



FIG · GARDEN
HOME · OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

www.oldfig.org

Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 25th 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 & 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 City officials, and show that you are a part of Old Fig.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dean Alexander

Hello, Fig Garden Neighbors! I am honored to serve another year as president of the Fig Garden Home Owners Association. I am Valley born and Valley proud. I have lived in Fresno since 1973 and on Van Ness Boulevard within Fig Garden for 32 years. Fresno is a great family community and I enjoy my friends and neighbors here. However, Fresno, like any other community, has its issues, including crime and taking care of the homeless and those less fortunate.

Over the past 30 years, like many of you, I have experienced theft at my Fig Garden residence and at my business located in Clovis. We as a neighborhood can take steps to reduce and prevent crime. The most effective step is to use the Neighborhood Watch Program. By getting to know our neighbors and looking out for suspicious activity, we will continue to reduce crime. Installing home security systems, including doorbell and surveillance cameras around your property, also helps alert you to suspicious activities and can provide a resource for our Sheriff's Deputies in solving cases.

Actually, due to neighborhood involvement and our diligent Sheriff's Office, we live in one of the safest areas in California. Still, by being observant and using home security systems, we will continue to keep the crime rate down. However, even with the best Neighborhood Watch program, best law enforcement, and state of the art alarm and surveillance systems, crime will not be completely eliminated. We hope that when a crime does occur, by being active neighbors

looking out after each other, we can catch the criminals and discourage future criminal activity.

New regulations and proposals will have a serious impact on the quality of life in Fig Garden and we need help from our neighbors to challenge these new changes. As discussed in our Fall Newsletter, we have expressed concerns regarding sober/transitional housing developments, the new SB9 (state Senate Bill 9) regulations which allow multiple housing dwellings on residential lots and more aggressive lot splitting, and the Shaw-Glenn project, located at the edge of Fig Garden, which has an excessive density of residential units per acre (almost double what is zoned). Please help carry a torch on these endeavors so we can keep Fig Garden as we know it today and preserve it for our descendants. The united voices of many are heard by our local and state representatives more than a single lone voice.

Despite the challenges of crime, helping the homeless, sober/transitional housing, and proposed state regulations affecting our neighborhood, our Fig Garden neighborhood is a wonderful place to call home and the Fig Garden Home Owners Association will continue to fight to make our neighborhood the best within California.

As I previously said, Fig Garden is home and is a special place due to its rural setting and the wonderful neighbors who live there. Let's continue to have a great 2022.

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 5796, Fresno, California 93755 · www.oldfig.org · May 2022

A MESSAGE FROM FRESNO COUNTY SUPERVISOR STEVE BRANDAU

Hello Fig Garden neighbors!

Spring is in the air, and all of Fresno County is green and in bloom! It's wonderful seeing the verdant island of Fig Garden come to life as we come out of winter. I wanted to provide you a couple updates on issues I am working on for you as your representative on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

My major focus for the first part of 2022 is to increase County Code Enforcement capacity to better respond to complaints from our residents. For too long the County has neglected this important department. This has resulted in thousands of backlogged reports with insufficient resources to address them countywide. This Board of Supervisors is committed to getting Code back on track. We want our residents to be proud of their neighborhoods, and to feel safe from hazardous conditions. When you call my office or use our "Fresno County Connect" app (available for iOS and Android smartphones) to report dangerous conditions or blight, we want to be able to take immediate and effective action. We'll have more to say about this later this year.

You probably recently saw the Fresno Bee story discussing the City of Fresno's plan to road diet their portions of Palm Ave to add Class IV bike lanes. A "road diet" is when you reduce the number of car lanes to add bicycle lanes and/or pedestrian trails. The City wants the County to do the same through Old Fig. We have heard from an overwhelming majority of residents that they do not want a road diet on Palm Ave. I hear you and I agree – Palm Ave is too important and busy a thoroughfare to further

squeeze traffic along, and it will push more traffic onto neighborhood streets. I am working with County staff on options that increase bicycle access and safety along Palm without impacting traffic along this important corridor.

