



February 2019

# West Lane Place Newsletter

West Lane Place Civic Association Board Members:

Website: [www.wl pca.org](http://www.wl pca.org)

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## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

As we move into 2019, West Lane Place continues to be a highly desirable neighborhood to call home. Our home values have continued to remain strong and with the addition of 3 new properties on Mid Lane the street continues to be appealing despite the increase in traffic. We continue to enjoy all the additional shopping and dining options, but they do come with a price...more traffic. Please be extra careful when you are walking the neighborhood as drivers are not always mindful of pedestrians and their pets.

The latest commercial project will also contribute to the traffic in the area, Stonelake Capitol Partners are breaking ground on the latest commercial project on the corner of Mid Lane and Westheimer in front of The Ivy apartments. It will be called Park Place – River Oaks and I have heard it will be from 9 to 15 stories, depending on what article you read. This is sure to create more traffic for Mid Lane and we would love to start a task force of residents who can voice our concerns to the City. If anyone would like to help with that please contact me. Houston is growing and growth can be painful as we have seen with the lack of recycling in January. Please continue to check the City of Houston website (on page 4) or you can call 311.

Once again, our WLPCA National Night Out was held in October and is one of the most successful in the city. We had an Octoberfest Themed event with a German Band, food truck and beverages. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors. My thanks to all the Board, Committee Members, and other volunteers and residents who made this event a success. Special thanks to Mike Weingart who was able to round up over 35 First Responders.

We love to honor the men and women who keep our community safe.

Our 2019 membership drive officially begins with the publication and distribution of this newsletter. Enclosed, please find a membership form and return envelope addressed to our Membership Chairperson. Your membership dues provide funding for our ongoing programs which include, Crime Alert, Crime Watch, Crime Watch signage, WLP auto 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. Our membership continues to grow, and our goal is for all residents to become members. We are also in of volunteers for a variety of positions, a Membership Chairperson is of top priority. The more participation in the association, the more things we can do as a group to continue to make West Lane Place a wonderful place to live. We need your help! Security is always a concern and our volunteer Crime Watch continues to operate and hopefully we can recruit some new members on that committee as well. Please report any suspicious activity so we can alert the members. Alerts currently go out to anyone who is a member and has agreed to receive them. Neighbors watching neighbors is still one of the best deterrents of crime so please keep an eye out and remove papers, packages or other items that have accumulated if someone is out of town. Reach out and get to know your neighbors, you will be glad you did. Wishing you all a wonderful 2019,

Diane Kiecke

President, WLPCA



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## Out of the Entire World, Our New Neighbors Chose to Live in Houston! by Gilda Bayegan

Most people who are not born in Houston come here for a specific reason, usually work. But, our new-ish neighbors on Bash Place, Mohamed and Elaine Khalil, moved here because they like Houston.

Mohamed Khalil, an executive in Technology and Finance, and Elaine Khalil, an investment banker, were searching for a location to retire somewhere warmer than their home near New York City when, in 2014, they visited friends in the Montrose area. While vacationing together in Texas' wine country, their friends suggested they should retire in Houston. The Khalils had never considered Houston for their next home, but after a few twists and turns, they decided their friends were right.

“At first, we thought we had to stay on the East Coast,” Mohamed recently explained. “But, after we visited Florida and the Carolinas, we knew we needed more urban culture than we could find there.”

The three most important requirements of their new, warmer, home were: 1. Access to urban culture; 2. Good healthcare; and 3. A big, convenient airport. They realized they could find all three here. But, how much warmer were they willing to go? “We came down for a week in August, 2016 to find out if we could take the heat. The temperatures here were cooler that week than they were in New York.” Elaine recalls. Enticed by what may have been unseasonably cool weather for us, they started preparations to sell their home, and began the move.

After narrowing their property search to inside Loop 610, the Khalils found their new home on Bash, and arrived just in time for Hurricane Harvey. “We put all our belongings in storage while we waited for our house to become available. Although I found a facility in a location with no danger of flooding, it flooded anyway because the roof collapsed during the storm, and destroyed about 60% of everything we stored.” Mohamed said. “We lived on two chairs for a very long time!”

Despite this difficult beginning, Mohamed and Elaine do not regret their decision. “The urban culture we sought is not quite as dazzling here as it is in New York, but it is much more accessible,” they said. “Everyone here is friendly.” “And there's Barbeque!”

Special thanks to Sue Petersen Shivers for introducing me to the Khalils and alerting me to their story.





