

# FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

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FIG · GARDEN  
HOME · OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 5796 , Fresno, California 93755 · [www.oldfig.org](http://www.oldfig.org) · September 2024

## Annual Fig Garden Dinner

Sunday, September 29, 5 pm, dinner served at 6 pm

Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club

4722 N. Maroa Ave.

*RSVP with check by Saturday, September 21*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is almost here and we have survived another Fresno summer, the hottest I have experienced since I moved here in 1981. You acclimate to Fresno weather after a few years, but the older I get it seems that the heat tends to be more challenging. I even thought about putting in a pool this summer due to the heatwave; however, it would take months to get it in, and then it would be winter, and...I don't even swim! That is what hotter-than-normal-summers do to us...or rather, to me! ;)

On to more important issues:

We have had some quiet months since the Spring Newsletter. The Christmas lights have been taken down, and the "Christmas in July Run" was held in Fig Garden on July 20. Other than a few new homes under construction moving towards completion, for the most part, things are fairly quiet. However, if you notice that someone, young or old, is having a difficult time keeping up their yards, especially with our extreme weather this year, maybe check on them to make sure they are OK. It is nice to know that someone cares enough to check in on a neighbor.

Also, along the same line of helping neighbors, please don't forget about all the beautiful trees throughout our neighborhood. Many Deodar cedars on Van Ness Blvd are looking a bit peaked and could use more water. Please remember to water these trees on your scheduled watering days, as well as all specific street trees, along with your lawns and other landscaping. The heatwave is taking its toll on them and a bit of water would be very helpful. The trees on the Lane in particular are aging and many need trimming of dried branches or even total replacement. We have begun discussions as to how to proceed with this task. Our Tree Committee will be working on this project, along with other volunteers.

Regarding the neighborhood committees that have been put into place, many neighbors have stepped up to help. A big thank you to all who have volunteered! We could always use more volunteers. If you have interest in a particular committee, please email me. I would be happy to

share committee information with you.

As for Fig Garden Home Owners Association members, the number of neighbors participating in the voluntary annual dues has climbed a bit, however the numbers could be higher. Please give some thought to becoming an active, voting member of our Association by making an annual \$70 donation. The funds go entirely to supporting and preserving our Fig Garden Neighborhood and providing information to all our residents. The donation can now be made not only by check with the envelope provided in the Spring Newsletter, but also by Venmo using @fig-garden-HOA. This can be done any time of the year prior to January 1, if you'd like to be a voting member at the Spring Meeting.

With fall approaching, so is our Annual Fall Dinner Meeting. As always, the Board has invited our County Supervisor, Sheriff and Deputies, and Fire Captain. Consider attending and spend the evening visiting with your neighbors and our local officials. Hope to see you there!

I would like also to remind everyone that we send out email E-Alerts for monthly and annual meetings, important Fig Garden events, notices, etc. If you have not given us your e-mail address to be included on the E-Alerts, please e-mail me with your preferred e-mail address, and I will make sure that Board member Mike Chen, our wonderful E-Alert manager, adds you to the E-Alert system. You can also sign up on our website at [oldfig.org](http://oldfig.org). Do not miss out on important notices throughout the year.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Newsletter. I hope to see everyone at the Old Fig Fall Dinner Meeting on September 29!

-Angie Hyatt

## LETTER FROM FRESNO COUNTY SUPERVISOR STEVE BRANDAU

This is your County Supervisor Steve Brandau. Fall is coming upon us again, and I wanted to give you a quick County update and some initiatives I am working on that will impact Old Fig and all of Fresno County.

At the 30,000-foot level, the County is on a strong footing going into the State's budget cuts. Through the wise fiscal planning of County Administrative Officer Paul Nerland and the Board of Supervisors' commitment to long term investment, we should see few cuts to County services in the coming year. And we're slowly making improvements in the understaffing in our departments like Public Works and Planning and the Sheriff's Office and County Jail.

In news more directly affecting Old Fig, the improved signal at Palm and Ashlan is finally completed! There were complications that delayed construction, but our Public Works team is proud to deliver this life-saving traffic improvement. Included in that project are sidewalks along Ashlan that will give students going to Powers-Ginsberg Elementary a safe walk to school.

