

# The West Lane Place News October, 2014

## WLP Civic Association Board Members

**President:** Jane Root

**Secretary:** Pat Bohn

**Past President:** Mohammad Bayegan

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

**Directors:** Chris Elhardt, Karisa Gallucci, Larry Gray, Ann Iverson, Ted Richardson, and Sue Shivers

**Vice President:** James Brodnax

**Treasurer:** Cynthia Trigg

**Newsletter:** Gilda Bayegan

**Webmistress:** Kirsten Doherty

## A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

Now that Fall is approaching, we are looking forward to cooler weather and getting together with neighbors. The WLPCA annual Neighbors' Night Out (NNO) will be held on the same night as National Night Out, traditionally a time to join America in a united stand against crime.

We encourage all West Lane Place residents to plan on attending our NNO on Tuesday, October 7 at 6:00 P.M. This year, NNO will be held in the courtyard of the townhomes at **2603 West Lane**. We are most grateful to all of the residents of **2603 West Lane** for agreeing to share their common area for this event. It will be a great time to socialize, renew old friendships, and meet new neighbors. The evening promises to be a great deal of fun.

We have reserved the **St. John's Fire Food Truck** to serve food and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. Tables and chairs will be set up for your convenience. WLPCA will provide wine and bottled water, along with cups and ice. As the time draws closer to October 7, please watch your email for a bulletin with a menu and a request for RSVP's so that we can get a count for the refreshment providers.

Members of the Houston Police and Fire Departments have received invitations. We have also extended an invitation to our District G Council Member, **Oliver Pennington**. Please introduce yourselves to our guests and let them know how much we appreciate their support. Many thanks to **Cynthia Trigg, James Brodnax, and Mike Weingart** for their efforts in connection with NNO. Also thanks to **Debbie Villaneuve** for her advice and counsel.

Unfortunately, there has been some recent criminal activity in our area. The two burglaries, which occurred during the second weekend of September, have generated a great deal of interest in a professional security patrol for the neighborhood. In this regard, we have formed a committee consisting of several members of our association, to be chaired by **Mohammad Bayegan**, to study the structure of the WLPCA and the feasibility of a security patrol. This committee will report to the Board in the next six weeks and we will advise you of their report. In the meantime, when we become aware of criminal and/or suspicious activity, our residents are advised through the email alert system. Thank you to **Ann Iverson** for doing such a great job on the alert system. Also, a great debt of gratitude to those individuals who have volunteered to patrol the neighborhood on a regular basis. If you are interested in becoming a member of the security patrol team, please contact **Mohammad** at [Security@WLPCA.org](mailto:Security@WLPCA.org).

The WLPCA Membership Directory was mailed during the first week of August to everyone who had paid dues for the current year. Publishing the directory was truly a team effort! Special thanks go to **Karisa Gallucci, Kirsten Doherty, and Ted Richardson** for their

roles in compiling, proofreading and setting the directory up for printing. **SUPER SPECIAL THANKS** goes to **Sue Shivers** for donating materials and labor for printing, and for folding, stapling and mailing the directory. We are so grateful to **Sue** for her dedication to West Lane Place. If you did not receive a directory, but believe that you should have received one, please contact our Membership Chair at [Membership@WLPCA.org](mailto:Membership@WLPCA.org).

Please be sure to mark your calendar for Neighbors Night Out on October 7. I look forward to seeing you all there

Jane Root,  
President

## **TWO BURGLARIES WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12!!**

**In one case the burglar(s) broke through a WLP gated community, so gated communities are not infallible.**

**In one case the house alarm was not on.**

**Please be vigilant. Put alarms on at all times when you leave home.**

**Keep gates locked at all times.**

See [www.wlpca/security/](http://www.wlpca/security/) for more tips

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This newsletter is published and delivered to you  
by the West Lane Place Civic Association

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) of each article, and not necessarily those of the WLPCA.

