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**The March meeting will be held
Wednesday March 19th
6:30 p.m. at
Primes Restaurant
355 E. 1st St.**

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE
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THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MARCH 2008

March 2008 Special Meeting

As we have begun to alternate the focus of our general meetings between preservation issues and quality of life issues every other month, this March meeting will deal more with quality of life and will be a special joint meeting with the other downtown neighborhood associations: The North Pine Neighborhood Alliance, West End Community Association, East Village Association, and the St. Anthony's Neighborhood Association. Guest speakers will be Mayor Bob Foster and City Manager Pat West. See the enclosed flyer for all of the details. Please join us on March 19th at 6:30pm at Primes Restaurant, 355 East First Street. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our downtown neighbors and discuss some of our common issues.

There will be no Code Enforcement meeting at the Police Center that night. It has been rescheduled to March 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Special Meeting Location: Primes Restaurant at 355 E. 1st Street - Time: 6:30 p.m.

See you there!

Olsons Receive Preservation Award

Willmore residents Tom and Juliette Olson received a Preservation Award from Long Beach Heritage last month for the magnificent restoration job they completed on their home at 727 Cedar following a two year ordeal caused by a fire there in 2005.

The spacious American Foursquare style home was built in 1907 for the Reverend Hugh Walker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. It was originally a "three-flat" so the Reverend could take on boarders. The residence is known most for its affiliation with its third owners who bought it in 1923: Gayheart Mehrens Nebraska. Their daughter, Tressa, married Ross Van Liew in 1908. They had a son named Clyde who inherited the Cedar Avenue Olsons in June of 1999. Because the house had remained in the same family, there was very little alteration to the original. The house had remained in the same family, there was very little alteration to the original. The fire occurred in the second floor master bedroom caught fire and burned through the attic and the roof. The damages were unfathomable. The walls and woodwork were almost destroyed by the water used to fight the fire. Everything on the first floor was affected as well. Because of the soot and water damage, all of the plaster was removed. The extensive oak woodwork and the oak floors had to be restored. Rather than raze the house, the Olsons began an extensive restoration on both the interior and exterior. The results are amazing.



When the home was built it contained a number of very unusual features. All of the woodwork is a fine grained oak, even in the closets. Most of the rooms have built-in cabinets and window seats. There are an unusually large number of windows for the period as well. The vast living room is dominated by a double stairwell that cascades into the room. At the landing the stairway rises in two opposite directions, and at the second floor there is a balcony which encircles the stairwell.

continued ...

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

727 Cedar cont'd...

The first floor consists of a very large dining room with built-in buffet, a reading nook, an impressive granite fireplace and bookcases and built-in benches. A unique feature in the living room is a supporting pillar with banquette that partially supports the second floor. Old photographs reveal combination gas and electric lights. The right side of the house contains four rooms in tandem that are small but beautifully finished in the same oak woodwork as the rest of the house. The large kitchen and several service rooms complete the first floor.

Congratulations to the Olsons for a well-deserved award and a great big Thank-You to them for restoring this fabulous landmark in our neighborhood against seemingly insurmountable odds.



727 Cedar Ave.



Front Parlor



Gayheart Mehrens



Ross & Tressa Van Liew



Tressa Mehrens Van Liew



Young Clyde Van Liew & family

W C H A Board Term Extension

The issue of the completion of the "Schoolhouse" has led President, Cheryl Perry to request a postponement of the Annual Meeting of the Association and Election of Directors of the Association to the first meeting after the completion of the house.

After re-reading the by-laws I conclude that there is no reason to deny the requested postponement so long as the majority of the Directors have no objection. If there is any Director, whose term is due to expire, who does not wish to serve the additional time, a replacement may be appointed for the remainder of the extended term. This shall remain in effect for 90 days or until the house is completed. The Directors agreed unanimously. The ninety days will expire on June 19. If there is anyone who wishes to serve on the Board of Directors of WCHA or someone you believe would make a good candidate please send me an e-mail or snail mail before the ninety day time frame expires. We will still need a director to fill the slot left open by Cheryl's term limit. The election will be held at the meeting following the ninety day time frame or when the house is complete.

