

WLP Civic Association Board Members

**President:** Ted Richardson  
**Secretary:** Lynne James  
**Past President:** Paula Djabbarah  
**Website:** [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org)  
**Directors:** John Abraham, Mohammad Bayegan, Ann Iverson, Betty Moore, Cynthia Trigg and Jane Van Santen

**Vice President:** Marion McDaniel  
**Treasurer:** Jane Root  
**Newsletter:** Gilda Bayegan & Mary McDaniel  
**Webmistress:** Margaret Ann Bromberger

**DEAR NEIGHBORS:**

As we start the year with our new board, I would like to welcome our new directors, **Ann Iverson** and **Cynthia Trigg**, and thank departing board members **Clif Iverson** and **Marj Elhardt** for their service. **Marj** leaves us after many years as **Membership Committee Chair, Board Director, and President**. We look forward to the new year, and with your help, we will continue our mission to improve the quality of life here in our very special place.

I am delighted to report that last year **membership in the WLPCA grew to over 340 voting members**, representing more than two-thirds of the households in West Lane Place. In addition to the extra dues, some of you made generous **donations totaling \$1700**. We appreciate your support and will strive to use your funds wisely as we do our best to serve our little community.

We are proud of the goals we've accomplished over the past year. Besides increasing membership, **we're making progress on "the Ditch,"** and we have **upgraded the Crime Alert System** and our **website**. Perhaps best of all, **crime seems to be decreasing**. Although WLP is not yet completely crime-free, we have made progress, thanks to our volunteers who tirelessly patrol the neighborhood, both on **Crime Watch** shifts, and unofficially as observant joggers, dog walkers, and attentive, vigilant neighbors. And, **we are becoming a more cohesive neighborhood**. There was **excellent attendance** at both our **Neighbors' Night Out** last fall and our **Annual Meeting** last May. It's wonderful to see so many of you becoming involved. **You won't want to miss our next Neighbor's Night Out, coming up on October 4, which will be something completely different. Stay tuned for details as they develop.**

Inside this issue, you'll see a few **old photos of West Lane Place** and **Highland Village** although you may not recognize them. The houses were on big barren lawns that still looked like a rice field prairie, and WLP wasn't even part of Houston yet. **Back then, there were only 172 lots in all of West Lane Place. Now, we have expanded, through subdivision, to over 360 lots.**

**Another big difference between then and now is our beautiful trees.** Although we've lost some of them recently to development, we still enjoy a canopy of leaves

over our heads. **Looking at those bare yards in the old photos inspires gratitude to the original "pioneers" who "settled" in (way out!) West Lane Place, and their dedication to planting the trees we love today.** (If you have one of these living monuments on your property, please give it enough water to sustain it through this terrible drought!) Thanks to the foresight of **Margaret Ann Bromberger**, who arranged with **Trees for Houston** to plant new trees in the **Richmond Avenue esplanade** a few years ago, and the neighbors who cared enough to water them during our hot summers, we hope to continue the legacy of beautiful trees for the future.

It is my sincere pleasure and honor to work with you as your WLPCA president. I hope to get to know each of you this year as, together, we **make West Lane Place a better Place**.

**Stay cool, stay vigilant, and see you at Neighbors' Night Out in October.**

**Ted Richardson (president@wlpca.org)**

P.S. The City is proposing new guidelines for high rise development in our area that appear to be good for us in some ways, but not all. We have formed a committee (**Marion McDaniel, Bruce Wallace, and myself**) to analyze the situation and represent WLP in upcoming hearings. Look for more information about this important topic on the **website ([www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org))** and in future newsletters.

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## **Olga and Theron McLaren:** **Two Pillars of West Lane Place**

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**Olga and Theron McLaren**, of Lana Lane, moved to West Lane Place in **1965**, and if people really do grow roots, theirs is a **tap root that goes all the way to China!** The McLarens have seen, and been in the middle of, just about every change this neighborhood has experienced for the last forty-six years.

Theron and Olga are both from **Liberty, Texas**, where they met and fell in love in Junior High School. Theron left Liberty to attend **Texas A&M**, graduating in 1958, while Olga attended and graduated from **Baylor**. Theron then spent three years in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in **Crete, Greece**, where Olga taught high school.

After military service, Theron began his career in engineering, which brought him to Houston in 1965 to take a position with the **Petrolite Corporation**. By then, Olga and Theron were parents (Chris was born in 1962,) and looking for a good location for children to grow. West Lane Place appealed to them because it was near the **Looscan Library**, and the grade school, **Will Rogers Elementary**, had an excellent reputation.

Olga and Theron began their life in WLP as tenants of 20 Lana Lane. Soon, they realized they wanted to be permanent, so **in 1967, they bought the property at 26 Lana Lane (for \$14,000. That's less than our annual property taxes are now!)** where they still live in the lovely house they eventually built there in 1991.

Over the last forty-six years, as Houston expanded by leaps and bounds, West Lane Place went from suburban outskirts to central urban neighborhood. Olga and Theron have been a constant and stable influence, shaping West Lane Place through all its changes.