## **Crime Wave!! Crime Wave!! Crime Wave!! Crime Wave!!**

Dear Neighbors,

It seems every day, we get news of another burglary in, or uncomfortably near, West Lane Place. **Two houses at opposite ends of Mid Lane were broken into and burglarized as recently as Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13.**

As head of the Security Committee, I urge you to **be watchful and be careful at all times. Keep your doors and gates locked**, whether or not you are at home. **Turn on your alarm systems every time you leave the house and at night** when you are at home. **And always be aware of your surroundings!**

With the sharp increase in crime in our neighborhood, **we need volunteers** now more than ever **to patrol West Lane Place** with our magnetic **Crime Watch** signs placed on their car doors. **Our patrols are our “eyes on the streets” so we know who is out there and what they are doing.** Our Crime Watch patrols serve another important purpose too. **They also let criminals know that we are looking at them while they are here looking at us.**

**Call me for information about joining our Crime Watch program. We need as many Crime Watchers as we can get!**

**Mohammad Bayegan, Mid Lane; 713-882-7300**

**Please call today to become a Crime Watch volunteer!**

If you suffer any sort of criminal incident, call the Houston Police Department right away, even if you think it's insignificant. The more calls they receive, the more patrols HPD will schedule for our neighborhood.

**If you are having an emergency, call 9-1-1.**

**If you are reporting a non-emergency, call 713-884-3131 (HPD)**

And, *please* report all suspicious activities – questionable door-to-door solicitation, loud noises, and loitering in cars – to HPD, to me, and to **CrimeAlert@wlpca.org**

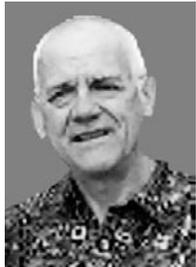
**Together, we can make West Lane Place a *safer* place to be!**

Thank you,  
Mohammad Bayegan

**Focus on 2014-2015 WLPCA**

**Part Two: Directors** by Molly Boren Whitney

In the last issue we introduced your WLPCA officers to you. This time you will meet the members of your Board of Directors. These people, like the officers, volunteer their time to ensure that the neighborhood interests and needs are met and implemented. They spend many hours on our behalf, and we thank them for their willingness to serve.



**Chris Elhardt**, a resident of West Lane Place for about 12 years, was born in Olympia, Washington. He describes it as “the land of tall trees, clean air, and 50% unemployment”. He has a Master of Science degree in laboratory technology. He came to Texas in 1982 via the Army and has made a career as a toxic waste chemist.

Chris is married to Marj. They have a son, Russell, who is a pipeline control systems engineer and a daughter, Mary, who has just completed her education as an MD and is living in Dallas. Marj’s daughter Tiffany and her family live in Cleveland, Ohio. Chris is currently studying programming in Objective C, which is the primary programming language used for writing software for OS X and IOS. Marj thinks he should become proficient in web content management as well. He recently decided that bicycling is a little too strenuous, so he switched to motorcycling instead. He says he is gratified at the number of grey-haired bikers he has encountered, and he wonders if any of us would like to join in the weekend rides.

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**Ann Iverson**, whom we can thank for our frequent and vital **Crime Alerts** and notices of lost and found pets and belongings, has lived with her husband Clif in West Lane Place since 1992. Ann, a

native of New York City and Clif, a fourth generation Houstonian, met in the Big Apple and have moved back and forth between the two cities over the years for professional reasons. Ann’s career in marketing and advertising with Ogilvy Worldwide and BBDO in Houston, New York and London has spanned over 45 years. When she retired she established a marketing firm, advising marketers and law firms on branded strategic marketing and corporate communications [www.anniverson.com](http://www.anniverson.com)

Since 2003 Ann has collaborated two weekends a year with Giuliano Hazan (teacher, author, chef and entrepreneur) by providing hands-on cooking classes here in Houston. In addition to being a member of the Houston Culinary Guild and IACP. She is also a member of the American Marketing Association and the American Advertising Federation.

