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# Hello Neighbors

## IT'S BEEN AN EXCITING

few weeks since taking this position back in mid-March. On my first day, I received a call from the City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department, asking, "whose responsibility it was to maintain and repair the walls at 1st Avenue?" Particularly 1st Avenue and Wilshire. I learned that back in January, a Jeep drove into the wall, backed up, turned, and drove away, leaving a large hole in the middle of the wall.

I was able to respond that all of the walls and gates at our 1st Avenue border are the responsibility of the City of Phoenix staff. I asked if they had seen the letter dated 1/16/14 authored by the Assistant Director of Streets, stating the city had complete re-

sponsibility for the gates/walls along 1st Avenue. They were not aware, as the turnover in the city is tremendous. Thankfully I had saved this letter in my files and was able to send this back to the city staffer, along with current director Kini Knudson. The city has hired a contractor to complete the repairs and has cleaned up the mess, trash, and weeds. We are hoping to have this completed by the end of April, with new stucco and matching paint as well. Please keep us informed if you see damage to the walls/gates or if somehow the gates are unlocked. We will contact the city immediately and get the city to take care of that as soon as possible.

The new Willo board met in early April for an executive session to get to know each other. We also shared what each of our aspirations are for our neighborhood as board members. I am very excited about the new ideas and diversity of this board.

A common denominator for all of us is improving communications with the community. I'm looking forward to the accomplishments we can do together, with a lot of input from neighbors.

Information regarding the 3rd /5th Avenue construction coming soon.

Until next time, see you around the 'hood. ■



**ON THE COVER:**  
WILLO KIDS CLUB EASTER EVENT AT ENCANTO PARK WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!  
PHOTO BY WILLO KIDS CLUB



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## WILLO WEBSITE

WWW.WILLOPHX.COM is regularly updated with news, events, & past issues of *Inside Willo*.

## 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 5th 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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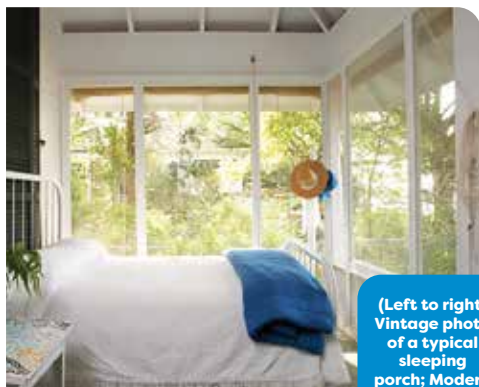
# Sleeping Under the Stars

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

**SOME OLD IDEAS ARE WORTH** reconsidering. Case in point — the sleeping porch. A sleeping porch is typically a room, usually located off the back of a house, that is screened on three sides to keep out bugs, and where families would sleep in the heat

electric fans and air cooling were widely available, the sleeping porch was no longer a necessity. Families wanting more room enclosed their porches and turned them into a third bedroom. You can usually tell if the small bedroom at the back of the house was

is making a comeback. Home-owners can include some sort of outdoor sleeping arrangement in their backyard landscape plans in order to enjoy the lovely weather. You can create one even if you don't have a back porch or balcony by converting a shed into a



(Left to right) Vintage photo of a typical sleeping porch; Modern sleeping porch

of summer. Sometimes they take the form of a second-story balcony off a bedroom. The sleeping porch became a popular feature at the turn of the 20th century as a way to beat the heat and take advantage of fresh air for good health. Medical philosophy of the time held that exposure to fresh air had a positive effect on health, and in the case of tuberculosis, for example, it was actually curative.

Later in the century, when

once a sleeping porch by looking at the walls from the outside — you will be able to see the impression of the large openings that made up the porch. This part of the house was also usually built of a different material than the main house and often finished in stucco or wood siding.

I am surprised that I have never seen a historic home in Phoenix with an intact sleeping porch, which I find sad, especially considering that the sleeping porch

screened room and adding a daybed or hammock, or even a hanging bed. These rooms can be enjoyed day and night all through our beautiful winters. ■

*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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# This Plant Stinks, and It's All Over Willo

**PIMA COUNTY AND THE** Regional Flood Control District want to warn the public about the spread of a noxious and invasive weed species taking root in the community. Mishandling this plant can cause severe breathing problems that may require hospitalization.

