

# MARCH 23

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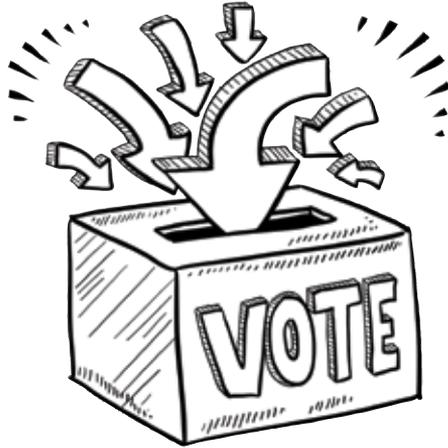
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# MARCH 2023 BOARD ELECTION

BY ANN BOMMERSBACH (WINDSOR)

## THE WILLO HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board election is being held electronically this year. Candidate photos and bios are included in this month's Inside Willo newsletter. Candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer are running unopposed, no candidate is running for the office of Secretary, and 9 candidates are running for the 9 Board member at large positions. ♦ Members who opted in were sent a link to the ballot on 2/26/23. ♦ Voting closes on 3/5/23, so please respond to the link to submit your ballot by midnight 3/5/23. ♦ Election results will be posted to the [Willophx.com](http://Willophx.com) website and announced at the 3/9/23 Board meeting. ■

(Candidates start on page 7)



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## COMMITTEES

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### BLOCK WATCH

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SANDRA LEFCOVICH, CO-CHAIR [lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com](mailto:lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com)

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### ZONING COMMITTEE

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## WILLO WEBSITE

WWW.WILLOPHX.COM is regularly updated with news, events, & past issues of Inside Willo. Home Tour tickets can be purchased online.

## WILLO HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Established in 1986, the WNA Board consists of 13 volunteer positions elected biennially by the membership. WNA is not a Homeowners' Association (HOA); It does not collect dues; Its mission is to preserve Willo's historic designation and community quality. WNA meetings are open, all Willo residents may attend. Bylaws, registration, and agendas are available on WILLOPHX.COM.

## INSIDE WILLO MAGAZINE

Inside Willo is published monthly, free of charge, by WNA volunteers. Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles (125-250 words) by the 10th of each month. We reserve the right to edit as needed, attribute the author, and determine when to print the content or use on social media, WILLOPHX.COM, and promotional materials. WNA retains the right to use all photos, media, and printed articles in perpetuity. Inside Willo does not accept political content or ads. Inside Willo is posted on WILLOPHX.COM. No copies may be reprinted electronically or otherwise.

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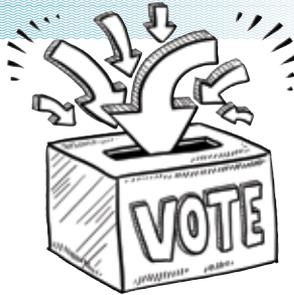
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Willo Neighborhood Association  
Election Ballot  
2023-2025

# The Candidates

(More on next page)



**PRESIDENT**  
**Bradley Brauer**  
(Monte Vista)

I have had the pleasure of living in the Willo Historic District for 18 years. During that time, I've had the pleasure of serving on the board as a member, as vice president, and as president for 9 of those years. I've enjoyed working with Dr. Cannon and other board members on our many successes, and my own with the city, neighbors and other neighborhoods. It would be my goals to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5th avenue transformation, reinforce the neighborhood feel of Willo and to make all neighbors feel included. Thank you.



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**W. Aaron Montaña Searles**  
(Edgemont)

I was raised in Willo and bought a home here in 2012. I have worked for three City Council members and formed a consulting business. I have served on the Willo Board for the past two years; I was appointed to the Phoenix Encanto Village Planning Committee in 2016. I am running for Board Vice President because I believe my knowledge about the City and community connections will continue to help navigate Willo projects and ensure the neighborhoods priorities.



