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Hello Neighbors!

I'M READY TO GET BACK into the swing of things with a normal schedule. I hope you all had a great time, enjoyed summer (elsewhere), and caught the tail end of a less-than-eventful monsoon season.

We're obviously in full swing for construction on 3rd and 5th Avenues. There are two different companies doing the work, and once in a while, some miscommunication occurs. If you have a question about what you're seeing or what the crews are telling you, contact me, and I'll see what I can do to assist you.

The city has a construction hotline residents can use as well for any questions or concerns that you have: 623-825-3444. This construction is quite a process, and your patience is appreciated.

The city council is attempting to address a housing shortage in Phoenix. One idea is to allow property owners to build an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) in their backyard. Although many guest houses have been built in Willo since World War Two, the most recent city ordinances would not allow them to be rented separately. To add housing, the city would change that ordinance to allow long-term rentals in

those properties. The city would not allow short-term rentals, often referred to by the commercial title of Airbnb. At this point, there isn't a definition of a long-term or short-term rental from the city or how they would regulate these new ordinances. However, these changes have been inconsistent before being finalized, so I would recommend following these changes with the city of Phoenix and contacting Councilwoman Laura Pastor's office if you have or are considering adding a guest house/ADU.

I'm excited to announce Willo Home Tour Committee Chairs are in place and taking off with a bang: Courtney Sutherland of Palm Lane and Crawford Breedlove of Encanto Boulevard. Their photos grace the cover of this issue, and we are thankful to have them.

If you'd like to volunteer for the 2024 Willo Home Tour or put your house on tour, contact the chairs at willohometours@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to welcome Jim W. Smith (Granada) to the WNA Board of Directors. Charlene Gum has moved from Willo, and the Board voted to approve Jim to serve as our newest member.

Until next time, See you 'round the hood! ■



ON THE COVER:
2024 WILLO
HOME TOUR
CO-CHAIRS
COURTNEY
SUTHERLAND
(PALM) AND
CRAWFORD
BREEDLOVE
(ENCANTO)
PHOTO BY
SANDRA LEFCOVICH
(CORONADO)



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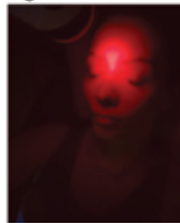
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WILLO WEBSITE

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.

COMMITTEES

3.5 TRAFFIC & SAFETY ACTION COMMITTEE

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INSIDE WILLO MAGAZINE

Inside Willo is published monthly, free of charge, by WNA volunteers. Neighbors are encouraged to submit articles (125-500 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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Hello Willo Kids!

BY AMY JENSBY (LEWIS)

FALL IS RIGHT AROUND the corner and that means Halloween is in the air! Mark your calendars for the annual Willo Kids Club Halloween Party and GAIN event

on Saturday, October 21st. Details will be included in the invite, make sure you're on the list. (If you haven't been getting invites, please email me at amyjensby@gmail.com.) We're looking for volun-

teers for the Halloween event, let me know if you're interested.

In the meantime, be sure to Boo your neighbors by using the template included in this *Inside Willo*.

Also, thank you to all who participated in our Little Library literacy event in September. We were impressed by the number of reading kids we have in Willo. A big shout out to the neighbors who host Little Libraries at their homes. The Willo Kids Club appreciates you. ■

- **ENJOY YOUR HALLOWEEN SWEETS AND TREATS**
- NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN BOOED, IT'S YOUR TURN TO SURPRISE YOUR FRIENDS AND/OR NEIGHBORS
- PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN BAG OR BASKET OF SPOOKY FUN AND INCLUDE THIS SIGN WITH IT
- MAKE A COPY OF THE "YOU'VE BEEN BOOED"
- SECRETLY LEAVE TREATS AT THE DOORS OF OTHERS
- **AND DON'T FORGET** TO PLACE YOUR OWN "YOU'VE BEEN BOOED" SIGN ON YOUR FRONT DOOR



