

WLP Civic Association Board Members

President: Ted Richardson

Secretary: Lynne James

Past President: Paula Djabbarah

Directors: John Abraham, Mohammad Bayegan,

Vice President: Marion McDaniel

Treasurer: Jane Root

Newsletter: Gilda Bayegan (gildabb@msn.com) & Mary McDaniel
Marj Elhardt, Clifton Iverson & Jane Van Santen

LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

We thank all of you who attended the Annual Meeting on May 11, 2010 for the confidence you placed in the Board by electing us to serve you.

Our thanks to **Morton Kuehert Auctioneers & Appraisers** on Richmond Ave. who hosted our meeting in their lovely new space; to **Bayou City Seafood, Ambassador Chinese Restaurant, and Bombay Brasserie** for the delicious buffet they donated; to **Spec's** for wine, and **Costco** for its contribution. We enjoyed it all! Please let these business neighbors know we appreciate their generosity by dropping by soon, attending an auction, or enjoying a nice dinner.

We also thank **Oliver Pennington**, Houston City Council Member for our District G, and **HPD Cpt. Mark Holloway**, from Central Patrol, for their informative presentations at our annual meeting. Both stressed neighborhood security and the importance of individual involvement in crime prevention. We thank **Lynn Keener**, GM of Highland Village Center, for her update on expansion plans for the HV Center and information on the free parking available in their garage. And we thank our own **Sherryl Gorman, Phyllis Mattox, Jane Van Santen, and Lynne James** for organizing the event.

The main focus of the Annual Meeting was neighborhood security, and our outgoing president, **Paula Djabbarah**, presented two new documents to that end. 1) **WLPCA EIGHT POINT SECURITY PLAN**, and 2) **WLPCA SECURITY CHECKLIST**. We encourage you to visit our website, www.wlpca.org, to become familiar with the security plan, and urge you to follow the excellent suggestions on the checklist.

As your new president, my goal is to work closely with the Board and Committee members to fulfill our "Purpose" as stated in our BYLAWS: **"to preserve and improve the residential character and integrity"** of our community. In that effort, the Board will continue the programs that foster and address:

* **Communication** with our members through the **WLPCA web site (www.wlpca.org)**, the **Crime Alert System** and this newsletter;

* **Quality of life and neighborhood protection;**

* **Increased WLPCA membership;**

* **Neighborhood meetings – including National Night Out (coming up Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010);**

* **Maintenance of the WLP entrance signs and their surroundings;**

* **Working with our elected representatives and city officials, adjacent neighborhoods, and commercial developments on items of mutual interest;**

As an all volunteer organization - with very limited voluntary funding - we face many challenges, as we have in the past. With your support, I believe we will continue to meet these challenges, preserve, and improve our neighborhood, making it an even better place to live.

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to our **Past President, Paula Djabbarah**, previous Board Members, Committee Chairs and Members, and all of our residents who have given freely of their time and talents to do all the big and little, day to day, mundane and often un-noticed things that enable our association to be effective and viable. It will be my honor and privilege to serve as your president and I look forward to continuing the tradition of exemplary service provided by our former presidents.

Thank you all and may you have a healthy and happy summer!

Ted Richardson
President, WLPCA

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JULY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	 10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

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8	9	10	11	12	J	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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OCTOBER

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31	*National Night Out*					

 = Tree waste; J = Junk waste pick up

Weekly household trash pick up on Mondays. NOTE: Recycling is now **every other Monday**, on highlighted days in boxes. Please have your bins out on the curb by 7 am and in by 10 pm.

“Tree Waste” is defined as “clean wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps (lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted.)”

“Junk Waste” is defined as “items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.”

Has West Lane Place Gone to the Dogs?

It seems we are experiencing potty problems once again with dog owners and walkers. Mike Staley of West Lane Dr. has asked us to publish his urgent request, below.