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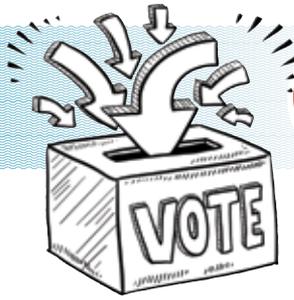


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# The Candidates

Willo Neighborhood Association  
Election Ballot  
2023-2025

(Still more on next page)



**TREASURER**  
**Linda Doescher**  
(Cambridge)

I am running for the Willo Board of Directors Treasurer position, a position I've held since 2015. I retired as the Director of Finance and Operations for a nonprofit association after almost 20 years of managing all of the accounting and financial functions of the Association. My husband, Tom, and I have lived in our 1927 home on Cambridge Avenue since 2003 and love everything Willo. We have 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandsons and 3 rescue cats. I would truly appreciate your vote.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Wylie Carhartt**  
(Cypress)

Hello, neighbors! My family and I have lived in Willo since 2016. During that time, I have served annually as block captain for the neighborhood luminaria lighting and have had the pleasure of hosting Willo Happy Hour the past two years. Since moving to Phoenix in 2011, I've enjoyed the charm of historic district living, spending time in Coronado, Del Norte Place, and now (finally) Willo. It would be an honor to serve on the Willo Board and represent this fantastic community.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Dan Childers**  
(Granada)

Hello neighbors, I'm Dan! I have lived in Willo with my husband and our dogs for 15 years. As an ecologist, I study cities and am on the faculty of ASU's School of Sustainability. Our home has been on the Willo Home Tour, and I've served on the Home Tour Committee for several years. As a Willo Board member, I will blend this experience and my expertise with a real passion for the beauty and sense of community of our neighborhood. Thanks for your vote!



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Eric Gilmore**  
(Coronado)

I found Willo in the summer of 2020 and could immediately tell there was something unique about this neighborhood with the historical continuity of the homes I noticed throughout. Motivated to help, I have been active in helping lead events such as the Willo Yard Sale and speaking at the Phoenix City Council Chambers, asking for funds to add drainage. I would be honored to serve Willo on the board and help preserve the historic integrity of our beautiful neighborhood.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Charlene Gum**  
(Virginia)

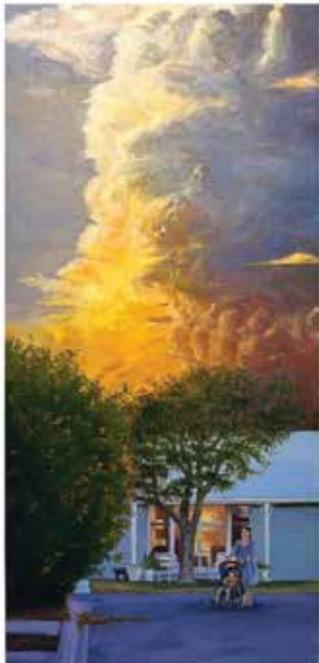
I have lived in Willo for 32 years and have served approximately 20 of those years on the Board. I have seen many changes and new neighbors join our beautiful community. I would consider it a privilege to serve once again.

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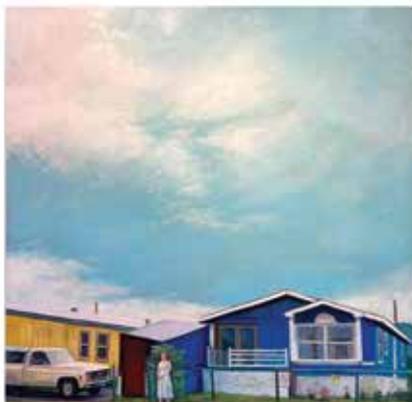
deCaussin, *It's ok...you're ok*



Szabo, *Martin Moreno*



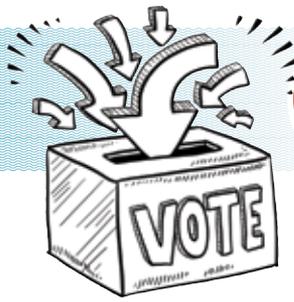
Szabo, *Abe Zucca with Cat*



deCaussin, *I can't even remember their name*

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# The Candidates

Willo Neighborhood Association  
Election Ballot  
2023-2025



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Sandra Lefcovich**  
(Coronado)

I have been on the WNA Board for five years and seek re-election. I am the current Editor of Inside Willo Magazine and was Co-Editor of The Willo Architectural Book. I am also the Chair of the Communications Committee and Co-Chair of the 2023 Home Tour. I have an MA in International Relations from NYU and speak several languages. I served on the board of my New York co-op building. I have lived in Willo since 2016.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**John Roberts**  
(Granada)

