

West Lane Place Civic Association

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**Newsletter Editor:** Gilda Bayegan

**Website:** [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org)

**Webmistress:** Marj Elhardt

**A LETTER from the PRESIDENT**

Dear Neighbors,

**Please join your neighbors at National Night Out on October 4<sup>th</sup>.** More details are included on page 4.

**We just held our second meeting of the fiscal year.** I thought I would summarize our discussion and highlight individuals who have been working for the neighborhood recently. We approved the minutes of the past meeting prepared by **Sara Ng**. We approved payments for NNO and the D&O Insurance Policy. **Marion McDaniel**, Legal, had reviewed the policy. We again discussed changing the format for the Annual Meeting in May. Please let me know if you have any recommendations for that meeting. **Cynthia Trigg** presented historical financial data and discussed the recent review of the financial data for the fiscal year. Cynthia is the Treasurer and does all the accounting. For the review, three individuals, **Tim Smith**, **Ted Richardson**, and **Gary Whitney**, reviewed the invoices, payments, bank statements and financial statements finding no material exceptions.

The committee reports started with Cynthia Trigg updating the Board on NNO. Cynthia has arranged for the tables and chairs and will coordinate set up and clean up the night of the event. Mike Weingart has invited first responders to NNO and coordinated location details. City Council Member Greg Travis was also invited. Most Board members and Committee Chairs will be working at NNO. **Karisa Gallucci** reported on the planned membership drive in January. I reported for Ann Iverson on work needed for the fence at the Alabama dead-end and the bids received. A contractor was approved. **Brian Teichman** will coordinate that work. **Gilda Bayegan** reported she will be preparing a newsletter prior to NNO. It will be delivered by **Mary McDaniel**, **Phyllis Maddox** and the block captains. Marj Elhardt reported on issues with the website which have now been resolved. **Mohammad Bayegan** reported on the need for additional individuals to participate in the neighborhood patrols and methods for raising awareness of the issue. **Sue Shivers**, who delivers packages to new neighbors, led a discussion about membership in WLPKA for new neighbors and possible additions to the package that is delivered. Brian Teichman discussed issues with the pine trees on Richmond and the damage to our sign on Westheimer. Bids

to repair the damage was discussed and a contractor approved. Brian will coordinate the work on the sign. Marion McDaniel reviewed efforts to collect from the driver causing the damage. Marion also discussed the status of deed restrictions in West Lane Place. Ted Richardson discussed his meetings with the City of Houston, Metro and others relative to clean up of the drainage system into which storm water from the neighborhood drains. **We also discussed and approved posting summary details of our meetings on our website.** Marj Elhardt will update the website.

If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please contact Gilda Bayegan. If you would like to participate in neighborhood patrols, please contact Mohammad Bayegan. If you have any questions or suggestions for the neighborhood, please contact me. **Contact information for all Board members and Committee Chairs can be found inside the front and back cover of the WLPKA Membership Directory.**

I hope to see you October 4<sup>th</sup>.

James Brodnax  
President

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The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) of each  
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Maddox**, regarding any problems you experience receiving your newsletter.

# Big Changes Coming to Levy Park

by Marion McDaniel

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“Before.” Levy Park, major construction and renovations currently underway.

Unless you’ve been there, you probably don’t know it’s there. **Located on the south side of the 2900 block of Richmond, between Eastside and Wakeforest, Levy Park has been around since the 1950’s.** Currently, it is undergoing a **\$12 million transformation** funded by the **Upper Kirby Redevelopment Authority** in partnership with the **Upper Kirby District Foundation**, but until recently, this City of Houston park was the location of a softball field, a public swimming pool, and an upscale organic vegetable and flower garden created about fifteen years ago. I became familiar with Levy Park when I moved to West Lane Place, and a friend who was aware I had lost my backyard garden, introduced me to the community gardens there.

For more than ten years, I was one of several gardeners who leased plots from the Upper Kirby District to grow flowers and seasonal vegetables in the garden. I planted lettuce, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, peas and beans in a 10’ x 5’ raised bed I rented. With twenty-five or so fellow gardeners, I paid a semi-annual rental fee for my plot. In addition to the rental fee, we were responsible for maintaining our garden and the common areas within our garden. **Suzy Fischer**, a **Fischer Schalles** landscape designer, did an excellent job as our leader. Together, we planted milkweed and various species to attract and nourish Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, and put rose bushes in the common areas. We tended a vine-covered patio with picnic benches. The park flourished and was used as a backdrop for engagement photos, a wedding or two, and according to a somewhat confirmed rumor, one or more X-rated videos!

