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THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MAY 2008 

May Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Wednesday May 21st at the Willmore Community Police Center (910 Daisy Ave.) at 7:30 p.m. We have several items on the agenda: Trees , Megan's Law and Community Development's 2009 Action Plan. Jim Osgood from Neighborhood Services will be with us to talk about an upcoming tree planting in Willmore. Remember that list of trees we submitted for a grant several years ago? Well....I think it has finally come through.

Also on the agenda will be PSS (Public Service Specialist) Lisa Massacani from Community Relations who will educate and update us on Megan's Law. California's Megan's Law provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders . There has been quite a lot in the news lately about this topic and the Long Beach City Council recently passed a new ordinance governing where convicted sex offenders may and may not live. Come hear the facts.

Alem Hagos from Community Development will discuss their 2009 Action Plan. Many of the programs, grants and services that have benefited the neighborhood are part of this Plan and the City needs our input in helping to establish funding priorities.

Reminder to all Code Enforcement Block Captains: A Code Enforcement meeting for all Block Captains will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 21st.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day first became an official American holiday in May 1868 and since that time has usually been celebrated with parades and marches. The picture below was sent to us by Anna Bates Hunter whose family lived at 249 Maine from 1906 until the 1970s. Their house is the "School House" that WCHA moved to 419 Daisy and is renovating. Anna and her sisters were kind enough to send us several pictures their father Fred Hunter had taken. Mr. Hunter had been a photographer for Shell Oil for many years. This picture was taken in 1941 and on the back it just says "Memorial Day 1941". No indication what street it is. Could it be Pine Avenue? Any guesses?



**Memorial Day
Parade
Long Beach
1941**

Copies provided via the WCHA printing HQ

**The May meeting will be held
Wednesday May 21st at
7:30 p.m. at the
Willmore Community Police Ctr.
910 Daisy Ave.**

Mark Your Calendar!!

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE
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May Day Celebration



May Pole Dancing by the Naroni & Dalmation International Folk Dancers, led by Henrietta Bemis



Face painting was very popular with the children

The Annual May Day Celebration held at Drake Park and the Bembridge House on Saturday April 26th was quite a success. Young and old alike enjoyed the dancing, games, face painting, May Day crafts and storytelling at the park. From children in strollers to senior citizens, everyone got into the act and had fun. Always a welcome participant, the Long Beach Firefighters were on hand grilling hot dogs. The living history tours at the Bembridge House, performed by local students, residents and other Bembridge volunteers, were enjoyed by over 200 adults and children. The actors were wonderful and gave great performances. The Carriage House was decorated as a USO in keeping with the theme of the year 1943.

All of those involved deserve a huge THANK YOU for all of the hours they spent planning, preparing, rehearsing, and then implementing such a fun day for the neighborhood.



Young and old alike got into the spirit of May Day

Photos taken by Jerry Lomeli



Mary Kay Nottage - one of the many volunteers who helped out at the Bembridge House

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

“School House” Update

We’re closing in on the restoration/renovation of the “School House” project and are now in need of volunteers to assist with the landscaping. We received two grants to help us with the landscaping - one from Community Development and one from the Long Beach Water Department. It is our goal to provide landscaping that will be drought tolerant yet appropriate to the house. Jana Shields is coordinating the landscaping part of the project so if you can help in any way please call her at (562) 495-1729. Also, remember we still want to include plants from the neighborhood as part of the project. Even if they are not considered “drought tolerant” we still want to use a few of them. We feel it is important to incorporate a part of the neighborhood into this new “neighbor” and what better way than to share some of our plants that have been a part of the neighborhood for many years.



W I L L M O R E C A L E N D A R

- May 21st Code Enforcement 6:30 pm
WCHA Meeting 7:30 pm
Willmore Community Police Center

- June 8th Long Beach Heritage Great Homes Tour
Contact LBH (562) 493-7019 for details

- June 18th Code Enforcement 6:30 pm
WCHA Meeting 7:30 pm
Willmore Community Police Center

- July 19th Concert in the Park
Drake Park

T H E W I L L M O R E

Linoleum or Vinyl Flooring - is there a difference?

