



A RABBI'S TUNNEL IN WILLO?
**The Secret Tunnel
in Almeria**

**WILLO NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**
**Who Are We, and
What Do We Do?**

SHORT TERM RENTALS
**What You Need
to Know**



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Hey Willo!

Welcome to my new spot in your newsletter! I have moved up in the world! (Or, I just offered to pay more to capture your love and attention!) In any event, happy to be here and a part of this awesome community. After 20+ years in the real estate business I finally feel I have hit my stride and keep falling in love with all that downtown has to offer. I was reading an article in the Phoenix Business Journal yesterday that there are 18 cranes in the sky right now, the most in Phoenix history. Mayor Kate Gallego said there are 32 projects in various stages of development, including 3 or 4 that will be breaking ground before year end. Normally, that would raise an eyebrow asking "are we in line for a bubble?". Hush, I tell you! Let's consider facts before emotions. Did you know that the population growth of Maricopa County from 2010-2019 is a staggering 17.3%? Yet our housing growth (think new homes) is only at 9% for that same amount of time. Thus, a shortage of homes, which is why every Realtor I know is begging for new listings. The Market Index, which indicates which swing the market is in, (think buyer's market or seller's market with "100" being a balanced market) we are at a stunning 348 of a seller's market. That is insane. We had a flipping worldwide

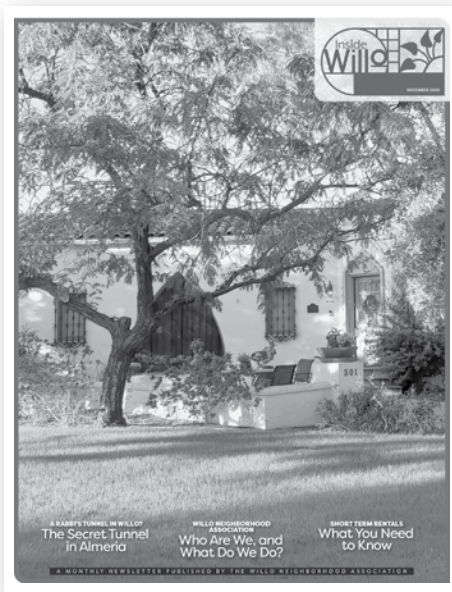
pandemic and that did not slow our market down. What will? Inventory. Lots and lots of inventory. How do we get that? 18 cranes in the sky, that's how. See, I brought it back full circle for you! Real estate is all about supply and demand and right now we have a demand that is 26% above normal and a supply level that is 64% below normal. This is going to take a while to get things to balance back out, and remember, balance means balance, not a "buyer's market". Of course, we will monitor the market and keep you in the loop! In the meantime, let's focus on what happens next here in the neighborhood!

The holidays will be in full swing here soon enough. I am predicting that because we will still be social distancing, etc, we will go all out in decorating our homes. Costco and Target have jumped the shark and have had decorations out for weeks just for this reason. At first I was mad, righteous indignation and all, but then I thought, "What do I care? What else do people have to do other than hang lights and fake snow paint their windows?!" So bring it on, I say, do Kris Kringle proud and make Willo glisten with glitter. (Actually no, not glitter, it is horrible for the environment and honestly, does anybody need glitter in their hair or body spray? Really?) In any event, enjoy the next 60 days so we can be done with 2020!



Dr. Robert L. Cannon

Willo Events, Plans, and Vision



|||||
ABOUT
THE COVER

301 W. Almeria

*Cover Photo by
Diana Herman*

|||||

2021 HOME TOUR CANCELLED:

A collaborative decision was made to cancel the 2021 Home Tour for the safety and the overall well-being of all stakeholders involved. Many thanks to the WHT Committee for the pre-planning work already underway for the event. We look forward to the February 2022 Home Tour.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE HOME TOUR:

The Willo Treasury currently has near \$65,000 in cash, and we have \$96,000 in reserves as our safety-net. The Treasury has enough cash to operate through May of 2022 without accessing the reserves with a diligent financial strategy for minimal spending. All of these financials are reviewed in public at every Board Meeting.