Although humorously named, the stinknet plant is no joke to public health or the environment. Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*) can cause severe skin and respiratory allergic reactions and when dry, stinknet burns easily.

Stinknet is a spring blooming annual weed that grows up to two feet in height and emits a pungent odor. It has unique bright yellow ball-shaped flowers.

This plant has been spreading rapidly in both urban and wild areas around Tucson, especially in the Santa Cruz river areas of Central Tucson. **It has overtaken many areas in Phoenix, and can quickly dominate a landscape if not controlled.**

We need to get ahead of this plant so we don't end up with the situational nightmare afflict-

ing parts of Phoenix, said Jonathan Horst, Director of Conservation Research at the Tucson Audubon Society.

The dry spring this year has resulted in a modest appearance of stinknet in Tucson area, with

**IF YOU COME ACROSS THE PLANT, DO NOT:**

■ **MOW THE PLANT** - This will leave seeds viable to germinate the following winter.

■ **BURN THE PLANT** - This will increase the risk of wildfires and

its highly caustic smoke creates a public health hazard.

■ **TRANSPLANT OR RELOCATE THE PLANT** to other areas such as your home or different portions of the river.

**DO:**

■ Use herbicides to kill the plant if it has not yet flowered

■ Pull and bag the plant, making sure to remove the root system from the ground.

■ Wear gloves when handling the plant to avoid a possible rash.

■ Map where you've seen it at [www.stinknet.org](http://www.stinknet.org).

The District has been working with other local agencies to control the spread of the stinknet. ■

Questions and comments about stinknet can be addressed to [aznps.stinknet@gmail.com](mailto:aznps.stinknet@gmail.com).

## NOXIOUS WEED ALERT: STINKNET



Stinknet leaves have a pungent odor.



Stinknet flowers are round and bright yellow.

**There is nothing nice about this plant except its flowers!**

- If it appears on your property dig it out immediately, because once an infestation is established you'll need to use herbicides.
- Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*) is a highly noxious winter weed now exploding in Phoenix and already invading many parts of Tucson. It quickly overtakes native wildflowers in landscapes and scenic roadways. It causes severe skin rashes and at flowering it can cause serious breathing difficulties. The dry plants burn like gasoline and the smoke is caustic.
- Stinknet is distinguished from other bright yellow spring flowers by the fully round blossoms perched on a narrow stem, and its odor.
- More information can be found at [www.zevma.org](http://www.zevma.org) or by contacting [www.stinknet@gmail.com](mailto:www.stinknet@gmail.com). You can visit [facebook.com/Stinknet-Arizona](https://www.facebook.com/Stinknet-Arizona)



plants restricted to low spots in neighborhoods and other properties, said John Scheuring, Conservation Director of the Arizona Native Plant Society.

Plants are typically more common in low spots in neighborhoods and wash properties.

< less risk means more comfort >



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# Signs of Rats & Tips to Prevent Them

BY JEREMY SCHACHTER (PALM LANE)

**FOLLOWING ARE SOME HINTS** that you may have roof rats and some handy tips to prevent and control this pest.

## SIGNS OF ROOF RATS:

**DROPPINGS:** Roof rat droppings are 1/4 to 1/2 inch in length, capsule shaped, with blunt ends. They are usually a shiny black but may vary according to diet. Rat droppings are three times as large as mouse droppings.

**TRACKS:** Outdoors, the runways of roof rats appear smooth, well packed, and free of vegetation. Indoors, runways appear as clean paths through dust or dirt. Roof rats leave a hind foot track of about 3/4-1 inch. A mouse's tracks will be much shorter. Rats will also drag their tails, leaving a mark between their feet tracks. Grease marks (from the oil and dirt of rats) often appear along walls next to runways.

**GNAWING HOLES:** Gnawing holes from Roof rats are about 2 inches

or more in diameter and will have rough edges. They prefer gnawing on wood but may also damage property, electrical wiring, and food packaging.

**URINE STAINS & ODORS:** Rodent urine deposited on rodent runways appear as a line of fine drops or streaks under an ultraviolet flashlight, or black light tool.

**SIGHTINGS & SOUNDS:** Since rodents are nocturnal and live secretively under normal circumstances, you can be sure that regular daytime rodent sightings indicate a heavy infestation. Various sounds that indicate rodent activity include gnawing, scratching, and digging noises.

