

the willmore city enterprise



Hey Kids! Lets Put on a Show!

We've gotta have a great show, with a million laughs... and color... and a lot of lights to make it sparkle. And songs - wonderful songs. And after we get the people in that hall, we've gotta start em in laughing right away. Oh, can't you just see it... ?"— Judy Garland, "Babes In Arms", 1939.

It didn't really start off as a great show—initially, the Willmore Heritage Garden was just an effort to clean up and beautify a neglected area of the historic Willmore City area. Somewhere along the line, the project became full of color and sparkle, a great show with many people, if not laughing, at least

Show! Continued on page 4



Meet Your Neighbor

By Tim and Becky Sutton

Hi! You have a few new neighbors down the street. You might have seen us roaming around the neighborhood aimlessly with our two pups, or over at the party by Drake Park, or even working on our newly acquired 1906 house that we love so much. Our names are Tim and Becky Sutton. We moved into the green house on the corner of Crystal Ct. and 7th St. just down from the gas station on Magnolia and 7th.

I personally have been living here since I transplanted myself from Colorado thirteen years ago, and have seen a ton of great changes in the short time I've been here. **Becky on the other hand is a California native, having lived most of her life in the Orange County area. We have always loved older homes, and I for one have always been keen on the Willmore District. I helped a Great Friend, Jenny Sersion move into her place on Maine years ago, about the time they wiped out the neighborhood to our south. I saw the possibilities with the hood. I always loved it when I would come by Jenny's and always see kids playing in the park and being kids, something you don't see everywhere in the Southland.**

We moved into our home in November and have already met some awesome people! We love our home and have wonderful plans of restoring it, as we can. I am a craftsman of sorts with an art background, and my lovely wife is an accomplished hair-

Neighbor continued on page 5



Groundbreaking Day: Representatives from WCHA, Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association and DLBA: Kathleen Irvine, Jim Danno, Ernie Villa, Pedro Costa, Kraig Kojian, Emily Tanaka and Michelle Muniz, with the star of the show, one of the restored Jergins Trust Pillars.

Annual Summer Celebration & Potluck

Date: Saturday July 21
Time: 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
Place: The Bembridge House

Please join friends and neighbors in a celebration of summer and the WCHA, with good food and congenial company as we raise a glass of Sangria to toast the accomplishments of the past year. Along with the potluck there will be great music, an opportunity drawing and an auction. Tours of the Bembridge House will be available.

No General Meeting or Code Enforcement Meeting in July!



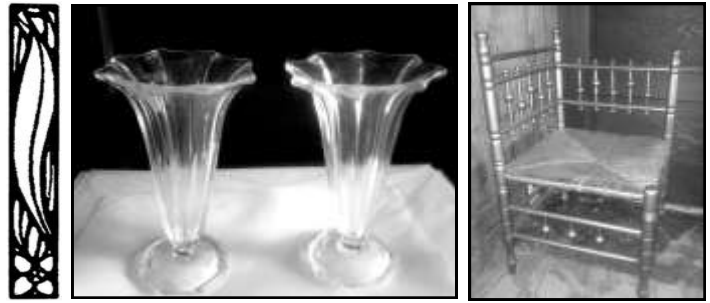
You know you want it!

Take a look at some of the swag that has already been rounded up for the Fabulous Fundraiser—our Annual Summer Celebration! As always, the indomitable Stan Poe has donated some of his best antiques and our stalwart supporters, HMS Queen Mary, Hotel Maya, Babette Bakery and Soylar Organic Candles and Soaps, among others, have given us great auction gifts. We will accept donations right up until the day of the Celebration. Please contact a board member for drop off or pickup.

We currently have:

- Restored Victorian Teak Park Bench
- Pair of Art Deco Glass Mantel Vases
- Brunch for two at Fuego's @ Hotel Maya
- \$25 gift card from B&B Hardware
- \$50 gift card Dominico's Italian Restaurant.
- **Early 1900's spindle back chair**
- Convex oval Glass Frame w/ picture
- Spindle Wicker Corner Chair
- 1900's embroidered foot stool
- Cast iron side table with black marble top
- Gift baskets Soylar Candles & Babette Bakery

If we missed thanking you officially last time, please let us know—we will be happy to give you a **donation form for your taxes**. We'll look forward to seeing you on July 21st!