In **1983** when the **original deed restrictions expired**, Theron recalls going door to door bringing a Public Notary with him to notarize the signatures necessary to enact our **current deed restrictions**. Once the new restrictions were in place, he then served on the **Deed Restrictions Enforcement Committee** for West Lane Annex for fifteen years, and continues to serve on the board today. As you probably know, our **deed restrictions are the instruments that afford us our greatest protection from undesirable construction and property use** here in WLP.

In the mid 1990's, Theron worked on the charter of the **West Lane Place Civic Association** and served on the **Board**. Olga also served as a **Director**, then **Treasurer** for the next ten years, and for many years, the McLarens hosted the **WLPCA Annual Meeting** in their extra large garden. Once the **WLPCA** became established, our neighborhood was equipped to take a more important role in city affairs because we had the strength of an organized group. Together, we had a voice that City Hall could not ignore, as we saw not long ago when the WLPCA joined in the fight against **METRO** bringing the rail to our end of Richmond Avenue.

**In addition to giving us our voice, we also can thank Olga and Theron for illuminating West Lane Place.** Several years ago, they worked to have the City install **street lights** in our neighborhood. They initiated neighborhood **security** efforts as early as the 1980's, and were among the first to line our streets with **flags to celebrate July 4**. Along with former neighbor, Ann Hastings, Olga has worked to chronicle the **history of West Lane Place** (Please see our website, [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org))

Theron retired from **Randall Corporation** in 1998, and Olga retired from teaching at **St. John's School** in 2002. Since then, the McLarens have spent their time gardening and travelling, taking frequent trips to Scotland, the Continent, and their second home in the Hill Country. But, they have not retired from civic service. Just this March, they opened up their park-sized, entirely natural garden for the tour conducted by the **Garden Conservancy**, a national organization dedicated to the preservation of America's exceptional gardens. **In one day, more than 350 people visited the McLarens' garden.** The proceeds benefitted **Peckerwood Garden**, in which are collected rare Asian and native Mexican and Southwestern U.S. plants, located in Hempstead, Texas.

Olga tells us that their passions today are their two precious grandsons, both students at St. John's School. But, she is quick to add, **"We are very invested in this neighborhood, and we are willing to do just about anything to preserve it."**

**We are fortunate to have Olga and Theron McLaren as neighbors. Imagine how dark, disorganized, and lonely West Lane Place might be now if they had decided to move somewhere else back in 1965!**

[photo]

Olga and Theron, 1983

[photo]

Olga and Theron today

A Look Back: Highland Village and West Lane Place  
from Way Back When

Intersection of Drexel and Westheimer circa 1950. *Photo courtesy of Highland Village Holding Inc. and Ms. Patrice Benoit.*

Snow day  
9 – 11 Lana Lane circa 1950. *Photo courtesy of Ann Hastings*

three girls  
24 – 26 Lana Lane circa 1950. *Photo courtesy of Ann Hastings*

## Tree & Limb Pick-up Schedule for WLP

### JULY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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						

### AUGUST

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			

### SEPTEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8		10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	*4*	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	J	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	*NNO*				

 = 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.”

**Mr. Smith says “Thank you!”** *If you attended the Annual Meeting on May 11, you will remember that we thanked our neighbor, Stan Smith, for his many good deeds and countless services to West Lane Place. Now, Stan would like to thank us!*

West Lane Place Neighbors:

Living in West Lane Place and serving on the Board of Directors of WLPCA has been a rewarding and pleasurable experience for me. Our neighbors share much in common; we help and advise each other when there is a need. And much more, we enjoy the many friends our neighborhood provides.

Giving me the glass bowl from Tiffany’s as thanks for the few contributions I have made as a neighbor is most generous. It will forever remind me of your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity.

Members of the current Board, the past Boards, and many volunteers have contributed much of their time and their skills for the enjoyment of us all. We are fortunate to have them as neighbors. We must reward and thank each of them in a special way.

Thank you,

Stanley S. Smith

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Beautiful gardens on our website, and more.** Stay cool and take an armchair stroll through our neighborhood gardens in the **photo gallery** on the West Lane Place Civic Association **website, [www.wlpc.org](http://www.wlpc.org)**. While you’re at it, check out the other terrific information there about our neighborhood, such as our interesting **history**, our **deed restrictions**, and your neighbors’ **recommendations** for service providers.

If you have a photo you would like to include in the gallery, please send it to: [ma@bromberger.com](mailto:ma@bromberger.com)

**While visiting our website, you also may join the Civic Association.** Simply click “**Become a Member**” or the “**Subscribe**” button, fill in the information on line, and download an application. Send the completed application with your check to Membership Director, **Jane VanSanten**.

If you only wish to **sign up for alerts**, you may indicate your preference on the on-line sign-up.

**Security.** The **Crime Watch** patrol volunteers ask that you **turn on your outdoor lights at night** so they can actually see your house and surrounding areas when they patrol your street. We remind you that HPD tells us **brightly lit spaces are the best security measure.**

**Membership Directories.** Now that the new directories are here, we ask that you **dispose your old directories carefully.** Please shred them, or destroy them adequately to protect your neighbors’ personal information.