Along with her Italian cooking hobby, Ann plays golf with Clif, who at one time was a single digit player. Each year she and Clif make a major hiking trip, most recently to Normandy and Brittany, just before the 70<sup>th</sup> D-Day anniversary.

Ann and Clif’s daughter Haven is editor-in-chief of a publishing company in Colorado. She is married and has two children. Their current “second child” is Lola, a Black Lab pup, often seen walking with Clif in West Lane Place.

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**Sue Shivers**, our director in charge of **Newcomers**, grew up in South Bend, Indiana. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in business from Texas State University and has been employed for 27 years by BeautiControl Inc. as a skincare and cosmetic specialist. Her husband Robert is in the oil and gas business. They both enjoy working out and walking their dogs. For fun, they have a boat in Kemah where they spend weekends and occasionally take excursions down the coast. They both are enthusiastic volunteers. Sue is very active in the Domestic Missions field, including Church in the Park, which benefits the homeless. She also serves on the board of several non-profit organizations. Sue says she enjoys serving on the West Lane Place board.



Our Membership chairperson,

**Karissa Gallucci**, was born in Fort Worth and two days later was adopted by a wonderful, loving family in Austin. She grew up having, as she says, “amazing experiences, including travel abroad”. After high school graduation she attended Abilene Christian University and graduated with a teaching certificate.

Karissa lived in New Mexico for a time and then returned to Austin. She worked there as a manager at Infiniti of Austin. In 2006 she was offered a position with North Houston Infiniti, so she moved to Houston. Here she met her husband, Fred, and decided to give up her career to stay at home. In 2010 baby boy Roman was born, joining big sis Kelsea, Karissa’s daughter from an earlier marriage. Roman is three years old now and attends First Baptist School. Kelsea is 20 and attends Abilene Christian. She has a current GPA of 3.975 and plans to study abroad in the spring.

The Galluccis have lived in West Lane Place for two years. They have been impressed by the friendliness and community feeling of the neighborhood. They enjoy spending time in their home and in their pool. The couple has also taken up a sport...Polo! They are in their second season now and declare it “sooo addictive and a blast!” They currently own two horses but plan to build a string of them. **Karissa says that if ever you are asked how many horses you need to play polo, the answer is always “one more than you have.”**

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After spending 10 years as a frequent visitor to West Lane Place, **Ted Richardson** became a permanent resident in 1995, when he married Jean Brogdon and moved into her home at 28 Lana Lane – one of the original post-WWII homes, built in 1947. Jeanie had purchased the home in 1972 for the then outlandish sum of \$27,500. One of their shared pleasures is planning the next remodeling of “this old house”.

Ted was born in Philadelphia and moved to Texas in 1948. He attended high schools in Philadelphia, Houston

and Brownsville. After a year at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville he transferred to Rice Institute, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree in 1958. In 2005, after serving for 43 years as Principal in RWS Architects and its predecessor firms, he retired and began a new life outside of architecture. He has many interests and hobbies and he says he is “working harder now than he did during his last year in architecture.” Ted has three children – Christie, Calder and Katherine – and they and his seven grandchildren live in Tennessee and California.

Ted and Jeanie love living in West Lane Place. He has served in numerous capacities in the WLPCA (including two terms as president) and is especially interested in crime prevention and other quality of life issues. He is an active member of the **Neighborhood Crime Watch** and the **HPD West Lane Place Citizen Patrol**. He is presently **Chairman of the West Lane Annex Restrictions Enforcement Committee**. He is also a volunteer at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

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**Larry Gray** grew up in the Little Rock, Arkansas, area. He attended college in Arkansas, where he met his wife Patti, and graduated with a degree in finance and business. Larry and Patti moved to Houston in order for Larry to take a position as a Farmers Insurance agent. He has held that job for nearly thirty years and enjoys working with his neighbors, church friends and community leaders to determine and provide their insurance needs.

