

THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLMORE CITY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OCT 2006



O c t o b e r M e e t i n g

The Willmore City Heritage Association will be holding a joint meeting with the Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at Drake Park located at 951 Maine Avenue, Long Beach, CA. The CDAC Commission is a 15 member public body designated to evaluate proposed uses of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan funds and make recommendations on the use of those funds to City Council. The Commissioners of CDAC have expressed their desire to hold a joint meeting with our neighborhood association in an effort to: 1) better understand the impact the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs have on our neighborhood and, 2) to inform our residents about how CDBG programs and services are improving the quality of life in the Willmore community. Many of the grants we have received such as those for the trash receptacles, historic plaques, murals, and trees have been made possible through CDBG funds. It is important for the Commission to meet us and for us to help them better understand the special needs of our neighborhood. Please join us in welcoming them to Willmore!

In addition, our 1st District Councilmember, Vice-Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, will be speaking at this meeting in response to questions being asked by the community. If you are new to the area or are not acquainted with Bonnie, this is a perfect time to meet her and learn what she feels are priorities for our neighborhood and City.

**This joint meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
SEE YOU THERE!**

H i s t o r i c a l C e m e t e r y T o u r O c t . 2 8 t h

October 28th is the date of the 11th Historical Cemetery Tour presented by the Historical Society of Long Beach. If you have never been on the tour (or even if you have) it is well worth the time. Through docents, in period dress, the dead come to life to tell wonderful stories about many city founders, residents, and pioneers whose lives contributed to the rich diversity of Long Beach -- and who happen to be buried in the Long Beach Municipal or Sunnyside Cemetery at 1151 and 1095 E. Willow Street. These adjacent cemeteries are the oldest in the City dating back to the 1870s.

One of the famous residents of the Long Beach Municipal Cemetery is our own William Willmore for whom Willmore City was named in 1882 when he filed the first survey and subdivision with the county clerk. Mr. Willmore died on Jan. 16, 1901 at the age of 57.

Guides will lead tours through the cemeteries, stopping at 10 marked gravesites to share stories of the lives of these past city residents as well as what was happening in the city and the country at the time.

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

3 More Houses To Be Saved

Three houses from the West Gateway area are being saved and relocated into the Willmore Historic District by the Redevelopment Bureau. Three vacant lots have been purchased by RDA and the houses are supposed to be moved in the next few months.



W C H A W e b s i t e

Monette Velasco and Erik Sochin have been working on the WCHA website but we still need photos of houses in the neighborhood. If you have some good photos please contact Erik at 435-1146. You can check out the website at www.willmorecity.org Thank you Monette and Erik for generously helping with this.

H A P P Y H A L L O W E E N

Willmore City Heritage Association

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Please make checks payable to: W C H A
 PO Box 688
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Donations are Tax Deductible

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, 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>

Historical Cemetery Tour continued

A few of the characters being highlighted this year are Nina Cuthbert, daughter of Long Beach's first health officer and part of the Cuthbert Family Band; Charles Van de Water, two term president of the Chamber of Commerce; Frank & Hisa Ishii who were evacuated from Long Beach to an internment camp at the outbreak of WWII; Michael Julian, for whom a mining town was later named and who moved to Long Beach and opened a prosperous hotel that faced Lincoln Park .

For tour times & ticket info call 562.495.1210 or check out their website at www.historicalsocietylb.org

249 Maine "School House" History

In August, Anna Hunter Bates was in Long Beach on a visit and her niece drove her down to see the old neighborhood where she had grown up. In trying to find Edison School, they made a wrong turn down Daisy and saw the house she used to live in before it had been relocated from 249 Maine. She was astonished as she thought the house had been demolished when Cesar Chavez Elementary School was built. She and one of her sisters, Louise Hunter Valentine, contacted the City who put them in touch with WCHA. On speaking with both Anna and Louise, they related some of their family's history.

The 4-Square house originally located at 249 Maine was purchased in 1906 by John & Emmily Hunter. They had traveled by train from Nebraska to San Francisco (just months before the San Francisco earthquake) and from there were headed to Pasadena. On the train they met a couple who told them they should check out Long Beach. They did and they ended up buying the house at 249 Maine. John Hunter died in 1933 and Emmily some time before that.

John & Emmily had two sons, Harvey and Fred. Fred was born in 1899. He was 6 years old when they moved into the house on Maine. He grew up there and went to school locally. Fred married his wife Susie in 1930. In 1933 he inherited the house upon his father's passing.

During the Depression the Hunters had a difficult time making ends meet so they rented out the top floor of the house to boarders up until sometime in the 1940s. Fred was a member of the Masons and worked as a photographer for Shell Oil.

Fred and Susie had 3 daughters: Elaine (1938), Louise (1940) and Anna (1946). All three girls grew up in the house and went to school at Edison Elementary, Franklin Middle School, and Poly High.

Susie died in 1977 and afterwards Fred sold the house and moved to Leisure World.

In 2003 the house was moved to a temporary location on 3rd St. It was the only house in the full square block area that was saved from demolition. Two months ago the house was moved to its current location at 419 Daisy Ave where it will undergo restoration and renovation.



THE WILLMORE CITY ENTERPRISE

Friends' House

Literacy Center

English Classes

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

Childcare provided: ages 4-10

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WILLMORE CALENDAR

- Oct. 18th - Code Enforcement
Drake Park - 6:30 PM
- Oct. 18th - WCHA/CDAC meeting
Drake Park - 7:30 PM
- Oct. 28th - Historical Cemetery Tour by the
Historical Society of Long Beach
- Nov. 15th - Code Enforcement
Willmore Police Center - 6:30 PM
- Nov. 15th - WCHA Meeting
Willmore Police Center - 7:30 PM

Copies provided via the WCHA printing HQ

The Oct. Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, Oct. 18th, at 7:30 PM at
Drake Park

A Code Enforcement meeting will be at
6:30 PM at Drake Park

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