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Hello Neighbors!

I HOPE YOU'VE HAD AN

enjoyable Thanksgiving shared with family, friends, and neighbors. And here comes the holiday season, time to decorate, as our neighborhood does so well every year.

Speaking of the holiday season, Willo is scheduled to set up our Luminarias on December 23rd, 24th, and 25th. Please use the following link to sign up for your block: <https://bit.ly/2023-luminaria>. Then, schedule a set-up party on your block with all of your neighbors. Willo has done Luminarias for over 20 years, and is a special holiday event for Willo residents as well as for the rest of the city.

Special thanks to Chris Norton and team for organizing the Luminarias. Willo partially pays for this through a grant from the city of Phoenix and through our own funds. A reminder that a bicycle group, Phoenix Spokes People, organizes a night ride through the neighborhood on the

first night of Luminarias. This ride is not a Willo-sponsored event, but keep your eyes open and share the road with these riders, some of whom are also Willo residents.

Regarding Willo funds, a reminder that the majority of the neighborhood's funds come from the Willo Home Tour. If you'd like to share your home, providing the greatest thing you can do for the neighborhood, please contact our chairs, Courtney and Crawford, at WilloHomeTours@gmail.com. You can also volunteer for one of the many subcommittees that we need to put the tour together.

The 35th Willo Home Tour is scheduled for February 18th, 2024, President's Day Weekend. Open your home, volunteer, and get involved.

As you can see, the city is continuing to remodel 3rd and 5th Avenues, mostly with the new sidewalks/curb cuts but also the permanent new curbing at 3rd Avenue and McDowell and 5th Avenue just south of Thomas. We do expect this project to go on well into 2024, so keep your eyes open for lane changes that will affect how we drive, walk, run, ride, and park on these two streets.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season. Be safe, and until next year, see you 'round the 'hood. ■



ON THE COVER:
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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 (125-500 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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This is Where it All Begins

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

MOST OF YOU HAVE HEARD

the story of how Phoenix was founded, no? Jack Swilling, a prospector, passed through the valley in 1867 and saw the ancient canals created and used by the Hohokam/Desert People to water crops. He had an idea — why not put those ancient irrigation canals back into use (and build new ones) to farm the valley? This way, the people in the many mines around Arizona Territory could get much-needed provisions closer to home. Boom! The fifth-largest city in the U.S. is born.

Did you know that there is a place very nearby where you can learn how the Hohokam lived in the valley? The S'edav Va'aki* Museum (formerly the Pueblo Grande Museum), located at 44th Street and Washington, is that place. S'edav Va'aki, which means "Central Mound," is the only prehistoric site in Phoenix that is open to the public. It consists of a large platform mound (likely used as a ceremonial space for the surrounding villages), remnants of the early canals, and two accessible interpretive trails. On the trails, one can look at the mound and learn how it was used, go into recreated pit houses, enter an adobe compound,



Top to bottom: View of the mound wall, made of adobe bricks; A reconstructed pit house; A group outside one of the adobe houses; A pot found on site



see an ancient ballcourt, and visit a native plant garden.

Inside the museum, you will find a gallery with exhibits explaining how the original occupants lived in the Salt River Valley and the importance of the location to the O'odham and Piipaash people of today. There is also a children's exploratorium where kids can learn about the archaeological process. And there is even a museum store open Friday – Sunday.

Right now, the weather is beautiful, so if you have guests in town for the holidays, why not take a step back in time and pay a visit. The Museum is located at 4619 E. Washington Street and is open Monday-Saturday 9:00a.m. - 4:45p.m. and Sunday, 1:00p.m. - 4:45p.m.; admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for kids. ■

* Pronounced Se'•duf Va•aki'
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 amato-tricia@gmail.com.



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Hometown Holiday Happy Hour

BY JON ROBERTS (GRANADA)

UPCOMING HAPPY HOURS

DEC 8TH

5:30-7:30 PM

"HOMETOWN HOLIDAY"

HOSTS:

Nikki Armstrong and Al Arpad

LOCATION: 544 W. Granada Rd.

