

West Lane Place Civic Association

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Past President: Mohammad Bayegan

Directors: Karisa Gallucci, Larry Gray, Ann Iverson, Ted Richardson, Sue Shivers and Gary Whitney

Vice President: James Brodnax

Treasurer: Cynthia Trigg

Newsletter Editor: Gilda Bayegan

Website: www.wlpca.org

Webmistress: Marj Elhardt

A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors:

As we embark on 2016, West Lane Place continues to thrive and to be a sought after place to live. The ongoing building projects and openings of new centers within close proximity of WLP present many advantages as well as challenges. We expect to see an increase in traffic and concern for security. We can also take advantage of the many things available to us by walking to Highland Village or the River Oaks District Center.

Once again, the WLPCA National Night Out, held in October, was one of the most successful in the city. We had great representation from HPD and other law enforcement agencies. This event could not have been such a success without the leadership and planning of Cynthia Trigg and Chrissy Doherty, our Hospitality chairs. I would also like to thank all of the others who helped throughout the evening to make this a special event. Of course, participation and attendance of our residents was the most important factor!

Our 2016 membership drive officially begins with the publication and distribution of this Newsletter. Enclosed for your convenience, please find a membership form and a return envelope addressed to Karisa Gallucci, our Membership Chairperson. Your dues provide funding for our ongoing programs, which include Crime Alert, Crime Watch, Crime Watch signage, WLP automobile decals, the WLPCA quarterly Newsletter, the WLPCA website, our annual Membership Directory, Neighbors Night Out, and our Annual Meeting. In addition, the association maintains the entrances to our neighborhood with signage and landscaping. Last year, we had a record-breaking number of memberships. Our goal for 2016 is to exceed that record. Please assure the stability and continual improvement of our neighborhood with the payment of your annual dues.

We are all still greatly concerned with the security of our neighborhood and homes. Our volunteer Crime Watch continues to operate and will hopefully add some members in 2016. One of the best things we can all do is to be vigilant and watch out for our neighbors. Please report any suspicious activity without delay. If you notice an accumulation of newspapers, packages, or advertising on a neighbor's property, please take action to remove those items so that it does not appear that no one is at home. Neighbors watching neighbors is still one of the best deterrents of crime.

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and I extend all my good wishes for a spectacular 2016, and please don't forget to send in your membership dues.

Jane Root
President

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article, and not necessarily those of the WLPCA.

Please contact Circulation Captains, **Mary McDaniel** and **Phyllis Maddox**, regarding any problems you experience receiving your newsletter.

You Asked for It: Beyond Awesome Coconut Cake

Last issue, one of our neighbors asked for a good coconut cake recipe, and Gary Whitney of Mid Lane answered the call with his wonderful recipe, below:

Cake:

18 ½ oz. box of white cake mix (Duncan Hines Classic White)

¼ teaspoon of baking powder

1 cup sour cream

¼ cup flavorless vegetable oil (Mazola Corn Oil)

3 large eggs

½ of a 15 ounce can of cream of coconut (Goya Brand)

Making the cake:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Thoroughly shake & mix cream of coconut, divide contents of can into 2 halves.

Mix all the cake ingredients, including just half of the cream of coconut.

Beat on high for 2 minutes. While beating, spray butter flavored Pam into two 8" round cake pans.

Pour equal amounts of batter into the two cake pans.

Gently tap on counter to remove any air bubbles.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean.

Remove from oven, place cooling rack on top, invert and lift off pan while still hot.

Slowly pour the remaining half of cream of coconut over the top of both layers, spreading over entire top surface while still warm. Repeatedly stab with toothpick to help cake absorb the cream. Let cake cool completely.

Icing:

1 16 oz. box powdered sugar (4 cups)

1 8 oz. package of cream cheese

1 teaspoon coconut extract

1 cup flaked coconut (or more)

Making the icing: Beat powdered sugar, extract, and cream cheese until smooth. Place bottom layer upside down on decorative cake stand or plate. Spread icing on top of bottom layer. Gently place the top layer right side up. Spread remaining icing on top and sides, and sprinkle coconut on top and sides of iced cake.