Speaking of Palm Ave, Fresno County Public Works will be improving the intersection of Palm and Ashlan with new protected turn signals. This will greatly improve the safety of this intersection and improve traffic congestion. Currently the project is expected to begin later this summer.

Lastly, I know it is a matter of major concern for our Fig Garden residents near the City of Fresno's proposed development at Shaw and Glenn, currently called "The Glenn." My office has received many calls with concerns about the proposed project, and I have attended several meetings with neighbors and the Fig Garden Home Owners Association about the project. While the project is located within the City limits and the County has no direct say in permitting the project, I am making sure Mayor Jerry Dyer and City of Fresno staff are aware of your concerns, and I am committed to taking actions necessary to mitigate impacts of the project on the neighbors and Fig Garden's local streets. The scope of this project is in flux, but as we are informed of the changes and progress, I will make sure Fig Garden is kept informed as well.

I remain committed to serving the residents of Fig Garden and my staff is available to help you with County services. You may contact them at (559) 600-2000 or by email at district2@fresnocountyca.gov

FIG GARDEN HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2022

President

Dean Alexander

dalex215@gmail.com

Vice-President

Tony Pings

Anthony@pings.com

Treasurer

Valerie LeMay

vlemay@hotmail.com

Secretary

Jack Jensen

roy_jensen@comcast.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Merilee Amos

merilee.214@gmail.com

Mike Chen

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Magda Gilewicz

mgilewicz@gmail.com

Dick Goodwin

jagret@gmail.com

Angie Hyatt

angie@hyattre.com

Slate of Directors

The Board of Directors nominates the following people for three-year terms on the Board:
(all are incumbents): Magda Gilewicz, Dick Goodwin, Angie Hyatt

MEET OUR NEW DEPUTIES



Deputy Eric Colegio (left) and Deputy Jacob Woesner will patrol the Fig Garden Police Protection District as the newest Sheriff's Deputies assigned to our area.

When you travel through the Fig Garden area, you will notice a couple of new faces riding inside the gold and green striped Sheriff's patrol vehicles. Deputy Eric Colegio and Deputy Jacob Woesner are the new Fresno County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to the Fig Garden Police Protection District, replacing Deputies Tyler Phillips and Brennan Gowens.

"It's a great area to work and I know the residents of Fig Garden are very supportive of law enforcement—it's definitely a well-desired position within the department. It's a very safe neighborhood," said Deputy Woesner, who became a Sheriff's Deputy in June 2019 and requested to serve the Fig Garden Police Protection District in the fall of 2020.

Deputy Colegio (pronounced ko-ley-hyo) started as a reserve with the Sheriff's Office in May 2019, going through the Fresno State program, and was hired full time in May 2020. He requested to serve the Fig Garden Police Protection District and was assigned in September 2021. "The calls for service of serious violent crime are extremely low compared to places like southwest, southeast Fresno," said Deputy Colegio.

"I've noticed, on day shift, there are a lot of people walking around, a lot of people we can interact with, we

meet a lot of people, who are very supportive and respectful towards us."

The Deputies highly recommend using home security cameras, which are useful in preventing thefts and in solving crime—even crimes happening in other homes, by recording video of criminals who have run through the area and are caught on camera and can be identified. They also recommend getting lights to illuminate outdoor areas and extra lights to show that there are people at home. Motion-sensor lights may scare criminals trying to break in and discourage them from your property.

The Deputies provide a monthly Crime Report for the Fig Garden area, which is distributed by e-mail through the Fig Garden E-Alert system. To sign up to receive these E-Alerts, send a message to oldfigalert@gmail.com

The Deputies can be reached by e-mail at:

Eric.colegio@fresnosheriff.org

Jacob.Woesner@fresnosheriff.org

To contact the Sheriff's Office, call 559-600-3111

FRESNO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

Fresno County is seeking input from County residents as it updates its General Plan, which was last revised over 20 years ago and will provide a "blueprint" for Fresno's future. Some decisions that are covered in the General Plan involve Land Use, Infrastructure, Public Services, and Resource Conservation. It is also revised along with the Zoning Ordinance, and the two provide guidelines and regulations for how the county will develop.