YOU'VE
BEEN
BOOED

@FESTIVEFETTI

Meet New Willo Board Member Jim Smith



MY HUSBAND, ED BUCKEL, AND I MOVED TO Willo 9 years ago after falling in love with this historic neighborhood and incredible community. After a 48-year career, I recently retired this year and anticipate being able to invest more time and energy with Willo activities. ● For the past 8 years, Ed and I have organized the construction, placement and clean-up of the holiday luminarias for the 100 block of Granada, along with having the annual build party for all of Granada on our front porch. ● In the past, we have also hosted a Willo Happy Hour and look forward to opening our home again to the neighborhood in the future. ● I am delighted to become part of the Willo Board and be more involved in building community in our wonderful neighborhood. ■

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The WPA in Willo

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

OVER THE YEARS, YOU MAY have seen the WPA stamps on some Willo sidewalks. Usually, the stamp includes a date—1936 is the earliest stamp I have seen, but some are as late as 1940 or so. It turns out many people don't know what the WPA was or its significance.

The Works Progress/Projects Administration* (WPA) was a public program started in 1934 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) as part of his New Deal. The goal of the WPA was to put unemployed people (mostly men) to work during the Great Depression while improving infrastructure across the United States. The program ran from 1935 to 1943, ending when huge numbers of American men joined the armed forces in advance of WWII. Most of those employed by the WPA were manual laborers who were put to work building roads, bridges, schools, libraries, government buildings, and parks. However, there were also special projects that employed artists, writers, musicians, performers, craftspeople, and researchers.

The project was a success, although it was not without detractors. Some thought the WPA was just another form of government dole, while others thought it was intended to build a loyal army



(TOP) WPA workers building sidewalks along Van Buren Ave. Photo courtesy of the Arizona Memory Project; (INSET) WPA stamp on a Willo sidewalk.

of FDR-supporting voters. But over the course of the program, the WPA employed 8.5 million people at a total cost of \$11 billion. The number of completed projects is staggering, including many in Arizona. In Phoenix, the WPA built miles of roads and sidewalks, and also many buildings, including the main post office on Central and Filmore, the clubhouse and old band shell at Encanto Park (who remembers the band shell?), and all the roads, trails and buildings in South Mountain Park. The WPA was also responsible for the art-moderne Civic Building at the Arizona State Fair Grounds and the Grand Stand, with 23 bas-relief sculptures by WPA artists on the exterior.

As you may have guessed, home construction in our his-

toric districts stopped after 1929 and didn't really pick up again until 1935. The New Deal was instrumental

in jump-starting construction again through programs like the WPA and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). My next article will talk about the influence the FHA had on homes in our neighborhood.

*The original name for the WPA was the Works Progress Administration, but it was changed in 1938 to the Works Projects Administration. ■

Tricia is a City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Commissioner.

Visit phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation for information regarding historic guidelines and approvals. Tricia can be reached at amatotricia@gmail.com.



Night of the Living Will

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This event is for adults 60 and older



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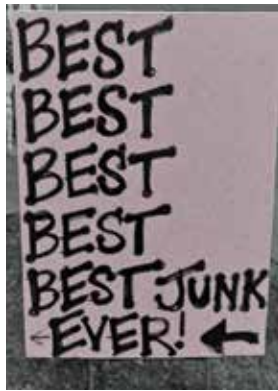
Willo Neighborhood “Fall Yard Sale”

Saturday, October 14 – 7am to 1 pm
Front yards all around Willo

THE 2023 WILLO NEIGHBORHOOD ‘Fall Yard Sale’ is finally here!

Join your neighbors for a day of shopping! The Willo Neighborhood Association will be marketing the yard sale to the entire Valley for a day of shopping fun for all! On Saturday, October 14th, thousands of people will come through Willo, admiring our neighborhood and the average yard sales of 100 homes!

Stop taking up space storing your unused past treasures and set them out on your front lawn on Saturday. Join your Willo



neighbors: clear out the items you’re ready to move on to other families and prepare your house for the holiday season!

Prices are terrific, and it’s nice to see the joy that our neighbors and folks from outside our neighborhood get when they purchase

such items as an 80-year-old fireplace mantle... and were you going to throw it away? No, not yet! That antique bathroom sink? Please don’t throw it away yet, either! Come out and see your neighbors’ treasures and make them your own! ■

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TALES OF TAILS

PRESTON TACÓ WAPPEL WILLIAMS

INTERVIEW BY BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)

I MUST ADMIT I WAS A BIT intimidated by this interviewee. Yes, Preston Tacó Wappel Williams may only be five pounds and have just a few teeth left in his little head, but he has one heck of a knack for intimidation, just sayin'. I made it through the interview unscathed, but not without some growls and a fair amount of vicious barking.