To West Lane Place Dog Owners:

On our street (West Lane Drive,) we have seen an increase in dog poop being deposited on our yards and now we are forced to navigate around dog poop on the street, too! **West Lane Drive is a veritable mine field of dog poop** where we drive our cars, ride our bikes, jog, walk or run – this poop eventually gets brought into our yards, garages and homes. It does not always wash away with rain once it is embedded in the concrete or the yard!

PLEASE, care for your neighbors enough to assume the responsibility of **picking up after your dogs by bagging the poop they drop and taking it home with you for disposal.** Please advise dog sitters and guests to do the same.

Thanks for assuming and/or maintaining an attitude of “Responsible Care” for your dog and your neighbors!

-Mike Staley

Did You Receive a 2010 WLPCA Membership Directory in the Mail ?

Recently, the new **2010 WLPCA Membership Directory** was mailed out. It is bright pink. Did you receive it?

If you did not get a copy, it may be that your membership in the WLPCA has lapsed. In the past, we provided all the residents of West Lane Place with a hand-delivered directory, whether or not they were active members of the civic association. But, this year, since we mailed the new directories, they went to members only.

If you are a WLPCA member and did not receive your directory, please contact **Jane Root** or **Jane Van Santen**, at membership@wlpca.org. If you are not a member yet, we would love for you to join, and we will happily provide you with a copy of the directory when you do.

We thank the **River Oaks Office of Trustmark Bank** for printing our new directories. They look marvelous! 

Security in West Lane Place

Unfortunately, the break-ins continue in West Lane Place, most recently on Hackberry, and it seems the perpetrators are watching us.

In response to these crimes, the WLPCA Board has taken the first steps toward implementing our own **Neighborhood Crime Watch**. We approved the creation of imposing warning signs to install in strategic locations in WLP, and attach magnetically to car doors of volunteers, keeping an extra eye out, and photographing suspicious activity.

The City of Houston has denied us permission to place our "Neighborhood Crime Watch" signs in City right-of-way, so we have requested that CenterPoint Energy allow us to install our signs on their light poles. We await their response.

Here are the new signs to watch for. They will be reflective, printed in black, white, and red:



We thank our neighbor, **Chris Hill** for donating his design expertise, and new **WLPCA director, Mohammad Bayegan** for putting together the plan. A **big!** thank *you* to our volunteer patrol, for volunteering!

Let's hope we can get our street signs up soon despite the red tape. In the mean time, we urge all of you to be vigilant and report any suspicious persons or activities to us: crimealert@wlpca.org and **HPD** at **713-884-3131**. Of course, for all emergencies, call 9-1-1 first. ♣

WLPCA Website Takes OFF

Have you seen our website lately?

www.wlpca.org

If you haven't visited it yet, you should. You may find yourself appearing in it!

Our webmistress, **Margaret Ann Bromberger**, with her sharp eye and handy camera, has been very busy indeed. She's been snapping photos of **neighbors on the street**, photos of some of our **beautiful gardens**, and a most attractive **red door**, all gracing the pages of our ever-improving neighborhood in cyber space.

It is truly spiffy and *full* of interesting information.

Great job, Margaret Ann! ♣

The Silk Road Comes to Houston

Thanks to the generosity of our own **Harriet and Truett Latimer of Bash Place**, whose endowment, with Accenture and Weatherford International Ltd., underwrote this exciting exhibit, **Secrets of the Silk Road** will open August 27 at the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**. You won't want to miss it! ♣

Our Business Neighbors

Changes in Highland Village. You may have noticed the long lines of people waiting to get into **Sprinkles**, the cupcake store that opened recently on Westheimer. **Paper Source** is another HV addition, specializing in stationary, invitations, and gifts. **Impressions** is a new bridal salon located above **Cole Haan**. Rumor has it that there will be an **Apple** store coming to Highland Village, but **Lynn Keener** would not confirm this information.

She did say that HV will be updating all surfaces, including installing new granite sidewalks, new parking, and new landscaping (the palm trees lining Westheimer stay.) And **there will be another stop light added mid-block on Westheimer** near Escalante's for pedestrians.

Early next year, **Tootsie's** expects to leave HV for their new space in **West Ave.** at Kirby and Westheimer.