The County will have future meetings with the public later this year (possibly over the summer) to gather input and Fig residents can find more information about the process at this link: <https://fresnocountygeneralplan.com/>

If you have questions about the General Plan you can contact the General Plan Review and Zoning Ordinance Update team.

Phone: (559) 600-3333

Email: gpr@fresnocountyca.gov

THE LEGACY TREE TEAM REPORT

by Magda Gilewicz



Students from Endeavor Charter School were among many who volunteered to help plant Deodar Cedar trees along Van Ness Ave.

The Tree Committee has been doing lots of good work in the past few months. First, it re-named itself as the Legacy Tree Team to underscore the historic value of tree plantings in Old Fig. In early December, in collaboration with Tree Fresno, the Team planted 17 Deodar cedars (donated by Tree Fresno) along Van Ness Blvd, and on March 26 added another eight trees along Van Ness (donated by the Fig Garden Home Owners Association). In addition, many thanks should go to homeowners (and those are quite a few) who recently planted trees on their own along Van Ness and other areas around Fig Garden.

Like last year, when the Legacy Tree Team inaugurated its activity on National Arbor Day, this year on its 150th celebration, the Team honored this special day at the Fig Garden Fire Station on Wishon Ave. A beautiful Crape Myrtle (donated by Gazebo Gardens) was planted in front, three species of California Oak trees (donated by Tree Fresno) were provided free to attendees, children were entertained and educated about trees and fire trucks, certified arborist Mario Hernandez answered questions and led a tree walking tour in the neighborhood, and a Girl Scout troop conducted a Flag ceremony. Fun was had and good work was done!



A Crape Myrtle tree was planted at the Fig Garden Fire Station on Wishon Ave as part of a National Arbor Day celebration



Members of the Fig Garden Legacy Tree Team, along with volunteers, planted eight Deodar Cedars along Van Ness Ave in March.

Van Ness Blvd. is the North-South spine of Fig Garden and the plantings of Deodar cedars need to continue to replace trees that have been removed or are diseased—without them, we wouldn't have Christmas Tree Lane or a magnificent boulevard to stroll along. But all trees in our area are precious, and preserving the historic design along each street is important. So if you need to replace a tree in your front yard, replace it with a species selected for your street to maintain the neighborhood's continuous, park-like planting.

Many yards in our area are undergoing re-design and in some cases whole swaths of majestic, historic trees along streets are removed and replaced with random species. Let's all be mindful of the historic design of our area—let's not carelessly destroy old trees that were part of the original plantings many years ago. And if we have

to remove them, let's replace them with the tree that was historically designated for our street. Gettysburg, for example, is famously lined by its cork oaks (*Quercus suber*); Swift and Fairmont have fragrant camphors (*Cinnamomum camphora*); Wilson and Lansing are lined with majestic California sycamores (*Platanus hybrida*); Arthur has evergreen Arizona cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*); and Indianapolis has its pink-fruited American pepper (*Schinus molle*).

We'll be planning more plantings for the fall and always welcome new members. Here is the team that worked on the projects so far: Patt Rank, Laura Holden, Dan Gallagher, Renee Rasmussen, Beverly Raine, Eric Schmitt, Becky Lindquist and Magda Gilewicz. Join us for more greening of our area!

FIG GARDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

May 25 will mark the 12th year since The Fresno County Board of Supervisors designated "Old Fig Garden" to the Fresno County List of Historic Places in 2010. Around 1800 homes within the County Island fall within this historic district and it recognizes the value of our area to the history of Fresno, and the need to preserve its special character for the future. The Fig Garden Home Owners Association will recommend to the County that the Fig Garden's designation as a Historic District is officially included in the upcoming General Plan.