Once we settled down for the interview, I saw the sweetest side of this 9-year-old, black and white chihuahua with a bright pink belly. He licked and loved on his mom, Patrice, throughout the interview. Only when she went to grab a piece of the treat that he'd dropped did I see him snarl and snap. Asking about this "nature" of his, Patrice admitted that he's a bit of a Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde and said that she and Decker (Preston's human dad) call it his split dogsongality. Well, I love a dog with dogsongality (maybe not split), so here goes ...

Interviewer: So Preston, buddy, tell me about how you came to live with Decker and Patrice.

Preston: Oh boy, one day I was so lost. I was running loose on the corner of 7th St. and Osborn. I was trying to dodge all of the cars on the street because I needed to get to the other side.

Just then, I see Patrice in the middle of the street directing traffic and stopping the cars for me. She chased me to the sidewalk, I rolled over, and she fell in love with my pink tummy! She named me Preston Tacó because she found me by Taco Guild. I knew from the get-go that she was a nice lady, so I told myself, Preston, don't do it! Preston, don't bite the nice lady! Thank God I had that talk with myself because she brought me home with her. She tried for a while to find my people but had no luck. Then she asked me to live with her, Decker, and Travis. Travis was another chihuahua just like me and my size, too. Poor Travis had a heart condition, and he died a year or so ago. Patrice was so sad! But she is happy she has me because she really needs a baby to love, and Travis had been her baby for years.

Interviewer: What a stressful episode that was, Preston. To think a little guy like you went through all of that is quite astounding. So now that you live with Patrice and Decker, what is your joy in life?

Preston: Well, I love to spend most of my day just hanging out under the covers on the bed, but I also like my two walks a day. My favorite walks include meeting up

with my best 4-legged friend, Peanut, on Cambridge. Peanut and I love to romp and sniff each other and catch up on the neighborhood gossip. And Peanut is actually famous! He told me some lady in a big straw hat interviewed him for the newsletter and that he played hard to get on purpose so she'd go away. She didn't go away, though, and now he's famous! I think that's pretty cool.

I also love it when Patrice and Decker drive me to Pinedale, Wyoming, to be in our second home. We always go past this dairy farm with these big Holstein cows that look like giant versions of me, black and white with a pink belly, and I wonder if one of those cows could be my mom or my dad. I get a little sad thinking about it, but that's all the further I think it through because I really do love my life! I wake up with joy each morning, do a 10-minute sunbathe in the yard, and roll in the grass. I'm spoiled with a whole rotisserie chicken every week in addition to my dog food. I mean, really, who has it better?

Interviewer: Well, Preston, I feel a little spoiled too. Patrice brought me a tray full of homemade goodies, and I have quite the sweet tooth. I think you and I are both pretty lucky! Thanks for your time today, lil' guy. ■

THE 2024 35TH ANNUAL WILLO HOME TOUR

February 17th & 18th

WILLO WAS ONCE THE epitome of suburbia – a collection of subdivisions on the outskirts of the small but thriving Phoenix metropolis. This charming neighborhood sits between 1st and 7th Avenues, north of McDowell Road and south of Thomas Road. It features a variety of architectural styles, including Bungalow, Tudor Revival, Greek Revival, American Colonial, Pueblo Revival, and Ranches. Twenty-two separate subdivisions were platted and developed in Willo by various entrepreneurs from the turn of the century up to the beginning of World War II. The city's tremendous growth resulted in the encroachment of commercial development on what were once quiet suburbs. Eventually, with the growth of Phoenix over the last century, the individual subdivisions were bypassed, and the area blended into one cohesive whole. In the 1980s, residents of Willo successfully lobbied for status as a special conservation

TICKETS!

You can buy tickets online at WILLOPHX.COM

BUY WILLO HOME TOUR tickets for Sunday, February 18th now to get the Early Bird rate of \$20.00. ● This rate expires on October 15th, 2023. ● Twilight Tour tickets for Saturday, February 17th will go on sale October 16th for Willo residents and will require promo code Willo24.



