

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

www.oldfig.org



FIG · GARDEN
HOME · OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00pm

Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club

4722 N. Maroa Ave.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Introductory Remarks
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Nomination of Directors and election
5. Discussion of matters of general interest
6. Adjournment

*Come to our annual meeting. Hear the news,
meet neighbors, ask questions of
County and Law Enforcement officials.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Angie Hyatt

Dear Neighbors,

It's a new year and our Board elections were once again upon us. Dean Alexander has served as our president for the last 5 years, and has done an excellent job, but it was time for him to take a break. As you all know he has also been in charge of Christmas Tree Lane and Walk-Nights for the last 20+ years. I can honestly say he deserves the honor of the greatest volunteer our neighborhood has ever had, not discounting all others that have served as well.

I was asked to take on the position of President of FGHOA. Reluctantly I accepted. I say reluctantly because there is so much to know and learn about what keeps our neighborhood a desirable and safe place to live. I felt overwhelmed at the thought of following in Dean's footsteps; however, the board consists of many very highly knowledgeable neighbor volunteers who give their time for all of us, so I am fortunate to be surrounded by great people, including Dean, who will help me carry out my term. I have lived in Old Fig for a total of 32 years—28 years in my current home, and previously 4 years in another home in the neighborhood. I choose to live here because it is one of Fresno's finest neighborhoods. I am sure that is why all of you have chosen to live here as well.

As you all know, our neighborhood has special services that homeowners living in the area

between Maroa and Palm and Shaw to the Canal (excluding a small area a few blocks south of Ashlan that is city) are assessed for annually in their property tax bills. Assessments are approx. \$1,400 annually. Protection provided by the Sheriff's Office falls under the Police Protection District, and Fire Station #20 on Wishon Avenue falls under the Fire Protection District. We are all very fortunate to have these special services available to us. When you see the Deputies or the Fire Fighters, give them a wave. As a note, the three entities, FGHOA, Fire Protection District, and Police Protection District are all separate entities. FGHOA is an advocacy group, Fire Protection and Police Protection Districts are governmental agencies. FGHOA does not have jurisdiction over the other two entities.

Moving on to what we as a Board do to keep you up to date on happenings in Old Fig. There are 2 Newsletters annually that are sent to every homeowner. The Spring Newsletter invites everyone to the Annual Member Meeting in March. Also in this Newsletter is an envelope for Annual Dues payment. Our voluntary dues are \$70 per year, which can be made by check or also paid through Venmo donation if you prefer not to send a check (search for Fig Garden HOA, or @Fig-Garden-HOA or go to venmo.com/u/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.

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NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 5796, Fresno, California 93755 · www.oldfig.org · March 2024

Please make it a priority to be involved in your neighborhood and pay the dues. These dues assist the Board in paying for the Newsletter printings, postage for mailings, legal fees for advice on issues concerning Fig Garden, maintaining the oldfig.org website, the program for sending E-Alerts, etc. Thank you in advance for your participation as a member of our special neighborhood.

Board members are volunteers and pay their own expenses for the annual dinner and/or any other FGHOA event. At the Annual Member Meeting in the Spring members vote on the three positions on the board that are up for election. Paid members of FGHOA are able to run for a board position. You have to be a paid member for the prior year in order to run for a board position at the Spring Meeting. That's another incentive to pay your dues. Even if you do not want to be on the Board, we have committees that you can join and take part in helping our neighborhood. If you are interested, please feel free to call or email me.

The Fall Newsletter comes out in early September—again with updates on the neighborhood, and a reservation envelope for the Annual Fall Dinner. At this dinner we invite our elected officials as well as law enforcement and safety officials to speak and answer any questions we have about our neighborhood concerns. Our guests normally include the Sheriff, Deputies, our County District 2 Supervisor, Fire Chief or their representative, or our own Fig Garden neighbor Saul Jimenez-Sandoval (President of Fresno State), among others. It is a good time to also meet your neighbors and enjoy a wonderful evening.

Christmas Tree Lane is also an event Old Fig sponsors that benefits our entire region. Without the help of Dean Alexander, and now Dan Gallagher, this event would not be possible, especially the walk nights. Please volunteer to assist during Christmas Tree Lane, whether it be turning the lane lights on and off for an evening, volunteering at the Santa Booth at Rialto, or any of the other duties available. For more information regarding volunteering for Christmas Tree Lane please respond to the newsletter that is sent out in November of each year with volunteer coordinator names and phone numbers, or to the E-Alert announcing the same information.

Thank you for allowing your Board to work at keeping our neighborhood a safe, beautiful, desirable and vibrant part of our Fresno County community!

Hope to see you all at our Spring Meeting!
Angie Hyatt, President

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

by Dan Gallagher

Christmas Tree Lane celebrated its 101st year last December, and it was another successful year. Tens of thousands of our fellow Fresnoans drive down the Lane each year enjoying the Christmas cheer we create with the lights in the trees and displays in our yards. This is something unique to not only our Valley, but to the whole state.

Putting this event on is a labor of love and, at times, a chore, and I think it's safe to say that Christmas Tree Lane would not be what it is without the Herculean efforts of Dean Alexander. For 21 years he has been there: setting up and taking down decorations (for months before and after Christmas), creating and securing systems for funding, and scheduling and organizing with the County Public Works Department and County (Sheriff's Office), City (Police Dept.) and State (CHP) law enforcement. Dean's dedication and detailed focus has created magic for those of us who travel down the Lane and is a gift to our Fig Garden community and to everyone who visits. Thanks Dean!

