

# THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION JAN. 2006

## January 2006 Meeting

Join us on Wednesday January 18th at 7:30 p.m. as a representative from the Port of Long Beach presents an overview of our harbor, highlights the new "Green Port Policy", and tells us about the plans for the future of the Port. Long Beach is the second busiest port in the United States and together with the Port of Los Angeles, the fifth busiest in the world. 30,000 jobs or one in eight jobs in Long Beach are port-related. Hear about the additional environmental programs which have been put in place this past year to mitigate both the current challenges and the anticipated growth of this economic engine.

In addition, Graffiti Detectives Maddox and VanDuin from Gang Detail will be attending the meeting to answer questions regarding the ongoing graffiti problems we seem to be having in the neighborhood.

The meeting will be at the Willmore Neighborhood Police Center at 910 Daisy Avenue at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday January 18th.

## Code Enforcement Meeting

The first meeting of the new code enforcement block captains will be held Wednesday January 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Willmore Neighborhood Police Center at 910 Daisy Avenue. Loren Patten, Code Enforcement Inspector for the City will be joining us. Our regular Willmore meeting will follow and Graffiti Detectives Maddox and VanDuin from the gang detail will be attending that meeting.

## A New Painted Lady

Be sure to check out the new paint on the house at 600 W. 4th St. This is the house that Xenia Izzo moved and is renovating and restoring. The colors are wonderful and really bring out the details of the house and the new garage. They definitely complement her house next door to it. Great job! We're looking forward to seeing the inside when it is completed.



Two Willmore Buildings Added To National Register

Last year two more buildings in Long Beach were added to the National Register of Historic Places and both of them are located in the Willmore City Historic District -- the Green-Rankin-Bembridge House at 953 Park Circle and the Second Church of Christ Science (currently the Second Samoan Congregational Church) at 655 Cedar Avenue. There are 13 other sites in Long Beach on the Register. If you would like to see the list of these other sites, check out [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/) on the web.

The National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966 under the National Historic Preservation Act as the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The Register is administered by the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect the nation's historic and archeological resources.

Historic places are nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer after being approved by a review board of the state's historic preservation office. They are then evaluated and documented according to uniform standards by the National Park Service. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, Federal agencies and others identify important historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions.



The Second Church of Christ Scientist is significant as an outstanding monumental building in the Neoclassical Revival style, built by a religious organization growing rapidly in the early years of Long Beach's history. As an intact and beautifully designed work of Neoclassical Revival architecture, it possesses high artistic values. The architectural and construction firm responsible for this building, Shields, Fisher and Lake, designed several buildings that are currently listed on the National Register: the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Los Angeles and The Willmore in Long Beach. The Second Church of Christ Scientist reflects the popularity of period revival styles in the 1920's. Based upon Roman Imperial classicism as filtered through a Beaux-Arts vision, the choice of this style illustrates the aspirations of the congregation towards classical grandeur. The building maintains its original integrity and is in good condition. It was designated as a Long Beach Historical Landmark in 1990.

The house owned by Dorothy Rankin Bembridge was constructed about 1906 in the Queen Anne Victorian style. The original owners were Josephine and Stephen Green; he was a wealthy businessman who had come to Long Beach from Seattle and Los Angeles. Mr. Green was one of the founders of City National Bank. The house is a magnificent and highly ornate example of Victorian architecture, and both the exterior and interior exemplify the finest accomplishments of turn-of-the-century architectural designers and craftsmen. It is the single most important example of this style of architecture remaining in the City today, and is considered to be the most significant residential historic landmark structure in the City. Amazingly, the house is in pristine original condition, and contains all the original furnishings dating from the early 1900's which were owned by the Rankin family when they purchased the house in 1918.

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A Local Business

Morgan Awnings has been in business in Long Beach for 101 years. Grandson Terry Morgon and his wife Laura are running it now. Three generations of Morgons haven't thrown away the specs for awnings they've installed over the years.

In the first half of the 20th century canvas awnings could be seen on houses and businesses all over the city. Spanish-style houses more often than not had awnings over the porch. Wooden houses had them in front of the covered porch, providing sun protection. They were common on side windows too. They were striped, and the old stripe patterns are still being made.

Terry has looked at so many old orders that he can look at your house and describe the awnings it might have had, as well as the manner in which they would have been hung. He might even have the original specs for your house, but I am not sure we should ask him or Laura to look for them.

The store is at 4th Street and Ohio Avenue, where it has been for a long time. The best way to reach Terry is by his cell phone, (562) 331-5008.

Carol McCafferty

More About Jill Anne's House

In writing up Jill Anne Black's house for the December issue, I neglected to mention that the replacement of the long lost windows was accomplished by Roy Carroll, son-in-law of Pat Waters, proprietor of the coffee shop and Laundromat at 9th & Daisy. Roy also made wooden screens for the windows, not an easy job. And when the new/old door got a screen door, he cut and installed a sliver of wood to fill the space left where the lintel is not level. All of this was voluntary, from the goodness of his heart.

Carol McCafferty

Board Elections In March

WCHA Board elections will be held in March. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board, please contact Cheryl Perry for information.

**Willmore City Heritage Association**

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Donations to the Wm. E. Willmore Trust  
(any amount)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: W C H A  
PO Box 688  
Long Beach, CA 90801

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 neighborhood.

**WCHA Board Members\* - 2005**

Cheryl Perry, President\* 436-2815

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Jill Anne Black, Treasurer\* 495-3377

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Ernie Villa\* 436-6522

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WCHA Voice Mail 436-8611

Police Center Chair: Carrol Goddard 618-9507

Willmore Community Police Center 570-1146

1st District Council Office 570-6919

visit us at our website: <http://www.willmorecity.org>

**Friends' House**  
**Literacy Center**


**English Classes**  
 Monday & Thursday 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
 Childcare provided: ages 4-10  
 646 W. 9th (9th & Maine)  
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W I L L M O R E C A L E N D A R

January 18th - Code Enforcement meeting - 6:30PM

January 18th - Willmore meeting - 7:30PM

Copies provided free of charge by the  
 Neighborhood Resource Center (562) 570 1010

**The January Meeting will be held on  
 Wednesday, January 18th  
 at the Willmore Neighborhood Police  
 Center at 910 Daisy Avenue  
 at 7:30 p.m.**

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 PO BOX 688, LONG BEACH, CA 90801

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**Mark Your Calendar!!**