

West Lane Place Civic Association

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Directors: Karisa Gallucci, Larry Gray, Ann Iverson, Ted Richardson, Sue Shivers and Gary Whitney

Vice President: James Brodnax

Treasurer: Cynthia Trigg

Newsletter Editor: Gilda Bayegan

Website: www.wlpca.org

Webmistress: Marj Elhardt

A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

I am sure that most of us are grateful that another Houston summer is behind us. We can now look forward to some cooler weather and less humidity in the weeks and months ahead. Let's all join in hoping for a perfect fall evening for **WLPCA's 2015 Neighbors' Night Out** celebration.

The WLPCA annual Neighbors' Night Out (NNO) will be held on **Tuesday, October 6**, the same night as **National Night Out**, traditionally a time to join America in a united stand against crime. All West Lane Place residents are encouraged to participate in this special evening, which will be a great time to visit with all those friends and neighbors we missed seeing during the summer and to meet new neighbors who have recently become residents of West Lane Place. This year's event will be held from **6:00 to 8:00 P.M.** in the courtyard of the townhomes at **2603 West Lane**, the same location as last year. Once again, we are most grateful to all of the residents of **2603 West Lane** for agreeing to share their common area for this event. The evening promises to be a great deal of fun.

Mike Weingart, our HPD liaison, has extended invitations to the **City of Houston** and **Harris County** law enforcement officers as well as members of the **Houston Fire Department**. We have also invited our current City Council representative, **Oliver Pennington**. Please take the time to introduce yourselves to our special guests and thank them for the services they provide to all of us.

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, beer and bottled water, along with cups and ice. As the time draws closer to October 6, 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.

Many thanks to **Cynthia Trigg**, **James Brodnax**, **Chrissy Doherty**, and **Mike Weingart** for their efforts in connection with the planning of NNO.

There is an ongoing effort to monitor, reduce, and eliminate crime in West Lane Place. We are most grateful to the members of our volunteer **WLPCA Citizens Patrol** who generously donate their time to patrol our neighborhood on a regular basis. I am happy to report that training for current and new members of our **Citizens Patrol** will begin shortly after National Night Out. We encourage you to sign up at NNO. **Mike Weingart** will notify everyone once the training is scheduled. It continues to be so important that all of our residents be observant, use their alarm systems and report suspicious activity to 911, and to our **Crime Alert System** (crimealert@wlpca.org). Thank you, **Ann Iverson** for doing such a fabulous job with our alert system. Please be sure to keep your property well lit, garage doors closed, and cars locked.

I look forward to seeing all of you on October 6th.

Jane Root
President

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Please contact Block Captains, Mary McDaniel and/or Phyllis Maddox, concerning any problems you may experience receiving your newsletter.

Rain or Shine, Sleet or Heat:**Our USPS Letter Carriers** by Gilda Bayegan

We may not know them well, but they certainly do know us. In some ways, they know us even better than we know ourselves. Our USPS letter carriers visit us daily. They know where we live, when we're home, and when we go on vacation. Isn't it time we got to know them better?

West Lane Place is divided into three subdivisions, and coincidentally, we are divided into three postal routes.

West Lane Annex:

Debra Malm, USPS Letter Carrier

For the last two or three years, **Debra Malm** has been the letter carrier for **West Alabama, Lana Lane, Hackberry, and 3000 to 3200 Mid Lane**. Many of us recognize Debra as she walks along Mid Lane in her white pith helmet. When she isn't bringing us our mail, she often trades her white helmet for a fuchsia one that matches her **fuchsia motorcycle!** Debra owns several motorcycles and takes them on cross country road trips whenever she can. She says any storm she encounters along the way makes her adventure "more challenging" and that her experience as a letter carrier has prepared her for any weather anywhere.

Debra has two basset hounds, **Carlos** and **Nutmeg**, and she is fostering a third, a well behaved senior named **Sophie** who was relinquished by her owners in July. Debra is a long time member of **Basset Buddies Rescue of Texas**. She claims that a basset hound hanging out your car window guarantees friendly driving.

West Lane Place Section 3:

The letter carrier assigned to **Bash Place** and **Mid Lane from 3200 south to Richmond** is familiar to most of us because he's been bringing our mail for so many years. Until the routes were reconfigured two or three years ago, **Kenny Ward** delivered mail to West Lane Annex and parts

of the other two sections as well. Kenny has been walking around our streets wearing his headphones longer than many of us have lived here.

When the routes changed and Debra Malm was assigned to West Lane Annex, Kenny was assigned to Section 3, and part of Afton Oaks. We tried to get a photo of Kenny for this article, but were unable to catch up with him!

West Lane Place:

For the moment, it seems there is not a regular carrier bringing mail to West Lane and Mid Lane north of West Alabama. According to unofficial reports, this area's assigned letter carrier is out on disability and the carriers who deliver to these streets rotate according to availability. If we find out that anything changes in that regard, we will let you know.

*******Neighbors' Night Out*******

When: Tuesday, October 6

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Courtyard, 2603 West Lane

What: Hot and Delicious eats will be served by **St. John's Fire Gourmet Food Truck**
www.stjohnsfire.net *Bring some cash!*

Wine, beer, and bottled water

Bring other beverages with you if you wish!

Limited Seating will be provided

Bring a chair with you for a guaranteed seat!

Very Limited Parking will be available

It's more fun to walk anyway!

Watch your In Box for Alerts with more information

ALL FUN, NO BUSINESS!

You don't want to miss it!

I always thought that I was a good neighbor. I have lived in much tighter quarters than presently here in West Lane Place. On some occasions, I shared common floors or walls in high rises, townhomes or apartments. Those years taught me something very important. It taught me the basics of being a good neighbor. West Lane Place, by any measure, provides us each with a more than generous allotment of private space. Yet, the same rules apply, but are often unintentionally neglected.