THE DREADED QUESTION

How Much Water Is Enough?

by John Pape

I am frequently requested by people to tell them how much water they should be applying to their trees. Many people are willing to sacrifice their turf and even their shrubs to drought and water restrictions, but nobody wants to sacrifice their trees and shade.

I would love to prove to you what an expert I am and wow you with the exact amount of gallons, and how often to apply them to your tree, but alas I'm not that smart. I don't feel too bad about it though, because nobody else is either. There are just too many variables to take into consideration for anyone to really know, and no one has the time for the amount of calculations it would take. The factors are truly mind boggling: a tree's canopy volume; its leaf surface area; the type of soil; the type of irrigation; the temperature and humidity any given day; the soil microorganisms; the exposure; the surrounding trees and shrubs, etc. So... I will give you the best way I know of to accomplish water management for trees.

1. Find out what kind of tree you have, and specifically what kind of environment it grows in. I know it's a little extra work, but a little bit of knowledge is powerful to solve the problem. We need to know if the environment it's native to is humid or arid, usually surrounded by other trees, or more in the open, freezing in the winter, scalding in the summer, ok in heavy soil or sandy soil, etc. This information is easy to find on line. By finding out where it is genetically programmed to grow, we can understand whether or not the conditions we have it in need to be mitigated somehow by extra irrigation, no irrigation in the summer, etc. A couple examples are two native California trees, both very popular in the Central Valley. They are the Coastal Redwood and the Interior Live Oak. People frequently use both of these trees, but the trees suffer because their water requirements are nearly opposite in the Valley.

- The Redwoods live where it is rarely more than 90° F in the summer and even when it is, it cools off at night, there is fog many days in the summer, and there is high humidity.
- The Interior Live Oak grows where the heat is intense in the summer, it is arid, and it gets no rain in the hottest time of year.

These two trees are frequently planted on the same property, and even on the same irrigation zone. The Redwood needs enormous amounts of water when it matures to keep it from frying in our arid conditions, and the Interior Live Oak needs to have only rare irrigation in the summer or it easily becomes infected with pathogenic fungi which will kill it. People frequently plant Redwoods, and don't increase the irrigation as they expand exponentially, and often put pretty posies around our native Oaks and kill the tree with wet, hot, fungus-infested conditions, yet both trees are "Mediterranean Climate Trees". That is why we need to know their specific native environments.

2. Go online and buy a soil probe, and use it. Your fingers and eyes are unbelievably excellent moisture measuring devices. The problem is, we can't see or feel underground. The soil probe is the answer, and it should be 18 inches to 36 inches in length. You shove it in the soil as far as you can (watch for drip tubing, irrigation pipe, and lighting wires), and when you pull it up, there is a long plug of soil for you to look at and feel. When you use this tool and your senses, you will know immediately how your irrigation is doing, and at what level it is doing it. Ideally for most plant material you want moist soil with air space between the particles, think... water on the soil particles, but not completely filling the space between them. This, of course, does not apply immediately after watering, and doesn't apply to plants that need to have their soil dry out in the summer between waterings, to keep pathogenic soil-borne fungi at bay.

You are the one with the big investment in your trees. If you test the soil regularly, like weekly, you can modify your irrigation to understand what works best, then you can tell you maintenance provider what the trees really need, and have some control over the success of your trees. Best of all, by poking all those holes in the ground you are creating circumstances for much quicker re-aeration of the soil, which is also critical for roots and tree health.

3. The best irrigation for trees is typically slow, deep irrigation, with breaks in between to let the water pass through the soil profile, while air pushes back down through the spaces where the water has departed. Drip irrigation is good at supplying this type of water. No matter what kind of irrigation you use, if the water starts to run off the soil away from its intended location, it isn't doing any good and it's costing you money. In such a case, watering with more frequency for short amounts of time is the best way to irrigate, even if it's six times per water day for only a couple minutes. This keeps you from losing water and

money and gets better water penetration into the soil. If you are watering for 15 minutes with spray nozzles in your planter, or even your lawn, you could probably water 4 times, at 3 minutes each, spaced every half hour or hour, and get just as much water to you trees' roots, and without run-off, and with less water.