Editor's Note: I made Gary's recipe but didn't have 8" cake pans so I used 9" pans, and that worked fine for the cake. But one recipe of icing was not nearly enough to cover the larger cake. Instead, I needed to double the icing recipe. I used about ¾ of one recipe (into which I mixed some flaked coconut) to ice between the layers. I then made a second recipe, added it to the remainder of the first batch of icing, and had just enough for a nice, not terribly thick, coat of icing over the top and sides of the cake. I also found the icing was a bit too thick, so I added heavy whipping cream while mixing it. And I added vanilla extract. Altogether, I used 2 packages of cream cheese, 2 boxes of powdered sugar, about ½ cup of whipping cream, and more than 2 1/2 cups of flaked coconut.

Here's the cake I made →
It was *dee-e-e-licious!* Thank you, Gary!

**** Time to Pay Your Dues ****

Membership Materials Enclosed

Please take a moment now

to

Join

or

Renew your Membership

in the

West Lane Place Civic Association

We need your help to continue to:

1. Publish and distribute the **Membership Directory**
2. Organize **Crime Watch** volunteers
3. Organize the neighborhood **National Night Out**
4. Print and deliver this **newsletter**
5. Produce notifications via **Crime Alert** emails
6. Maintain the WLPCA website at **www.wlpc.org**
7. Represent the interests of WLP in dealings with **HPD**, the **City of Houston** and **Harris County** officials

and so much more!

Membership is important and the dues are very low.

Please, we need everyone to participate!



If you believe your vote is insignificant, December's mayoral runoff election must have come as quite a shock to you. Up until the last minute, nobody knew who had won. When the dust settled, the **winner was Sylvester Turner, who, in a city with over a million registered voters, won by only 3,990 votes.** The press **attributed his victory to Fort Bend County, where,** according to the office of Harris County Clerk, Stan Stanart, **the number of registered voters qualified to vote for Houston's mayor is about two per cent of the number of registered voters in Harris County.** This squeaker election prompts the question: how many of *us* voted?

We live in Precinct Four, but **we vote in Election Day Precinct 178.** Its boundaries are **Westheimer Road** to the north, the **railroad tracks** to the east, **Highway 59** to the south, and **Highway 610** to the west. Our precinct is mostly made up of West Lane Place and Afton Oaks, with a few extra bits around the edges. According to Harris County records, **there are 1,759 registered voters in Precinct 178. Of that number, current records show 694 people voted** in the runoff election (568 for King, 125 for Turner, and 1 voter skipped over that part of the ballot.) **Less than half, not quite 40% of the registered voters in our precinct cast a ballot.**

Our neighborhood made a respectable showing, but about **twenty precincts in Harris County had a higher percentage of voter turnout than we did.** According to the **Unofficial Results** published by Stanart's office, three Harris County precincts, each with between three and 15 registered voters, had more than 100% turnout, an apparent impossibility that is not explained. Among precincts in Harris County with significant numbers of registered voters, **the highest percentage of turnout was Precinct 365, where 48.8% of its 1,299 registered voters cast ballots.** Precinct 365 is north of 610, between Pinemont and Tidwell, Ella and Shepherd Drive.

Next election. In early March, the Harris County Clerk's website at **harrisvotes.com** will post our official polling location for the **March 16 Primary Elections.** In the last election, we voted in an office building on our side of 610 between San Felipe and Westheimer, and nothing indicates there will be a change. If you can't get over there on Election Day, **you can vote early, or you may qualify to vote by mail.** *Or, you might ask a neighbor to take you with them when they vote.* Who knows, by asking them, maybe you'll influence them to vote, too.

"Voting isn't the most we can do, but it is the least."

- attributed to Gloria Steinem

*Note: The statistics quoted and relied upon in this article came from the **Unofficial Results** chart published on harrisvotes.com, and from information received from Dohar in Stan Stanart's office.*

Several years ago, our neighbor and former WLPCA board member, **Margaret Ann Bromberger** of Mid Lane, persuaded **Trees for Houston** to donate trees for the **esplanade between Mid Lane and the shops on Richmond Avenue.** Several volunteers from West Lane Place planted about a dozen saplings and watered them during a scorching summer until they were strong enough to survive on their own.