Larry and Patti have been married for 45 years and have lived for 15 years in the home they built on Bash Place. They have two daughters and four grandchildren, with a fifth –a girl- due to arrive in a matter of months. They all live in Austin, so the Grays have a weekend home near Lake Austin, which affords them the opportunity to spend more time with family. They love to babysit the grandchildren and spend a lot of their spare time doing just that.

Larry’s hobbies include golf, walking and running in the neighborhood, fishing and racquetball. He also serves on the board of the Rotary Club of West University and is a deacon at South Main Baptist Church, where he also sings in the choir. ♣

**Mosquitos... a nemesis? Perhaps not!** Page 5  
by **Gary Whitney**

*We are just starting our best outdoor season, so we think it's the perfect time to learn how to combat mosquitoes, especially since they are with us all year long! Please visit [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org) for links to more help.*

We are so lucky...out of the 3,500 species of mosquitoes that have been classified world-wide, Texas only has over 85 species, with 56 Species in Harris County. Part of the genus Culex, the most common species found here in Houston include the Southern House Mosquito (feeds at dawn and dusk), the Asian Tiger Mosquito (a day time biter) and the Salt Marsh Mosquito (bites only at night). The obvious conclusion one can draw is that you know what kind of mosquito is finding you so delicious by what time you are being bitten (as if you cared at that very moment.) Another thing that might surprise you is that only the females bite, craving protein so they can produce and lay their eggs...over 200 at a single time on standing water. A mosquito's life cycle starts as an egg evolves into a larva, then a pupa (all in water) and finally emerges as a flying adult with wings and proboscis (stinger to you and me). Their entire life cycle last just a few weeks, depending on their ability to locate a source of protein (blood). Unfortunately, mosquitoes' saliva can carry the viruses that cause Malaria, West Nile Fever, and St. Louis Encephalitis, Chikungunya, Filariasis, and Heartworm affecting both man and beasts (including our pets). Take a look at Wikipedia for a greatly detailed description of these quite amazing creatures that so greatly affect our outdoor quality of life in Houston. I found it fascinating and highly informative.

Personally, I love being outdoors and have created a wonderful, peaceful outdoor living space that is among my favorite "rooms" of our home. It is a place to relax, to be entertained, to dine surrounded by natural beauty...it fully satisfies my outdoor yearnings...until mosquitoes drive me inside. I am on a mission. I am waging war on the mosquito. It is a vendetta...a mission...I am determined. There must be a way! I have a plan...let me share what I have learned in trying to overcome this nemesis. First, a list of various strategies, some aggressive and others passive that are available to us who are so inclined:

**Eliminate any standing water**...everywhere it may exist. Remove saucers from under potted plants, or drain them. If you have a birdbath or water feature, keep in clean with fresh water daily. Check your drainage and add French drains or fill in low spots to eliminate areas that stay wet for several days. Repair any dripping faucets. Keep any pet bowls fresh daily. Out of sight for us, but not the mosquitoes are your rain gutters. Check their slope...correct any low areas that stagnate between rains. If you have a fountain or water feature that has a collection basin and re-circulates water, add Bacillus thuringiensis-israelensis (Bt-i) tablets to the basin. It is harmless to birds and pets.

**Spray with Insecticides** to treat shrubs, pavers, trees, and potted plants, and grass. There are warnings that come with all of these products. They are highly harmful to the good bugs as well as the bad bugs...especially bees & butterflies. Their additional drawback is even more dangerous, in that ultimately, being water soluble, they dissipate into the aquatic environment and are carried by the drainage system to the rivers, bayous, and ultimately into the gulf. If you do use insecticides, be careful to avoid spaying any herbs or vegetables you might be growing. Children and pets also need to avoid contact, especially immediately after spraying.

