

WLP Civic Association Board Members

President: Fisher Trigg
Secretary: Elaine Khalil
Past President: Gilda Bayegan
Website: www.wlpca.org
Directors: Marj Elhardt, Mike Ginzel, Phyllis Maddox,

Vice President: Pat Holmes
Treasurer: Michael Paneral
Newsletter: Anna Dean
Webmaster: Marj Elhardt
and Barbara Staley

DEAR NEIGHBORS:

This month begins the term of **new WLPCA president, Fisher Trigg**, so I write to you as a lame duck or former president depending on when you read this newsletter. Either way, this is my last letter to you, and I can't pass up the opportunity to brag about the **WLPCA board, committees, and volunteers**.

Some of you already are aware and appreciate the many hours your neighbors spend to improve West Lane Place, to keep it safe, to beautify it, to speak up to local lawmakers and bureaucrats on our behalf, and to promote friendly relationships between all of you. If you haven't thought about it, let's start with this newsletter. For more years than we've counted, Director, **Phyllis Maddox**, has organized a team that delivers newsletters despite heat, mosquitoes, locked gates, and every other obstacle. If you see the carriers making the rounds, please take a minute to thank them. Without their commitment, we couldn't keep in touch this way. **Thank you, Newsletter Team!**

Next, please think about the **WLPCA Membership Directory** that they occasionally include in their deliveries. Though it's small and handy, it represents months of coordinated work between our **Membership Chair, Mike Ginzel**, and our **Treasurer, Michael Paneral**. Thanks to the **monumental and exhaustive overhaul** accomplished last year by former **Membership Chair, Darryl Shields**, our directory now contains more information and is organized so it's more useful than ever. We can attribute these improvements to the shutdown that kept Darryl, who must be busy, off the golf course for a year. **Thank you, guys!**

In addition to the effort required to produce these two publications, the yearly **Neighbors Night Out** and our **Annual Meeting** require the participation of every member of the WLPCA board. Our last two events were chaired by Directors **Mary McDaniel** and **Phyllis Maddox**, assisted by the board and wonderful volunteers.

Some WLPCA volunteers work around the calendar year. Director, **Marj Elhardt**, manages and recently revamped our website, www.wlpca.org. Newcomers Chair, **Susan Simpson**, greets new neighbors, alerted to new additions to WLP by former WLPCA presidents and real estate brokers, **James Brodnax** and **Diane Kiecke**.

Recycling Chair, **Anna Dean**, informs us of the City pick-up schedule and helpful recycling tips. **Mike Weingart** is our HPD Liaison. Security Chair, **Mohammad Bayegan**, sends our email alerts and organized **Crime Watch** patrols in the past, a program he hopes to revive with more volunteers. Secretary, **Elaine Khalil**, and Director, **Barbara Staley**, attend every board meeting and are quick to volunteer for every job that needs to be filled.

New president, **Fisher Trigg** and new vice president, **Pat Holmes** agreed to take on the two biggest jobs in the WLPCA. Both are dedicated to our neighborhood. I'm certain they'll be excellent in their new positions and that we'll do everything we can to support them.

I've been honored to serve as your president the last two years. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to know more of you, and to know more of you better, and hope to see you at future WLPCA events as members and as volunteers.

All the best,
Gilda Bayegan
(Past)President-WLPCA

P.S. Don't miss our **Midsummer Night Movie** on August 4, a **free showing** of *Elvis* at the Greenway Edwards Theater, hosted by WLPCA. **Details, page 4.**

See you at the movies!

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This newsletter is published and delivered to you
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Please contact Phyllis Maddox concerning any problems you may experience receiving your newsletter.

by Gilda Bayegan

We held our first Annual Meeting in two years on May 3 in the beautiful offices of **Compass Real Estate** thanks to WLPCA Past President, **Diane Kiecke**, who works out of that magnificent space on the 10th floor. It was a fun and informative meeting, and we were pleased to see so many of our neighbors that we missed while we were in bio-seclusion. Our new **District G Houston City Councilwoman, Mary Nan Huffman**, spoke to us about her plans to improve security in West Lane Place by **designating the intersection of Mid Lane and Westheimer for an HPD camera that reads license plates** and alerts nearby HPD officers of plates that have been tagged as problematic. *(More on this topic later.)* She also took numerous questions from neighbors and gave thoughtful answers, explaining City policies, procedures, and future plans.

In addition to getting to know our new councilwoman, WLPCA members **elected the 2022-2023 WLPCA Board of Directors**. Fortunately, the directors that comprised the 2021-2022 board all agreed to serve another term, shuffling their positions around a bit with the biggest change at the top. **Fisher Trigg begins service as WLPCA President this month, and Pat Holmes takes over Fisher’s position as Vice President**. Our board is stellar, a cohesive and dedicated group that cheerfully devotes many hours to improving life in West Lane Place. Bravo to each one!