Phyllis Ciscle-McDaniels, Election Committee

T H E W I L L M O R E
Attracting New Faces to Rentals in Willmore

I had an incredible experience I wanted to share with all of you. At the middle of February, I received notice from our tenants living below us that they were planning on moving out. While my wife panicked a little, I reassured her that we would have a better experience looking for a new tenant this time, and to just "Roll with the Punches". Roll with the punches....this is my typical piece of advice to anyone I see getting overwhelmed and needing to reset their buttons. In a traditional approach to looking for rental candidates, I would have placed a sign outside of my property, visible from the street, and then followed up with an ad placement or two in some of the traditional local publications, in the "For Rent" section of the classifieds. However, this time, I decided to take a different approach in the hopes of attracting some newer faces to our neighborhood. Upon the advice of several friends including Willmore's own Mike LaPoint, I placed an ad on Craig's List, a popular, free classifieds posting on the internet. My efforts were about to be rewarded big-time. Within 1 week of posting the ad we received over 15 inquiries, many of them begging us to take a deposit to reserve the place for them and cut in front of the line.

What was so special about that, you may wonder. If you have a nice place for rent, that is half of the battle, right? Well, the other half of the battle, to me, is attracting professional, new faces and new energy to our growing downtown community.

Through the use of Craig's List, we had many potential renters at our Open House that were from the outer reaches of our city as well as the San Francisco area and even out of state Portland, Oregon. There were even some inquiries from Great Britain, although I wasn't sure by the way the inquiry was written if these were scams or not, which Craig's List specifically warns about in detail. Each post lasts about a week, at which point you repost. You can even create an account for faster posting, to avoid the ad-review process, which only took half a day in our case, being that we didn't have an account.

But ultimately, the caliber of potential renters that showed up encouraged us greatly that we had found a good conduit for filling a vacancy with a fresh new face. Some suggest that right now is a renters' market, so that may have contributed to the turnout. But keep one thing in mind...

I placed one ad in Craig's List alone, and only for 1 week. That's all it took to get our place immediately filled with a great tenant.

For more information, just go to the Craig's List website at <http://www.craigslist.org>

Good Renting! Erik Sochin

SAVE THE DATE

This year's May Day Celebration will be on Saturday April 26th at Drake Park and the Bembridge House. See next month's newsletter for more details.





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You say you have "bad soil"? No such thing! Usually people say this when they have clay soil. Clay is actually fantastic because it has a high amount of nutrients in it. What it doesn't have is a lot of space between its particles so drainage can be poor. The problem begins with the way the clay soil is handled. The best way to deal with clay is to leave it alone - no turning, no digging in amendments. The more you work it, the smaller the spaces between the particles get. The best thing to do - add organic matter - on top. Put down amendments - lots of them. You can use any of the organic foods by Dr. Earth or Whitney Farms. A good guide - the smellier it is, the better it is for the soil and its creatures! Always top this with a high quality steer manure (Kellogg's makes one called Garden Manure) and a THICK (3-4") layer of mulch such as Xerimulch, Cedar or Redwood. Avoid anything containing sewage sludge due to the heavy metal content. Above all, no blowers on your soil - otherwise, you will soon have no topsoil left, making your garden an unwelcoming place for plant and animal life. Be patient. Good soil takes time. Do this twice a year and before you know it - rich, fabulous, well-drained soil!

If you're looking for a good source for organic pest control try the website www.tiptopbio.com Everyone should keep in mind however, that things that control larvae, such as BT, will also kill Butterfly larvae - in other words, caterpillars....

Next month: Improving Your Soil part II Kathleen Irvine

Shoshannah Siegel

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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 neighborhood.

WCHA Board Members* - 2007/2008

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Cheryl Perry, President* | 436-2815 |
| Ernie Villa, Vice-President* | 436-6522 |
| Sherron Leno, Secretary * | 432-5140 |
| Jill Anne Black, Treasurer* | 495-3377 |
| Erik Sochin* | 435-1146 |
| Jana Shields* | 495-1729 |
| Patty Lund* | 435-9606 |

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| Newsletter - Mark Perry | 436-2815 |
| 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>

C h a n g e o f M e e t i n g L o c a t i o n

Due to the unexpected closing of the Primes restaurant, the new location for the March 19th joint Neighborhood Association meeting will be just down the street at the Courtyard Marriott at 1st & Linden.

There will be food, refreshments and free parking!

NEW LOCATION

Courtyard Marriott at 1st & Linden

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