HOLIDAY LUMINARIAS:

The Holiday Luminaria planning has begun, and the estimated cost of this project is \$3,500.

The project has been budgeted and, the funds are allocated. In the past, many residents have asked if they can donate to the luminaria project, this year, all donations are especially

welcome, please see page 7 for details. Thank you in advance to all who will assist with the project, we need to fill the neighborhood with "lights of hope."

WHAT IS WILLO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:

We have so many new residents, and we welcome everyone! Please read the article on page 22 to get a synopsis of the Willo Neighborhood Association, who we are, what we do.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

The Willo Board Elections will be in March of 2021. More information on the election process will be forthcoming. Any Willo Resident can be nominated for a Board position. Only a current Board member at large can fill the Office of the President.

3RD/5TH AVENUE:

Please see page 9 for a summation.

The Next Willo Board Meeting is November 12, 2020, via ZOOM. Information and Agenda are on page 15 ●

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WILLO WEBSITE

The Willo website, www.willophx.com, contains information on neighborhood activities, committees, and board meetings. The website is frequently updated and contains an archive of *Inside Willo* editions. During Home Tour season, tickets for the event can be purchased online.

WILLO HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

The Willo Historic Neighborhood Association Board was established in the early 1980s. The members are volunteers and are elected every two years in March. The association does not collect dues and is not a Home Owners' Association (HOA). Rather, its function is to serve the collective well being of the neighborhood. Meetings are typically held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Hotel. All residents of Willo are invited to attend. Agendas are available online prior to the meeting at willophx.com.

INSIDE WILLO NEWSLETTER

This free newsletter is published monthly (excluding July & August) by a committee headed by Willo volunteers. Willo neighbors are encouraged to submit neighborhood news, tidbits, photos and articles (between 250-500 words) by the 10th of each month. We reserve the right to: edit as needed, attribute to the submitting neighbor (with the street they live on where appropriate), determine which issue the information may be printed and use content on our website and in neighborhood promotional materials. The Willo Neighborhood Association is not responsible for nor endorses the editorial content in *Inside Willo*. *Inside Willo* does not accept political campaign ads. A copy of *Inside Willo* is also posted to the Willo website each month.

CITY OF PHOENIX HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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PHOENIX POLICE

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Crimestop	602-262-6151
City Councilmember/District 4:	
Hon. Laura Pastor	
council.district.4@phoenix.gov	602-262-7447

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From the Editor

Celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Willo Conservation Plan

REGRETTABLY, WILLO HOME Tour 2021 has been canceled due to COVID concerns. Each year, in anticipation, Inside Willo features homes that will be on tour.

This year, instead, we will highlight some of the houses contributing to Willo's designation as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nearly all of Willo's homes were listed as contributors to the inventory submitted with the Willo Neighborhood's application for historic designation filed with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1986. Some of the homeowners have

purchased plaques that state the home is listed in the NRHP. However, the whole neighborhood is designated as a historic district. A subsequent article will offer tips on researching your home's history and how to get a plaque. Many thanks to Opal Wagner for her knowledgeable contribution on this topic.

Since this year marks the 35th anniversary of the Willo Conservation Plan, we think the coverage of these beautiful, historic houses and the Willo Neighborhood Association will be a nice complement to the celebration of all things Willo. See Nikki Armstrong's

article on the WNA on page 22.

We open the series this month with a house on Almeria Road, which bears the plaque BAKER HOUSE, built 1931; see page 13 to find out more about the secrets it holds...

If your house bears a plaque, or if you have a favorite historic house, let us know. You can email me at LEFCOVICHMORENO@GMAIL.COM - we might surprise you and feature it in the coming months! ●

Happy Thanksgiving, and be well!

Sandra Lefcovich

Pics Around Willo

Construction Around Willo



Luminaria

Help us Light Up Willo for the Holidays!

