

WLP Civic Association Board Members

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LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Season's Greetings and here's wishing all of you the best as we look forward to a new year and improved economy!

Security continues to be of primary concern to WLPCA, and this letter recaps the latest developments. This is also the kick-off for the **2011 Membership Drive** (see enclosed article from Membership Chairs **Jane Root** and **Jane VanSanten**).

Your Board, Committee members, and other volunteers are working diligently to protect our neighborhood, and we urge you to show your support for our **special Place** by confirming your 2011 membership now.

CRIME ALERT & NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH
The WLPCA **Crime Alert** system continues to provide security alerts via the Internet and is managed by **Ann Iverson** at email crimealert@wlpca.org. The **Neighborhood Crime Watch** - which was introduced at the Annual Meeting - is managed by our **Security Committee Chair, Mohammad Bayegan** at email security@wlpca.org. Both Mohammad and Ann are doing a phenomenal job of trying to protect all of us and our property. Street and auto signage described in previous issues of **West Lane Place News** has been ordered and will soon be installed. When you see a vehicle with this sign on the sides driving slowly along our streets, you will know one of your neighbors is on patrol - give them a wave! They're volunteering their priceless time for all of us!



See more details at www.wlpca.org.

HPD CITIZEN PATROL

The **Houston Police Department Citizen Patrol** program for **West Lane Place** is in full swing. HPD has completed the background checks on **twenty** of our enrolled residents, I.D. cards have been issued, and patrols started.

Many thanks are due to the following WLPCA members who are participants: **Mohammad Bayegan, Jo and Bubba Cook, Marj and Chris Elhardt, Silvia and Gary Fritzhand, Dewuse Guyton, Ann and Clif Iverson, Marion McDaniel, Gerald Marsh, Jean and Ted Richardson, Leonard Robicheaux, Stan Smith, Janice Therrien, Fisher Trigg, and Mike Weingart.**

Mike is also the **Coordinator** and is responsible for submitting the information for the Citizen Patrol Monthly Reports required by HPD to verify that patrol and other obligations have been met. If you are interested in joining this very important HPD city-wide program, you may email Mike at hpdliaison@wlpca.org, or call him at 713-960-0006.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT REPORT

Security in West Lane Place was the main topic at the **National Night Out** celebration on October 5th. Captain

Bruce D. Williams from the HPD Central Division and our Council Member for District G - Oliver Pennington - were our principal speakers. Both lauded the **WLPCA** for our **Security Plan, Crime Alert, Website, and Neighborhood Crime Watch** program. They also encouraged us in our efforts to enroll residents of **West Lane Place** in the **HPD Citizen Patrol** program. We were pleased and honored that four HPD Assistant Chiefs also attended.

Over 80 attended the NNO program, and special thanks are given to the donors of the fantastic foods contributed by: **Bayou City Seafood and Pasta, Crapitto's, First Call Personnel, Giacomo's, Kiran's Restaurant, Luling City Market, Trustmark Bank, and Smith and Wollensky Restaurant.** Thanks also to the **BLVD610** for providing the venue on very attractive terms and reducing their drink prices for us. **Your Board and Committee Chairs encourage all to support these local and very generous businesses.**

The WLPCA volunteers who made the NNO celebration successful were many and are due a huge round of applause! **Jo Cook** very skillfully and graciously managed the food contributions and set-up, and **Jane Root, Jane VanSanten, Ann Iverson, Molly Boren, and Phyllis Maddox** obtained contributions and made deliveries. **Mohammad Bayegan** found the location, provided serving pieces, and handled the serving set-up with the assistance of **Bubba Cook, Mike Weingart** and others. **Marj and Chris Elhardt, Jane Root, Jane VanSanten** handled the check-in process, and **John Abraham** assisted with the parking. **Mike Weingart** also arranged for the attendance by various HPD senior officers.

Due to the hard and effective work of our volunteers, the food and other contributions, and our members purchasing enough "beverages" to meet the minimum bar sales quota, **the WLPCA incurred no expenses! Congratulations All! Best wishes for the Holiday Season,**

Ted Richardson
President, WLPCA

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A Big Improvement: Rolling Recycling in West Lane Place!

You have surely noticed the huge green wheeled recycling bins delivered recently to you by the City of Houston. Their enormous size is an obvious improvement over the overflowing small boxes we've been using, as are their wheels. But, a few additional improvements come with these bins that are not so apparent.

In the past, we were required to sort our recycled materials by type; all paper together, all plastic, aluminum cans, etc. Now, we may put these materials together in the bin, unsorted. Unlike before, we may include **glass bottles, phonebooks, and tin cans** in the new bins. This new program also will accept up to three one-gallon containers of **used motor oil** in a sealed screw-top container such as the one in which it was sold, set on the street next to the recycling bin.