I just led a change to pass a "No Camping" ordinance with unanimous support from my colleagues and the Sheriff. This ordinance will provide the Sheriff another tool to help keep our neighborhoods and businesses safe and clean and push those folks into the services and shelter they need.

Regarding the City's project on Glenn Ave now called "Libre Commons" the Board of Supervisors allowed the developer until January 2025 to get their financing together. I voted no. It is my opinion that financially the project is struggling immensely. If they don't have their capital together by January, which is unlikely, they will not be given another extension of support. Of note, this is a City of Fresno project and the County is not contributing financially to it, and are only a pass-through of state funding.

I am currently working on an ordinance designed to combat blight from vacant buildings and another that would give neighborhoods the ability to request the construction of speed humps in the urban islands, which are currently banned in Fresno County.

And lastly, we continue to work with the Fig Garden Home Owners Association on beautification projects in Old Fig and we're getting very near announcing some of them!

If you have questions or concerns related to County services, you can contact my office at (559) 600-2000, or email us at

[district2@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:district2@fresnocountyca.gov).

### FIG GARDEN E-ALERT

Join your neighbors in receiving timely e-mail alerts on safety issues, community events, crime log updates, Fig Garden Home Owners Association meetings and other neighborhood news. If you are not already on the mailing list, send an e-mail to:

[oldfigalert@gmail.com](mailto:oldfigalert@gmail.com)

to be placed on the mailing list.

## THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING OLD FIG!

Please join the Fig Garden Home Owners Association. We work to protect and strengthen our unique neighborhood. The dues are **\$70/year**. Please mail your check payable to:

**FGHOA**  
**PO BOX 5796**  
**Fresno CA 93755**

Unlike most homeowners groups, our dues are voluntary and we depend on the generosity of our fellow neighbors. Dues money goes to pay fees associated with filing documents that protect the quality of life and integrity of the neighborhood, printing and mailing newsletters to keep you informed, and running the [www.oldfig.org](http://www.oldfig.org) web site.

Dues can also be paid through Venmo by clicking this QR code or by searching for Fig Garden HOA



Please list your name(s) and address in the "What is this for" box so we can correctly update your membership for the upcoming year. You can also make the payment "private" if you do not want it visible to others.

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Sheriff's Dispatch	600-3111 (for emergencies call 911)
Fresno Humane Animal Services	600-7387 (PETS)
Fresno County Code Enforcement	600-4550
24-Hour Domestic Violence Help	233-4357 (HELP)
Building Permit Info	600-4540
City of Fresno Water Division	621-5300, 621-5480
Fig Garden Fire Station (non-emergency)	621-4320 (for emergencies call 911)
Fresno County Library Information	600-7323 (READ)
Fresno County Public Health	600-3200, 600-6449
Graffiti Abatement	600-8107
Fresno County Road Maintenance	600-4840

# ANNUAL DINNER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29  
5:00 - 8:30PM

FIG GARDEN SWIM & RACQUET CLUB  
4722 N. MAROA AVE.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO  
THIS DINNER—IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR  
PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE OLD FIG.

## CATERING BY:

FIG GARDEN SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB  
SOCIAL STARTS AT 5PM - DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6PM

As in the past we have invited Fresno County officials and law enforcement serving our area to attend the dinner and answer your questions.

**\$70 per person**

Includes dinner, wine and dessert

RSVP by sending a check in the envelope provided  
in the Fall Newsletter by September 21

Questions? Contact Angie Hyatt @ 559.287.9961

*Casual Attire | Adults only*



## OLD FIG GARDEN HOME SALES FOR JAN 1–JUNE 30, 2024

First and Second Quarter Sales in Old Fig were down slightly in number—actually 6 fewer sales overall for the 6-month period—compared to July-December 2023. There continue to be renovations throughout the neighborhood, which proves that people want to invest in the future of our beautiful area.

In 2024, interest rates increased, and now have come down slightly. It appears that the rates may come down a tad more in September, according to economists. Inventory has grown, however multiple offers are still occurring on certain properties.