After those saplings grew and needed more care, the WLPCA Board approved an expenditure to feed and trim them. But, when we approached **Jack Swayze, District Manager of Davey Tree Experts,** he declined our business. Instead, he **volunteered to feed the trees at company expense.** He also examined them, and determined it was too soon to start trimming them.

If you notice a tree getting bigger before your very eyes while you wait for the train to cross Richmond, it will be thanks to the care and community service of Jack Swayze and the experts at Davey Tree.



Our trees on Richmond Avenue

JANUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26		28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	J	25	26	27
28	29					

MARCH

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22		24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	J	28	29	30

 = Tree waste; **J** = Junk & tree waste pick up

Weekly household trash pick-up each Monday. NOTE: Recycling is every other Monday, on highlighted days in boxes. Please have your bins out on the curb by 7 am and in by 10 pm.

“Tree Waste” is defined as “clean wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps (lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted.)” *

“Junk Waste” is defined as “items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.” *

* Junk and tree waste may be left on the curb a day or two prior to collection day.

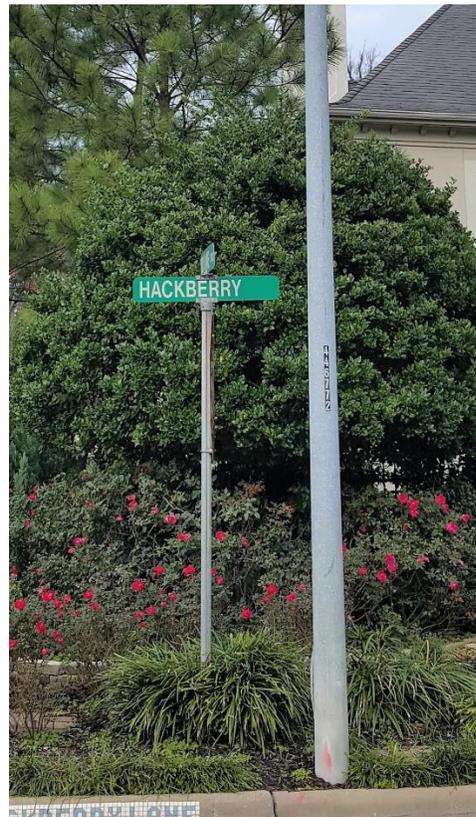
Recycling Schedule. If our recycling calendar confused you last issue, we apologize. We were confused, too! It seems we skipped a week and that threw off the following weeks. Sorry for the inconvenience our mistake may have caused you. We expect the calendar to be more reliable in the future, though. **John Gorman**, of Mid Lane, **our unsung hero who puts out the reminder signs on recycling days**, has agreed to double check the recycling calendar for accuracy from now on.

Recipe Search. Thanks to **Gary Whitney**, of Mid Lane, for answering the request for a good **coconut cake recipe**. (find it on page 2.) We’re still looking for an heirloom recipe for **egg nog** and a nameless **fruitcake made from candy orange wedges**. If you can answer these cooking requests, or if you’re looking for a recipe yourself, please submit your recipe(s) and/or request(s) to: newsletter@wlpca.org

Street Lights. If you notice a street light is not working, please report it to CenterPoint for repair. It only requires a little time and minimal effort to do so.

First, make a note of the **identification number** on the pole. You will find it a few feet above street level, in a vertical configuration, as pictured, below. Also note the **street address**.

Then, visit the WLP website, www.wlpca.org, where you will find a link on the home page, “Report Light Outage” that will take you to the page on the CenterPoint website where you report the street light. From there, the process is self-explanatory. **You will be asked for your name, address, and phone number.** Then, you’ll be asked for the **pole number and its address.** It’s that simple.



Street light at the corner of Hackberry and Mid Lane



Identifying Number

Put your announcement here! Please let us know about a neighbor who deserves some bragging, a child who made honor roll, or the extra styrofoam peanuts you’d be happy to share with anybody who needs packing materials. Whatever it is, we’d like to know about it. Just send an email to newsletter@wlpca.org.