

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 WLP Neighbors,

Let's Celebrate who we are!

We encourage all of you to join us for **National Night Out-Texas style, Tuesday, October 5th at 6:00 PM, at the Blvd 610**, located at **3005 West Loop South** next to Bombay Brasserie. (Please see more about this on page 2.)

This year, in recognition of the *Texas-style* heat and mosquitoes, your Board and Security Committee – chaired by **Mohammad Bayegan** – have arranged with **Blvd 610** for us to gather in their cool, air-conditioned rooms for an evening of socializing, good cheer, and the opportunity to meet our friends from HPD and City Hall.

Captain Bruce Williams of the **Houston Police Department Central Division** will be our featured **guest speaker**. HPD has always been there for us, supporting our WLP crime prevention programs. This is our opportunity to support HPD and show our appreciation for those who lay their lives on the line each day to protect us. It also is a great opportunity to meet any neighbors you haven't met yet, as well as learn directly from the guys who know best how to keep WLP safe and secure!

We invited **District G City Council Member Oliver Pennington** and his staff, and hope they will attend. So this evening really should be something special!

Our WLPCA neighborhood communications programs are working well. Thanks to the diligent efforts of many WLPCA members, we have a terrific network in the form of the **Crime Alert System**, the **2010 Membership Directory**, the **West Lane Place News**, and the **West Lane Place Website**. We thank each volunteer and board member for his or her unselfish service to West Lane Place, making our communications systems possible.

Kudos and applause for **Ann Iverson** for the West Lane Place **Crime Alert System**; for **Jane Root**, **Marj and Chris Elhardt**, **Margaret Ann Bromberger**, **Paula Djabbarah**, and **Jane Van Santen** for the **2010 Membership Directory**; for **Gilda Bayegan**,

Mary McDaniel, **Karen Smith**, and all **seventeen volunteer distributors**, or "**News-Letter Carriers**" for the **West Lane Place News**; and last, but by no means least, for **Margaret Ann Bromberger** for the **WLPCA Website**. Not many neighborhoods enjoy the kind of neighbor-to-neighbor connection we have in WLP, and the reason we do is the coordinated effort of the many generous and talented individuals living here. **There is not enough space to thank all of you by name, but you know who you are! We thank each of you for making West Lane Place a better place!**

What is happening with "**the Ditch?**" It is a pleasure to report that our friend, **Director Mike Talbott** of the **Harris County Flood Control District**, confirms that Commissioners Court has approved the next phase of improvements to start later this year for the nasty ditch next to the railroad tracks. When completed, **the new underground culvert will be huge** (12 ft. high by 27 ft. wide) and should be a **huge benefit for our storm drainage**. It also will be **better looking** and **reduce the number of pests** that are attracted to the uncovered drainage stew that now cooks just east of us. Wow, that *will* be an improvement!

See you on October 5th!

Ted Richardson
President, WLPCA

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OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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3	4	*5*	6	7		9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	*National Night Out*					

NOVEMBER

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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30	31					

 = 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.”

National Night Out

6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 5

**Blvd 610 Bar and Lounge
3005 West Loop**

**Speaker: HPD Captain Bruce Williams,
of the Central Division**

Due to popular demand, this meeting will be held **indoors**, away from heat and mosquitoes!

Cash Bar, \$5 wine and beer
Complementary **Hors d’oeuvres and Soft Drinks**

Directions:

Loop 610 Feeder, next to Bombay Brasserie.
The best route is through Afton Oaks, entering the parking lot through the arch at Vossdale and Devon

On-site Parking available

FYI: Central Division includes Districts 1 and 2. WLP is in **District 1** which is divided into five Beats. We are **Beat 1A50**.

Join us, please!

**“National Stars and Stripes” Award
to Jean and Ted Richardson**

Olga McLaren of Lana Lane, member of the **Lady Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution**, presented a **National Stars and Stripes Award** to WLP/PCA President **Ted and Jean Richardson**, also of Lana Lane, in recognition of their commitment to fly the United States flag every day.

This award is given to those who consistently display, and correctly follow the rules for handling and displaying, a U.S. flag. **Jean and Ted fly their flag day and night, and they illuminate it after sunset, as required by proper flag etiquette.**

The rules for flying the U.S. flag are very specific. For example, the flag must never touch the ground, and when it is too worn to be displayed, it must be destroyed respectfully, preferably by burning it.

