

WLP Civic Association Board Members**President:** Mohammad Bayegan**Secretary:** Pat Bohn**Past President:** Ted Richardson**Website:** www.wlpca.org**Directors:** Paula Djabbarah, Chris Elhardt, Howard Holsenbeck, Ann Iverson, Betty Moore, Karen Smith and Jane Van Santen**Vice President:** Marion McDaniel**Treasurer:** Cynthia Trigg**Newsletter:** Gilda Bayegan & Mary McDaniel**Webmistress:** Margaret Ann Bromberger**A LETTER from the PRESIDENT****DEAR NEIGHBORS:**

We live in an ideal location. **West Lane Place is a beautiful little neighborhood surrounded by an enormous city.** We are close enough to enjoy every benefit offered by this richly diverse **megametropolis**, yet we live on quiet streets under big trees.

Being in the center of the fourth largest city in the U.S. affords us access to **unsurpassed medical care**, a local economy that is healthier than most, world class **shopping, restaurants, and theaters**, and our own **opera, symphony and ballet.** But our proximity to these attractions places us in the path of forces that threaten what we love most about our little Place. As Houston grows, space is squeezed, traffic increases, and we find that **our “ideal location” lies in the crosshairs of public transit, retail and residential development, and crime.** **If WLP is to survive the pressures imposed by these forces, our commitment must be united.**

Perhaps the greatest immediate threat to our tranquility is the parking lot located between WLP and the railroad tracks. If the dead end of W. Alabama ever opens to provide more access to this area, our entire neighborhood will be inundated by the resulting traffic. As your new WLPCA president, **it is my goal to work with board members and WLP residents to secure the strip of land at the dead end of West Alabama, and block access to the parking area behind WLP.** WLPCA has pursued this objective for years without success, but now we must succeed. Revitalized development on Westheimer and new improvements to “the Ditch” insure that parking needs will increase dramatically. When that happens, a push to open W. Alabama will be inevitable. We must be prepared for this certainty.

Another important goal for WLP is to irrigate our portion of the Richmond esplanade. If we can water them, we hope to continue the line of large, lovely trees that begins in Afton Oaks. **John Abraham, Chair of the Landscape Committee,** will work with the Board toward the goal of installing a sprinkler system there, and perhaps will add a few more trees to the planting initiated by **Margaret Ann Bromberger** some years ago.

Of course, we must continue to **make West Lane Place as safe as possible.** Thanks to the dedication of

Crime Watch volunteers, and the participation of many WLP residents, our crime rate has been lower than that of adjacent neighborhoods. But we can not rest. We must stay vigilant and we need more volunteers!

My tenure as your president follows that of **Ted Richardson, a super president,** if ever there was one. Ted has held just about every job at WLPCA, from fighting METRO to fighting crime. **We all owe Ted our thanks for his countless contributions to West Lane Place.** Ted leaves big shoes to fill, and these goals, above, are ambitious ones. **There is only one way we can possibly accomplish them: with your help! Please,**

- 1. Join WLPCA if you have not, and renew your membership if you are already a member.**
- 2. Sign up for Crime Alerts and read the emails.**
- 3. Meet your neighbors and invite them to join, too.**
- 4. Participate in WLPCA events! Become involved!**

We're off to a good start after a very successful **Neighbors' Night Out** on Oct. 2. Thanks to **Hospitality-Newcomers Committee Chairs, Cynthia Trigg and Debbie Villeneuve,** and the generosity of Debbie's fellow town home owners, more than 100 WLP residents enjoyed a lively picnic in Debbie's courtyard on Hackberry Lane. If you weren't there, you missed a good time, as you'll soon find out when you see the photos included in the enclosed *Special Supplement.*

Having lived at the same address on Mid Lane since 1973, and having had the privilege to serve on the WLPCA Board of Directors for four years, I already know many of you, but not all. I look forward to the opportunity to meet the rest of you soon!