SCAN ME

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TOUR
TICKETS
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district, earning historic status and assuring that this beautiful part of Phoenix's history will be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Initially planned in the 1920s, Willo is one of Phoenix's first historic neighborhoods and is now part of the core of Central Phoenix with all the amenities, culture, and community the area has to offer. Visit us to wander through our palm-lined streets and glimpse Phoenix's past with historic architectural styles – Tudors, Bungalows, Spanish Colonials, and later Ranch styles. The Willo neighbors are a tight-knit, supportive community that takes advantage of living in the urban core of Phoenix.

Now in its 35th year, the Willo Home Tour is an annual event organized by the Willo Neighborhood Association. It has a nationwide presence, with visitors traveling from several states to enjoy the historic charm and preservation efforts of the Willo Neighborhood in Downtown Phoenix, Arizona. ■



BEHIND THE SCENES TEAM!

WE ARE EXCITED TO PROVIDE the leadership to our extraordinary annual event while breathing fresh ideas and objectives into the WHT. We have many ideas on possible enhancements and look forward to sharing those soon. We want to amplify our neighbors' voices and work together as a community to spotlight how fantastic this neighborhood truly is. Our goal is to better enable community engagement and throw an amazing event!

We can't wait to collaborate with our Willo neighbors and throw an awesome event! Stay

tuned for more!

A bit about us, and why we chose to live in Willo

COURTNEY: My husband Reid and I had been looking for a neighborhood with a community feel to it, and Willo had our hearts right away. From the first happy hour to meeting neighbors on our neighborhood walks, we knew we had found our home. Living here only a few months, we decided to put our home on Tour because we appreciate historic homes and

wanted to open our house to fellow historic home lovers, too! Willo is such a welcoming community, and I look forward to sharing it during the annual Willo Home Tour!

CRAWFORD: I chose to move to Willo because my wife Ashley and I were already living downtown and needed a bigger home to move my mom here and give her a place to live. Willo was always a hopeful destination which became a silver lining reality because of Covid and will definitely be where I live for many years to come. ■

TWILIGHT HOME TOUR TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

The annual Twilight Home Tour exclusively for Willo residents will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. ● Twilight Home Tour tickets are limited to 600 tickets and will go on sale October 16, 2023. Use Promo Code Willo24 ● Early bird ticket (\$20.00 each) sales are extended until October 15th. ● Regular ticket pricing after this date is \$25.00 each. ● Go to www.willophx.com or The Official Willo Historic Neighborhood Facebook page for the link to purchase tickets.



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HOW TO GET INVOLVED!

WE DON'T BITE! WELL, Courtney doesn't... Come join a committee and support the Willo Home Tour! We have many ways to get involved- serving on a committee, volunteering day-of, & having your home on tour!

Below are the committees you can join and the flyer with contact information.

Overview of the committees:

HOMES COMMITTEE:

Responsible for the procurement of homes for the Tour and all communication with the homeowners.

STREET FAIR COMMITTEE:

Responsible for the acquisition of vendors and operations involving the placement of vendors.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Responsible for the financial management of the Tour, including all receipts, all expenditures, and reporting.

MUSIC COMMITTEE:

Responsible for the acquisition of all musical talent for the Tour weekend events.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Responsible for the promotion of the Tour and Street Fair using all media – print, electronic, broadcast, social, etc. and responsible for event brochure.

SPONSORSHIPS

COMMITTEE: Soliciting spon-

WILLO HOME TOUR **ABOUT US**

Ways to get involved:

VOLUNTEER

1. Assist on the day of with events, clean-up, and the site.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

2. Plan & coordinate that support with the planning for the event such as meals, place, pricing, permits, marketing, etc.

HOMEOWNER

3. Be one of the homeowners that allow to be used to display on each year. Please pay to be a sponsor in this neighborhood and that they participate annual.

Scan the QR code or email to give ideas or get involved!
Willohometours@gmail.com

During the annual Willo Home Tour, homeowners open their doors to visitors to see into Phoenix's architectural past. From Tudor to Spanish Revival to Ranch-style houses, the pride of ownership is evident at each and every stop along the tour. This event is an opportunity to support one of Phoenix's charming historic districts while enjoying architectural significance right here in our city.

SCAN ME

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

DATE:
OCT. 20th
TIME:
6 PM
LOCATION:
70 W. ENCANTO BLVD

sors and managing the communication and operations.

OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE: Responsible for all permits, licenses, trolleys, and all day of operations.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE:

Responsible for soliciting and managing the volunteers, including schedules, Sign-up Genius, and training. ■

Email us if you have any questions or are interested: Willohometours@gmail.com

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Halloween

5:30pm - 7:30pm -
THEME: HALLOWEEN!
HOSTS: Patrice Wappel
 & Decker Williams.
*Bring some food to nibble
 and a mischievous drink
 to share - 21+ please*
LOCATION: 331 W.
 Windsor Ave.

NOV

THURSDAY,
OCT 12th
 Willo Neighborhood
 Association Board
 Meeting - 6:30pm -
 8:00pm BMO
 Building - 1850 N
 Central Avenue -
 Sedona Room - Level C

FRIDAY,
OCT 13th
 Willo Happy Hour -

SATURDAY,
OCT 14th
 Willo Neighborhood Fall
 Yard Sale From 1st -
 7th Avenues & Thomas
 - McDowell Roads
 7:00am - 1:00pm

FRIDAY,
OCT 20th
 Willo Home Tour
 Meeting Host:
 Crawford Breedlove - 70
 W. Encanto Blvd.

SATURDAY,
OCT 21st
 Willo Kids Club
 Halloween Party &
 GAIN Event
 Walton Park. Check
WILLOPHX.COM and
 Official Willo Historic
 Neighborhood Facebook
 for more details

SUNDAY,
OCT 29th
 4:00 pm - Trinity
 Cathedral, 100 W
 Roosevelt Street,
 Phoenix. Music at
 Trinity's 2022-2023
 Concert Series begins

October 29 at 4:00 p.m.
 with Fushicho Daiko.
 See Page 22 for ad.

LOOKING AHEAD

THURSDAY,
NOV 9th
 Willo Neighborhood
 Association Board
 Meeting - 6:30pm -
 8:00pm. Location:
 Oven & Vine, 14 W.
 Vernon Ave.

FRIDAY,
NOV 10th
 Willo Happy Hour
 - 5:30pm - 7:30pm -
THEME: TBA
HOSTS: Lauren &
 Wylie Carhart
LOCATION: 518 W.
 Cypress St.

As always, please check
WILLOPHX.COM
 or **THE OFFICIAL
 WILLO HISTORIC
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 FACEBOOK PAGE** for the
 latest updates. ■



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WRITTEN BY JEAN LADENSACK & SUBMITTED
BY PHILIP TALARICO (EDGEMONT)



VALLEY FAVORITE, SOLO-acoustic guitarist, Alvin Ladensack has been playing Arizona venues for over 30 years.

In 1966, he picked up his uncle's 1930's no-name guitar with only 5 strings on it and started making music.

The Beatles, Stones, Donovan, Hank Williams, Willie Nelson, Cat Stevens, Gordon Lightfoot plus countless others inspired him to practice and play guitar for hours at a time. During the 70's, he taught at a local favorite, Ziggies Music.

Playing with several bands over the years in Nashville, Dallas, and L.A., he's now doing what he loves the best, solo-acoustic guitar.

You can hear Alvin live Saturdays at 5th Ave Cafe (5th Ave & Thomas) from 10am to noon. Catch him live on Sundays at Melrose Kitchen (7th Ave & Glenrosa) from 11am to 1pm ■.



Block Watch Vacancies

BY ERIKA GAGNON (CYPRESS)

NEIGHBORS! Help is needed filling the vacant Block Watch Captain spots, listed below. Please consider volunteering to help keep our community aware and safe. Contact Erika Gagnon at 480-277-2845 or eleigh13@outlook.com for more information. Thank you!

100 Coronado

300 Coronado

500 Granada

100 Holly

500 Monte Vista

100 Cypress

300 Encanto

300 Vernon

500 Lewis

500 Wilshire

500 Cambridge

500 Windsor

100 Edgemont

300 Edgemont



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Dec 17 2023 4:00 PM

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100 West Roosevelt Street Phoenix, AZ 602-254-7126 trinitymusicaz.org  



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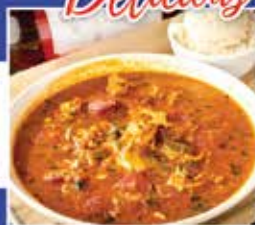
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“Witch Way to Happy Hour?”