WE ARE QUICKLY approaching Luminaria season, although the temperatures outside do not feel like it! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the luminarias, either send a check to Willo Neighborhood-Luminarias, PO Box 36506, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or go to the Willo website at WWW.WILLOPHX.COM and click on the **“DONATE NOW”** button. All donations are welcome. THANKS! ●



Bulk Trash

LAST BULK TRASH PICK UP IN 2020 BEGINS NOVEMBER 9

BY BITSY SUSICH (GRANADA)

THIS IS YOUR LAST chance to clean up the yard after the above normal summer heat and clear out the garage. The year’s final Willo Bulk trash

removal starts November 9. Alley placement began on October 31.

Bulk trash consists of materials that are too large and must not be placed in the garbage

or recycling containers. Materials such as tree branches (up to 4’ in length and less than 12” in diameter), large amounts of vegetation, furniture, appliances,

mattresses, and toilets are considered bulk trash. ●

For specifics visit www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/bulktrash

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3.5 Streets and Traffic Safety Action Committee Update

BY OPAL WAGNER (CORONADO)

CITY OF PHOENIX STREETS

Transportation Director Kini Knudson and Planner/Project Manager Chris Manno attended the Willo Neighborhood Association meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, to provide an update on the 3rd and 5th Avenues north of McDowell re-design project and share the results of the online survey that ran from July 31 – August 14, 2020. Below is a summary of the survey results:

Survey Summary

- ◆ 190 responses received
- ◆ 169 respondents identify primarily as residents
- ◆ 16 respondents identify primarily as commuters
- ◆ 4 respondents identify primarily as business owners
- ◆ 1 respondent did not make a selection
- ◆ Overall satisfaction rating of 3.97 for the proposed design of 3rd Avenue (on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being extremely unsatisfied and 5 being extremely satisfied)
- ◆ Overall satisfaction rating of 3.89 for the proposed design of 5rd Avenue (on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being extremely unsatisfied and 5 being extremely satisfied)

3rd Avenue and Encanto Blvd Intersection Design

- ◆ 33% of respondents prefer the straight traffic flow
- ◆ 67% of respondents prefer the curved traffic flow

3rd Avenue Multiuse Path or Two-Way Cycle Track

- ◆ 61% of respondents prefer the multi-use path
- ◆ 39% of respondents prefer the two-way cycle track

The curved traffic flow option on 3rd Avenue will be incorporated into the design in accordance with the survey results. The two-way cycle-track option will be included in the design, even though it is not in accordance with the survey results. This decision was made to facilitate connectivity with planned bicycle infrastructure to areas north of Thomas and south of McDowell Roads, and in recognition of the fact that 3rd Avenue is a primary bicycle corridor traversing the City of Phoenix.

Chris Manno shared information regarding options for sidewalks/pedestrian infrastructure on 5th Avenue north of Encanto Boulevard, including an inventory of

mature landscaping, pony walls, driveways, and other structures that provide obstacles to completing continuous sidewalks in that area. While explaining that homeowners do not have the right to maintain permanent structures in the right of way, he said the Streets Transportation Department would prefer to come up with a design that a majority of residents support. Possibilities include a multi-use pedestrian pathway or removing the proposed parking lane in the area to provide an expanded sidewalk for pedestrian use. We have asked the Streets Transportation Department to provide us with some illustrations of these options that we can share in order to solicit feedback.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the City's July 30th meeting and the subsequent online survey. It is expected that the 3rd and 5th Avenues North re-design project will be at the 60% design phase by the end of 2020. There will be additional opportunities for public comment prior to the completion of the design. Updates will be posted on willophx.com, The Official Willo Historic Neighborhood Facebook page, Inside Willo, and on the City of Phoenix's dedicated webpage for this project: <https://www.phoenix.gov/streets/3rdand5thavenuesnorth>. ●

Food Trucks

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS AT WALTON PARK— 3rd Avenue between Holly and Monte Vista

TAKE OUT ONLY, no seated dining. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. For Schedule, go to <https://streetfoodfinder.com/WilloWednesdays> ●

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Short Term Vacation Rentals

BY ANN BOMMERSBACH (WINDSOR)

AS SHORT-TERM RENTALS HAVE become more popular in our neighborhood, some have expressed concerns about their impact on our community. The discussion in Arizona centers around whether regulation of short-term rentals should remain in the hands of the State as mandated by Arizona SB 1350 (the “Airbnb bill”) or whether the control should be turned over to local municipalities.