Sincerely,

Mohammad Bayegan,
president@wlpca.org

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You may have seen signs recently or received emails about two WLP cats that returned home from their regular outings injured, perhaps by someone who attacked them with a shovel. There has been much discussion in WLP about these cats, information circulated, and signs posted offering rewards for the identity of their attacker.*

Most WLP dog owners understand that their pets are not allowed to roam the streets, and keep them on a leash when outside their own fenced yards. **Cat owners, on the other hand, often believe leash laws do not apply to them, and allow their cats to have free range of the neighborhood.** When one of these innocent kitties wanders onto a neighbor's property and kills a bird or digs in the garden, as cats will do, trouble begins.

According to the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) for the City of Houston, the leash laws for cats are almost the same as they are for dogs, only more restrictive. Chapter 6, Section 3 of City Code requires the owners of both cats and dogs to maintain direct physical control over their pets when outdoors, whether on public or private property. Dogs are allowed to run freely within their own fenced yards. But cats climb over fences. Therefore, **according to BARC, City Ordinance requires cat owners to keep their cats in a pet carrier or on a harness and leash at all times when they are outdoors, including when they are in their own yards. Each time a cat is allowed out without such restraints is a violation punishable by a fine of up to \$150.** The reality is, however, this law is difficult to enforce and most cat owners who violate it are not fined; sadly, it is their cats who pay the price.

If your neighbor's cat illegally wanders onto your property, are you allowed to hit it with a shovel? Absolutely Not! If you do, you risk criminal prosecution and you could be charged with a **felony**, depending on the circumstances of the crime. **Section 42.092 a(3) of the Texas Penal Code prohibits intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing a cat or any other animal to suffer unjustified pain.** This prohibition applies **even if the animal trespasses on your property.**

Are you required to watch helplessly as your neighbors' cats stalk and kill the cardinals you've been feeding? No, there are measures you can take that are perfectly legal. First, ask your neighbor to restrain the cat. If that isn't possible, **Chris Glaser, Animal Control Supervisor at BARC,** recommends that you put coffee grounds, citrus peels, and concealed chicken wire under your mulch to discourage cats from digging. He also recommends that you install a device called a "Scarecrow" that squirts water at intruding animals when they activate a motion sensor. If none of these measures work for you, you may catch the cat in a humane trap that does not injure it, then take it to BARC where, if not claimed by its owner, the cat will be put up for adoption or, more likely, humanely euthanized.

The plain truth is that most of us like cats, but wish they would stay home. We are horrified by the brutal injuries suffered by the two WLP cats, and we condemn cruelty directed against any animal. But, this does not mean we are happy to entertain our neighbors' cats when they come calling to hunt in our yards. We implore you,

Cat Owners: Please be responsible pet owners and keep your kitties safely at home, out of harm's way and out of your neighbors' yards!

Cat Abusers: Hurt no animals! If you do and you are discovered, you can be sure that you will face serious and costly criminal consequences as well as the disdain of many of your neighbors!

For more information about the laws governing these issues, you may call **Chris Glaser** or **Jarrad Mears** at **BARC, 713-229-7300**, and or visit **www.wlpca.org** "New Links" to connect to the Texas Penal Code and applicable City ordinances.

*Their owner tells us that one of the injured cats is mending, but the other is still in jeopardy. We wish them both well! ♠

Ted Richardson, President Extraordinaire

Last summer an era ended when Ted Richardson stepped down from his position as president of WLPCA. **Ted has been much more than president. He has held almost every post in WLPCA, simultaneously!**

A retired architect, Ted moved to WLP in 1995, married **Jean Kocurek Richardson**, and jumped into our community feet first, volunteering his time and skills to confront METRO, deliver newsletters, design and landscape the entrance monuments, water new plants, install Crime Watch signs, and personally patrol our streets. The complete list of his accomplishments stretches beyond the capacity of this newsletter.