BY JON ROBERTS (GRANADA)

“DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE”

It's time for Spooky Season in Willo! Friday the 13th is superstitiously unlucky, but since it falls on the second Friday of the month, we consider it a great day to hold our monthly Willo happy hour. • Take some time to treat yourself to the magic of neighborhood associations as the moon rises over Willo. Please bring some food to nibble and a mischievous drink to share • Don't make us batty by ghosting us. Grab your best ghoulish friends and drop by for a bite! • This evening's tricks aren't for kids. Ages 21+, please. • Subscribe to the Willo Social Committee's email list by contacting willosocialcommittee@gmail.com ■

UPCOMING HAPPY HOURS

OCT 13TH

HOSTS: PATRICE WAPPEL & DECKER WILLIAMS
LOCATION: 331 W. WINDSOR AVE.

NOV 10TH

HOSTS: LAUREN & WYLIE CARHARTT
LOCATION: 518 W. CYPRESS ST.

DEC 8TH

HOSTS: NIKKI ARMSTRONG & AL ARPAD
LOCATION: 544 W. GRANADA RD.



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ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
301 W Cambridge	ACTIVE	\$745,000
505 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$755,000
114 W Windsor	ACTIVE	\$759,900
536 W Windsor	ACTIVE	\$799,000
533 W Palm	ACTIVE	\$899,000
515 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$899,000
331 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$939,999
521 W Cambridge	ACTIVE	\$1,050,000
321 W Granada	PENDING	\$775,000
306 W Palm	PENDING	\$899,999
529 W Cypress	PENDING	\$1,450,000
325 W Vernon	SOLD	\$600,000
124 W Granada	SOLD	\$690,000
525 W Edgemont	SOLD	\$799,990
79 W Cypress	SOLD	\$835,000

Real estate information provided by **Bradley B. Brauer**, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures as of 09/13/2023. 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.

When it Rains in Willo

BY DAN CHILDERS (GRANADA), PROFESSOR AT THE SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY AT ASU



IT HAS BEEN A VERY DRY “nonsoon” season this year. Our backyard weather station has only recorded 0.75” of rain this summer. But as we all know, our Willo streets often flood when we do get rain (or when a water main breaks!). Some of this is due to poor or no stormwater management to the east of us, but much of it is because we are a historic neighborhood and our stormwater infrastructure is old, infirm, or inadequate.

Eric Gilmore (Coronado) has done an admirable job of documenting the severity and spatial distribution of our street flooding, as well as the history of our stormwater infrastructure. Willo resident Zak Holman (Monte Vista) and Enrique Vivoni, my ASU colleagues from our engineering school, have suggested that we reach out to the Maricopa County Flood Control District about these issues. They have a Small Project Assistance Program (SPAP) designed for these types of high-frequency, small flooding

events (see <https://www.maricopa.gov/5440/District-Programs#spap>). I believe the WNA Board is planning to pursue some of these options for us.

Newer developments in the Valley are required to have infrastructure in place to retain and manage their stormwater on-site, and many use less-engineered and more nature-based solutions for this (e.g., detention basins that double as small parks when they are dry). Unfortunately, these types of [what we call] “urban ecological infrastructure” solutions are likely not viable alternatives to our aging pipe-based stormwater systems in Willo because we simply do not have the space. That said, there are things that we can do as individual homeowners to make it easier for our old stormwater drains and pipes to do their job. For example, years ago, when we decided to reduce our front yard turf area by about half, one of the things we did was dig out the swale (the area between the

sidewalk and the curb) so that its ground level was about 3-4” below the sidewalk and curb (first photo). This had the added advantage of getting rid of the root system of the grass, keeping it from resprouting. We then planted the swale with native and drought-tolerant vegetation and added crushed granite (second photo). This feature now captures runoff from our roof and front yard and holds it before it can make it to the street. This small stormwater detention basin is effectively a parcel-scale bioswale or rain garden. If more Willo homeowners did things like this, it would mean that our engineered stormwater infrastructure would need to only manage street runoff.

So consider turning your swale, if you have one, into a rain garden so that you can manage your stormwater runoff using urban ecological infrastructure. And please, be sure to keep the storm drains on your street free of debris. ■

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