In 2016 when SB 1350 was signed into law, it opened the door to short-term rentals in the State and, it was promoted as a boon to the growing “home-sharing” economy with the assurance it would have an enormous positive economic impact on local communities. It prohibited local municipalities from banning the listing and use of short-term rentals like Airbnb, VRBO, and others and severely limited their ability

to establish regulations and guidelines.

As the demand for short-term rentals grew, we saw the emergence of “party houses” the disruption of neighborhoods and a housing shortage caused in part by investor groups purchasing homes to convert to STRs. As Marriott saw an opportunity to compete in the short-term rental market, they launched their Homes and Villas brand and, they now own and/or operate over 90 STR properties in neighborhoods throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. Neighbors expressed concerns that other hotel chains may follow suit, leading to the spread of unregulated hotels in residential neighborhoods.

Responding to public pressure, in 2019, the State authorized municipalities to establish limited STR regulations and guidelines. Several public meetings were

held to discuss neighborhood concerns, and, in February 2020, the Phoenix City Council adopted an Ordinance establishing guidelines that, among other things, require hosts to register rentals with the city, clearly post emergency contact information inside the homes, and respond to police calls within an hour.

If you are considering operating a short-term rental, you can visit the City website at <https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/codes-ordinances/short-term-rentals> to review regulations and register your home.

In most cases, homes in Willo are zoned R1-6HP, which is single-family residential zoning. Before considering home sharing your guesthouse or converted garage, you can consult with the City of Phoenix as to whether this is permissible for your specific home. ●

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A Rabbi's Tunnel in Willo



IN AN INTERESTING development, Willo Stuff writer Stuff has discovered the story of a secret tunnel in Willo. Actually, this is not such a secret, maybe you already knew, but most Willoites are unaware of it.

Yes, it is known as the Rabbi's Tunnel, and it dates to the post-WWII period. Perhaps 100-yards long, it forms a passage from the home on the southwest corner of Almeria Road and Third Avenue to what is now the Super Pawn Shop. No, this is not a joke (although Stuff found the tunnel-to-a-Pawnshop angle tempting).

Rumors about its underground existence led Stuff to the homeowners for details. A year and a half ago, these good folks purchased the property which, sports a US Department of Interior plaque identifying it as the Baker house built in 1931. But they found some locals simply referred to it as the Rabbi's House, based on a former resident who lived there around the time of WWII.

The Bert J. Freidman/A. B. Baker House is a Mediterranean Revival home and is one of the largest in the neighborhood, with 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and, a 700 sq ft. basement. In 1943 the lot adjacent to the Baker House, at the corner of McDowell and 3rd Avenue, was purchased by the Beth El congregation for their first formal home.

And guess what? The Rabbi's synagogue is where the pawnshop is today. No, it was

not the Rabbi's pawn shop; come on, pay attention. As a matter of record, this pawn shop was preceded by another pawnshop and then a bank.

Anyhow, the Rabbi had the tunnel built to access the synagogue safely. This was a cautious move during a period of intense anti-Semitism that still existed after WWII. Also, perhaps, it was built because some members of the synagogue had been Holocaust survivors, an experience few of us today can likely appreciate.

Back to the story: the tunnel was built and sort of still exists today. 'Sort of' because there is no trace of it in the house and relatively little in the pawnshop. However, the homeowners think they have found a plaster wall in their basement stairway where it came out.

For more information, Stuff interviewed Stephen, the manager of the pawnshop. From this and early news clips, Stuff found that the synagogue opened in 1951 with 416 members. It featured a large, stylistic menorah on the front that is partially still visible. However, it is now mostly covered by the Super Pawn sign. The congregation quickly outgrew the space and moved to its current home in north-central Phoenix.

The basement was very large and acted as a social hall. It also hosted a small theater built by another owner, a former president of the Phoenix Theatre.

Back (again) to the story. Stuff visited the pawnshop (no, he already has a watch), and Steven showed him the tunnel entrance. It is still evident but is now bricked up.