We accomplished a lot at our meeting and we also had a lot of fun. Our neighbor on West Lane Drive, **Patrick Henry**, who owns the beverage marketing company, **PHCP**, provided a delicious fizzy spirited lemonade to enhance our spirits. Directors **Mary McDaniel** and **Phyllis Maddox** served Original and Turkey PoBoys from Anton’s, both delicious.

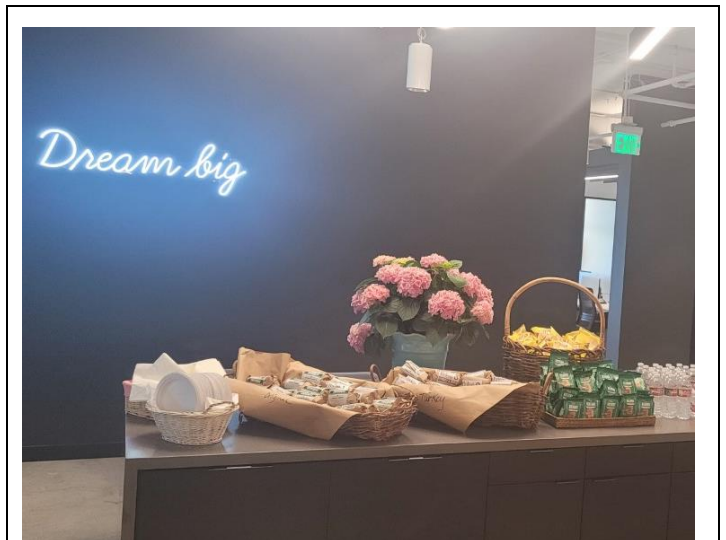
We thank everyone who made this meeting a success, including **Councilwoman Mary Nan Huffman, Compass Real Estate, Diane Kiecke, Patrick Henry** and **PHCP, Mary McDaniel, Phyllis Maddox, Chris and Marj Elhardt, Mohammad Bayegan, Michael Paneral, and Mike Ginzel**, who greeted us and cleaned up after us, and every WLP neighbor who joined us!



City Councilwoman for District G, Mary Nan Huffman addressing the WLPCA Annual Meeting May 3



Annual Meeting in Compass 10th floor offices



Sandwiches and other goodies served by directors Phyllis Maddox and Mary McDaniel in the beautiful dining room of Compass Real Estate



Spirited Lemonade courtesy of Patrick Henry, PHCP



Compass Real Estate Kitchen and Dining Room

... As promised on page 2, we'd like to tell you more about the license plate reader camera we're in line to have installed at the intersection of Westheimer and Mid Lane. As part of the "One Safe Houston" crime reduction plan approved by Houston City Council in February, **Councilwoman Huffman has put our neighborhood on the list of locations in District G to receive one of the City's license plate capturing cameras.** These cameras are capable of reading metal license plates and paper plates, and quickly alert nearby HPD officers when a camera picks up a plate that has been identified as stolen or involved in criminal activity.

Councilwoman Huffman is working to make additional cameras available to our neighborhood that we can purchase for reduced cost so that we might be able to install one at the intersection of Mid Lane and West Alabama, and another at the intersection of Mid Lane and Richmond Ave. With cameras placed in these three intersections, no vehicle can enter or exit West Lane Place undetected.

We will keep you posted with progress on this important development.

Trees: Neighborhood Treasure

by Gilda Bayegan

Forming leafy arches over our heads, shading us from blistering summer sun, reducing our utility bills, making our homes more beautiful and increasing the value of our property, **the giant trees that line the streets of West Lane Place are our oldest and most permanent neighbors.** Most of us hold our trees in high regard and those of us fortunate to have one on our property value it, feed it, water it, and give it the care and respect required to keep it in good health. Occasionally, a tree, or a portion of a tree, will fall within the property lines of someone who does not recognize its worth and neglects it, or worse, destroys it. Many communities recognize the public value of large, old trees and prohibit their destruction. Here, the **City of Houston protects trees along the right of way of a public street and trees with a diameter of 20" or more located within the building setback along a local street or major thoroughfare.**

We asked members of the WLPCA board to investigate tree questions posed by residents of West Lane Place.

What species of trees are best for our area?