From its location on the northeast corner, a recently constructed fifteen-story building faces Levy Park’s future grassy lawn. The layout of the park’s new hardscape will include a children’s playground, a pavilion, and a new garden/orchard area. You can see the complete plan by visiting [www.levyparkhouston.org](http://www.levyparkhouston.org). Kiran’s fans will be glad to know that the restaurant is relocating to this building and is scheduled to reopen in November.

Once construction got underway for Levy Park’s transformation, I had the good fortune to continue my little farm at Meredith Gardens, another community organic garden located in Mandell Park, at the southeast corner of Mandell and Richmond. The creation of Mandell Park dates back ten years, the result of cooperation between the City of Houston and local residents who worked very hard to raise more than \$1,000,000. I urge you to visit [www.friendsofmandellpark.org](http://www.friendsofmandellpark.org) where you’ll find more information including photos of the individual raised beds, endangered prairie grasses, and flora that support bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

You may ask if these little gardens are worth the effort they require. Mine certainly was! My wife, Mary, and I counted 500 tomatoes that I harvested from our 16’ x 4’ bed this spring, including Champions, Celebrities, Cherokee Purples, cherry, and various other heirloom and hybrid varieties. We also harvested carrots, 1,015 onions, kale, baby bok choy, lettuces, and black-eyed peas.

If you’d like to join a community garden or assist in creating one, consider joining **Urban Harvest**, [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org). This non-profit organization has three primary programs: **community gardens, education, and farmers’ markets**. The nearby farmer’s market on Eastside, just north of Richmond, is scheduled to move to Levy Park once it is completed, where it will continue to supply fresh, local produce to our entire community.



“After.” Rendering of completed plan. Levy Park, 3801 Eastside, is scheduled to open in December, 2016. For more information, visit [www.LevyParkHouston.org](http://www.LevyParkHouston.org).

*Note from the Editor: One afternoon, I was waiting for a red light at Mandell and Richmond when I noticed an unusual number of Monarch butterflies gathering on the corner beside me. As I looked closely, I saw the butterflies were landing on milkweed growing there, milkweed that I now realize was planted by Marion and his community of gardeners. Bravo, Marion! for supporting their migration, and for taking steps to insure that there always will be Monarch butterflies in the skies over Houston! ... G. B.*

## Rumors of Another Park Near Us

by Gilda Bayegan

You may have heard talk that a green space is coming to an intersection near you soon. The rumors have been confirmed by **William Peeples, Vice President of Stonelake Capital Partners**, the company developing the property just north of Westheimer on the northeast quadrant of Westheimer and Mid Lane. According to Mr. Peeples, Stonelake has postponed plans to develop that portion of the property until the market improves. The next phase, when developed, will likely be a mix of retail and a small amount of office space near the train tracks. In the meantime, Stonelake is turning the land into a green space for public use, at its rather significant expense for hardscape and plantings. Mr. Peeples tells us not to expect that it will remain a park forever, but he invites us to enjoy it when it opens in January, 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Street People of West Lane Place

by Gilda Bayegan

There's a not-so-secret society of street people in West Lane Place: those among us, like the little fellow in the photograph below, who spend many hours out walking the streets of our neighborhood with their best friends and companions.



This is **Charlie**, a toothless eleven-year-old Toy Rat Terrier who lives on **Bash Place**. Charlie loves peanut butter, watermelon, chasing squirrels, and taking his people on daily walks around West Lane Place.

**Have you met Charlie? Can you identify Charlie's family?**

**Note:** Don't worry, Charlie is not lost. This is just a fun quiz!

## New Neighbors, New Members!

by Gilda Bayegan

We are delighted to introduce our newest WLPCA members, some of whom are also new to the neighborhood:

**Aron and Jenell Givelber**, moved into their home on **Lana Lane** just a few weeks ago, on June 27. Aron is originally from New York, and Jenell is originally from New Jersey (*they may be in shock after having experienced one of our summers!*) Aron is a Project Manager for Transocean, and Jenell is an Executive Consultant with Rodan + Fields. They have two cats and two children: **Gabriella**, 4 years old and **Dominic**, 9 months old.