**Eco-Friendly Organic Spray:** This product to use in general spraying is a natural, garlic-based product called Mosquito Barrier. This is a non-toxic yet highly effective treatment with no adverse effects to birds, bees, or butterflies. You buy a bottle of concentrate, dilute it per directions, and load into a pressurized sprayer. One treatment will last for one month, so it is also very affordable. It can be mixed with canola oil to spray on standing water, or with liquid detergent to spray on pavers with equal effectiveness. It turns out that mosquitos have more than 10,000 times the sense of smell we do, so we do not smell the garlic, but they do and avoid it like crazy. Farmers have known this forever...you never see a mosquito in a garlic field! You can also buy dried garlic available in greater quantities from the larger grocery stores or Asian markets to sprinkle around your potted plants and lawn / landscaping. You will need about a pound per 1,000 square feet to be effective

**Fogging & Misting:** Simply put, these provide an alternate delivery system for the treatment chemical of choice. Most of these share the same advantages and disadvantages as insecticides; however the quantity of the actual insecticide per area covered is greatly reduced, so with that comes less long-term environmental impact. There are several foggers available to buy, ranging from \$70.00 to \$140.00 from retailers like Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart or online from Amazon, Farm Suppliers, or others. Or you can try the aerosol can versions such as Coleman Yard and Camp Fogger (\$4.95) Enforcer Fogger (\$8.99) for a single application for a special outdoor occasion. These will have no long-term effect. Or you can turn to professionals like Mosquito Roundup that provide fogging or misting. They use an organic derivative of the chrysanthemum called Talstar. It is water soluble until it dries, then it can only break down under ultra-violet light, thus a treatment lasts about 3 weeks. It is dispensed as an ultra-fine mist which firmly adheres to plant surfaces and does not dilute in rain. **A misting system** offers a more permanent (and expensive) solution when installed in your yard. The cost will depend on the size and configuration of your yard, but can be in the thousands of dollars. You can check them out on the web.

Misting systems can be adapted to dispense insecticides, pyrethroids, or organics, so these systems can be environmentally sensitive and highly effective.

**Burn a Citronella Candle, Coil or Torch.** Citronella is an essential oil derived from lemongrass and has long been used as a repellent for mosquitos. It is used in both candles and torches (the torches being more intense of the two). Both are available from Amazon, Lowes, Home Depot, Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, Ace Hardware, & Walmart to name a few. Not only do they repel mosquitos, they deliver a lovely lemony fragrance and can add a romantic glow to the evening.

**In lieu of treating the environment, one can treat oneself.**

**Use a repellent to spray yourself...**all exposed skin, with insect repellent. There are many products offered, from creams, sprays, and ointments. The active ingredients contain DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon, Eucalyptus, or IR3535. Over many trials, I have found that the most effective for me is "Off" Deep Woods by Johnson, the aerosol version. Not meaning to endorse any particular product, I just find it the least offensive of those I have tried. It is 25% DEET, has no CFC's and is odorless, but I still don't like the idea of chemicals being absorbed into my bloodstream through my skin, and in spite of all claims that is not harmful, I greatly resist applying this on a regular basis. (I feel the same about sun-screen, so what do I know?)

**Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants...**also avoid wearing bright "floral" colors which have been proven to be more attractive to mosquitos than neutral

**Avoid using scents ...** perfumes, lotions, and aftershaves. Mosquitos locate their victims with highly evolved sensory receptors in their antennae. Odor is paramount in their search for food.

**Shower or bathe...**our sweat glands and resulting body odor is highly attractive to mosquitos. Our individual body chemistry illustrates why some of us are so frequently bitten and others so rarely.

**Use a fan!** Just that simple. Mosquitos are weak flyers. They lie low when it is windy. There are so many options...ceiling fans work if you are under a covered patio, pergola, or trellis. Box fans work for your lawn, or even the common desktop or floor fan can serve most conditions. Not only will the breeze deter mosquitos, the moving air will feel very cool in our heat and humidity.