If you know someone who deserves a Stars and Stripes award, please notify **Olga** or her husband, **Theron McLaren**, who heads the Flag Committee for the **Sons of the American Revolution, Robert Rankin Chapter**, and they will happily consider the nomination.

To revisit the U.S. Flag Code, please go to:
www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagcode.html

CenterPoint Imposters

If you signed up for the WLP/PCA crime alert system, you have received several emails recently warning you about suspicious individuals who gain access to homes by impersonating CenterPoint employees. To counter this threat, Carlos White, CenterPoint Corporate Security, offers this information:

We at **CenterPoint Energy (CNP)** take safety and security concerns of our customers and employees very seriously and greatly appreciate your efforts to support this issue. **The CNP dress code** requires all field contractors and employees wear **an approved uniform while conducting CenterPoint Energy business**. Approved CNP uniforms are: **Light blue or tan (khaki) long or short sleeve cotton shirts, with CenterPoint Logo along with blue jean or khaki pants. Khaki or gray shorts** may be worn, but must be no shorter than one inch above the knees. **Caps must display company approved logo. Jackets must be recognizable with the Company logo patch in plain view.**

CNP meter readers wear light blue shirts (t-shirts or button down) with the CNP logo and "Meter Reader" printed across the back and gray pants or shorts also displaying "Meter Reader." If they wear a **hat**, it is CNP issued with **"CenterPoint Energy"** or **"Meter Reader" printed on the front**. Some contract meter readers may wear **yellow shirts printed with "Meter Reader Contractor for CenterPoint Energy."**

The meter readers typically have to read both gas and electric meters. Even though electric smart meters have been deployed in some areas, they may still be manually read until the Automated System is fully operational.

If there's any question concerning the validity of CNP field personnel in your neighborhood, our employees should always be able to provide a CNP identification badge upon request. If there is still a doubt or any other issue, even after seeing an ID badge, **customers can call CNP or local law enforcement.** If you have any questions or concerns you may call **customer service @ 713-207-2222** or myself.

**Carlos White, CNP Corporate Security
Office - 713-207-7584; Fax - 713-207-9275
Cell - 713-703-9189
carlos.white@CenterPointEnergy.com**

(We abridged Mr. White's message to fit within our limited space, and added emphasis to those points of particular importance to WLP)

*As an extra precaution, WLP/PCA Security Chairman, Mohammad Bayegan, asks you to insist that **all meter readers ring your bell rather than climb over your fence**, as they often like to do.*

Jean Marshall vs. the Bicycle Gang

Too many homes in WLP have been victimized by burglars in the last few months, and, unfortunately, the police tell us we probably are being watched by the criminals. On the other end of Mid Lane, between Westheimer and San Felipe, WLP resident-by-association, **Jean Marshall,*** confronted a pair of bicyclists suspected of being the "eyes" of the burglars, if not burglars themselves.

At the same time we were experiencing a rash of break-ins this summer, an unidentified man and woman were seen frequently riding bicycles around West Lane Place. No one recognized them as WLP residents or guests, and no one knew why they were in our neighborhood with such regularity. WLP residents informed HPD about these two, and HPD suggested that we gather as much information about them as we could.

Jean Marshall keeps up with WLP activities, and she knew we were curious about these two people. So, when she saw them on their bikes at her end of Mid Lane, she walked right up and began asking them questions. **Jean told them they were being watched, that someone had taken their photographs, and had posted their pictures on the internet.** The man gave Jean what seemed to be a carefully scripted explanation of why they were in the neighborhood. They then rode away, and have not been seen since. Coincidentally, the smash and grab style of break-ins we were experiencing at that time seem to have stopped as well.

Unfortunately, other types of crimes continue to occur in our vicinity, probably committed by more than one group of thieves. HPD is investigating, but has not apprehended any suspects of which we are aware. **Perhaps they should put Jean on the case!**

* Jean knows so many of us on this end of Mid Lane, she is almost a WLP resident herself. We thank her for being courageous, but we urge her not to endanger herself by confronting any more suspected criminals! ♥

Don't forget these security tips! Answer your doorbell during the day, but do not open the door unless you are **certain** you know who is there.