I was born and raised in Mesa, AZ. I followed my dreams to work in creative, music, and entertainment by moving to NYC, then jumping coasts with LA a few times. In 2019, my partner Keith and I took the opportunity to return home to Arizona and set our sights on Willo. I am involved with the Willo Neighborhood Association volunteering as the chair of the Willo Social Committee since summer 2022. I am seeking a board position to further cultivate community in Willo.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Lara Sands**  
(Monte Vista)

I discovered and moved to Willo from Switzerland 10 years ago, thanks to a lucky Craigslist search. I love Willo's friendly neighbors, historic charm, and proximity to downtown. I am an avid gardener, armchair remodeler, cat wrangler, year-round bicyclist, and Swedish fiddler. I co-chaired the Vision 3.5 committee for two years, and organize the annual luminarias bike ride. I also serve on the boards of Phoenix Spokes People and Nordic Fiddles and Feet. I would love to serve Willo as a board member at large.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Jeremy Schachter**  
(Palm)

A native New Yorker, Jeremy traveled to Arizona to attend the UofA and received a Bachelors Degree in Marketing. Jeremy moved to Willo in 2009 and has been married to his husband, Nick, for over 12 yrs. Jeremy has served on the Board for several years as the Social Media Chair. Jeremy has over 23 years' experience in the mortgage industry. Jeremy spends his time assisting clients and working with a variety of volunteer organizations and was recognized as one of Phoenix Business Journal's 40 under 40.



**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Patrice Wappel**  
(Windsor)

I have served on the Willo Board and it would be my pleasure to continue in volunteer capacities for Willo's various needs. I have been the Block Watch Captain for the 100 block of Windsor, and I chair the Kleanstreets and Yard Sale Committees. I love living in such a wonderful close-knit neighborhood, and I have been in the same home for forty years. I enjoy bringing treats to the monthly meetings and doing what I can to help with Willo Board needs.

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# Music in March

BY KYLE ARMSTRONG (EDGEMONT)

**THE FIRST WEEK OF THIS** month alone brings a plethora of musical events to Phoenix, beginning with the M3F Festival, which has become an annual event at Hance Park downtown. The festival will span from March 3rd to the 4th, with full weekend tickets still available and individual day tickets. Performers on the lineup this year include Maggie Rogers, Jim-E Stack, Jamie xx, Chelsea Cutler, and Del Water Gap.

Also in town on March 4th is musical artist, Samia, on tour following the release of her sophomore album Honey. The New York native performer will perform at Crescent Ballroom with special guest Tommy Lefroy.

Multiple other musical artists have scheduled dates at nearby venues in the coming weeks, some making their debut in the Valley of the Sun. Singer-songwriter Vérité will be performing the entirety of

her new album at Valley Bar on March 15th, three years after performing the abrupt final show of her tour at the same venue in 2020. Australian folk artist Vance Joy is slated to be at Arizona Financial Theatre on March 18th. The pop duo Coco & Clair Clair will be performing for the first time in Arizona at Rebel Lounge days later on the 22nd. The month of March is sure to entertain you no matter your musical taste. ■



BY OPAL WAGNER (CORONADO)

# Thank You, Home Tour Volunteers!

**AS OF THIS WRITING,** Willo Home Tour 2023 is still a week away, but all indications are it will be another epic success thanks to the dedication and hard work of Linda Doescher and Sandra Lefcovich, our amazing co-chairs, along with all the homeowners, committee chairs and volunteers. It truly takes a village of talented and generous neighbors to pull off this amazing event each year. Willo Home Tour will always have a special place in my heart: After searching and searching for a home in Central Phoenix during the rebounding real estate market of a decade ago, my husband John and I serendipitously found our forever home during Willo Home Tour 2013! If you haven't yet taken the

opportunity to become involved in Willo Home Tour - Willo's only fundraising event - please consider signing up in 2024. I promise you will never have a more rewarding or enjoyable volunteer experience with nicer people.

Transformation of 3rd and 5th Avenues through Willo to Begin this Month!

Vision 3.5 is the name Bob Cannon, then Willo's newly elected President in 2017, christened the Willo Board's ambitious plan to reclaim and restore 3rd and 5th Avenues' original designation and purpose - as local neighborhood streets. Commuter cut-through traffic and speeding were making 3rd and 5th Aves. feel increasingly unsafe, and the Willo Conservation Plan was

not being followed. Per the City of Phoenix Street Classification System, Local/Residential streets "are typically in residential areas and provide connectivity between the collectors and arterials for local traffic." (Emphasis added). Traffic congestion on adjacent arterials and navigation apps such as Waze and Google maps were pushing traffic traveling to and from downtown onto 3rd and 5th Avenues, which were never intended for this purpose.