**The reality is, no matter how you try or what you do, it is inevitable that you will be bitten. There are many things you can do to help with the annoying itch that ensues.**

**Immerse bite in hot water...**as hot as possible or you can stand short of inducing burn...the kind of heat one might experience while taking a hot bath. If you can't

immerse the bite, apply a hot compress or washcloth. The heat will break down the anti-coagulant in the mosquito saliva that was injected under your skin during the bite and is the source of your itch.

**Heat a spoon in hot water, and hold the back of the spoon to the bite.** Lots of home-remedies include the application of tea-tree oil, garlic, Calamine, hydrocortisone cream, rubbing alcohol, aloe-vera gel, vinegar, hydrogen peroxide, Benadryl cream, hairspray and nail polish to name just a few.

**Over the counter anti-itch sprays,** such as WalDryl. This is a topical analgesic and antihistamine and offers almost immediate relief.

My personal course of action has involved installing ceiling fans on our trellis, putting additives in our fountain, hiring Mosquito Roundup to mist every third week, burning citrus scented candles, and using Off Deep Woods repellent on exposed skin on rare occasion. We haven't won the war yet, but we can tell you that we have won many a battle! We can be outdoors (weather permitting) most of the time we so choose. I guess it is much like the heat, the humidity, the traffic and other annoyances that come with life in the big bayou city.

Hope any of this is at best helpful and will encourage you to spend time in your outdoors. You've earned the right!

**If all else fails and you simply can't fight 'em any longer you can always celebrate them at next year's Great Mosquito Festival** held in late July in Clute, TX at the Clute Municipal Park. This event now draws 14,000 festival patrons. It offers food, arts & crafts booths, a carnival, numerous contests, and live headliner entertainment on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. So buzz on down with the family for a good time in Clute. Where else can you get a selfie with a 25 foot tall mosquito?



Great Mosquito Festival, Klute, TX

Commented [g1]:

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# Neighbors' Night Out

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**When: 6:00 Tuesday, October 7**

**Where: Courtyard, 2603 West Lane**

**What: St. John's Fire food truck!**

**Houston Fire Department!**

**Houston Police Department!**

**Your neighbors!**

**All your neighbors will be there and it's loads of fun.  
You don't want to miss it!**

Our sincere thanks to our kind hosts for allowing us to gather in their courtyard:

Merle and Bill Granek  
Charles and Cherrie Marino  
Darryl and Marlene Shields  
Larry and Gale Stevens  
Mike and Judy Weingart  
Dora Wilder

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**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	NNO	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	J	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**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	🌲	27	28	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	J	25	26	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	23	24
25	26	27	🌲	29	30	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.

**Announcements**

**Sago Palm ID.** This must be the time of year most Sago Palms produce their deadly and delicious nuts because we have heard about several dogs dying recently after having ingested their seeds.

Here is what the seeds look like. They usually are bright red.



Here’s what Sago Palms look like:



You can read more about the dangers of Sago Palms in the article by veterinarian, Valerie McDaniel, published in the October, 2011 issue of the *West Lane Place News*, at [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org)

**Big Bird!** Ann and Clif Iverson spotted this exotic looking visitor to WLP in early July, and quickly snapped these photos:



According to the Galveston Ornithological Society, this is an adult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron**, also called the American Night Heron or squawk. This species is pretty abundant in our area, but the birds usually are found in our swamps rather than in our driveways!

**Decals.** Thank you to everyone who has put a WLP decal on their cars as requested by the WLP Board. For those of you who have not, the Board asks you to please identify your cars with the WLP decal so that our Crime Watch volunteers will know that your car belongs in the neighborhood

**Our WLP Board website is being updated.** In addition to your neighbors’ recommendations for service and contractors, and past issues of the newsletter, you’ll now find an historical section, how to report streetlight outages, info on trash pickup and recycling, and more! Please visit the website at [www.wlpca.org](http://www.wlpca.org) and let **Kirsten Doherty** ([media@wlpca.org](mailto:media@wlpca.org)) know what you’d like to add to make it more appealing or useful to you.