

# NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OF WESTCHESTER / PLAYA

*Working together to improve our communities!*

Neighborhood Councils exist to:

- give neighborhoods greater influence on decisions made by local government
  - make government more responsive to local communities
- unite the local community to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods



## *Honoring Brent & Eli Wagner – the Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa’s 2018 Stars of the Neighborhood*

Congratulations to longtime Westchester residents Brent and Eli Wagner for being selected as the 2018 Stars of the Neighborhood. The award is designed to honor those in our community who give back to their neighbors without fanfare and may otherwise go unnoticed.

The Wagners will be recognized in the annual Fourth of July Parade and again at an upcoming Neighborhood Council board meeting.

The Stars of the Neighborhood often are those who make a difference in our community but who do it quietly and without being asked. They are our unsung heroes. Their great efforts do not make the papers, are not talked about at the local coffee shops, but are known so well by those that have been on the receiving end of their efforts. Many recipients have seen the enormous difference these individuals make not only in their lives, but in the lives of so many in Westchester/Playa.

Southern California natives, Brent and Eli moved to Westchester in 2012 and were married the same year. Brent works in commercial real estate finance, and Eli is an on-set attorney for game shows including Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. They have a 3-year-old daughter, Maya; and a 7-month-old son, Tobin. In 2015, after the birth of Maya, they took many strolls around the neighborhood in hopes of finding a park to meet other young families and for Maya to play. Discouraged that there wasn't a pocket park, they set on a mission to make one happen.

After two successful fundraisers, the funds for a neighborhood pocket park were raised. The Holy Nativity Episcopal Church stepped up and volunteered their front yard as a community accessible site. Plans were quickly finalized and by the end of 2017 the first



*The Wagners with their 3-year-old daughter, Maya, and their 7-month-old son, Tobin.*

phase of the park was open to the public. Phase 2, which is in progress, will include landscaping, benches, signage, and additional playground elements, and will be unveiled soon. Half of the donations came from community members and the other half came from the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation as well as the new owners of The Promenade at Howard Hughes Center.

The park is located at 6700 W 83rd, which is the location of the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. They have graciously allowed the community to utilize an area adjacent to their lawn, have a playground installed, and open the area to all nearby families. The Wagner family is so excited to see this dream become a reality and to meet other young families in our community.

“Phase 2 funds have been set aside, and we are working through the new landscaping and park elements that will be added,” said Brent.

“It is amazing what can happen when motivated people champion a great project,” said NCWP President Cyndi Hench. “The Wagners didn’t let anything get in the way of their vision, and our community now has an amazing pocket park for everyone to enjoy. I am honored to recognize them on behalf of the Neighborhood Council and the entire community. Brent and Eli, thank you for all you have done to make Westchester a better place!”



**Next Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Monthly Board Meeting:**

**6:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 7**

**in the Community Room at 7166 W. Manchester Ave. (at Lincoln Blvd.), in Westchester**



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