After six-plus years of advocacy, lobbying, and pleading our case for funding through the last few City of Phoenix budget cycles, construction of road safety improvements to 3rd and 5th Avenues is finally set to begin this month. I am grateful to have

played a small role in advancing this project by succeeding Nikki Armstrong, Lara Sands, and Lisa Helm as chairperson of the Willo 3.5 Streets and Traffic Safety Committee under Bob Cannon's leadership these past few years. We owe them all a debt of gratitude, along with the many Willo neighbors who showed up at the 3rd and 5th Ave. Public Meetings and the City's annual Budget meetings to plead our case and provide thoughtful recommendations over the past few years. Because of you all, Vision 3.5 is now becoming a reality. A huge thanks, as well, is owed to our Councilwoman Laura Pastor and the Streets Transportation Department, led by Kini Knudson. I used to have

a poster on the wall of my middle school classroom that said, "Dream it, Plan it, Do it." Well, neighbors, we did it!

Patience and flexibility from Willo neighbors will be key to bringing this project to successful completion as construction gets underway on 5th Avenue this month, followed by improvements to 3rd Avenue (McDowell to Edgemont) in the coming months and concluding with major improvements to the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Thomas sometime in 2024 or early 2025. The entire process is expected to be completed within the next 18-24 months. We have confirmed with the City that four-way stops will be added at Encanto Blvd. at 3rd and 5th Avenues.

Further information and updates can be found on [willophx.com](http://willophx.com) and the City's [www.phoenix.gov/streets/3rdand5thavenuesnorth.com](http://www.phoenix.gov/streets/3rdand5thavenuesnorth.com) webpage.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served on the Willo Board and various neighborhood committees over the past few years. The talent pool in Willo is deep and wide, and I am so grateful to the neighbors/volunteers I've served alongside. I wish the new Board members all the best in moving Willo forward in the next Board cycle. See you around the neighborhood! ■

**The below photo is from the vision board I created when Bob asked me to chair the Willo Streets Committee. (Photo by: Dreamtime)**



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# My Florist — A Lasting Legacy

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

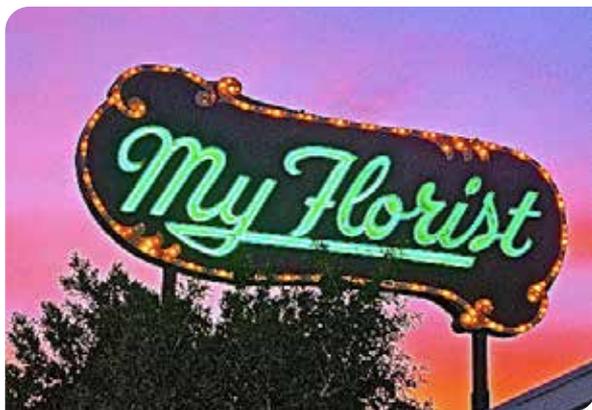
**IF YOU ARE NEW TO WILLO,** you may wonder why the ornate sign above The Habit on McDowell and 7th Ave. says “My Florist” when no flower shop exists in this small strip center. My Florist flower shop opened in 1947 and was the centerpiece of the retail center until 1996, when it finally closed. The flower shop was owned by Vada Pearl Schwartz, a lively and eccentric woman who ran it until her death in 1966. She loved the color purple — so much so that she had a custom-built purple Cadillac. Vada was succeeded by her daughter, Norma Brooking, who kept the shop going until her death when the employees took over the business.

Vada commissioned the 3-story purple (of course!) sign from famous Phoenix neon sign designer Glenn Guyette. Guyette is well known around the Valley for signs such as the one atop the Valley National Bank headquarters, the Mr. Lucky’s sign on Grand Ave (still standing), and the “Let’s Eat!” sign on Bill Johnson’s Big Apple on Van Buren Street.

Just to the west of the 1947-era building housing, My Florist is the older Hurley Building, constructed in two parts beginning in 1929 and added to the National Historic Register in 1985. The brick Art Deco building was the first retail center in Phoenix, which resulted from

a new zoning ordinance calling for neighborhood commercial districts at major intersections of what otherwise was a residential area (and at the time, Willo was in the ‘burbs). The Hurley Building was the first commercial center of

My Florist building into My Florist Café and eventually opened an organic grocery as well. The aptly named café was very popular with locals and the neighborhood for over a decade until Lacy defaulted on the mortgage and lost the



its kind to offer retail businesses within walking distance of neighborhood homes.

