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The November meeting will be held
Wednesday Nov. 19th
7:30 p.m.
910 Daisy Ave.

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE
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THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION NOV 2008



November Meeting

November's meeting will be held on Wednesday November 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Willmore Community Police Center (910 Daisy Avenue). This will be an annual meeting at which time we will hold elections for our board of directors. We will also be working on the calendar for next year's speakers and events and need your input on what you would like to see the organization focus on in the coming year. If you would like to continue the same format for the meetings (preservation topics one month and quality of life issues the next month) please let us know. What topics would you like to see covered or what speakers would you like to see at the meetings next year? What do you feel are the strengths of the neighborhood and what do you feel are the weaknesses? How can WCHA help improve the neighborhood? Please bring your suggestions and join us at the November meeting on the 19th at 7:30 p.m.

If you are on the Code Enforcement committee there will be a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the 19th.

Willmore Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Old friends and new friends of WCHA celebrated its 30 year anniversary on October 19th at The Willmore. Stan Poe and Peter Deveraux, two of the original founders of WCHA were recognized for their pioneering preservation efforts along with Ernie Villa, another original member of WCHA and coordinator of the evening's event.

One of the infamous "Willie Awards" was presented to Allen McDaniels for "Tenacity" which consisted of a plaque containing a dog bone. Those of you who know Allen will understand perfectly. Allen does not let an issue drop that he is passionate about. Good for you Allen! Don't ever change. Cheryl Perry was also honored for her years of dedicated service and was presented the "Don Quixote" award as the "dreamer and defender of Willmore City".

Stan and Peter shared some history of how Willmore City Heritage Association came into being and emcee Scott Ringwelski recounted, in his wonderfully unique and entertaining style, a few examples of what makes Willmore such a special neighborhood. And as he said, the bottom line is it's the people--people who aren't afraid to get involved and who are willing to help each other that make Willmore and WCHA so wonderful.

There was dancing to the incredible music of the *Fabulous Esquires* and a delicious buffet dinner prepared by La Traviata. All in all - a wonderful evening! Many thanks to Ernie Villa and his committee for putting together this special celebration. Start planning the 40th Ernie -- we'll be there!



THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

30th Anniversary Event



President's Message

Normally I don't write a President's message because I usually feel there are more important things to report than my opinion, but since my tenure on the board is up, this will be my last chance as President of WCHA to do so.

First I would like to say what an honor it has been to serve on the WCHA Board. I have had the privilege of working with such wonderful fellow board members. The dedication and cooperation of this group is beyond reproach. Being a totally volunteer organization, if something needs to be done and there aren't enough volunteers, then the Board members always step up. As they say, "the buck stops here" and that has been the attitude of the WCHA Board and I am proud to have been a part of that.

When I first moved to Long Beach in 1983, Ernie Villa was the first person I met in the neighborhood and his friendliness and helpfulness was indicative of what I was to find and still do find throughout the residents of Willmore City. Our neighborhood may not look as uniform or pristine as some neighborhoods because we have such an eclectic mix of single family homes, duplexes, 4-plexes, apartment buildings as well as a few commercial buildings. But regardless of the appearance, the people who live here are what makes the neighborhood and they are truly special neighbors. I often hear from people that have moved from other cities that they are amazed by the friendliness of the neighborhood compared to never knowing any of their neighbors at their previous homes.

Maybe it's a common interest in preservation that bonds us. Or maybe it's the similar qualities of those who are willing to take on a historic home project - dedication, fortitude, courage, self-reliance, generosity. Preservationists are always willing to share their experience - what they've learned through trial and error in order to help someone else with a similar situation. Maybe that's what makes them such good neighbors. Whatever it is, Willmore City is blessed with many such people.