## CONTROLLING ROOF RATS:

Sanitation is the single most important measure of prevention and control in combating any pest or rodent problem. Roof rats must have access to a ready supply of food and water to thrive. To

reduce rat populations, try the following sanitation measures:

**STORAGE:** Store any bulk food items in large metal containers with tight fitting lids, rather than bags or boxes that can easily be gnawed through.

**CLUTTER:** Remove clutter such as paper and cardboard that rats might use to build their nests. Check the alleys as well. A clean alley w/o any debris is the goal.

**VEGETATION:** Remove undesirable vegetation around your home such as grass clippings and weeds. Remove any citrus and pomegranates on trees or dropped on ground.

**PETS:** Keep dog food or other pet food stored in a sealed food storage container overnight.

**PEST CONTROL:** Personally, I have monthly pest control come to my own house and they installed two poison traps on each side of my property for \$50 each. ■

*Many of these tips were found on the website [www.domyown.com](http://www.domyown.com)*



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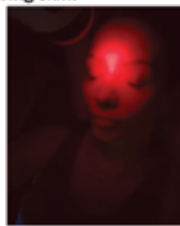
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# “Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler at Happy Hour”

BY JON ROBERTS (GRANADA)

**GRAB YOUR JAZZ UMBRELLAS** and handkerchiefs! For our final Willo Happy Hour of the 2022-2023 season, we'll be partying New Orleans style. Our evening's King and Queen-Crawford and Ashley Breedlove- invite you into their Krewe. So, come join the Big Parade, all you maids, dukes, and Second-liners!

We gar-ON-tee good food,

good drinks provided by our hosts will be aplenty at this fais-dodo but feel free to bring anything you'd like. There's also an unfenced pool available if you'd like to take a plunge and hang out while enjoying the Big Easy life (no lifeguard will be on duty).

Sip some Sazeracs and cold drinks. Check-in on the kin

**HAPPY HOUR**  
**FRIDAY,**  
**MAY 12TH**  
**“BIG EASY**  
**MARDI GRAS”**  
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with a “where y’at?” Then give a shout of “throw me something, mister!” on Friday, May 12th! ■

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# Calendar



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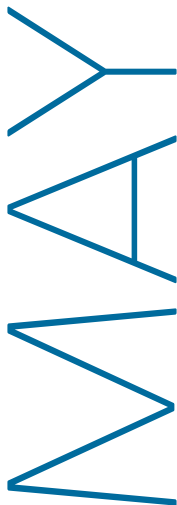
Food Truck  
 Wednesdays: Detroit Coney Cruiser <https://streetfoodfinder.com/DETconeyCruiser#!menus-section>. 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Walton Park

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH

Food Truck  
 Wednesdays: Stadium on Wheels <https://streetfoodfinder.com/StadiumOnWheels#!menus-section>. 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Walton Park

## THURSDAY, MAY 11TH

Willo Neighborhood Association Board Meeting - 6:30pm - 8:00pm BMO Building - 1850 N Central Avenue - Sedona Room - Level C



## FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

Willo Happy Hour - 5:30pm - 7:30pm -  
 THEME: "Big Easy Mardi Gras"  
 Hosts: Ashley & Crawford Breedlove  
 Location: 70 W. Encanto Blvd.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH

Food Truck  
 Wednesdays: Mingo's Louisiana

Kitchen <https://streetfoodfinder.com/MingosKitchen#!menus-section>; 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Walton Park

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 31ST

Food Truck  
 Wednesdays: Sunny's



Gyros <https://streetfoodfinder.com/sunnysgyros#!menus-section>; 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Walton Park

*\*Walton Park is at Monte Vista & 3rd Avenue for more info: [streetfoodfinder.com/WilloWednesdays](https://streetfoodfinder.com/WilloWednesdays) - please check the link for last minute changes and additions.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH

Willo Neighborhood Association Board Meeting - 6:30pm - 8:00pm. BMO Building - 1850 N Central Avenue - Sedona Room - Level C

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



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# TALES OF TAILS

## MAX, MIGUEL, AND BRIAN (WILSHIRE)

BY BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)

**IF YOU WANT TO GET YOUR** day started off right, have coffee at Walton Park with Max! He came dressed in his quintessential preppy black plaid harness, and although he seemed to have better things to do, he was patient enough to tolerate my interview. I, on the other hand, am crazy about pugs, so I was in my element.