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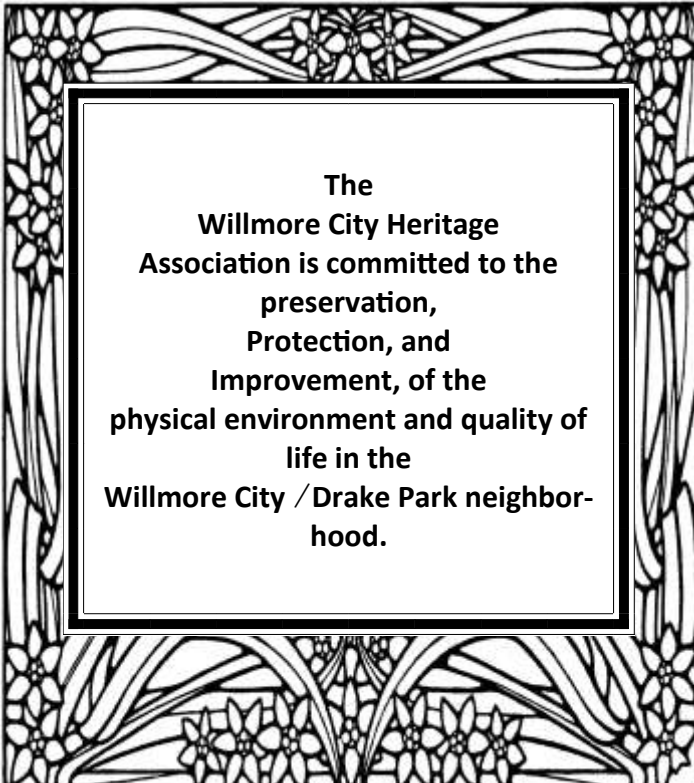
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The
**Willmore City Heritage
 Association is committed to the
 preservation,
 Protection, and
 Improvement, of the
 physical environment and quality of
 life in the
 Willmore City / Drake Park neighbor-
 hood.**

Calendar of events

Dancin' in the Streets

PLACE: Downtown Long Beach
 DATE: July
 TIME: various
 The name says it all!
www.downtownlongbeach.org

Great Gatsby Garden Party

PLACE: Bembridge House
 DATE: July 15
 TIME: 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
 1920's elegance at the beautifully restored Bem-
 bridge House. Enjoy music, dining, and games
 of chance at the Speakeasy
www.lbheritage.org

WCHA Summer Celebration

PLACE: Bembridge House
 DATE: July 21
 TIME: 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
 WCHA sponsored fundraising potluck and auc-
 tion—music, food, and fun.
www.willmorecity.org

Long Beach Jazz Festival

PLACE: Marina Green
 DATE: August 10-12
 TIME: various
 Top artists, food, art and more.
www.longbeachjazzfestival.com

LB Heritage Hollywood Bowl event

PLACE: Hollywood Bowl
 DATE: August 11
 TIME: 4:00 p.m.
 Fabulous dinner in the Hollywood Hills and a
 fabulous Liza Minnelli concert to follow.
www.lbheritage.org

Long Beach Funk Fest

PLACE: Downtown Long Beach
 DATE: August 18
 TIME: various
 Part of the Summer and Music (SAM) series fea-
 turing funk royalty, dancing, art and lots of MU-
 SIC!
www.downtownlongbeach.org

Queen Mary Art Deco Festival

PLACE: RMS Queen Mary
 DATE: August 31-September 2
 TIME: various
 Go back to the Golden Age of Travel on the
 beautiful Queen Mary, with tours, lectures, Ba-
 zaar, Grand Art Deco Ball and more.

Show! continued from page 1

smiling. Perhaps someone will even write a wonderful song!

We're talking about the continuing show of the Jergins Pillar Project. As of this printing, the architectural elements from the demolished Jergins Trust Building have been restored, repurposed and installed at the Willmore Heritage Garden. Thanks to the dedication of the team of Jim Danno, Kathleen Irvine and Emily Tanaka, the Pillar Project should be completed by the beginning of August.