At the other end of West Lane Place, on Richmond Avenue, you may have noticed **Palmer Packaging**, which moved from its previous spot on Richmond near Montrose Boulevard. Palmer specializes in wrapping papers, shopping bags, and retail packaging, and has just added **gift wrapping services**. Even though its products are oriented toward retailers, the store is open to the public and welcomes WLP residents. ♣

.....The Bees and the Birds.....

The Bees. Unless you've been living under a flower pot, you probably know that **bees are declining** and scientists are as yet unable to determine why, or to stop their decline. Bees are the tiny point upon which the huge pyramid of our agriculture balances, so **their welfare is of interest to everyone who eats**. Without bees, there will be few fruits or vegetables since no effective substitutes are available to pollinate our crops if bees disappear.

Recently, we discovered a hive of feral bees had set up housekeeping in the walls of a WLP residence, where they could not stay. Being aware that bees are threatened, we were loath to call an exterminator who would kill the squatter bees. So, instead, we called the **Bee Wrangler!**



Exterior wall of a two-story residence on Midlane opened to expose and remove beehive built between floors

Jennifer Scott, the Bee Wrangler, arrived early one morning with a smoker and an extractor. After a few puffs of smoke sedated the bees, she gently removed the queen from the hive. Soon, the other bees followed the queen, and Jennifer removed the wax honeycomb from the hive. She kept the portions that contained brood bees, and gave the rest to us. She then took the bees with their brood and enough honey to sustain them to a hive box where Jennifer tells us they are now thriving!

We realized many benefits from calling the Bee Wrangler. By saving feral bees, we helped strengthen domestic bee hives. We now have lots of delicious raw, wild honey. And, Jennifer charged a little less than an exterminator would have. That's a "**Win-Win-Win**" situation!

If you encounter a swarm of bees, or if bees choose to make a hive in your property, please do them no harm! Instead, call Jennifer, and help save us all.

Jennifer Scott, the Bee Wrangler; 832-248-8313;
www.thebeewrangler.com

What else can you do to help bees? Plant **bee flowers** in your garden and **never use neonicotinoid or systemic pesticides**, the type that goes into the soil and infuses flowers with poison. Visit **www.bee watchers.com** for specific information on Texas gardening that supports bees. ♥

The Birds. Last spring, our neighbor, **Mary McDaniel**, noticed something odd: a beautiful, red cardinal feeding a huge baby bird that was black. **Was this oversized, odd-looking baby a weird mutation?** Probably not. More likely, what **Mary** saw was a cardinal victimized by a **cowbird**, a **New World brood parasitic bird**.



Adult male cardinal feeding a young cowbird

Like European cuckoos, **cowbirds lay eggs in the nests of other birds**. Their eggs hatch quickly, the baby birds are large, and they develop faster than their nest mates, enabling them to crowd the other babies out of the nest.

Some birds detect intruder cowbird eggs and remove them to avoid losing their own young. Unfortunately, others accept the eggs as their own, and exhaust themselves feeding the large, ravenous baby parasites.

Cowbirds evolved their parasitic behaviors because they could not maintain a nest of their own. They followed bison across the plains, eating the insects they flushed up as they grazed. Because the bison moved constantly, the cowbirds did, too, and could not afford to be tethered to a nest. Now, due to wide-spread cattle ranching and urban development, cowbird populations are out of control.

Cowbirds' parasitic habits have pushed at least two species* to the brink of extinction. They have so depleted our native songbirds that the **Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife sponsors a trapping program each spring in an effort to reduce the cowbird population**. This program is effective, since **studies show that removing one female cowbird enhances the survival of thirty-five songbirds in a year**.

You can discourage cowbirds by excluding millet, cracked corn, and black oil sunflower seeds from the mix in your bird feeder, the scent of which attracts cowbirds. You also can use feeders with **small perches** to make it difficult for cowbirds to reach your seed.

If you are interested in the **trapping program**, please **contact Texas Parks & Wildlife; 512-389-4767;** or visit **www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/cowbirds**

*the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler ♥