Turn your irrigation zone on, watch the water, and time how much time it takes until the water starts to run off the area or across the ground. That is the longest amount of duration you should ever water at any given watering. Then repeat that duration for multiple times, until your weekly check with the soil probe tells you, it's just right for your trees.

By the time you do these three things in combination, your answer to the question of how much to water will be better than mine.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

Last year, Christmas Tree Lane was a very successful event. Although we did not have walk-only nights due to COVID 19, it was enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people in their motor vehicles. The Fresno Police Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Office and the California Highway Patrol did an excellent job with traffic control. Their involvement is much appreciated and we could not put on this event without their support.

This December will be the **100th-year celebration of Christmas Tree Lane**. The Christmas Tree Lane committee is working on making this year's event extraordinary. More details will be provided in our newsletter this fall. We are all looking forward to an exciting 100th-year Christmas Tree Lane celebration.

THE TREES OF OLD FIG GARDEN

by Beverly Raine

As with many classic neighborhoods around the world, trees create an ambiance, shade, beauty and a habitat for a myriad of wild and domestic animals. This is true of Old Fig Garden. When viewed from the air, Old Fig Garden is the emerald jewel in the City of Fresno.

In 1919, Jesse Clayton "J.C." Forkner hired Horace Cotton, a landscape architect from San Francisco, to design the plantings that would line the streets of the Forkner Giffen Tract. Each street would be planted with a selected tree species.

Each street, road, avenue, and boulevard of Fig Garden was assigned a species of tree to line the side of the road—some deciduous and others evergreen. Perhaps the most recognized are the Deodar Cedar trees which line Van Ness Boulevard. These trees during December highlight our famous Christmas Tree Lane, travelled by thousands, the longest continuous Christmas holiday lane in North America ready to celebrate a century of joy and happiness for all those who walk, ride and travel the lane.

With so many new residents joining our community, it is important when planting new roadside trees to remember the County and neighbors request that you consider following the historic design set over 100 years ago. This allows our century-old tradition to continue and our streets to keep their theme for years to come. Old Fig Garden has a listing of the trees that are assigned to the various streets; please go to the following link to see which of the beautiful trees has been assigned to your street. Thank you for continuing to support our unique neighborhood and the vision of our neighborhood's founders.

Link to street tree species: <https://tinyurl.com/3pbzxrjx>



OLD FIG GARDEN 2022 HOME SALES TO DATE

Our market in general continues to be more robust than ever before. The low mortgage rate market, as we have known for the last couple of years, is changing. Interest rates are increasing at a slow pace and are affecting the market in general, however, not in a big way in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood continues to sell quickly and with multiple offers on some homes. I will recap what has occurred specifically in our area.

As I have done previously for 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 again considered to be a part of expanded Old Fig.) The third section is Shaw to Ashlan and Maroa to Blackstone.

So far in 2022 there have been 19 closed home sales in the entire Old Fig Garden Area. Inventory continues to be low. Below is a breakdown of sales in the areas identified above.

2022 STATISTICS

LOCATION	# OF SALES	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SQ. FT. COST
Palm to Maroa and Shaw to Lansing /Circle Dr.	10	\$741,000	\$260.29
Palm to Fruit and Shaw to Ashlan	3	\$370,000	\$248.58
Maroa to Blackstone and Shaw to Ashlan	6	\$645,000	\$229.50

Now for the 2022 statistics so far:

The highest price home sold was \$1,265,000.

The lowest home/condo price was \$252,000.

The highest s.f. cost in Old Fig Garden was at \$350.32

The lowest s.f. cost was \$176.45.

Homes sold for an average of 99.87% of their asking prices.

There are currently 10 other homes in our neighborhood that are pending and getting ready to close, as well as 6 other homes actively for sale.

Stay safe and be well!

Your neighbor and board member,

Angie Hyatt

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

or pay on our website: www.oldfig.org

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.

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