The plastic and metal containers we put in our new recycling bins must be clean, dry, and free from food and garbage that would contaminate other materials. **We may not put paper plates, paper cups, meat trays, pizza boxes, or Styrofoam in our bins. We also may not include plastic bags** because they jam the machinery at the recycling facility. You still may recycle plastic bags at the **Westpark Consumer Recycling Center**, 5900 Westpark, as well as some grocery stores.

The City of Houston and the company contracted to manage our recycling program, **RecycleBank**, will conduct audits of participation. If a neighborhood does not produce adequate tonnage, its bins may be removed. But, if we recycle and register at **www.RecycleBank.com**, we can keep our rolling bins *and* earn points that may be redeemed for merchandise and travel rewards. The website provides interesting recycling facts, and additional opportunities for earning rewards points.

The most serious worry expressed by the City of Houston is that the similarity between the rolling black garbage bins and our new, green recycling bins will tempt us to put garbage in them. Please resist this temptation, since lawn clippings, food containers, or any other unsanitary material will ruin all the recyclables they contaminate.

Did you know...?

- Wash your laundry in **cold water to save 80%** of the energy used to wash in warm water.
- By **skipping the "Pre-Wash"** cycle on your dishwasher, you can **save up to 12 gallons of water per load**.
- Americans use **2.5 million plastic bottles per hour**, or **60 million per day, 80% of which are not recycled.**
Let's commit to improve these statistics in the new year!
- **You can recycle your Christmas tree** through the CoH. If the tree weighs fifty pounds or less, the City will pick it up like yard waste when collecting trash on Tuesdays. If the tree is over six feet tall, it must be cut into smaller branches, just like yard clippings. ♣

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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 = Tree waste; **J** = Junk waste pick up

Weekly household trash pick up on Mondays. NOTE: Recycling is **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."

The board of your Civic Association wishes to remind you that our annual membership drive starts with this newsletter. Dues are annual and run on the calendar year, January to January. Dues are very low, only **\$25.00 per adult per household**, and have been the same low amount for many years. Applications are included on **page 4** of this issue and also can be found on our website, **www.wlpca.org**

We need the participation of each of you if we are to remain the strong and cohesive neighborhood we are. Please join us or renew your membership today!

Many thanks,
Membership Chairs,
Jane Root & Jane VanSanten

BARKING DOG SYNDROME

The complaint we hear expressed most passionately and most often in WLP is that neighborhood dogs disturb neighbors. Despite our many reminders, some of our well-behaved and quiet residents seem oblivious to the disruptive noise and droppings of their pets. The following plea recently was submitted to the West Lane Place News by a group of desperate neighbors on Mid Lane.

Right around the **3200 block of Mid Lane** there live ten or twelve barking dogs (it seems sometimes like fifty!) We know they are your darlings, like your children. But, like your children you stop hearing them after a while. Or, unlike your children, you turn them out in your yard while you are away, and you don't hear them at all.

Please have pity on those of us to have to listen to your dogs barking all day...setting the others barking in response...**we are getting Barking Dog Syndrome (BDS.)** The effects of BDS cause us to want to give your dogs laryngitis; or, in the worst cases, call the Police.

PetSmart has a wonderful treatment for BDS...voila!

Bark Collars! which would relieve our symptoms immediately. Have a heart...please buy one today!

The pertinent City ordinance is reprinted below for your convenience:

Section 30-6. Noisy animals and birds. The keeping of any animal or bird which causes or makes frequent or long and continued sound which unreasonably disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of ordinary, reasonable persons of normal sensibilities and ordinary tastes, habits and modes of living who reside in the vicinity thereof is hereby prohibited and declared to be unlawful as a sound nuisance in violation of this chapter, regardless of whether the sound so created by said animal or bird is within the permissible levels specified in section 30-2 of this Code.

Section 30 – 10. Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Upon a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of this chapter within a twelve-month period, said person shall be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00. Each day that any violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. To the extent that any conduct prohibited under this chapter also constitutes an offense under state law, then it shall be punishable as provided by state law. (Ord. No. 93-77, §2, 1-20-93)

WLP Treasure: Stan Smith



Stan Smith at the drawing board

We live among some fascinating people in West Lane Place. This issue, we focus on one of them, **Stan Smith**.

