

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MAY, 2006

May WCHA Meeting

Please join your neighbors on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the Willmore Community Police Center (910 Daisy Avenue) for our monthly WCHA meeting. We would like your input on items of interest and or concern that this organization could possibly help with this coming year. We know Willmore folks are not shy nor hesitant to offer an opinion so feel free to bring up any topic you want. See you on the 17th - and bring a friend!

WCHA Member Receives Community Service Award

WCHA member Zoot Velasco received the 2006 Community Service Award from the City of Long Beach Community Development at the Awards Celebration on April 18th. Zoot and his wife Monette have been active in the Willmore neighborhood since moving here a few years ago.

One of Zoot's projects in the neighborhood was an oral history performance entitled "I'll Meet You at Drake Park" in which elders of the Willmore City Historic District told stories of growing up in the area from the 1930s to the 1990s, and teens from Renaissance High School of the Arts performed the stories in period costume.

The recent May Day celebration at Drake Park with the "Living History Tour" at the Bembridge House was also the result of Zoot's creative talents.

Not only is Zoot extremely talented, he is also extremely generous in sharing his talents and teaching young people at the parks, schools, and neighborhood events. Thank you Zoot for all your great contributions to the neighborhood and to the City of Long Beach.



May Day Celebration

On April 29th Drake Park was alive with Maypole dancing and youngsters making May baskets. Young and old alike, led by the San Pedro Girl Scout Troop #953, learned the intricate weaving of the ribbons as they danced around the Maypole.

Meanwhile over at the Bembridge House, a "Living History Tour" was performed by costumed actors portraying family members in 1932, discussing the home and events of the day.

The cast spent many, many hours rehearsing and it certainly paid off. They were all terrific. It was really fun to hear them tell of events that were supposedly current to them in 1932. Zoot Velasco wrote the script and it was great.

Dorothy Rankin Bembridge was portrayed by Meaghan Metke, Neil Rankin (Dorothy's brother) was portrayed by Brynner Ramos, Hazel Rankin (Dorothy's mother) was portrayed by Linda Renner, Thomas Rankin (Dorothy's father) was portrayed by Scott Ringwelski, and Grandpa was portrayed by Harvey Keller. Zoot Velasco was the Director and Jill Anne Black the Assistant Director. What an outstanding cast!



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Friends' House

Literacy Center

English Classes

Monday & Thursday 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Childcare provided: ages 4-10

646 W. 9th (9th & Maine)

Info: 562-495-1729 Se habla español

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WILLMORE CALENDAR

May 17th - Code Enforcement meeting - 6:30 p.m.

May 17th - Willmore meeting - 7:30 p.m.

June 25th - Great Homes Tour -
contact Long Beach Heritage for info - 562 493 7019

July 8th - Yard Sale at the Bembridge House

Copies provided free of charge by the
Neighborhood Resource Center (562) 570 1010

The May Meeting will be held on
Wednesday May 17th
at the Willmore Community Police
Center at 910 Daisy Avenue
Code enforcement at 6:30 p.m.
Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Mark Your Calendar!!

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Block Captain Update

There will be a Code enforcement meeting on Wednesday May 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Willmore Community Police Center. Please be sure to walk your block if you haven't already so you can update the inspectors on any items of concern.

Welcome New Members

Patty Lund

Jenny Waldkirch

Jeff Nelson

B & B Restoration Hardware

Other Willmore Updates

The Willmore website (www.willmorecity.org) is still getting a makeover. The site will not always be accessible during this time.

The site will be ready some time this month.

Summer's Coming! Ladies ...get ready.....