As a matter of information, the existence of this tunnel may not be all that rare. The homeowners understand there is another tunnel from the old synagogue to what is now the Jack in the Box (really). Steven thinks they may be right, as another blocked entrance exists in the basement. His understanding is that this was a just-in-case escape hatch for the Rabbi and the Synagogue. But it's a small one, and no, Stuff will not crawl through it... unless they offer up free Hungry Jacks.

Anyhow, tunnels may not be all that rare in the Willo area. Stuff has been told a couple are connected to St. Joseph's Hospital, and still another was uncovered south of our community when the I-10 freeway was put through.

One thing for sure, this whole subject, again, reflects what an interesting community is our Willo. Even underground.

VTY,
 Stuff

P.S.A. Stuff request.... Do you have a comment or an interesting or quirky story about Willo? Please share it with Stuff at johnbarsha@gmail.com. Credit (or blame) will be given. ●



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Willo Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

(THURSDAY)

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(Zoom instructions posted on WILLOPHX.COM)

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions
Bob Cannon, President

Approval of SEPTEMBER Minutes
Charlene Gum, Secretary

Approval of OCTOBER Minutes
Kush Govani

Financial Reports
Linda Doescher, Treasurer

Zoning Committee
Tom Doescher, Chair

Block Watch
Brad Brauer, Vice President

City Grants
Various Board Members

Street Activation Committee
Opal Wagner, Board Member/Chair

Inside Willo
Sandra Lefcovich, Board Member/Chair

Home Tour 2021
Brad Brauer and Teresa Fontana, Chairs

Social Media
Jeremy Schachter, Board Member

Web Site
Kush Govani

2021 Election Committee
Ann Bommersbach

Holiday Luminarias
Chris Norton

Welcome to Willo
Carl Schurtz

Other Committees as Needed

Old Business

New Business

Willo residents should contact Linda Doescher at ldoescher@kcpagels.com for ZOOM links and instructions. Alternatively, visit WILLOPHX.COM or THE OFFICIAL WILLO HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD FACEBOOK PAGE for instructions on ZOOM access.

(AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

NEXT MEETING IS ON DECEMBER 10, 2020



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We've Moved Into The Tapestry On Central

Dear Willow Residents,

We are excited about being a part of the Willow community. Our goal and hope is to be an added value to the residents of Willow and the surrounding community by the services we provide. Please stop in and say hello, we would love to meet you. Here is a bit of information about me and the ways in which we help our clients.

I am originally from Iowa but moved out to Arizona in 2004 to attend Arizona State University. While at ASU, I met my wife of now 10 years, and we decided to stay in Arizona – a place we had grown to love. This last year we started the adventure of foster care and are currently a family of 5.

I am extremely passionate about helping others work towards their financial goals while providing honest and trustworthy advice. My passion derives from having the ability to help my clients make decisions that will not only have a positive impact for them and their family, but also for the legacy they will leave behind. Honest, appropriate, and knowledgeable advice is needed in this industry and that is what I strive to provide for each of my clients.

I have been a financial advisor with Edward Jones for 8 years. For each client I build a personalized financial strategy designed around their unique financial goals and needs. I pride myself in taking a comprehensive approach, regularly collaborating with a team of CPAs, attorneys, and insurance specialists to ensure we bring the best approach to each client.



I would love to help you, your family, or your business if you would benefit from any of the following areas:

- Review of current financial strategy
- Building wealth and preparing for retirement
- Living in retirement and creating an income strategy
- Legacy planning and wealth transfer
- Maximizing tax benefits through a retirement plan for small & mid size business owners

Aaron Martin, Financial Advisor, AAMS

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Willo Kids Club

BY KRISTY DURKIN (CORONADO)



WE HAD AN OCTOBER TO remember this year as we navigated our way through this unusual Halloween. It was wonderful to see kids delightfully putting on their costume masks versus battling them to put on their safety ones. Though some things have changed, the spirit of Halloween brightly glowed like a Jack O' Lantern.

We had a successful neighborhood-

wide pumpkin contest with outstanding submissions. Thank you to all the kids (and adults) of Willo who participated, and congratulations to all the winners!