Oh YES - a big difference I recently discovered. For years apparently I used the word "linoleum" for any type of rolled flooring - sort of like using the word "Kleenex" for any type of tissue. Well, in looking for some kitchen flooring for the "School House" project, I discovered my error and was surprised at how wrong my old sense of "linoleum" was. I guess I still have unpleasant memories of us trying to strip off the old ugly yellow flooring (which I assume was linoleum) from our wood floor in the kitchen using gallons of all kinds of chemicals and hours and hours of labor. So thanks to the internet I have now discovered some very interesting facts about linoleum, one of which is that linoleum is actually environmentally "green" and is gaining in popularity once again.

Linoleum was discovered and patented in 1863 by an Englishman named Frederick Walton. Legend says he came up with the idea from observing the skin of oxidized linseed oil that forms on paint. Walton eventually perfected a mix of linseed oil, wood flour, cork dust, ground limestone, tree resins and pigments and pressed it onto a jute backing - the same process as used today. He coined the name "linoleum" from two Latin words "linum" (flax) and "oleum" (oil).

Linoleum became the standard in flooring material up until the 1940s when a cheaper product - vinyl (a synthetic product made of chlorinated petrochemicals), became available. Vinyl also offered more variety in colors and patterns and was somewhat easier to maintain. However, the durability of linoleum was not matched. Linoleum can last 40-50 years if properly maintained. Where vinyl will melt if a lighted match or cigarette lands on it, linoleum can't. And where most vinyl patterns are printed into the surface, linoleum's colors go all the way through.

Apparently the increasing interest in vintage home restoration, the availability of many new vibrant colors, and a new factory-applied sealer process has given a renewed appreciation for the use of linoleum. And the fact that it is made from natural, largely renewable materials with no environmental toxins involved in its manufacture or disposal, has many looking at linoleum for its "green" qualities.

So, if you're thinking of replacing some flooring in your house, vintage or otherwise, you might want to check out the possibilities of linoleum. There are several manufactures of linoleum (now called Marmoleum), a few of which are Forbo Industries, Domco, and Deutsche LinoleumWerke (now owned by Armstrong).

Cheryl Perry

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C I T Y E N T E R P R I S E

"The Unromantic Gardener"

Finding the correct style of garden for your historical house can be confusing. It's important to be historically appropriate but also water-wise and organic. Just what IS the difference between a Victorian garden and an Arts and Crafts style garden? Does a Spanish Revival really need to have bougainvillea? Do Mid-Century Moderns cry out for Birds of Paradise and Jade plant? And what about those hapless "Transitional" bungalows? What is best for them?

Let's begin with the Victorian vs. Arts and Crafts question. They are at the opposite ends of the gardening scale. A Victorian garden is all about ornamental excess, while subjugating and formalizing nature. Accordingly, a modern Victorian garden can still use drought-tolerant and native plants, as long as they are kept in a more formal layout. Use textures and colors that recall an old fashioned garden. If a more traditional garden is desired, plants such as roses and camellias become drought tolerant over time, when heavily mulched and watered correctly. If you don't have the time or inclination to hand clip your boxwood hedge into submission, consider using one of the small low water use shrubs, such as Lavandula 'Fred Boutin' (French Lavender) or Teucrium chamaedrys (Germander) to edge your beds. Although Victorian gardeners loved great expanses of lawn, low water use substitutes such as Dymondia, Creeping Thyme or Herniaria glabra 'Green Carpet' give a similar effect.

Next month: Arts and Crafts style

Kathleen Irvine

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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.

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- Jill Anne Black, Treasurer* 495-3377
- Erik Sochin* 435-1146
- Jana Shields* 495-1729
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- Willmore Community Police Center 570-1146
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visit us at our website: <http://www.willmorecity.org>