Willmore City Heritage Association

Business card size ad \$50/year (10 month guarantee)
Please send business card with
check _____

Membership:
Renewal _____ New _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

General \$20 _____ Student \$10 _____

Business \$30 _____ Senior \$10 _____

Donations to the Wm. E. Willmore Trust
(any amount)
\$ _____

Please make checks payable to: W C H A
PO Box 688
Long Beach, CA 90801

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* - 2006/2007

Cheryl Perry *	436-2815
Ernie Villa *	436-6522
Sherron Leno *	432-5140
Jill Anne Black *	495-3377
Jana Shields *	495-1729
Erik Sochin *	435-1146
Carol McCafferty *	432-8999
Mark Perry, Newsletter	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>

Bright Spot on Anaheim - Jesse James' Mini-Empire Growing

If you want proof that there can be positive change in our neighborhood, you only have to look at what has happened on West Anaheim Street. When I came to the Willmore District five years ago, I would pass West Coast Choppers at 718 W. Anaheim almost daily. I always noticed the large decrepit warehouse across the street from WCC. As we all so often do, I imagined "bringing back" the old warehouse to its former glory. By stripping away all the trashy additions to its façade, I imagined a beautiful art deco building.

Well, miracle of miracles, it happened! Jesse James of West Coast Choppers purchased the building and slowly transformed it into an absolutely stunning structure. Thank you, Jesse!! And it continues. Another adjoining building was added to the complex and renovated. The bedraggled ham-burger stand next door (620 W. Anaheim) with the most unfortunate shade of orange tiles has undergone a metamorphosis. It is now Cisco Burger - a bright, clean, attractive and unique eatery whose cuisine is being given thumbs up by the locals. One enthusiastic local patron Elena Munoz was eating her hamburger when the Mr. & Mrs. James sat down to eat. When Mrs. James explained that they wanted to eliminate the air pollution caused by idling cars. Good point! Cisco Burger is "eco-friendly". More improvement to the block is coming as the dirt area to the east of Cisco Burger is to be landscaped to accommodate outdoor eating facilities. The green belt will continue to the rear of the buildings and will eventually link up to the Drake/Chavez Park. A huge expansion of this park complex is planned - I hope within my lifetime. It is also rumored that the large (empty?) building across Anaheim with the faux mission -style façade will be acquired and undergo a major facelift.



absolutely stunning structure. Thank you, Jesse!! And it continues. Another adjoining building was added to the complex and renovated. The bedraggled ham-burger stand next door (620 W. Anaheim) with the most unfortunate shade of orange tiles has undergone a metamorphosis. It is now Cisco Burger - a bright, clean, attractive and unique eatery whose cuisine is being given thumbs up by the locals. One enthusiastic local patron Elena Munoz was eating her hamburger when the Mr. & Mrs. James sat down to eat. When Mrs. James explained that they wanted to eliminate the air pollution caused by idling cars. Good point!

Sherron Leno

Neighborhood Treasures

Remember that Yard Sale we've been wanting to have? Well, we actually have a date - it will be on Saturday July 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the driveway of the Bembridge House. Those of you that have architectural items such as doors, windows, hardware, mouldings, etc. this is the time to pull them out and sell, exchange, or give them away. As most of us know that have tried to find some of these old items, they are hard to come by so hopefully they will all find good homes. Jana Shields will be organizing the Willmore area so if you are interested in having a spot to display your items, please call Jana at 495-1729. And for those of you that are still looking for some unique items, this will be the place to check out!

The Bembridge House will be having a sale that day as well, offering some miscellaneous clothing and other items from the House as well as some antique furniture that is being brought over for the sale. Definitely worth checking out!!!

Cheryl Perry

There will be some very interesting items so don't miss it!

More Neighborhood Treasures

Whenever there is a neighborhood cleanup -- this family is there. Whenever there is a tree planting -- this family is there. Whenever there is a need for volunteers in the neighborhood -- this family is there. What generosity! Thank you from all of your Willmore neighbors for all that you do for the neighborhood!



Pascual Coronado
Amalia Coronado
Marta Coronado
Angel Godoy
Ulisses Godoy

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Tree Planting In Willmore

On May 6th, the Neighborhood Services Bureau and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach helped WCHA volunteers plant around 45 trees along 4th Street to 10th Street between Pacific and Maine. The species planted were Australian Willow, Pink Trumpet, and Chinese Flame.

This Fall we hope to plant even more trees on the other streets in Willmore. We'll need even more volunteers for that planting -- so be prepared!

