

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

This neighborhood is old school and loving it

By [CARINE NADEL](#)

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I've been looking throughout our little burg for people to spotlight, as my end-of-column pleas were going unnoticed. Luckily, we writers have "Help-a-Reporter-Out," a site to literally help us all find contacts for our various needs.

This time I had two great responders. For this month, a member of a very close neighborhood wrote to tell me how all of them spend all the major holidays together. They have chili cook-offs, pizza parties, barbecues, Family Fridays, rib-making contests and summer block parties. They' even planned a weekend getaway to Palm Springs to celebrate one of them

turning 40.

Living right off of Moulton Parkway and Indian Creek Lane, many of the residents of the Woodwinds community have become what they call "an extended family." I talked to some of the group on a very stormy St. Patrick's Day, but everyone was having a great time celebrating regardless of the wind and rain.

Lindy Neubauer was the member who brought this Midwest-thinking group to my attention. I say Midwest because Ron Cormack described them as such, noting: "We all speak to one another. Really talk and look out for one another."

Mary Gonzales thinks that it's because they talk to each other that they've probably got the best Neighborhood Watch program around.

"We look at what's happening, not just on this block either, but in the entire tract. If we see a car that looks as if it's hanging around, we ask around to see if it really belongs," she said.

Cynthia Tennell, the group's unofficial spokesperson, told me they have 10-15 families, but the get-togethers get pretty large.

"We average about 15-20 people. But our biggest and favorite get-together is July 4. We rope off the cul-de-sac and have quite the party! It's also a perfect opportunity to have any new neighbors come on over and meet everyone." Some of the activities include a street hockey game and water balloon fights. They all move their barbecues out into the street and make a day of it.

"We end the night by looking up and watching the fireworks display from the community center – we have a perfect view. It really is our favorite get-together," Tennell added.

Another favorite time of year is Christmas. The entire neighborhood thinks they have the best decorations around.

"Besides all of us decorating each of our homes, we have made it a must to have a Christmas light thread. What we do is start at the beginning and this one strand of lights go around the entire block. Not one break, we go from one end, around the cul-de-sac and back up to the end of the other side. I don't think any other tract of homes does a group effort like this. We also host a progressive holiday dinner," Tennell said.

And for those reading this who would love to have this type of closeness on their own street? Ron Cormack

recommends just getting out there and start talking to your neighbors. He should know. He and wife Doris are original owners who've watched the group grow in number and closeness since they moved in back in 1985.

If you know of a resident or a business that gives back to the community, please contact the writer at 4thenadels@cox.net

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