We all know the day after Halloween is a slippery slope into the holiday season, and we wanted to spread some holiday cheer with a Willo Kids Club Sticker Swap. Throughout December, be sure to keep your eye out for a special sticker delivery

(instructions and stickers will be included.) The gist is, if you receive a sticker delivery, we are asking that you pay-it-forward by continuing the chain and deliver some of the holiday stickers to a fellow Willo kid's front porch.

More information will be on the Willo Kids Club Facebook Page beginning of December. It's an easy way to spread joy safely this holiday season! ●



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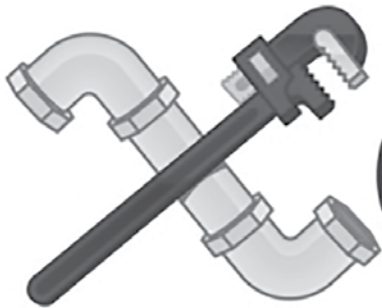
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Food Drive

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Drive

BY LARA CERRI (VERNON)

SIX YEARS AGO, CORONADO neighborhood resident Sat Kaur Khalsa started a weekend backpack food program for Emerson Elementary School students. Caring Coalition AZ, an all-volunteer nonprofit, shifted focus after the start of COVID-19, by expanding their food pantry and starting home delivery. Each week, volunteers source and stock our food pantry, pack boxes, and take them to students' families, who are identified by Emerson's social worker.

Several Willo residents have recently joined the effort and are running a food drive this month. If you can assist in any way, we appreciate your support.

Here are some much-needed pantry items:

- ◆ **Canned items:** tuna, beans, soup, veggies (tomatoes, corn, green beans, peas, pumpkin), fruit
- ◆ **Jarred items:** salsa, pasta sauce, fruit, applesauce
- ◆ **Boxed items:** mac & cheese, Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger Helper

Donation box locations
(11/1-11/14)

- ◆ 521 W. Vernon Ave. (Lara Cerri and Ted McLaren)
- ◆ 509 W. Vernon Ave. (Dan Masters and Robert Pargmann)



Willo residents Dan Masters and Lara Cerri head out from the pantry to deliver food boxes to families.

Thank you in advance for helping our downtown families! ●

To learn more, contact Sat Kaur directly at info@caringcoalitionaz.org or visit caringcoalitionaz.org. Set up a monthly recurring financial donation at givebutter.com/caringcoalition.

Welcome Committee

AND THE BIG WELCOME GOES TO...?

BY CARL SCHURTZ (ENCANTO)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE thing about Willo? Is it your neighbors, Willo Wednesday Food Trucks, the home tour, Holiday Luminarias, Kids Club or other events, or the historic beauty of the neighborhood? Whatever you like about Willo is something that we should share with our new residents.

The Willo Welcome Committee shares their love of Willo with new residents by engaging them with our friendly community and opening doors to their neighborhood involvement. We do this by providing a "Welcome Tote Bag" filled with info about Willo and

Phoenix, along with a couple of surprise goodies. This is especially important now during the quarantine as most events are canceled. If you are new to Willo, please let us know—we'd love to let you know more about our wonderful neighborhood and provide you with a goody bag.

We are also looking for a few more "Welcome Liaisons" to join us and meet new people. If you are interested in either letting us greet you with a Welcome Tote Bag or if you can be a Welcome Liaison, please contact Carl Schurtz at (805) 586-5773 or MyWilloLife@gmail.com ●



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Real Estate

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ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
517 W Virginia	ACTIVE	\$469,000
29 W Wilshire	ACTIVE	\$500,000
91 W Virginia	ACTIVE	\$535,000
505 W Virginia	ACTIVE	\$615,000
502 W Wilshire	ACTIVE	\$679,900
514 W Holly	ACTIVE	\$685,000
42 W Cambridge	PENDING	\$375,000
48 W Holly	PENDING	\$449,900
96 W Lewis	PENDING	\$475,000
312 W Cambridge	PENDING	\$485,000
84 W Lewis	PENDING	\$550,000
52 W Lewis	PENDING	\$599,000
61 W Virginia	SOLD	\$454,700
332 W Virginia	SOLD	\$535,000
133 W Palm	SOLD	\$535,000
107 W Windsor	SOLD	\$539,000
115 W Granada	SOLD	\$550,000
101 W Granada	SOLD	\$620,500
531 W Wilshire	SOLD	\$625,000
45 W Lewis	SOLD	\$629,900

Real estate information provided by Bradley B. Brauer, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures as of 10/15/2020. Information provided by Arizona Regional Multiple Listing Service and is listed by individual brokers. For more information, please contact the listing agent, one of our advertising realtors or your real estate professional.