**Interviewer:** Tell me a bit about yourself, Max.

**Max:** I was rescued from a 4-year-old and a busy mom who didn't respect me. Gosh, I was only 9 months old, for Pete's sake! They treated me like the baby's toy; I didn't like that a bit! When Miguel and Brian showed up to rescue me, I ran to them and never looked back! After I got over that scary ride in the car and got to my forever home, I fell in love with my brother Bicho who already lived there, and we became best buds! Unfortunately, Bicho got old, and he died this January. It was the worst day of my life, but thankfully we had 6+ years together.

**Interviewer:** Wow, Max.



That's a lot to go through at your young age (gentle pets). I'm so sorry about Bicho.

**Max:** It's OK, my dads tell me it's just part of life. I still live the best life. My favorite thing in the world is watching cartoons all day long – Curious George is my favorite, and I just love to bark at that monkey! I like all the action in that show – yeah, it's my favorite thing!

**Interviewer:** Do you have a favorite four-legged friend in the neighborhood?

**Max:** Oh yes, that would, without a doubt, be Henry, who lives on Encanto. Henry is so good-looking and has lots of curly hair that I admire. He also loves to kiss on me, and I really dig that.

**Interviewer:** I would guess with your two walks a day that

you have many, many doggy friends, no?

**Max:** I do! But sometimes, other dogs don't know how to read me. You see, I don't have a tail; I'm a Frug – a mix between a Frenchie and a Pug. And without a tail, I can be scary or off-putting for other dogs because I can't wag. It makes me sad sometimes, but Papa Brian says if I want it, he will get me a tail implant. Between you and me, shhh, I think he's kidding.

**Interviewer:** (Laughing). I see you keep “looking at your watch,” so to speak. So I'm going to wrap this up with you by asking what makes you so charming and popular because I can't get enough of you!

**Max:** Besides having the best dads on the planet, the best treats off the table every day, and in spite of the fact that I'm quite a gassy guy, I'd say my charm comes from the wisdom of the Buddha – I live for the moment ... one minute at a time. I soak up what life has to offer on life's terms. I think that's what people find charming in me.

**Interviewer:** Well, I certainly have fallen under your spell, Max. Thank you! ■



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65 W Lewis	ACTIVE	\$849,900
79 W Cypress	ACTIVE	\$925,000
516 W. Lewis	PENDING	\$575,000
45 W Edgemont	PENDING	\$725,000
529 W Encanto	PENDING	\$734,900
538 W Monte Vista	PENDING	\$825,000
505 W Vernon	PENDING	\$899,900
83 W Cypress	PENDING	\$1,250,000
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324 W Monte Vista	SOLD	\$1,250,000

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# Welcoming Willo's New Kids Club Chair

BY AMY JENSBY (CAMBRIDGE)

## HELLO, WILLO NEIGHBORS!

My name is Amy Jensby, and I will be heading up the Willo Kids Club this year.

I realize it is my turn to give it a run, as my kids have both very much enjoyed WKC events over the years. I will be enlisting the help of my 13-year-old daughter to bring some of our favorite WKC activities to you (as well as some new ones!), and we are excited for the year ahead.

As a little introduction, we have lived in Willo since 2004, were married in our Cambridge Avenue backyard, and brought home two kids from St Joseph's Hospital in 2010 and 2016. I work as a dentist and have recently added a day a week at the Phoenix College Dental Hygiene Clinic, which is within walking distance from our home. (You may have noticed the building on 7th Avenue, next to Sprouts.) To say we are tied to our little community is an understatement! We love our local restaurants, parks, museums, and, of course, our neighborhood.

Thank you to the past volunteers of Willo Kids Club, and a



special thank you to Valerie Lane for her work these last few years. Keep an eye out for future WKC events, which will be printed in

*Inside Willo* and posted on our neighborhood Facebook page. Looking forward to seeing you there! ■

## 4TH OF JULY EVENT

Willo Kids Club is in the planning stages for a 4th of July event! *Inside Willo* isn't printed during the summer months, so if you'd like to be included on the WKC evite list, please send your email address to: [amyjensby@gmail.com](mailto:amyjensby@gmail.com) (If you already get *evites* to Willo events, I already have your email address.)

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