The neighborhood is divided into three areas. On the west side of the neighborhood the borders are Palm to Fruit and Shaw to Ashlan. The middle section is Shaw to Lansing (South of Lansing is the City of Fresno, although Circle Drive is included in our map), and Palm to Maroa (minus a small area

of homes south of Griffith and east of Wishon to Maroa, which are in the City of Fresno, but again considered to be a part of expanded Old Fig.) The third section is Shaw to Ashlan and Maroa to almost Blackstone.

Now for the 2024 statistics from January 1 through June 30, 2024:

	# of Sales	Median Sales Price	Avg. Sq. Ft Cost
Palm to Maroa and Shaw to Lansing /Circle Dr.	15	\$750,000	\$316.27
Shaw to Ashlan and Palm to Fruit	9	\$387,000	\$248.58
Shaw to Ashlan and Maroa to Blackstone	8	\$455,000	\$237.94

The highest price home sold was \$2,400,000

The lowest home/condo price was \$150,000

The highest s.f. cost was at \$553.12

The lowest s.f. cost was \$157.05

*Homes sold for an average of 103.56% of their asking prices.*

Stay safe and be well!

*Your neighbor and Board member, Angie Hyatt*

### FIG GARDEN HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2024

President	Angie Hyatt	angie@hyattre.com
Vice-President	Tony Pings	Anthony@pings.com
Treasurer	Dan Gallagher	Dan.Gallagher@fresnounified.org
Secretary	Jack Jensen	Roy_jensen@comcast.net

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### FIG GARDEN HOME OWNERS QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES: Steve Brandau and Garry Bredefeld

*Old Fig Garden, designated by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 2010 as a Historical District, consists of over 2000 homes whose families work together to enjoy their neighborhood and share it with the rest of Fresno each winter as they open it up for hundreds of thousands during the Christmas Tree Lane holiday period, among other events throughout the year.*

**1) What will you do to protect the Old Fig Garden Neighborhood as a Historical District so it will remain a valuable resource for the future of Fresno County?**

**Brandau:** For five years, I've given Old Fig the "white glove" treatment. I've fought to protect Fig's historic trees, updated ordinances to let owners build fences, gotten streets paved, and spent hundreds of hours working on beautification projects, especially the Old Fig monument sign project. I am ready to put forward a Historic District ordinance as soon as the Fig Garden Homeowners Association has identified what acceptable landscaping and building standards we can pass to preserve the neighborhood for the future.

**Bredefeld:** I will ensure that the Historic District designation you received in 2010 will continue to be honored and respected both by Fresno County and the City of Fresno. I will also work with any and all state representatives to ensure that SB9 or any other laws do not infringe on the neighborhoods in Old Fig Garden. As your County Supervisor, I will also fight against any attempts to alter zoning designations in and around the Old Fig Garden area and oppose any initiative that expands commercial activity along the perimeter of the neighborhood.

*The core area of Old Fig Garden voted to be assessed an annual fee for its Fig Garden Police Protection District (\$483.00) per year per household as well as its Fig Garden Fire Protection District (\$929.62) per year per household and they are unique in paying for these services that also provide benefits to neighboring County regions.*

**2) What plans do you have for Fresno County to continue protecting the families of Old Fig Garden in the future?**

**Brandau:** Protecting Old Fig is a multi-agency commitment, and I work daily with our public safety departments to keep Old Fig safe. I recently partnered with the Sheriff, Fresno PD, and CHP to provide the funding for law enforcement coverage of Christmas Tree Lane. We also just completed a new traffic light at Palm and Ashlan. I just created and passed a “No Camping” ordinance for the County of Fresno which will help the Sheriff address homeless encampments, even those on private property. And I’m currently drafting a new speed bump policy that can help curb speeding and dangerous driving.

**Bredefeld:** I will continue to strongly support both the Fig Garden Police Protection District and Fig Garden Fire Protection District and will ensure they are not infringed upon in any way by any governmental body. Secondly, while the fees paid also benefit surrounding areas, I will ensure that Old Fig receives its fair share of services from other government agencies, as well.

