Green Team Report – Pat Silvestri Community Garden

RCC has finally given approval for the use of a plot of land for the RCC-Community garden. The new plot is next to the new Science Building being built on campus and it will be in a very central location for high visibility as well as for better access from the neighborhood. This garden is a partnership between the Wood Streets Green Team (WSGT) and RCC. About forty Students from RCC will be involved with this project (members of their Sustainability Club as well as four faculty members- three from Life Sciences and one from the Culinary Institute.

A leadership team consisting of representatives of WSGT as well as RCC will oversee the operation of the garden. Funds have already been obtained from the RCC Student Assn and WSGT. A faculty member from RCC has obtained a donation of decorative fencing for this garden which is one of the major costs of any community garden. The water supply will be from the adjacent Science building. Although the garden will not be accessible until the Science building is almost completed, we hope to have the garden under way by August or September in time for planting a winter crop.

A planning team will be meeting soon to begin designing the garden so that we can obtain whatever resources might be needed to get the garden started.

This is an exciting project for the WSGT and we expect that this will be just the first of numerous Community Gardens in the neighborhood.

WSGT is looking for additional volunteers to help with this project. Anyone interested in getting more details or helping with the garden is encouraged to contact Pat Silvestri at 369-5223. Pat is one of the coordinators of this project.

CERT Training Testimonials

Two of our HWSA residents who attended the March CERT training came back enthusiastic to share the experience with others. (Comments abbreviated for space constraints.)

Susan Pickens: *I just completed the CERT Training. It was very informative and made me realize how much I need to know in any emergency*

The more people that are trained in our neighborhoods, the better we'll be able to help each other and assist police and fire personnel. They simply will not have enough manpower in a major earthquake or emergency to respond to everyone.

Robin Jackson: *The staff is great and instructs with experience and knowledge with just enough humor to keep us involved. The scenarios are lifelike and you leave the class feeling a bit more comfortable in an emergency.*

If anyone thinks they are too old or physically unable to become a CERT member, think again. They've had people in wheelchairs and on canes. One of the instructors is a retired fireman whose lungs were so destroyed at 911, yet he volunteers to teach Search and Rescue.

You can also reach me at 909-227-3717 - Robin Jackson

You can check out the CERT information on the City's website: www.riverside,ca.gov/readyriverside/cert
The phone number is (951) 320-8100.

Preparedness – One Block at a Time

During the February meeting, we asked for volunteers to be “Block Captains” as we forge ahead with our endeavor to be very prepared in the case of a disaster large or small. It is important that you know who our neighbors are, at least on your block, and perhaps behind you. With all that has just occurred in Japan, there is no need to describe why this is of great value. We appreciate those who stepped forward. We have approximately 300 homes, besides some apartments, in HWSA, distributed along about 12 blocks. We would like to have twelve “captains” or key contact persons. Please contact Cindy if you are interested (248-9209).

April 30 Yard Sale – Wood Streets

Again we thank Rosemary and Larry Utesch for their phenomenal gift of planning, promoting and supporting a Wood Streets Yard Sale. They did more than help families get rid of junk and help others find “treasures.” They helped us all get to know one another better, increased the sense of community we share here, and helped us all find priceless treasure in meeting new friends and neighbors. Their good will and cheerful energy set the tone for the day, and that too played a big part in the success and enjoyment of the event.

Graffiti in the Wood Streets

In February we had reports of graffiti at several locations. Residents were quick to report it, and the police have been helpful. The City has a strong graffiti abatement program.

Note from Sandi & Joe Logan

We are overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and generosity of our friends and neighbors. It has taken us a week just to be able to talk about all the kindness coming our way without shedding tears of gratefulness. Whoever said that the spirit of Christmas only comes once a year was in error – at least in our neighborhood. We wish we could personally thank and hug each of you. We will NEVER, EVER forget what you have done for us.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Joe & Sandi Logan (Santa and the Mrs.)

Neighborhood Conference June 4

This year's Conference is half-day, but not half-value! Cal Baptist U (8432 Magnolia Ave). 7:30a-1:30pm. Learn about local resources, receive leadership training, and more. See riversideca.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-conference.asp

Thank You, Neighbor

Don Zimmer Tribute Corner, by Chris Jensen

The Quiet Man

This article is about our neighborhood quiet man. He sets up decorations for the holidays and for our neighborhood meetings like National Night Out and our annual barbecue. He cooks, serves refreshments and hosts at these events as well. He has hosted a Saturday men's Bible study for at least 8 years. By hosting I mean he provides and prepares a full breakfast (bacon and eggs, biscuits, fresh squeezed OJ and fresh fruit.) He helps Judy host Board meetings, though he is not on the Board. He makes sure everyone is comfortable. His name is Bryan Mahoney.

He has a servant's heart He worked for the Los Angeles Police Department for 30 years. He and Judy have been married for 33 years. He serves on the Pastor Search Committee for his church. He and Judy have opened their home to many people and families in need. I don't think they have lived alone in their home at any time in these past 11 years.

Cindy and I met him the day we moved into the neighborhood in 2000, and on that first day he and Judy served a luncheon to our moving crew – we still can't believe that happened. Before Cindy and I moved into our home it had been empty for months. To keep it, and the neighborhood looking sharp, Bryan mowed the front lawn weekly. The only thing he ever has said about it was that there were an awful lot of dandelions in the lawn. (There still are!)

Bryan does the thankless jobs without complaint, although he will complain about this article and the recognition it might bring. He prefers to work quietly in the background. He works hard to make everyone comfortable and at ease and says very little while doing it.

So at our next Ice Cream Social or barbecue look for Bryan and say "Thanks" – he'll be the guy smiling behind the service counter asking what you would like.

Calendar

- **Quarterly Business Meeting** –June 4, 10 am
Alumni House 3564 Ramona Dr (City College Dr)
- **10th Annual Neighborhood Conference** June 4
- **City Council Voting Deadline** June 7
- **Annual Potluck BBQ & National Night Out** –
Tues., Aug 2nd 5:30pm-8pm - 3465 Ramona Drive

Saturday, June 4 – 10am - Noon

Quarterly Business Meeting

Alumni House - 3564 Ramona Dr

Coffee, tea and water will be provided

RSVP Cindy 248-9209

or email Judy at WoodStreets@aol.com

Special Guest: Denise Perry, of Mary S Roberts Pet Adoption Agency



Tuesday, August 2 – 5:30pm – 8pm

Annual Potluck BBQ and National Night Out

Meet new neighbors, enjoy delicious food, great fun for all

3465 Ramona Drive – front yard

More info – WoodStreets@aol.com or 248-9209

<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/about.html>