



Donna Layne - West
Floral Park Neighborhood
Association

Donna helps beautify the neighborhood of West Floral Park by organizing Open Garden Day. This unique annual event invites some of the most beautiful gardens in our city to be featured on a tour that is open to all. Open Garden Day requires Donna to lead a committee that is tasked with coordinating food vendors, transportation, docents, cooking and gardening classes for hundreds of attendees. Donna's long history of serving her community has inspired neighbors to take pride in their gardens and has made Santa Ana one of the most gorgeous places to live in Orange County.

Community Leadership Awards

Community Leadership Award -
Aaron Garcia

Aaron is the founder of the Keep Runnin' Santa Ana (KRSA) run club. Aaron has built a safe place for the community and also gives back by donating running shoes to students that attend school in the nearby neighborhoods. He is giving back to the community with a running initiative and inspiring local residents to exercise in their community. He has been able to empower the youth and join the community group during sponsor nights.

Community Leadership Award -
Chris Schmidt

Chris has tirelessly reported out of compliance issues with the Yale County Navigation center. The surrounding areas such as OC Heritage Museum, Michelle Child development center, Godinez High School and Centennial Park constantly feel the negative impact of this shelter. There are many other tangible actions that Chris does to help maintain a good quality of life in our neighborhood. Because of Chris, our community is safer and a better place to live.



Communication Linkage Forum Presents Santa Ana's 2023

NEIGHBORHOOD HERO and COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Thursday, June 22, 2023



Lucy Bateson -
Wilshire Square Neighborhood
Association

Lucy Bateson has been a wonderful resident of Wilshire Square for decades. She been a faithful volunteer assisting in promoting monthly meetings and supporting our annual Christmas parade. Lucy also does a lot of behind-the-scenes work to benefit our neighborhood including clean up when others leave trash on the streets and making sure the City is aware of issues that must be addressed. Lucy is helpful to her neighbors and always ready to do what she can to make Wilshire Square a great place to live.

SANTA ANA COMMUNICATION LINKAGE FORUM (COM-LINK)

Established in 1989, Com-Link provides opportunities for information exchange and presentations on policy issues that are of general interest or concern to the city's neighborhoods. Com-Link meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month and we welcome and encourage all to attend Com-Link meetings. For more information, please visit the Com-Link webpage at <https://www.santa-ana.org/com-link/>



Community Leadership
Award - Rev. Derrel Durley

Reverend Derrel Durley has been a godsend for the Santa Ana Memorial Park Neighborhood Association. After the unexpected death of Raul Ramos Sr., our association found itself inactive and without a leader. He happily and graciously stepped up as our new leader and reactivated the Neighborhood Association. He has organized neighborhood clean-ups and assisted residents by obtaining resources during the COVID pandemic.

2023 Neighborhood Hero Awards

The "Neighborhood Hero Award," proudly established by the Santa Ana Communication Linkage Forum Board, honors those individuals who have shown commitment and enthusiasm in strengthening the quality of life in their neighborhoods. This year, we have selected fourteen Neighborhood Hero Winners and three Community Leadership Award honorees because each has demonstrated their leadership, commitment, generosity, and the selflessness needed to enhance their neighborhood and the greater Santa Ana community. Please join us in honoring and congratulating these outstanding community leaders!



Fred Lover - Artesia Pilar Neighborhood Association

For over 4 years Mr. Lover has made it his mission to keep his neighborhood clean and clear of any clutter. By pulling weeds, picking up trash and sweeping endlessly for hours on end. The main thoroughfare of Civic Center near Fairview was an eyesore for many years because of all the trash left from cars that parked at the curb. He took it upon himself to remedy the problem and has been a role model of what can be accomplished.



Marisela Guzman - Thornton Park Neighborhood Association

Marisela actively promotes parent involvement in school and community activities and concerns. She was part of a letter writing campaign advocating for a crossing guard at Jefferson Elementary School. Currently she is organizing parents to attend school budget meetings.

Kelly Kraus Lee - Lacy Neighborhood Association



Kelly has consistently advocated on behalf of the neighborhood to ensure we have safe streets and sidewalks during the OCTA Streetcar construction. She identified a portion of sidewalk that was inaccessible to those using mobility devices near the heavily utilized neighborhood laundromat. Kelly worked with Councilmember Penalosa, Mayor Amezcua, and Supervisor Sarmiento's office to ensure OCTA addressed these issues immediately.



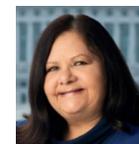
Jeff Adams, Armando Hernandez, and Pablo Soto - Morrison Park Neighborhood Association

Jeff Adams along with neighbors Armando Hernandez and Pablo Soto made the entire holiday season so much more special because of the arches and the spirit of friendship demonstrated by them. Due to this true example of "Neighborhood Spirit", Armando, Pablo and Jeff were recognized with the very first "Morrison Park Neighborhood Spirit Award".



David & Yelena Ball - Park Santiago Neighborhood Association

David and Yelena moved into the neighborhood 3 years ago. They have been responsible for putting on events benefitting our neighborhood. Park bicycle rides, Music in the Park, Movie in the Park, Chili Cook Offs, Easter and Christmas Parties, July 4th Parades and many other activities and events that bring Park Santiago Neighborhood together making it a great place to live.



Martha Molina - Riverview Neighborhood Association

Martha spearheaded a committee that dealt with the possibility of Riverview Golf Course turning into a Regional Park. She spent countless hours communicating and organizing with other neighborhood leaders to gather information and spread information.



Ruben Calderon - Santa Anita Neighborhood Association

Ruben has been volunteering for the Santa Anita Neighborhood Association since he was 13 years old. He has been responsible and a great team leader for all of the events that the Santa Anita hosts throughout the year. During the COVID Pandemic, Ruben was instrumental in delivering hot meals to seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Floral Park Neighborhood Association Historic District Committee

On February, 2 2023, the neighborhood was officially approved as a federal and state-recognized Historic District. This would not have happened without the leadership and hard work of the volunteers of the FPNA Historic District Committee for the last 15 years. In 2008, the all-volunteer FPNA Historic Preservation Committee undertook the daunting task on behalf of the neighborhood to photograph, document, and catalog each of the neighborhood's 636 homes needed for the State and Federal application process.

Rebecca Ortiz - Washington Square Neighborhood Association

Rebecca has been promoting little libraries in Washington Square. During the pandemic, it was very important to all of us to have access to books especially children. She made it happen! One of the ways she made it happen is setting up a Saturday where children could visit each of our five libraries and receive a prize. Anyone that promotes reading is a hero in our eyes.