There was a short time in my life when I lived in a high rise that I could not play my grand piano. Whenever I did, the front desk would call to pass on a complaint from as far as several doors down the hall or several floors above or below me. The building was apparently an acoustical chamber...I often imagined that I was a conductor of a mysterious orchestra composed of instruments made up of flushing toilets, closing and opening doors, elevator sounds, and broken fragments of hallway conversations...a literal cacophony of uninvited sounds. Quiet was, simply put...quite hard to come by.

On Mid Lane, **our most obvious acoustic intrusion** comes from the weekly **garbage and recycling trucks** and the yard maintenance crews with their **mowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers**. You would have to say **those noises are a small price to pay for the luxury of living in our beautiful, well-maintained neighborhood**. Yet we all have experienced some mild intrusion from these sounds. I am choosing this forum to share some of my thoughts with you, my neighbors, about some **common courtesies I intend to practice** in order to be a better neighbor not only to my immediate neighbors, but to our entire neighborhood. I am reminded that although I try, I am far from being a perfect neighbor! Mea Culpa!

To be a better neighbor, I will endeavor to:

- **Limit the use of my leaf blower to the hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** to allow my neighbors to enjoy their morning newspaper and coffee or happy hour outside on their patio without this intrusion.

- Reschedule landscape maintenance crew to the same hours if possible for the same reasons!

- **Keep my street gutters clear** so they won't back up with gunk and breed mosquitoes.

- Always **pick up my dog's poop** when walking, and always keep my pet on a leash (it's the law!)

- **Be on the alert** for anything or anyone that arouses my suspicion. If I'm aware of a neighbor's absence, I will try to be extra observant on their behalf.

- If I let my dog out into my yard, **I will not subject my neighbors to protracted barking**. This can be even more annoying than leaf blowers and garbage trucks!

- **Wear a smile** to share with neighbors I happen to meet. That might even inspire a "hello" or short conversation.

- **Be tolerant and respectful** of all my neighbors, remembering that a little tolerance can go a long way toward keeping West Lane Place a place we all love to share,,,sharing is caring,

Hey...have a great day! I'm always happy to see a neighbor.

What in the World Wide Web is Nextdoor Mid Lane?

by Molly Boren

In the past month or so, many of us have received in our e-mail boxes invitations to join **Nextdoor Mid Lane**. Some have accepted and invited other neighbors to join as well. Others have ignored or deleted them.

So, what is Nextdoor and what does it mean to us?

Research of their website and the web in general reveals some interesting information. Based in **San Francisco**, Nextdoor, Inc. is made up of a team of 105 people. Their concept is that **stronger, safer neighborhoods can be built through technology by private social networking within individual communities**. Members, encouraged to be considerate and neighborly in their comments, get to know and recognize each other through **posted snapshots and the use of actual names rather than user names**. It is not so much a regular chat room but more a place to exchange information about break-ins, names of trusted babysitters and lost pets, or to sell, share or give away items no longer used or needed. On the **Nextdoor Mid Lane** website there are informational notices from 311 about upcoming forums, city services, and civic events, and posts from neighbors in Afton Oaks, West University, and other neighborhoods.

The Nextdoor website assures that it is **protected by password and encrypted by HTTPS**. These initials stand for Hypertext Transport Protocol Secure, which means your computer is conversing with the website in a secure code not accessible to outsiders.

If you join but do not want to receive all the e-mails from Nextdoor, you can adjust your Settings to define what types of notifications interest you, as well as how often you receive them. You can also change your Settings to disable notifications from nearby neighborhoods if you do not want them.


To stop receiving e-mail invitations to join Nextdoor, simply click the Unsubscribe button at the bottom of the e-mail. However, **if you have already joined and wish to resign**, you must either update your E-mail Settings or de-activate your account.

To learn more about this private social network, visit **www.nextdoor.com**. At the bottom left of the homepage you will find access to more information. Some of you will want to join this website and some will not. That decision is, of course, entirely up to each of you.

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	*NNO*	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	J	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		26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	J	24	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		28	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.

***NNO* is Neighbors Night Out. October 6.** All neighbors in West Lane Place are invited whether or not you belong to the West Lane Place Civic Association. If you’re not already a member, and want to join, you can sign up while you’re there!

Holiday Recipe Search. Does anybody have a recipe for a cake similar to a fruit cake, but made with candy orange wedges? What about a favorite recipe for egg nog? Or coconut cake? Some WLP neighbors are asking for your most delicious recipes in time for the holidays. One neighbor loved a candy orange slice cake in her youth but never saw it again. Another has fond memories of a creamy coconut cake. If you can answer these cooking requests, please submit your recipe(s) to: newsletter@wlpca.org. You’ll be helping your neighbors just in time for the holidays. And when we publish your recipe, we’ll do our best to make you famous!

Thank you, Scott and Elise Smith, for allowing our sign! Take a look at the new Crime Watch sign in the Smith’s yard on the SW corner of Mid Lane and West Alabama, facing the east-bound traffic on West Alabama. We appreciate the cooperation of the Smiths and every other WLP neighbor who has allowed us to post Crime Watch signs on their property.

Tree Care. It is important to take good care of our trees to keep them healthy and prevent property damage. Our trees beautify West Lane Place, their shade cools our homes and streets, and they increase property values. Now is the time to prepare them for winter with fertilizer, hydration, and proper trimming. Let’s be good to these lovely old giants!

Two good reasons to recycle your trash.



a terrapin trapped in a plastic six-pack carrier



a stork entangled in a plastic bag

To save more wild lives, cut the circular loops of six-pack carriers before discarding, and use as few plastic bags as you can.

Thank you for recycling!