If you call for utility service, make sure the person who responds is a real CenterPoint employee before you let him/her in the house.

Do not leave your garage door open, and turn on your alarm system even if you will be away for only a few minutes.

Always be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activities to HPD and the crime alert system. ♣

How Do Newsletters Get Here?

You may have noticed the very small announcement that appears on the first page of each *WLP News* informing you that it is published and delivered by the West Lane Place Civic Association. Simple enough, but have you ever wondered exactly how it gets to your door? It might surprise you to know how many of your neighbors work together to make this newsletter possible.

Not long after the West Lane Place Civic Association was formed, WLP residents began receiving newsletters. The first newsletters were produced by past WLP president, the late **Ben Greenwood**, then **Les Prigmore**, past WLP president, **Susan Spalding**, followed by **Margaret Ann Bromberger** and past WLP president, **Paula Djabbarah**, who wrote and distributed the newsletters. Since July, 2008, newsletter production has been split between **Gilda Bayegan**, who edits the newsletters, and **Mary McDaniel** who oversees distribution. A+E on Richmond Avenue, prints the letters, which are distributed every three months or so by a troupe of dedicated **News-Letter Carriers**:

The **News-Letter Carriers** who delivered this newsletter are:

Sue Anderson	Mary Ann Carroll
Martha Grimes	Elise Smith
Michael and Wendy Ray	Joyce Lehrfeld
Marj and Chris Elhardt	Paula Djabbarah
Gerald and Myra Marsh	Virginia Nash
Cliff and Ann Iverson	Ann Schultz
Merle Granek	Phyllis Maddox
Dick Anderson	Betty Moore

WLP News Circulation Chair, **Mary McDaniel**

We thank these fine neighbors, as well as the WLP News-Letter Carriers who delivered the newsletters in years past, despite rain, sleet, heat, mosquitoes, and hurricanes.

Thank you, all, for your service to West Lane Place! ♥

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our apologies to **Phyllis and Ansel Maddox**, who we misnamed "Mattox" in our last newsletter. Even though we can't spell, we do appreciate the many ways you make West Lane Place a better place, and we particularly appreciate your help with our Annual Meeting this year. Thanks again! ♥

- Thanks, too, to **Joan Bohn** and **Franelle Rogers** for their help in the Lanson Ditto tribute. ♥

See you all at National Night Out!

Farewell to Lanson Ditto



Lance Ditto on his 87th Birthday
Photo Courtesy of Franelle Rogers

Even as we thank our WLP News-Letter Carriers, we bid sad farewell to former **Block Captain Chair** and **News-Letter Carrier**, **Lanson Ditto**, who recently passed away.

Mr. Ditto, founder of **Norton Ditto Fine Men's Apparel** located for many years in Highland Village, lived on West Lane. He was well known and well loved in West Lane Place, described by all as a "gentleman."

"A true gentleman in every sense of the word."

-**Leonard Wilson**

"He was the kind of man you knew would tip his hat if he were wearing one."

-**WLPCA Past President, Paula Djabbarah**

"[He] was admired by all who had the pleasure of knowing him." -**Evelyn and Steve Quick**

"As chair of the Block Captains, he took his work very seriously and could be counted on to be sure the latest newsletter or announcement was distributed."-**WLPCA Past President, Marj Elhardt**

"He was a kind person and always had a smile."

-**Ann and Richard Shultz**

"He had a kind word for all he met, human and animal alike!" -**Barbara and Mike Staley**

Vicki Brooks remembers that he would capture squirrels that pilfered in his back yard and release them on the golf course at the River Oaks Country Club. When he injured his foot and couldn't play golf for eight weeks, he told **Sharon Katz**, "My golf buddies must be going broke by now without me to play with!" (*Could squirrels on the golf course have helped his game in some way?*)

Carlie Bishop decided to move to WLP on the strength of meeting Lanson Ditto. She told herself "if even three of the neighbors are as wonderful as Mr. Ditto, I have found a great place to live."

He was "the best next door neighbor anyone could wish for." -**Mallard Walton**

We are all fortunate to have lived near such a fine gentleman, whose good influence will continue to inspire kindness and conviviality among his neighbors.