JAN 12TH

5:30-7:30 PM

"THE GREAT 80s"

HOST: Kelly Flood

LOCATION: 331 W. Cambridge

OUR NOVEMBER HAPPY

hour hosts, Lauren & Wylie Carhartt, became the ultimate Camp

Leaders for an evening that felt like Willo was hundreds of miles from the hustle of the city. We arrived at "Camp Carhartt" and were greeted by "Camp Leaders" and an actual tent. From there, every detail of forest-themed decorations, along with a campfire and s'mores station, really helped us make better relationships and memories with each other. We thank our outstanding hosts for their remarkable preparation and generosity to our neighborhood.

For December's Happy Hour on Friday, December 8th, we'd love it if you'd represent the town where you grew up or any other place you've 'adopted' as your hometown, like a college town or whatever. So many people in Phoenix are from somewhere else that it's interesting to learn

where everyone lived before they ended up in the Valley. Our hosts are curious to sample any regional dishes you'd like to bring to share, something that was common wherever you grew up but isn't common outside of that area. And don't forget to wear a ballcap or a jersey from a hometown team or a sweatshirt from a local tourist attraction. If someone shows up in their high school letter jacket, that would be amazing. Bring a hometown dish or a dessert and your favorite drink. Over age 21, please. And bundle up because we will be outside.

Subscribe to the Willo Social Committee's email list and watch for more information about upcoming Happy Hours by contacting willosocialcommittee@gmail.com. ■

Willo Garden Club

COME GROW THE COMMUNITY WITH US!

WE HAD OUR FIRST WILLO GARDEN CLUB meeting on November 12th, which was organized by Ted McLaren, Lara Cerri, Lara Sands, and myself. Ted presented a class on composting. Healthy soil is the literal foundation for healthy plants, gardens, and landscapes. It is also fundamental to environmental health and water conservation. We enjoyed the company of neighbors from all over Willo and look forward to gathering again.


The goal of the Willo Garden Club is to better neighborhood quality of life through community

gardening. We explore sustainability models as we gather for collective work and classes on growing or harvesting locally grown fruit, produce, and ornamental vegetation. Our network of neighbors and gardens through Willo beautify the homes and streets of our beloved historic district. ■

Join your fellow neighbors in the Willo Garden Club! Email willosocialcommittee@gmail.com for more information.



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there's no place
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People over 60 are now the fastest-growing group among the homeless population. Your year-end charitable tax credit donation can make a difference.

Skyrocketing rent prices along with a lack of affordable housing are literally pushing seniors out the door and onto the streets. One key to preventing senior homelessness is stable housing. Preventing evictions is key to ensuring stability.

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These funds help prevent evictions by offsetting rising rent, assisting with utility bills, and more so we can keep older adults safe.

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BEN & MOOSE:

NICOLE PIEMONTE & CHARLIE WILSON (LEWIS)

INTERVIEW BY BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)

A TALES OF TAILS FAN approached me about interviewing her pets. She happens to be my “adopted” daughter and lives across the street. So, this was a fun interview.

Interviewer: I was greeted at the door by Ben, a 13lb min pin/chihuahua mix whose feet tap on the floor like a tiny dancer. Off in the living room was Moose, a 12lb domestic short-hair/tuxedo cat. He was curled in a ball with front hands (because he has 4 fingers and a thumb) tucked under like an otter. The house, owners, and pets are all so perfect – like something from a trendy fashion magazine. There is also a little plate of stroopwaffles for my pleasure. So, here goes ...

Ben, you look quite dapper in your Southwest fringed bandana. Tell me how you came to live this privileged life with Nicki and Charlie.

Ben: First off, the bandana. I’m pretty sure it was intended to match our house; Mom’s just that way (eye roll). I actually can’t remember much before being here, but Mom tells me how she went looking for a puppy at the Arizona Humane Society, but she didn’t find one. She went up to the counter and asked if they had any others, and they brought ME out; I was still drunk from being neutered. I jumped in Nicki’s lap, and she fell in love with me and my blue toenails. Once home, she was still curious

about me and my blue toenails, so she started Googling and discovered that I was a star on the Pet Telethon on Channel 3! I got to meet the anchors and the fire department! Over 800 people were clamoring to adopt me after my TV debut — Nicki just got lucky getting me first. Because they said on TV that I was covered in blue paint when I was found, Mom Nicki named me Ben after the Benjamin Moore paint company.