**Dan and Maureen Dimitrijevič** moved to **Mid Lane** on June 21st 2016 after over twenty years in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They relocated to Houston because their daughter and son-in-law live here, in the Heights.

The **Savarino Family** of **Lana Lane** returned to Houston after a three-year rotation to Singapore. They are a family of five plus a big, brown dog. They look forward to meeting their neighbors during morning jogs, weekend bike rides and daily dog walks.

**Bill Pollock** and **Kimberly Montonati** moved to **Mid Lane** in December, 2015 from Austin with their three dogs, Dory, Gray and Leo. They tell us they enjoy golf and traveling.

**Pam and Mike Bryk** moved to West Lane Place in November, 2015 from Dallas. Pam is a yoga instructor, and she enjoys sewing and embroidering for her grandchildren. Mike enjoys cooking and photography. They tell us they added a fifth grandchild just a few weeks ago. (*Congratulations! That's a lot of sewing, Pam!*)

**Margaret Symonds** and **Michael Larkin** moved to **West Lane** in September, 2015. They have three children; one who recently graduated from UT, and twin sophomores, one at Baylor and the other at UT. They also have two cats that Margaret tells us are "more like dogs."

**Tracy Glesby** moved to West Lane Place in February, 2015. She is originally from Houston and went to Episcopal High School, but lived in Dallas for eight years and attended SMU. Now she is a realtor and recently started her own brokerage, Glesby Fine Properties.

**Mike and Claudia Bratke** moved to **Hackberry Lane** from Canada in the spring of 2010. They must have gotten used to us and our occasionally shocking weather by now because they tell us, "*We love living in West Lane [Place] and we enjoy walking through the neighborhood during the weekdays and riding our bicycles to Buffalo Bayou on the weekend.*"

*Special thanks to WLPCA Director and Membership Chair, Karisa Gallucci for gathering this information. ... G. B.*

**OCTOBER**

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

**NOVEMBER**

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

**DECEMBER**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	<b>5</b>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	<b>19</b>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	J	29	30	31

**JANUARY**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	<b>2</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	<b>16</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24		26	27	28
29	<b>30</b>	31				

 = Tree waste; **J** = Junk & tree 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.” \*

\* Junk and tree waste may be left on the curb a day or two prior to collection day.

**\*\*\*\* Neighbors Night Out \*\*\*\***

**Where:** Courtyard at 2603 West Lane Drive

**When:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 4

**What:** St. John’s Fire Food Truck (Bring cash!)

some Tables and Chairs

(if you want a guaranteed seat, better bring a chair!)

Wine & Bottled Water complements of WLP

**Who We Expect** (unless duty calls them elsewhere):

Councilman **Greg Travis**

Harris County Sheriff **Ron Hickman**

Acting HPD Chief **Martha Montavo**

Executive Assistant HPD Chief **George Buenik**

HPD Captain of Central Patrol **Bryan Bennett**

Harris County Precinct 1 Constable **Alan Rosen**

**R.s.v.p. Hospitality@wlpca.org** with the number of people from your household you expect to attend.

*See you there!*

**Announcements**

**Alzheimers’ Walk.** Cynthia Trigg, Bash Place, seeks volunteers to join the **WLP Alzheimer’s Walk Team**, a wonderful way to meet your neighbors and support the Alzheimer’s Association’s walk to End Alzheimer’s. 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 5 at U of H. **Contact Cynthia at 281-630-5583 or chill199@aol.com.** All ages are welcome!

**Ovillanta, anyone?** If you have made an ovillanta mosquito trap like the ones that we wrote about in the July WLP News, please let us know. We’re eager to hear about it. Please contact **Gilda Bayegan** c/o **newspaper@wlpca.org**

**General Election Day is November 8!** Last day to register to vote in the November election is Tuesday, October 11. **Early voting** is from October 24 - November 4. For detailed information about registration, ID requirements, and early voting, visit **www.VoteTexas.gov** and **www.HarrisVotes.com.**