Willo Neighborhood Association

Why Are We Here And What Do We Do?

BY NIKKI ARMSTRONG (GRANADA)

IF YOU ARE A NEW RESIDENT

of the Willo Historic District, you may not know much about the Willo Neighborhood Association and its Board of Directors; however, if you have visited the neighborhood website, WILLOPHX.COM, you may have learned a lot. The website contains links to both the Bylaws that govern the neighborhood association, and the Willo neighborhood's official Conservation Plan. Both these documents make for interesting reading if you want to learn more about the neighborhood itself and the association.

HISTORY AND MEMBERSHIP

The Willo Neighborhood Conservation Plan created a Special Conservation District for our neighborhood when it was approved by the Phoenix City Council in 1986. The neighborhood association exists to "promote and support" this plan, as stated in the bylaws. The bylaws also dictate the rules establishing our 13-member board. They provide other details regarding neighborhood association meetings, financials, and membership. Membership in the association is not automatic when you move into the neighborhood, and membership is not required to receive Inside Willo, attend association meetings, or go to neighborhood functions like happy hours. Membership is required to vote, though, and it is required for all individuals running for and serving on the board. Membership is "opt-in," meaning that residents must indicate that they would like to become a member of the Willo Neighborhood Association. This can be done by using either the online membership opt-in form link or the paper opt-in form, both found at the end of this article. Membership

must be renewed annually to be valid. All memberships expire on December 31 and should be renewed each year in January, or whenever a new resident wants to establish membership during the year when they begin residence in Willo. According to the bylaws, membership is open to any member who resides in the conservation plan's boundaries, and who is of voting age (18), including renters. Membership is limited to four members per household.

MONEY AND MEETINGS

The Willo Neighborhood Association is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization whose budget plan runs from May 1 – April 30 each year. In the spring, the following year's annual budget is presented and approved by the board no later than the April meeting. Each month thereafter when a meeting occurs, the Treasurer prepares a report with an update on the budget, which is then reviewed by the board and generally approved. Neighborhood association meetings happen each month, generally on the second Thursday evening, with the exception of July and August when the association does not meet. Typical agenda items at the meetings include reports from our Phoenix Police Department's Community Action Officer, updates on zoning issues in and around Willo, various requests from neighbors for the board to address a question or concern, and

updates from committees. Unfortunately, attendance at monthly neighborhood association meetings is often low, although spirited discussion often occurs. If you haven't done so, consider attending a neighborhood association meeting. The meetings are through ZOOM at the moment. Perhaps you will be inspired to run for a board position in the spring 2021 election, or volunteer on a committee.

FUN AND WORK

The biggest event in Willo each year is the Home Tour, which happens every February. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the tour this year due to COVID concerns. Other fun things brought to you by the neighborhood association are Kids Club events that focus on our youngest residents (and their parents), the monthly neighborhood happy hours (also on hold at the moment) and other events organized by the Social Committee, the holiday luminaria lining every street at the end of December, and this and every issue of Inside Willo that is hand-delivered to your door by volunteers... the list goes on and on.

All of these fun things involve work to create them, so the neighbors who get together to organize these things are appreciated. If you have questions about any of these events, please come to a neighborhood association meeting, or contact your favorite board member. ●



Helpful Links on
WILLOPHX.COM

Willo Neighborhood Association Bylaws:
<https://willophx.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Willo-Bylaws-1.pdf>

Willo Neighborhood Conservation Plan:
<https://willophx.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/willo-conservation-plan.pdf>

Online Membership Opt-In Form:
<https://willophx.com/membership-opt-in-form/>



No one wants to consider the day they must move out of Willo

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