

West Lane Place Civic Association

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Ann Iverson,

Sue Shivers,

Tim Smith,

Brian Teichman

and

Gary Whitney

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A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

I have just started as your new President, and we have completed one Board meeting. In the past, many of you told us that you wanted to be more involved and aware of the Board's activities. The Board and its committees want to make that happen. **We want you to be involved!**

First, please look at the new directories that are being delivered to all residents with this newsletter, printed by Board Member, **Sue Shivers**. The directory includes contact information for the members of the West Lane Place Civic Association unless they have opted not to be included. On the inside of the front and back cover, it also has contact information for me, the members of the Board, and the Committee Chairs. If you have a question or suggestion for the Board, please email me (president@wlpca.org.) If you have a question or suggestion for one of the committees, please contact the Committee Chair directly (e.g., newcomers@wlpca.org.) Please be sure to contact the Newsletter Editor any time you have something to include in the newsletter.

Next, if you would like to participate on the Board or a Committee, please let me know. Nominations for the Board are considered starting in March. However, a committee might need help at any time. The Board consists of 11 Officers and Directors. **This year we have four individuals assuming one of these roles for the first time. So, over 35% of the Board is new!** The backgrounds of the new Board members are discussed on page 3.

Next, we will be considering how to make the Annual Meeting in May more inclusive and interactive. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Last, I will use these letters to update you on matters discussed at the Board meetings. At our most recent meeting, we discussed the following matters: we thanked those who worked to have the light box at Westheimer and Mid Lane painted, we began plans for the NNO on

October 4, and approved expenses for NNO and this newsletter. We discussed the January membership drive. We also talked about the annual meeting to be held in May, how to make that meeting more inclusive and interactive, and ways to ensure everyone is aware of what the Board and Committees are doing. We heard Committee reports, including the updates to the website, the status of and need for neighborhood patrols, efforts to have the City repair the sink hole on Westheimer (since repaired), the need for possible other work by the City, and neighborhood beautification, among other topics.

In closing, I would like to thank **Jane Root** who served as President for two years, **Mohammad Bayegan** who retired as Past President, **Pat Bohn** who retired as Secretary, and **Ted Richardson** and **Larry Gray** who retired from the Board. **In total, this group represents decades of outstanding service to the neighborhood.** Fortunately, Jane, Mohammad and Ted will continue to work for the neighborhood in other roles.

James Brodnax
President

Inside this issue:

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This newsletter is published and delivered to you
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Please contact Circulation Captains, Mary McDaniel and Phyllis Maddox, regarding any problems you experience receiving your newsletter.

Wondering what we should do with the millions of worn out tires we throw away? Or how to reduce the trillions of mosquitoes that bite us, exposing us to misery and disease? An answer to both these questions can be found in one ingenious invention, the *ovillanta*.

Maybe aging rubber exudes a chemical compound that attracts them. Scientists don't know exactly why, but mosquitoes seem to find discarded tires irresistible. Old tires are one of the biggest risk factors for breeding mosquitos, increasing their numbers by as much as a third in neighborhoods where tires lie around collecting rain water. Now a Canadian chemistry professor, **Gérard Ulíbarri**, has harnessed the mosquito's affinity for old tires to fight Zika Virus and other mosquito-borne disease with a homemade trap he calls the "ovillanta."

Professor Ulíbarri was working on a study to reduce mosquito populations in Central America when necessity inspired him to design a trap made from an old tire, a drainage valve, water, and a few paper "landing strips." It is a simple concept: **Mosquitoes are drawn to water in the tire to lay their eggs, then the eggs are destroyed before they hatch.** The method is simple, too: drain the water from the ovillanta twice a week, strain out the larvae but retain the water, and return the water to the tire so the pheromones it contains will signal other mosquitos to lay eggs there again. **In a one-year study in Guatemala, the ovillantas destroyed seven times as many mosquitoes as traditional traps, and no new cases of dengue were reported in an area where normally there would be two to three dozen.**

Professor Ulíbarri estimates that two ovillantas per acre can noticeably reduce mosquito numbers, but wishes every house in mosquito-plagued areas would keep one in the back yard. Want to try it? How nice would it be to share West Lane Place with fewer mosquitoes at very little expense, using no pesticides? You can learn more about Professor Ulíbarri and find instructions for building and using an ovillanta at this link:

www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/how-to-build-mosquito-trap-from-old-tire-180958954/?no-ist



Here's an *ovillanta*. Not particularly beautiful, but small enough to hide behind a bush in the back yard. By the way, "ovi" is for "egg," and "llanta" is "tire" in Spanish.

While we're on the subject of mosquitos, let's not forget bats, the gentle warriors that criss-cross the night sky, scooping up mosquitoes and beetles. **According to *Mother Earth News*, one bat can eat as many as 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour, and may consume between 6,000 and 8,000 insects in one night!** The **Houston Audubon Society** website lists **nine species** of bats in our area, one of which lives not too far from West Lane Place: the bridge on Waugh Drive is home to an important colony of Mexican free-tail bats that do not migrate, but remain in Houston all year long.

Experts tell us that bats pose little or no risk to humans or pets. Their keen vision and echolocation keep them as far away from us as possible. But, one should avoid any sort of physical contact with bat droppings or with a bat itself, living or dead. (*Visit this link for more information:* <http://www.cdc.gov/features/bats/>)

Sadly, **bats are in decline all across our country**, due in part to **white-nose syndrome (WNS), a fungal infection that devastates bat colonies** hibernating in caves. Although detected in Oklahoma in 2010, WNS has not yet been detected in Texas, *thank goodness*, since we are one of North America's most important bat regions!