Interviewer: Wow, Ben, blue toenails, huh? That’s just the kind of thing Nicki would be attracted to!

I’m noticing your brother Moose over there. What do you think about your new cat brother?

Ben: Well, he ain’t George Washington, that’s for sure. My old cat brother, George, just took off one day and never returned. While Moose looks like a black and white version of George, he’s very different. I still miss George.

Interviewer: That was really such a tragic event for the whole neighborhood. Everyone knew and loved George. So, what is it exactly that you don’t like about Moose?

Ben: Moose is too testy. I like to play with him, but he just can’t take it. He was rescued from a cat colony by a lady named Michelle, who helps stray cats in Willo. When Dad got Moose from Michelle, he was in bad shape. I think I need to be nicer to him,

and then maybe we can bond. But I know Moose will never be able to play pool volleyball with me because Dad says cats can’t do water sports; too bad because I can actually score by hitting the ball with my nose!

Interviewer: I know you’re quite athletic and like to go on hikes, too. What’s your favorite part about hiking?

Ben: My favorite part is actually the ride there. I love to hang around my dad’s neck as he’s driving and look out the windows. I just love snuggling, especially in bed at night. My dad calls me a meat missile, but Mom snuggles me all night. They say I radiate heat, but I feel cold and shiver all the time in the winter. I have quite a wardrobe, as Mom loves to dress me up to keep me warm. But I think she likes making me a fashion plate, too.

Interviewer: You should be named Dapper Ben. Now, Moose, let’s get you into the convo. You’ve been listening intently to this interview with Ben. Is there anything you would like to add?

MOOSE: I just want to say that I have known real suffering, and it has given me an immense sense of gratitude. I will never run away like George.

Interviewer: Thank you, Moose and Ben. I hope you two can work things out. Nice hanging out with you two! ■



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WILLO

HOME TOUR SPOTLIGHT:

ASHLEY & JUSTIN DEBOLT(LEWIS)



BUILT IN 1940, THIS QUIANT and magnificent Spanish-style home stole our hearts the second we saw it. The previous owners remodeled the house in 2016, giving it modern touches while preserving some of its historic features. The original brick above the fireplace is still one of our favorite parts of our home.

Upon entry, you can't help but notice all the natural light. There's something magical in that.

We chose to add some custom wood cabinets and a clay tile backsplash to one of the kitchen walls. The clay tiles are a beautiful accent in this Spanish home.

The French doors off the master lead you straight to the pool. Another feature that we were enchanted by. We love to gather, and this backyard is perfect for just that.

I would be remiss if I didn't

mention that beyond the house, we were drawn to the charming Willo. We adore this historic neighborhood and are so happy to be here. We hope you enjoy your Willo Home Tour, and look forward to seeing all of you! ■

A BIG thank you to Ashley & Justin for participating in the Willo Home Tour! This tour is only possible with the help of neighbors like you!

Forget Your Fears—**SAY YES** to the Home Tour

BY JANICE O'ROURKE (CYPRESS)

TWO YOUNG WOMEN

knocked on our door in October of 2018. We had moved into the Spanish Colonial house at the corner of 5th Avenue and Cypress in Willo, having recently escaped the winters in New York. We loved the fact that our house, built in 1935, was mostly unchanged, allowing us to make some updates, but to enjoy the “vintage” feel of the original hardwood floors and solid doors, the plaster crown molding, and the big, original porcelain tub.

The two Willo Home Tour Co-Chairs, Anna and Samantha, told us they were asking neighbors if they wanted to open their houses for that year’s home tour. I had been to one Home Tour previously, and the idea was overwhelming and intimidating. My husband, Kevin, and I turned the ladies down. We were just new and needed to get our bearings first before inviting all of Phoenix into our living room. (I was also nervous about so many people walking across my newly refinished hardwood floors and anticipating the potential negative impact on our new kitchen and master bath.) We said we might consider it for the following year.