Ted's design ethic and devotion to service can be traced to his very roots. **His grandfather, the highly regarded American Impressionist, Edward Willis Redfield, was a prolific painter, dedicated to his work.** Ted tells how his grandfather left home in the morning with a blank canvas, then returned in the evening with a finished painting. Ask Ted about his grandfather, and you are guaranteed a fascinating story. Ted and Jeanie are avid fern gardeners and raise beautiful yellow canaries, too, so they have many fascinating stories to tell!

Fortunately, Ted has agreed to stay on as our official **WLPCA Liaison to the City of Houston**, coordinating on our behalf with City officials on various public projects. We applaud him for the many years of service he already has given to WLP, and we are grateful he has agreed to continue.

Terrific job, Ted! Thank you!



Fun for All and All for Fun!

On Tuesday, October 2, **more than 100 residents** of West Lane Place enjoyed a night time picnic in the beautiful courtyard on Hackberry Lane where **Debbie Villeneuve** lives. Thanks to the adept organizing of Debbie and **Cynthia Trigg, Co-chairs of the WLPCA Hospitality-Newcomers Committee**, and the indulgence of Debbie's generous neighbors who share her courtyard, we had the perfect location and the perfect arrangement for a perfectly fun evening.

St. John's Fire, a gourmet food truck, pulled up to the curb and never stopped cooking while neighbors gathered from all over West Lane Place. Babies were pushed in strollers, and a dog arrived in its owners' arms, but just about everyone else walked, and didn't worry about parking! We saw some of our most senior and some of our youngest residents, and everyone in between.

While one-and-a-smidge-year-old **Roman Gallucci of West Lane Dr.** investigated each potential new friend, WLP grown ups and officers from the **Houston Police Department** investigated the aromas coming from the "Fire Truck". **Joel St. John, owner of St. John's Fire**, is a New Orleans chef, trained at **Commander's Palace**. Turns out, everybody liked everything he served! (At lunch time, you can often find St. John's Fire parked at Bo Concepts, corner of Mid Lane and Westheimer.)

A few bottles of wine, complements of WLPCA, guaranteed that no business would be conducted at this event, but there was plenty of visiting, and, it is rumored, even a little flirting. It was the very best sort of gathering. Thank you, Debbie and Cynthia for putting it all together! We thank HPD for joining us for NNO and for protecting us all year long. Thanks to Joel St. John for the splendid eats. And big, big thanks to **Kevin and Maria McEvoy, David and Carol Nueberger, and Meredith Moore** for hosting once again our Neighbors' Night out in your beautiful courtyard.



The courtyard at 1 Hackberry before we arrived

James H. Davis

March 26, 1935 – December 3, 2011



Last December, we lost a big pillar of our small community when **Jim Davis, of Lana Lane**, passed away. Jim was well known in West Lane Place, and served as **president of the West Lane Place Civic Association from 1993 through 1996**. As one of our first presidents, he was instrumental in forming the kind of civic association we would become, and he was determined that WLPCA

would be a success. **Jim headed WLPCA during the City of Houston's tumultuous zoning attempt in 1993**, when opinions in WLP became polarized and heated. At that time, his could not have been a pleasant position to occupy, but Jim handled it gracefully and kept us in one piece.

In addition to steering the future of West Lane Place, Jim was a geologist, the **founder and CEO of Mahada Energy Corporation, a Director of Energy Resource, Inc.**, and he served on the Board of the **Houston Museum of Natural Science**. Jim also enjoyed working with wood, a pursuit thought by many to be among the most noble.

We extend to **Betty**, Jim's wife for 51 years, their daughters, sons in law, and grandchildren, our sincere sympathies for losing him.

♥Recycling, Heavy Trash, and Tree & Limb Pick-up Schedule for WLP

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	*2*	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	J	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	*NNO*		

NOVEMBER


Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27		29	30	

DECEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	J	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22		24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

Weekly household trash pick up each Monday. 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.”