You can enjoy the benefits of these efficient, motivated mosquito hunters in your own garden and promote their survival by providing them with a "bat box." Europeans have used bat boxes since the early 20th century. Now, well into the 21st century, bat boxes are appearing on this side of the Atlantic, too, as Americans' appreciation for these little heroes grows. But not just any old box will appeal to a bat. It should be large, have a landing board, a "pup catcher" (*no, not a "poop catcher!"*) and a rough interior with a surface to which bats can easily cling. It also is important where you locate your box. Here are a few resources with guidance for building or shopping for a successful bat box:

www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses/build

www.batmanagement.com/Batcentral/batboxes/whyfail.html

<http://free.woodworking-plans.org/bat-house-plans.html>

<http://batworld.org/bat-house-information/>

It seems the Mexican free-tail bats that live under Waugh Bridge can be enticed to live in nice bat boxes, too. So, with a little effort and respect, you, your pets, and your neighbors can benefit from this aerial mosquito comBAT force all year long!



If you find a bat on the ground or inside your house, don't touch it. See this website for how to proceed:

https://batworld.org/what-to-do-if-you-found_a_bat/

*Should you come across multiple sick or dead bats, report the incident to the **Kills and Spills Team of the Texas Parks and Wildlife, 24-Hour Hotline: 281-842-8100***

Meet the New WLPCA Board Members

by Molly Boren Whitney

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At our Annual Meeting last May, you elected four new members of the WLPCA Board of Directors. We are delighted to introduce these new members.



Diane Kiecke,

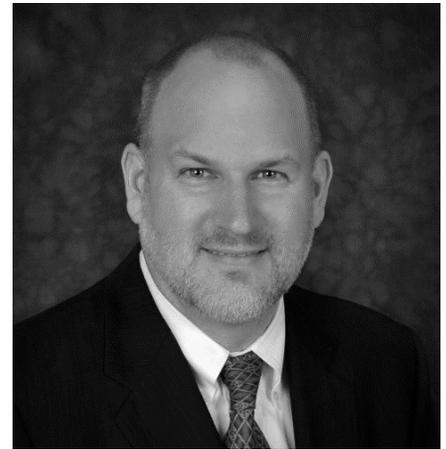
of **Mid Lane**, newly elected **WLPCA Vice President**, has been with Martha Turner Sotheby's International Realty since 2001. Prior to her career in real estate, Diane worked for a Fortune 500 corporation as a major account executive. She graduated from Bellaire High School and attended the University of Houston. She and her **husband, Ken**, raised their three children in the Nottingham and Cinco Ranch areas. Today, they are happy "inner-Loopers" living with their Labrador, Lucy, and rescue kitty, SK. Community service is important to Diane and she has served as an officer in her local PTA and as vice president for Project GRAD. Additional commitments include the Katy Christian Ministries Food Pantry, the Domestic Abuse and Resale Shop, Special Pals, and Hope for Haiti's Children.

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Sara Lowery Ng,

of **Bash Place**, is the new **Secretary of the WLPCA**. She was born in Gainesville, Florida, but spent most of her childhood in Columbus, Ohio, where she met her **husband, Tim**, who led her to Houston in 2006. Sara works in Oil and Gas but loves interior design, modern art, and all things Animal. Sara and Tim have an eleven year-old rat terrier, Charlie, and an eight year-old calico cat named Zoe. You can often find Charlie patrolling Bash Place and Zoe keeping an eye out from her perch in the window. Besides her work in the WLPCA, Sara also is active in several rescue groups. Sara and Tim have lived on Bash Place since 2011. Sara looks forward to meeting more residents of West Lane Place as she fulfills her duties as WLPCA Secretary.



Tim Smith, of **Hackberry Lane**, is one of our new **WLPCA Directors**. He has been a resident of Houston since 1971 and a resident of West Lane Place since 2005. Tim is currently Senior Vice President of Business Integration and Administration at Eads Distribution, an industrial distribution company headquartered in Stafford. Prior to joining Eads, he worked for nine years as the principal of a consulting group serving mid-sized organizations in transition. Tim is married to **Jeffri Botkin**. They have two children, both feline. When not in Houston, they often can be found at their weekend home just southwest of Austin in Wimberley, Texas.

* * * * *



Brian H. Teichman, of **Mid Lane**, another of our new **WLPCA Directors**, is a native of Galveston, Texas. He began his community service at the age of ten, to protect The Old City Cemetery in Galveston, which had become the target of vandalism. Since graduating from Texas A&M University, he has drawn upon his large cadre of connections locally and throughout the United States to raise awareness and funding for charity. Brian and his spouse, **Andrew Cordes**, have been chasing speeding cars down Mid Lane with their dachshund, Lola, for five years. Together, they enjoy flying over and sailing the warm waters of the world, especially Brian's native Galveston Island.

JULY

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						

AUGUST

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			

SEPTEMBER

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	

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	*NNO*	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	J	27	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.

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

The
West Lane Place Civic Association

asks you to

Mark your Calendars

and

Plan to Join Us

on

Tuesday, October 4

for

National Neighbors Night Out

Details coming soon!

Announcements

Light box. Be sure to check out the new artwork on the electrical box at the southeast corner of Mid Lane and Westheimer, an **Up Art project funded by the WLPCA** that was **initiated by WLPCA Past President, Jane Root**. Artwork was selected by a committee chaired by **WLPCA Director, Ann Iverson**, that included **Joan Bohn** (our artist in residence on West Lane) and **WLPCA Director, Gary Whitney**.

Put your announcement there! ↑ Please let us know about a neighbor who deserves some bragging, a child who made honor roll, or the extra styrofoam peanuts you'd be happy to share with anybody who needs packing materials. Whatever *it* is, we'd like to know about it. Just send an email to newsletter@wlpca.org.