Gulf Coast cities such as Mobile, New Orleans, and Houston are famous for massive **Live Oaks** covered in Spanish Moss or Resurrection Fern. They are romantic, mysterious, and iconic, but Live Oaks are slow growing, and their roots cover a huge circumference near the top

of the soil, sometimes lifting concrete driveways and sidewalks. WLPCA Director **Barbara Staley** searched for trees recommended for Houston and provides this **list of favorites.** **1. Nuttall Oak** (large shade tree that does well in soggy clay soil) **2. Drake or Chinese Elm** (distinctive bark, tolerates bad conditions and provides light shade) **3. Mandarin Orange** (tolerates Houston's normal weather extremes) **4. Redbud** (drought tolerant and provides beautiful pink flowers in Spring and yellow leaves in Fall) **5. Southern Magnolia** (provides dense evergreen screen and huge fragrant blossoms)

Barbara says the WORST trees to plant are

- 1. Japanese Blueberry** (prone to insects and sooty mold)
- 2. Mimosa** (invasive exotic species)
- 3. Hackberry** (prone to disease and insect infestation)
- 4. Ash** (Tall, brittle, threat in storms, attracts pests)
- 5. Bradford Pear** (invasive, and blossoms have foul odor)
- 6. Mulberry** (attracts insect pests, aggressive roots break driveways, male trees produce allergenic pollen)

What about trees that overhang property lines?

According to the **Tree Care Kit** published by **Texas A&M, you have the right to trim a tree** that hangs over your property, but **if you harm the tree, you could be liable for damages** equal to three times its value. If a neighbor's tree falls on your property due to natural causes, like a storm, cleanup is your responsibility. If you own trees in an urban area, **you have the duty to inspect and remove any tree that threatens public safety.** If your tree harms a person or property (like the one that crippled Gov. Abbott,) and you should have known it was dangerous, you can be liable for the damage it caused.

In defense of Live Oak Trees

Live Oaks shed something messy all the time, and their roots get in the way, but we love them. Director **Marj Elhardt** offers these benefits of oak trees that more than compensate for the problems they create. According to a professor of entomology in Delaware, **oak is the best tree we can plant in North America to enhance the environment.** Oak trees support more than 950 species of insect that are critical to feed birds, and their acorns are the food source relied on by many wild mammals to survive. He says that **oaks capture more carbon than other trees and hold more rainwater on our properties than other plants.**

In the last fifty years, North America has lost one third of its birds. That's three billion birds. Earth in general has suffered drastic insect declines. One way we can help to prevent further devastation is to **plant native species in our gardens, like oaks, and avoid exotic imports** that can become an invasive and dangerous nuisance.

Oaks are one of the most important native species in North America. Please think before you cut one down.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY

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| 24 | 25 | 26 |  | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

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| 21 | 22 | 23 | J | 25 | 26 | 27 |
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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 |  | 29 | 30 | |

OCTOBER

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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | J | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

 = 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.”

ISO Crime Watch Volunteers. Our Crime Watch program is still severely shorthanded. This program is designed to **reduce crime through awareness.** It is not a program in which volunteers confront any suspicious person.

If you are interested in participating, **contact Security Chair, Mohammad Bayegan, mohawk@msn.com,** for information.

7:00 Thursday, August 4 – Midsummer Night Movie!

The WLPKA invites members (*and West Lane Place residents who would like to become members*) to a **free showing** of the film, “Elvis” at the **Greenway Regal Edwards Cinema, 3839 Wesleyan.**

Onsite Parking \$5; “Cash Bar” Concessions at the theater

Limited seating; r.s.v.p. gildabb@msn.com

You can join WLPKA and pay your 2022 dues at the theater.

National Neighbors’ Night Out.

Tuesday, October 4 is the night we will meet with our neighbors and first responders, once again **graciously hosted by the residents of Berkeley Place, 2603 West Lane Drive.** Since everyone who attended the event last year loved the fried chicken, ice cream, and margaritas, we are planning to provide them again this year. We hope you’ll join us!

Flags on July 4. We thank **Phyllis Maddox** and the patriotic team who reminded us how fortunate we are to live in a free country by placing **U.S. flags** along our streets on **July 4.** (*It seems some people couldn’t resist taking a few home, not realizing they might be filmed by their neighbor’s camera.*)

Pat Fant honored by AllAccess.com.

In June, the radio and music community recognized former WLPKA Director, **Pat Fant,** Hackberry Lane, as an industry leader, naming him a “**Power Player.**” We may think of Pat as his politically astute and comedic character, **Uncle Otis,** but there is far more to his long and interesting career. You can read all about it here:

www.allaccess.com/power-player/archive/34917/pat-fant Congratulations, Pat!

Big Leak on Mid Lane

Most of us suffered angst this month when torrents of water flooded both sides of Mid Lane for two weeks while we received **shocking water bills** and rationed our own water in the middle of a drought and heatwave. After numerous calls to the Water Department and unresolved opened cases, **we called our District G councilwoman, Mary Nan Huffman,** who had workers out the next day fixing what turned out to be a broken main. **Aelicia Bayliss,** Mid Lane, suffered more than all of us since her house was without water for over a week because of it! But, she’s a good sport, telling us she appreciates the contractors sent by the City, who were hardworking and very polite.