In June, when the initial contractor bowed out of the project, the well-known firm of JR Van Dijs was retained to install the pillars. Experts on adaptive reuse, they are responsible for the construction of the Berlin Coffeehouse, the renovation of the Art Theater on 4th and the construction of the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House. The WCHA was fortunate that they were interested and available—JR Van Dijs was absolutely the right contractor for the job.

Monday, June 18, was the groundbreaking. Joined by our Community Partners—representatives from Downtown Long Beach Associates, 1st District Councilmember Robert Garcia's office, and Long Beach Navy Memorial Trust, - WCHA board members saw the final stage of this great project begin. If you weren't able to visit the site during the week that the installation was in progress, you missed some impressively large equipment and materials. There are 22' concrete caissons with steel rebar cages set into the earth. The pillars themselves are attached to a custom made steel beam, surrounded by a rebar cage, inside a 12' tall poured concrete column. If there is ever an earthquake in Long Beach—go there and hang on! And you may be interested to know that the water table is a mere 19' below us..

On Thursday, June 28, the pillars were finally attached to the steel beams and the following days were spent building the forms and pouring the column. The next steps will be the affixing of a bronze



WCHA is lucky to have a Teamster onboard! Jim Danno maneuvers one of the 1' x 14' steel support pipes into place.

plaque to the pillars, the addition of a decorative wrought iron archway and the installation of a pic-

Show! Continued on page 5



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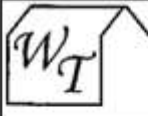
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Groundbreaking Day: Ernie Villa, LBNMHA and Lena Gonzalez, Field Officer for District 1, Councilmember Robert Garcia's office.

Show continued from page 4



And Jim Danno thought this would all be a piece of cake...

torial history of the Jergins Pillar Project. The final step will be the official ribbon cutting. Mark your calendars for August 11, time TBD. Plan for a morning event, followed by a celebration at Drake Park, in conjunction with the Community Band performance. We promise a great show with wonderful songs, and much laughter among family, friends and neighbors!

Neighbor continued from page 1

dresser. We are always looking for info on our house and how it used to be, there have been quite a few odd changes that we would like to bring back, **and some things we'd like to remove, all in time.** If you have any photos or stories we would love to hear them.

We love our time in our backyard and in the garden, which is also in constant change, the veggies are blooming nicely now. We have a wonderful grapefruit tree outside and it is loaded with fruit, with no end in sight, so if you want to indulge, just knock on the door, and we can accommodate you, besides we probably would like to meet you.

Jenny and Matt have really helped us get into the groove on what's happening in the area as far as meetings, parties, and gatherings. They are such good friends and really care about the neighborhood. We are mostly settled right now so you should be seeing more of us at all the events!

I wanted to give a huge thanks to Jim, Kathleen, and Emily. **Without them we wouldn't have gotten** the much needed Willmore City trash can out front of the house that is working perfectly. The yard was a trashcan for everyone coming from the gas stations, now it's not! Woot woot! A little goes a long way. One small step in keeping it pretty over here and on to the next!

See you guys soon!

T-Lily: —A One Woman Lip Sync and Comedy Show

Catch one of our favorite neighbors in a song and laugh filled production on Saturday, July 21 at 3:00 p.m., at the Zoe Christian Fellowship of Long Beach, 495 E. Market St. T-Lily will entertain you for a mere \$10 per person!



Neighborhood boys, Angel and Fernando, are fascinated by the process.



Jergins Pillar Project before—check out Facebook or next month's newsletter for the "after".

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Mystery House Unveiled

By Carol McCafferty

I have lived at the corner of 11th and Maine for twenty five years, and in all those years I have never gotten a clear look at the house across the street at 11th and Loma Vista. Back in the early seventies, two tiny ficus trees were planted, one on either side of the front walk. By the time I got here in 1986 they had grown into two humongous trees that completely blocked the front of the house. They had also raised the front steps, torn up the front walk, and raised the foundation of the western part of the porch.

The owners when I moved in were of the philosophy, **“It’s almost a hundred years old and I guess it’s good for another hundred years.”** That’s a paraphrased quote from an owner who knew there was a water leak under her house. They replaced the steps and put a new walk on top of the original. The end of the porch continued to deteriorate.