Talking Trash

Schedule change. As previously announced via the WLPCA Crime Alert email system, **our heavy trash pick up day will be changing in November.** Currently, we put tree limbs and heavy trash on the curb for pick up the second Friday of each month. But, starting in November, that day will change to the **fourth Wednesday of the month.** Tree limbs in odd months

and household waste in even months, just as before. You can **check the calendar, left, for the new schedule**, confirmed with the Department of Solid Waste for accuracy as of the date of publication of this newsletter.

Styrofoam Recycling. The City announced that it has acquired a **Polymax 1500** polystyrene foam compactor and densifier that will now enable us to **recycle Styrofoam** at the **Westpark Recycling Center.** The City purchased this equipment with a donation from **Total Petrochemicals & Refining USA, Inc. (TPRI), a Houston based company that is a major producer of polypropylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and polyethylene.** This is good news for all of us who lament the volume of to-go food containers, packing peanuts, and electronics packaging we send to the landfill. Now we can recycle them by **taking them to the Recycling Center on Westpark; but we can not put them in the curbside recycling bins.** ♣

Announcements

“Crime Alert” Alert! It seems that more than half of the email alerts WLPCA sends are deleted having never been opened. We’re not peeking at your computer through your window, we learned this fact from the data service through which we send the messages. **Please take a moment to open these alerts** before you recycle them. They contain important information, and email is the fastest method we have to reach you. **If you’d like to sign up for this service, please go to: www.wlpc.org/contact/subscribe/** You do not have to be a WLPCA member to get the alerts, *but we’d love for you to join!*

Acorns Keep Falling on Your Head? If you have been assaulted by an acorn recently, you might have looked up and noticed that the skies, sidewalks, streets, and gutters are filled with them. It is raining acorns! Oak trees are producing them at a rate that is five to ten times the normal amount. Tree experts aren’t certain why, but suspect the 2011 drought for this abundant production, and tell us to expect continued showers through the end of October, at least.

New Sidewalk in the Neighborhood! If you’ve been on Mid Ln. near Westheimer recently, you must have noticed the beautiful new sidewalk WLPCA just installed. This project was first requested by WLPCA Director and sidewalk advocate, **Jane Van Santen**, designed by **Ted Richardson**, former **Super Pres of WLPCA**, and was implemented by the **WLPCA Traffic Committee chaired by Philip Barnard.** Special thanks to **WLPCA Secretary, Pat Bohn**, for his special effort. Thank you, all, for your work and for the many hours spent to realize this big improvement for West Lane Place!

On Community: What we Learned From a Bird

Ten years ago, we adopted a rescued Moluccan Cockatoo that had been taken from the wild before importation to the U.S. was banned. Our hearts had recently broken when our poodle died, and we vowed to suffer that misery never again. But parrots are famously long lived, so we decided he was safe, and fell completely in love with a wild shell-pink bird. He was loud, opinionated, and his affection was not easily earned, but we did eventually, and he allowed us to be birds with him.

We were flattered when he sat on us to rearrange his glorious peach feathers and preen himself, then preen us, our hair, or our lapel. We studied his nutritional needs and all of us began to consume more fresh vegetables, particularly cauliflower, his favorite. We modified our chaotic schedules because his required regularity. Pretty soon, we were getting up when the cockatoo crowed, and going to sleep about the same time he roosted. We became an odd, but happy, flock.

Then, on a hot July day, our beautiful, once-wild bird died way ahead of schedule, and taught us how foolish we had been to think we could avoid heartbreak. He already had taught us that strength and happiness are found in a flock.

When you think about it, isn't a family a flock? Isn't a community a flock? And a neighborhood? It's a flock, too.

I'm sharing our story because to be a community, a flock, we must know each other. I've gone first, now it's your turn. Please, won't you tell us your story about Community?

Gilda Bayegan, 3012 Mid Lane

What does Community mean to you? We really want to know!
Please send your story to: newsletter@wlpca.org

Epilogue: We adopted another Moluccan cockatoo and are once again a strange and happy flock.