*The Christmas Tree Lane Holiday event, a continuous Fresno tradition for over a hundred years, relies on cooperation and financial support from the Fresno County Sheriff’s Office, the Fresno City Police Department, and California Highway Patrol to make this Fresno community event possible.*

**3) Will you as Supervisor continue to have Fresno County provide its share of financial support as it has done all these years to help keep Christmas Tree Lane going?**

**Brandau:** I funded the additional sheriff/police coverage needed for last year’s Christmas Tree Lane. The entire event was in jeopardy without it. I am working to make sure that funding continues for this important community event going forward.

**Bredefeld:** As your County Supervisor, you will ALWAYS have my support and the financial support of Fresno County to keep Christmas Tree Lane going. At the City of Fresno, each Council Member has their own specific budget that they utilize for fixing streets, assisting with community events, etc. The Board of Supervisors do not have these district budgets and I plan on changing this so that events like Christmas Tree Lane can be supported, by me as your Supervisor, without the concern that other Supervisors or bureaucrats could or might deny that financial support. In the future, I will ensure that Christmas Tree Lane funding will already be in my district budget or in the budget itself.

*State and Local officials' actions in response to the housing crisis has resulted in negative impacts such as: permitting housing units 5 stories (higher than any others in Fresno) adjacent to the Old Fig Garden neighborhood, allowing homes to operate as businesses that can house over a dozen unaffiliated occupants without appropriate regulation.*

#### 4) What will you do to protect families from a loss in their quality of life in Old Fig Garden due to the housing crisis?

**Brandau:** Regarding the city project proposed for Glenn Street, we've officially submitted documents to the City of Fresno about fire and traffic problems with the project. We are very skeptical of the project and have opposed it at every step. We've had internal conversations on how to protect Old Fig from traffic from the development should it come to fruition. Recently the Board reconsidered its involvement with the project and I was the single vote to withdraw all services from it. Regarding group homes, they are permitted by the State, and the County has no authority to regulate them. Did your Assembly members vote for this? Then vote them out!

**Bredfeld:** I will oppose any large or small housing development that would negatively impact your neighborhood. Old Fig is a beautiful and special area that must be protected and preserved. I understand that County Code Enforcement has been slow to deal with adverse and unhealthy situations with certain residences that are not being maintained or used in appropriate ways. That will simply not happen should I be fortunate enough to be your County Supervisor. Will not happen. Period.

Lastly, the Shaw/Glenn project is too dense, is supposed to be 5 stories high and will have major adverse (traffic) impacts on the neighborhoods and surrounding community. I would strongly oppose the project just as I successfully did with proposed projects that our residents and businesses opposed at Prospect and Herndon Avenues, and Bullard/41. I take very seriously that I am your representative and your voice when these kinds of projects that would hurt existing neighborhoods are proposed.

*The Neighborhood Beautification Overlay District is designed to protect the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout Fresno County.*

#### 5) What will you do as Supervisor to help enforce regulations to maintain Old Fig?

**Brandau:** Starting in 2022, the Board of Supervisors ordered a major overhaul of Code Enforcement. On Nov 28, 2022 we hired a specialized Code Enforcement manager, and by February of 2023 we more than quadrupled our Code Enforcement staff. In November of 2023, we created a fund to clean up illegal dumping, and in June this year the Board went after illegal dumpers with new fines and penalties. Last month, we hired an expert to revamp Code Enforcement procedures, giving us more tools to act quickly and efficiently on code cases. This is my top priority. In addition, I'm working on an ordinance to crack down on blighted and vacant buildings, so that our Code Enforcement has more resources they can act on to preserve the neighborhoods of not just Old Fig, but throughout the County.

**Bredfeld:** The Old Fig Garden neighborhood is unique and must be protected and preserved. I will ensure that your neighborhoods continue to be protected by the Fire and Police Districts that you already pay for. I will ensure that the beautiful trees throughout Old Fig are protected and maintained by the County, which too often has not been the case. I will resist any efforts at annexation as most residents do not want to be annexed. I will ensure that the Historic Designation Old Fig received in 2010 is honored by Fresno County. Quality of life matters and I will defend that in Old Fig just as I have done in the City of Fresno. I can assure you that, as your Supervisor, you will have a fighter at the County protecting your neighborhoods. And I don't back down. Lastly, when you call my office, you will have someone pick up the phone to address your concern. My Chief of Staff is highly regarded for her work and responsiveness to our constituents and that will definitely continue as your Supervisor at Fresno County.