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*ATTENTION—PLEASE be aware that many lawn crews are dumping leaves/grass cuttings directly into the street and down the drain. Crews and neighbors should be bagging the leaves and cuttings. PLEASE let your landscaper know— No dumping of leaves and grass in our sewers/streets.. Water will accumulate and cause possible flooding. This is a major concern for many neighbors in the area. Thanks!*

☑ This issue of the newsletter has been paired with a membership form and return envelope. Membership dues provide funding for our ongoing programs. **PLEASE SUPPORT WLPCA!!** Thank you to our Membership Chairperson, Anthony Davis for all of his hard work on this!

☑ The current directory was handed out in December, if you didn't get a copy or need another one please email—[president@wlpca.org](mailto:president@wlpca.org).

## Meet your WLPCA Neighbor



Minal Patel Davis, Mayor Turner’s Special Advisor on Human Trafficking was selected to receive the prestigious Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the highest U.S. award for this issue. The announcement was made today in Washington D.C. during a White House meeting of the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons chaired by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The award is given annually to individuals and organizations that demonstrate leadership, commitment and measurable success in the battle to eradicate trafficking.

“Minal’s exemplary leadership has put Houston at the forefront of the battle against trafficking by increasing victim identification through a public health lens,” Mayor Turner said. “Because of her work, the City of Houston has institutionalized the city’s response, and takes a systems approach to filling emergency shelter, medical, and psychiatric gaps. Minal also has raised awareness at scale in unique ways like engaging the corporate community on post disaster trafficking risk mitigation and advancing policy changes like our Executive Order 1-56 for the City’s purchasing and services contracts.”

In July 2015, when Patel Davis was appointed, this was the first municipal level position of its kind in the United States. “The vision for this role was to transform Houston from being a trafficking hub to hub for solutions. Patel Davis and her team are blazing this trail and other cities are now following suit. With unwavering support from Mayor Sylvester Turner, Patel Davis is implementing a replicable and holistic municipal response. This impressive work is setting the trend for prevention and response mechanisms. It’s turning the tide and dramatically changing our city for good,” said Rebecca Hove, Senior Director, Greater Houston Community Foundation, Anti-Human Trafficking Donor Working Group.

Please congratulate Minal, resident of Mid Lane, on this special award! Courtesy of City of Houston, Mayors Office.



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## WLP Resident, Susan Simpson, is Featured Artist

Our neighbor, Susan Simpson, is a contemporary landscape artist, and was selected as the first Featured Artist at her Studio at the vast Sawyer Yards campus in the First Ward Arts District – featured here with her painting inspired by a trip to Africa last summer.

Her work can be seen in three current art shows: the Glassell School of Art Juried “Music/Sound Visualizations” Exhibition at the Kinder Morgan building downtown, the “The Shape of Expression” Exhibition at Sabine Street Studios, and the “Intensity vs Serenity” Exhibition at Winter Street Studios.

Her studio is open on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays from noon to 5pm at Silver Street Studio #119 (starting in February) or you can view her art on her website [www.susansimpsonart.com](http://www.susansimpsonart.com).



Susan and her photographer husband Aldon live on Bash Place and besides art they enjoy sighting the many different birds that “drop in” at WLP. *Susan’s painting “Tracks on the Bush Walk” at Featured Artist display.*

## **RECYCLING UPDATE**

Starting Monday, February 4, 2019, the collection of residential recycling returns to its regular collection day. Residents should place their green cart (Recycling) at the curb along with their black cart (Garbage) on their routine service day, ensuring that they are at least 3 feet apart.

Recent delays have been caused largely by a lack of trucks, a lack of drivers, and a lack of mechanics at the Solid Waste Management Department (“SWM”). To fix this issue, Council approved the purchase of 69 new vehicles for SWM, which will be delivered this summer. Also, a couple of weeks ago Council approved two agenda items: one item was to hire an outside company for recycling collection services (they will come in and assist the city with its recycling services, picking up 10 recycling routes from the city), and another item was to rent several solid waste trucks, which will supplement the city's fleet until the new trucks arrive this summer.

Visit the website to find more information on our recycling, junk and waste pick up! We are ROUTE A. Fun stuff! [http://mycity.houstontx.gov/mycityapps/mycity\\_serviceinfo\\_query.html](http://mycity.houstontx.gov/mycityapps/mycity_serviceinfo_query.html)

### *Next Recycling days—*

Monday, February 11th  
Monday, February 25th  
Monday, March 11th

Monday, March 25th  
Monday, April 8th  
Monday, April 22nd