We were able to have two walk-only nights this past year. These nights are a hardship for those of us who put them on, and for the residents of our historic neighborhood. They do, however, continue to be one of the special things about living in Fresno. Once again it was Dean who was instrumental in the fight to help make them happen. We also want to thank Supervisor Steve Brandau for helping find the funding needed to move forward with these special nights. We hope that Fresno County and the Sheriff's Office will continue to help the citizens of Fresno celebrate Christmas again this year by providing the needed services to put Walk Nights on, as they have done so in the past.

Lastly, as the new Lane Chairperson taking over for Dean, I'm asking neighbors to help continue this 100-year-old tradition of sharing the Christmas spirit by stepping up and helping with some of the many tasks the event requires. If enough folks volunteer, it may be that you only need to donate an hour or two per year.

Please contact me if you are able to help. (559) 760-4819

OLD FIG GARDEN HOME SALES for July 1—December 31, 2023

by Angie Hyatt

Our neighborhood sales continued to be brisk through the third quarter, with a slow-down in the last two months of the year. As noted in previous newsletters, there are still many homes with major renovations. This continues to be proof that our neighborhood is thriving and people are continuing to invest in its future regardless of rates and pricing.

In 2023, interest rates have remained fairly steady, although higher than we were accustomed to in past years. However, to our surprise, the year ended with a climb in inventory and the beginning of rates dropping. Rates have continued to drop and inventory is growing. Sellers are finally deciding it is time to sell, with the holidays behind us and the beginning of a new year.

In reporting the sales, 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 are also considered to be a part of expanded Old Fig). The third section is Shaw to Ashlan and Maroa to Blackstone.

2023 STATISTICS

LOCATION	# OF SALES	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SQ. FT. COST
Palm to Maroa and Shaw to Lansing /Circle Dr.	21	\$780,000	\$284.20
Shaw to Ashlan and Palm to Fruit	5	\$415,000	\$255.45
Shaw to Ashlan and Maroa to Blackstone	12	\$620,000	\$249.95

Now for the 2023 statistics so far:
 The highest price home sold was \$1,800,000
 The lowest home/condo price was \$245,000
 The highest s.f. cost in Old Fig Garden was at \$414.59
 The lowest s.f. cost was \$139.20
Homes sold for an average of 99.60% of their asking prices.

Have a wonderful 2024.
 Stay safe and be well!



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

Dean Alexander	dalex215@gmail.com
Merilee Amos	merilee.214@gmail.com
Mike Chen	mikechenfgha@gmail.com
Magda Gilewicz	mgilewicz@gmail.com
Dick Goodwin	jagret@gmail.com

Slate of Directors

The Board of Directors nominates the following people for three-year terms on the Board:
 Merilee Amos, Dan Gallagher, Tony Pings

In order to be eligible to vote for the Directors at the Annual meeting, members must have paid their FGHOA dues.

MEET THE DEPUTIES

by Merilee Amos



Sgt. Christian Lightner and Deputy Manuel Chavez are part of the Sheriff's team that protects Fig Garden.

As has been our tradition, we use the Spring Newsletter to introduce the Police Protection District Deputies to the neighborhood. It goes without saying that the PPD Sheriff's Deputies overseen by Area 2 Commander Lieutenant Kevin Lolkus are very much appreciated by the neighbors.

We'll start with Lieutenant Lolkus. He has been in law enforcement in a full-time position for 27 years and Commander of Area 2 for the past two years. He attended the private Rio Hondo Police Academy in Whittier California and made the move from Long Beach to Fresno in February 1997, hired by former Sheriff Richard Pierce. He found himself drawn to law enforcement by a relative already in law enforcement. The more he talked with his relative, the more his interest grew. That initial spark of interest has grown for almost three decades! In private life, he is "married with children." He and Erika have been married for 17 years and have three children Kai, 16, Keira, 15 and Adrian, 12, all attending East Clovis schools. He and Erika plan and devote their family time around their children's activities. Kevin coached baseball at East Clovis High for several years.

Next up is the Fig Garden area and Lincoln 21 Beat Patrol Sgt. Christian Lightner. Sgt. Lightner directly oversees the PPD deputies. Like Lieutenant Lolkus, he was drawn to law enforcement by family members already in the field. His sister is with the CHP. Law enforcement affords him a sense of service and he feels that helping people out is deeply rewarding. He and his wife have two daughters aged 3 and

7. Their family activities circle around their children. Sgt. Lightner appreciates the neighbors in the Fig Garden area; he is especially grateful for the participants in Community-Oriented Policing as he believes safety is a two-way street.

Last but certainly not least is Deputy Manuel Chavez. In 2001 Deputy Chavez began his career in law enforcement as a Community Service Officer, which is a Fresno Sheriff's paid civilian position. These officers oversee Neighborhood Watch Meetings and community events, such as National Night Out. As he saw major crimes increase, he acted on his initial draw to the Fresno Sheriff's Office and entered the Fresno City College Police Academy. A Sheriff's Deputy since 2007, this is his first time as a Contract Deputy in the PPD. He has become familiar with all four areas of the Lincoln 21 beat from the mountains in the east to the west regions in Coalinga. Deputy Chavez enjoys working and helping people.

Apologies are extended to Deputy Jacob Woesner as contact with him was not possible for this Newsletter. Deputy Woesner has served as a contract Deputy with the Fig Garden Police Protection District since 2021 and was featured in the Newsletter at that time.

The dedication of these law enforcement officers to duty and service shines brightly throughout their lives—this is reflected by each one's comments about their experiences with PPD. It is extremely valuable for our Fig Garden neighborhood and is deeply appreciated.

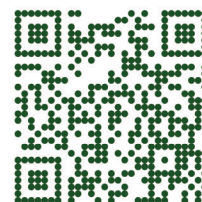
THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING OLD FIG!

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 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.

SAVE THE DATE:

Fig Garden Home Owners Association Annual Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
7:00 p.m.

Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club
4722 N. Maroa Ave.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

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