The preservation of the Hurley building and the My Florist sign, a fine example of a vanishing American art form, is a great example of how neighborhood activism can significantly affect historic preservation! In 1996, both the Hurley and My Florist properties were purchased by a California investment-banker-turned baker named David Lacy, who first opened the Willo Bakery, and then turned the glass-fronted

building. After sitting empty for several years, My Florist and The Hurley Building were redeveloped to include the restaurants there today. The locally famous sign was not included in the original redevelopment plan, but residents fought hard to keep it in place. ■

*Tricia is a City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Commissioner. Visit [phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation](http://phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation) for information regarding historic guidelines and approvals. Tricia can be reached at [amatotricia@gmail.com](mailto:amatotricia@gmail.com).*



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## HAPPY HOUR IS A SLICE OF THE BEST LIFE IN WILLO

BY JONATHAN ROBERTS (GRANADA)

**I HAVE LOVED PLANNING** and helping families host Happy Hour all over Willo this past year. My aim with every Happy Hour is that you grow in your sense of belonging in Willo and in knowing you are part of a great community.

I am excited Keith and I will finally host at our home in March. I think one of the best ways to build relationships with

others is to invite them into your traditions. I have been baking pizza nearly every Friday night for almost 14 years—and previous to that, it was a family and neighborhood tradition of my youth. Several times a year still, my mom prepares crusts, and my ten siblings, their spouses, my 47 nieces and nephews, and neighbors gather to load on our own toppings. We then fire them

up on several outdoor grills and enjoy an evening around a couple of large fire pits.

I'm taking a simpler approach but will be slinging some pizzas for you to accompany any food and drinks you'd like to bring. I hope to see you at our home! ■

Subscribe to the Willo Social Committee's email list by contacting [willosocialcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:willosocialcommittee@gmail.com).

*Willo Home Tour*

**The 34th Annual Willo Home Tour was a Great Success again this Year!**

**COVER PHOTO:**  
WILLO, CALM BEFORE HOME TOUR, 2023  
PHOTO BY ADDISON DENT (WINDSOR)

**THE TOUR WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT** the gracious homeowners who open their homes, the wonderful volunteers, and the various committee chairs who plan everything from the street fair, to the parties, to the trolley routes and beyond! Much of the planning goes on behind the scenes, and it is a credit to

our team when Willo shines on Home Tour weekends!

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Our April issue will feature photos and stories from this past weekend. ■

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## Calendar



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 5TH**  
Elections close at  
midnight - last day to  
vote for WNA Board  
Members

**THURSDAY,  
MARCH 9TH**  
Willo Neighborhood  
Association Board  
Meeting - 6:30pm  
- 8:00pm \*\*New  
location\*\* BMO  
Building - 1850 N  
Central Avenue -  
Sedona Room -  
Level C

**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 10TH**  
Willo Happy Hour  
- 5:30pm - 7:30pm  
THEME: "Friday  
Night Pizza," Hosts:  
Jon Roberts & Keith  
Aldridge, Location: 127  
W. Granada

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 11TH**  
Bulk Trash Placement  
begins. For questions

about appropriate  
items to place in the  
alley visit [https://  
www.phoenix.gov/  
publicworks/bulktrash](https://www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/bulktrash)

**MONDAY,  
MARCH 20TH**  
Bulk Trash collection  
begins

**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 26TH**  
Music at Trinity -  
Dueling Divas Concert  
- 4:00 pm Trinity  
Cathedral, 100 W  
Roosevelt Street. Tickets  
are free, courtesy of  
Friends of Music at  
Trinity.

*Willo Food Truck  
Wednesdays in Walton  
Park - please check this  
link for the most up-to-  
date schedule - [https://  
streetfinder.com/  
WilloNeighborhood Events](https://streetfinder.com/WilloNeighborhoodEvents)*

LOOKING  
AHEAD  
**SATURDAY,**

MARCH 23

**APRIL 8TH**  
Willo Neighborhood  
Yard Sale.

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 13TH**  
Willo Neighborhood  
Association Board  
Meeting - 6:30pm -  
8:00pm BMO  
Building - 1850 N  
Central Avenue - Sedona  
Room - Level C