Many of you met Stan shortly after you arrived in WLP when he welcomed you with a WLP Directory and the latest newsletter. He probably was too polite to tell you, though, that he designed the lovely **WLPCA logo** (the circle of trees) or that he, along with WLPCA President, **Ted Richardson**, designed the **entrance monuments** at the Westheimer and Richmond entrances to Mid Lane. Stan probably neglected to tell you, too, that he is both an accomplished architect and an avid watercolor artist.

Stan graduated from the **University of Oklahoma** in 1951 with a degree in architecture. From there, he went straight to Korea as a **Second Lieutenant** in the **Army Corps of Engineers**. After the Army, Stan moved to Dallas, joined the firm of **Lane, Gamble, Huddleston, Smith**, and designed headquarters for, among other companies, **Braniff Airlines, Frito Lay**, and **EDS**, in the innovative corporate development, **Exchange Park**.

In the early 1970's, Stan moved to Houston to join the design firm **3D International**, but he spent no time here! Instead, he was in constant flight between **Saudi Arabia, Paris, London, Washington, D.C.**, and **Italy**, designing and developing the many properties of his client, **Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz**, who later became the **Saudi ambassador to the U.S.**, and his wife, **Princess Haifa bin Faisal**, daughter of **King Faisal**.

Stan resumed life in Houston to manage the real estate investment portfolio of **Prudential Realty** from the early 1980's until 1995, when he retired. Although officially he may be "retired," he continues to share his designs with **West Lane Place**, and others, too. He recently designed the new building at Mandell and West Alabama for the **Watercolor Art Society – Houston**, of which he is a very active member and serves on the Board of Directors.

Stan moved to **West Lane Place** in 1998 because of its good investment potential, attractive location, and pleasant ambiance. He has served several terms as a **Director** on the **WLPCA Board**, and has volunteered for countless jobs over the years, including **Chair of the Welcoming Committee**. We are happy he's our neighbor, and we thank him for his service!



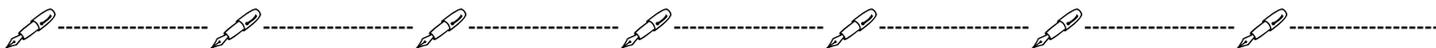
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parking Violations on Mid Lane. One of our neighbors has brought to our attention that there have been frequent violations of the "No Parking" designation on the **east side of Mid Lane between W. Alabama and Westheimer.** Please be aware that **from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday,** this is a **NO PARKING ZONE** and violators are subject to being ticketed and/or towed, *especially if the car does not have a WLP identification decal!* Contact the WLPCA for car decals if you need them, but please do not violate the parking restrictions, with or without a WLP decal.

WLPCA is pleased to announce its new Traffic and Transportation Committee chaired by WLP resident, Phillip Barnard. Mr. Barnard is a licensed professional engineer in Texas, and formerly, the Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Houston.

At present, he is a Consulting Senior Vice President with **Interface Consulting International, Inc.** We are fortunate to have an engineer with his experience and expertise to lead this important committee. **Welcome Aboard!**

Street Names. Thanks to the efforts of WLPCA president, **Ted Richardson,** the City of Houston and Harris County now recognize that they have misidentified our streets and have begun the process of naming our streets consistently and correctly, **"Mid Lane"** and **"West Lane"** throughout their records. The City and County will then notify the U.S. Post Office of their corrections. Ted has personally notified several private entities of our correct street names, including AT&T, CenterPoint, Mapquest, and Federal Express. **If your address plaque, displayed on your street, differs in any way from "West Lane" or "Mid Lane," please correct it to avoid creating more confusion in the future.**



West Lane Place Civic Association

2011 Membership - Renewal Application for the year beginning Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011

_____ I am/We are **New Member(s)** **OR** _____ I am/We are **Renewing** our membership(s)

\$ 25. dues for each **Adult voting** member **X** _____ (no. of Adult members in household) = _____ (total)

\$ 15. dues for each **Senior (65+) voting** member **X** _____ (no. of Sr. members in household) = _____ (total)

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ Membership(s) **PLUS** I am making an additional contribution of \$_____ (Many Thanks!) _____ I am interested in volunteering my time or services (again, Many Thanks!)

Name(s) _____

WLP street address _____

Phone number _____

E- mail address _____ (will **not** appear in the directory)

Please check if applicable:

Use my email for: all WLPCA matters _____

Neighborhood alerts and bulletins only _____

Do **Not** list my phone number in the WLPCA Directory _____

Do **Not** list any of my information in the WLPCA Directory _____

Please mail or deliver application and payment to:

Jane Root; 2909 Mid Lane; Houston, Texas 77027

Please make checks payable to: **West Lane Place Civic Association**

In a household of two, for example, both persons may become members, requiring two membership dues.

But if only one person joins, then only that person will be allowed to vote on WLPCA issues.