Over the years, the trees were hatracked (a vicious, harmful style of pruning) twice. Twice I got enticing glimpses of the foront of the house. The last time, I sat down and wrote an item for the En-

terprise and Mark Perry snapped a picture. The theme of the article was, get over right away and get a look, because it will be hidden again in a few weeks. Sure enough, two months later, the façade of the house was totally hidden by regrowth of the trees.

A few years ago the then-owner had the western-most tree removed, which must have been a blessing for the porch foundation, but left the landscaping looking lopsided. I will give that owner credit for hiring Window Repair and Restoration to get all the windows operating.

I think it is gorgeous. Our earliest houses are an amalgam of the coming bungalow style and the last of the Victorian style. This house has the straightforward, no-frills look of a bungalow, but the steep roof and the half-round porch extension show that **Victorian wasn’t quite forgotten. The style, by the way, is called “turn of the century’.**

It was built in 1906, three years after Charles Rivers Drake subdivided the area west of Daisy, creating Knoll Park. It would appear that this house, the Bembridge house and mine were the first houses in the new subdivision. According to Dorothy Bembridge, the original deeds specified that all construction had to cost a minimum of \$6,000, a big chunk of change back then.

I have had two tours of the interior, and it appears to be untouched. No painted woodwork downstairs. The kitchen is original or close to it. There are three fireplaces. It has possibly more gasoliers than the Bembridge house, and last I heard they were all in the attic awaiting reinstallation. The stained glass is to die for. **There’s a lot to be said in favor of**

Helpful Phone Numbers

1st District Council Office	562-570-6919
Code Enforcement	562-570-2633
Barking Dogs	562-570-PETS
Neighborhood Watch	562-570-7229
Police, Non-Emergency	562-435-6711
Public Services	562-570-2700
Graffiti	562-570-2773
Pot Holes	562-570-3259
Storm Drains	562-570-2440
Alley Cleaning	562-570-2876
Bike Trails (Glass or Other Debris)	562-869-1176
Street Maintenance	562-570-3259
Recycling	562-570-2876
Stray Shopping Carts	800-252-6131
Trash Collection	562-570-2878
Special Pickup	562-570-2876
Environmental Services	562-570-2876

WCHA T-Shirts

We know you've missed them! A few months ago, the WCHA ran out of logoed t-shirts, but they are back—in tan with green lettering. There is now a **women’s style and if that isn’t right for you, order a special color or sleeve or neckline type that will suit you better.** Be advised that the women’s sizes run small. Contact Vice-President, Michelle Muniz for more information on purchasing a shirt—all profits go to support WCHA projects and events.

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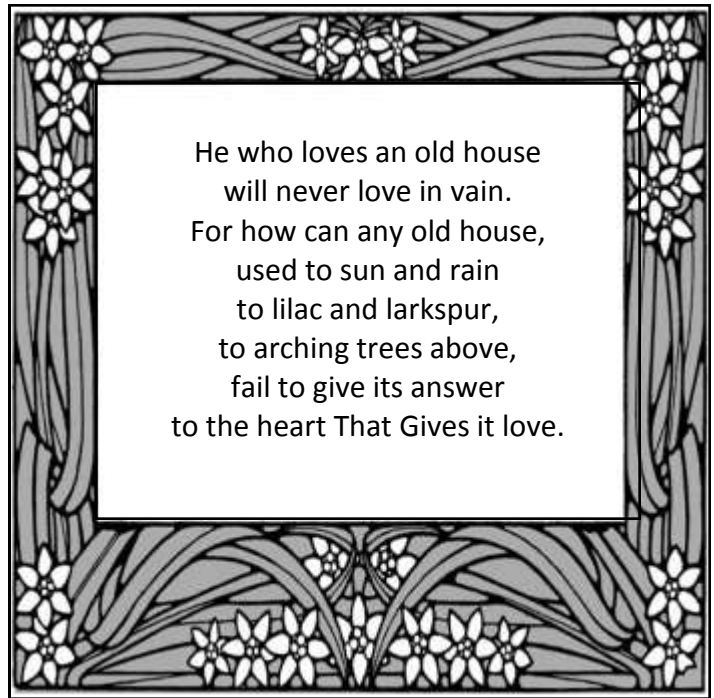
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May meeting

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No General Meeting or Code Enforcement meeting this month!

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