**FRIDAY,  
APRIL 14TH**  
Willo Happy Hour  
- 5:30pm - 7:30pm -  
THEME: Spanish Tapas  
Hosts: Bob Cannon &  
Don Vallejo Location:  
533 W. Cypress

*As always, please check  
[WILLOPHX.COM](http://WILLOPHX.COM) or  
THE OFFICIAL WILLO  
HISTORIC NEIGH-  
BORHOOD FACEBOOK  
PAGE for the latest  
updates. ■*

# WILLO BLOCK WATCH CAPTAINS STILL NEEDED!

Contact Erika Gagnon  
[ELEIGH3@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ELEIGH3@GMAIL.COM)  
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The Area Agency on Aging invites our community to provide information to identify the unmet needs of older adults and the ways they can be better served. Join us at a Public Hearing to help shape the Agency's Four-Year Plan.

Phoenix  
Burton Barr Library  
March 10th  
9:30 - 11:00 AM  
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# Active Pending, & Sold Listing

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ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
516 W Lewis	ACTIVE	\$595,000
45 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$725,000
305 W. Coronado	ACTIVE	\$875,000
124 W Granada	ACTIVE	\$875,000
315 W Windsor	PENDING	\$799,000
542 W Palm	SOLD	\$630,000
128 W Almeria	SOLD	\$735,000
52 W Lewis	SOLD	\$820,000
513 W Monte Vista	SOLD	\$1,135,000

Real estate information provided by **Bradley B. Brauer**, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures as of 02/13/2023. 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.

# Easter Event & New WKC Chair

BY VALERIE LANE (LEWIS)

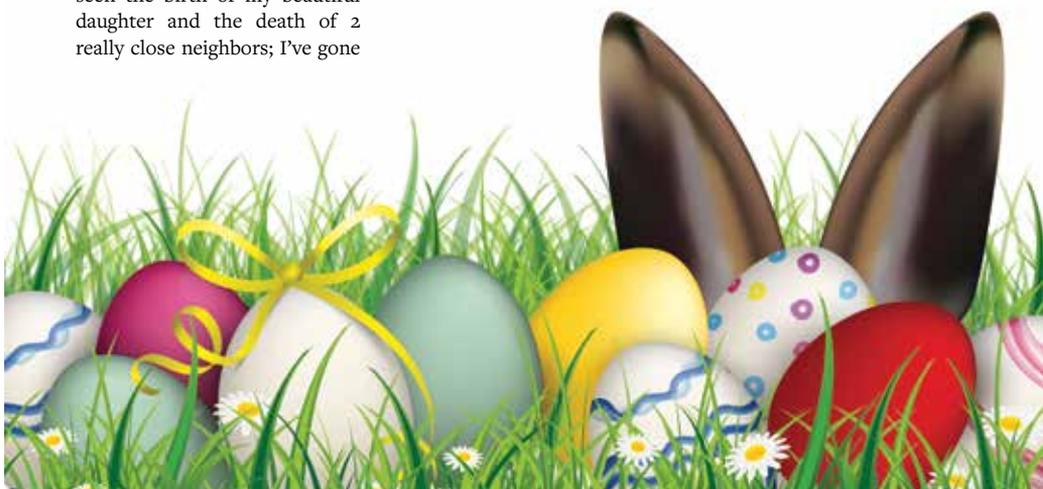
**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US** for our Snow Event on Sunday, January 29th! Snowballs and weather in the 60s made for a perfect afternoon.

The Willo Kid's Club Easter Event will take place on Sunday, April 2nd, at Amphitheater Island at Encanto Park at 3:30 pm. We will have the Easter Egg hunt as early as possible that day. We ask every parent to bring 10 prefilled eggs with non-edible items (such as stickers or small toys). We will also have a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

To those of you reading these articles, I have been writing them for exactly 5 years now. A lot has happened in those 5 years. I have seen the birth of my beautiful daughter and the death of 2 really close neighbors; I've gone

through a horrible divorce and reorganized my life as a single mom. Not to mention the global pandemic of 2020 when I was grounded to my house with a 2 year and 6-month-old by myself. Somehow, we all lived through it. I thank you all for paying attention and caring about the kids of Willo growing up with some wonderful memories.

I truly appreciate all the support this neighborhood and my close neighbors have given me throughout the years. I now pass the WKC torch to Amy Jensby. ■



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## 107 West Granada

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COMING SOON!



## 83 West Cypress

3,350sq' 3br/2.5ba/2CG

# Vicki Vanderhoff

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