As an organization, Willmore City Heritage Association has successfully completed so many wonderful projects over the years through the hard work of its dedicated members. It has applied for and received grants to help plant hundreds of street trees in the neighborhood, to create a landscaped mini-park, to install murals, historic house plaques and public trashcans, and was the first historic district to obtain funding for historic street signage. It moved and restored 2 historic houses, worked with Redevelopment to create an Implementation Plan for the Willmore area and successfully lobbied to save and move 3 homes from the West Gateway area into the Willmore Historic District. Many of its members work with Long Beach Heritage at the Bembridge House, sponsoring special events and concerts to help preserve this historic icon of the neighborhood.

In addition to preservation efforts, WCHA has been instrumental in making "quality of life" improvements as well. WCHA worked hard to establish the Willmore Community Police Center in the neighborhood and has had a successful code enforcement program in place for several years.

So much to be proud of! Sometimes we take for granted the progress that's been made because we get caught up in the negative. Let's not forget all that's been accomplished and move forward with even more dedication to preserving the oldest historic district in the City of Long Beach. Willmore is a unique and wonderful historic district, deserving of our care.

Cheryl Perry

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"The Unromantic Gardener"

Suddenly, everything we do must be "Sustainable". However, it is really just an old fashioned concept called "Saving". Buy less, use less, and reuse what you can. In a historical district, saving is the driving force behind renovation and preservation. Think of your landscape like you do your home. In the gardening world, it means getting seeds and cuttings from friends, using your leaves and vegetable peelings for compost and letting your garden be a little more natural. It means planting things that fit in the space so that there is less green waste. Don't bother with all the pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or anything with words you cannot pronounce. Plants WANT to grow. A few insect holes in your leaves or dry seed heads in with your flowers mean that there is food on the hoof for the birds. Are your plants blooming? They're fine! Stop "cultivating" your flowerbeds - you aren't growing corn commercially! Roots spread out - not down - so every time someone digs in the soil, the plant suffers. Imagine someone stabbing your feet with a sharp object once a week - you probably would not thrive either! Mulch! Mulch! Mulch! You will use less water, do less weeding, use less plant food, and provide a home for the soil bacteria and creatures that help plants grow.

Next Month: Winter Cleanup

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.

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

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>

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THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE
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B o a r d E l e c t i o n s

As many of you know we extended the term of the current board to coincide with the completion of the "School House". That project is now complete and elections are upon us. The terms are staggered for the 7 member board. 4 members will be elected or re-elected at the November meeting and the other 3 positions will be elected or re-elected in 2009. Recommendations will be made by the nominating committee along with any nominations from any current member present at the meeting. Please step up and volunteer to serve on the board. We need an infusion of new, young, excited and creative people to move the organization forward and give the old guard a new life. Please attend the upcoming Willmore City Heritage Association meeting on Wednesday, November 19th. We will conduct the election at the meeting. All current WCHA members are eligible. Please make sure your membership is current.

We will also discuss some changes so that any loose ends from the project can be tied up.

Step up, go Willmore!!!!!!!!!!!!

Phyllis Ciscle-McDaniels

E v e n t s C a l e n d a r

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Nov. 19th
6:30 p.m. | Code Enforcement
Willmore Community Police Center |
| Nov. 19th
7:30 p.m. | Annual meeting
Willmore Community Police Center |
| Nov. 23rd
10:00 a.m. | Decorate the Bembridge House
953 N. Park Circle |
| Dec. 7th | Victorian Christmas at the Bembridge House
Contact Long Beach Heritage for details (493-7019) |
| Dec. 17th
7:00 p.m. | Holiday Potluck
Location to be determined |

A n n u a l D u e s

It's that time of year again.....Annual dues time. If you haven't already mailed or turned in your renewal form please take a moment to fill out the enclosed one and return by mail or bring to the next meeting with your check for \$20 (\$10 for Seniors). Your dues enables us to pay for postage for the newsletters and takes care of the message phone cost. Hopefully these two items provide you with neighborhood information that is helpful to you. WCHA has been a tool for the neighborhood for 30 years now. Let's keep it going even stronger the next 30 years!