We forgot about the prospect until a neighbor admired our house and asked if we were going to put it on the Home Tour. We



told them we had considered it, but maybe we would do it next year when we were more settled. They said, “Your house will never look as good as it looks right now. You should do it. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors and get right into the middle of Willo straight away.”

We knew he was right about the house, and we were eager to start making some new friends in the neighborhood, so we called the ladies back and agreed to be part of the 2019 Home Tour.

The Home Tour Committee made it easy for us to get ready. They assigned liaisons, Diana and Ruth Anne, who had experience showing their homes on the tour. These new friends helped us map out a step-by-step plan for the tour,

including a last-minute spruce up, optimizing the “day-of-tour flow,” and helping us find docents (tour guides). They even brought over breakfast the morning of the tour and brought lunch so we wouldn’t go hungry.

The smiles, oohs and ahs, and gracious comments of the guests who toured our house that day will stay with us for a long time. We will always be grateful for the new friends we made in the winter of 2019 and the small push to reconsider opening up our home for Phoenix to see the gem we all have in Willo. My tip: If you’re new, there’s no better way to get right in the middle of Willo than to get involved in the Home Tour! ■



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Reserve your spot today to secure your place among a fantastic lineup of vendors. Act fast, as space is limited and filling up quickly!

To sign up as a vendor and for more information, please contact our Street Fair Co-Chairs for details: **REID MERTENS:** Reid.mertens@gmail.com and/or **ERIKA G:** eleigh3@gmail.com.

Don't miss this chance to be a part of the Willo Home Tour Street Fair excitement and showcase your products to a fantastic crowd. We can't wait to see what you have to offer! ■

How to Get Involved!

WE HAVE MANY WAYS for you to get involved- serving on a committee, volunteering the day of, & having your home on the tour!

- **STREET FAIR COMMITTEE**
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- **MUSIC COMMITTEE**
- **MARKETING COMMITTEE**
- **SPONSORSHIPS COMMITTEE**
- **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**
- **VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Listed below are the committees you can join:

- **HOMES COMMITTEE**

Email us if you have any questions or are interested: Willo-HomeTours@gmail.com ■

HOME TOUR TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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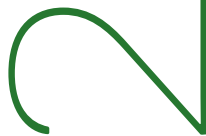
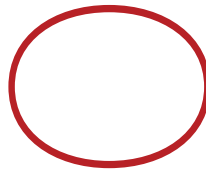
**THURSDAY,
DEC 7th**
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm NEW
LOCATION: Oven &
Vine - 14 W. Vernon
Avenue

**FRIDAY,
DEC 8th**
Willo Happy Hour
- 5:30pm - 7:30pm -
THEME - "Hometown
Holiday" Hosts:
Nikki Armstrong and Al
Arpad. Location: 544 W.
Granada Rd.

**WEDNESDAY,
DEC 13th**
Willo Food Truck



Wednesdays - Rosie's
Kitchen, Walton Park*
- 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



**FRIDAY,
DEC 15th**
Willo Home Tour
Planning Meeting,
6:00-7:00 pm; HOST:
Crawford Breedlove -
70 W. Encanto

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

LOOKING AHEAD

**THURSDAY,
JAN 11th, 2024**
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm NEW
LOCATION: Oven &
Vine - 14 W. Vernon
Avenue

**FRIDAY,
JAN 12th, 2024**
Willo Happy Hour
- 5:30pm - 7:30pm -
THEME -
"The Great 80s"
Host: Kelly Flood
Location: 331 W
Cambridge

**FRIDAY,
JAN 19th, 2024**
Willo Home Tour
Planning Meeting - 6:00
- 7:00 pm Host:
Crawford Breedlove - 70
W. Encanto

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



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More Kid Fun in Willo

BY AMY JENSBY (CAMBRIDGE)

ON SATURDAY DECEMBER

16th, Willo Kids Club is looking forward to a joint holiday bike ride with Encanto Palmcroft Kids Club. An evite was sent out at the end of November with details. If you did not receive the evite, let us know.

Please email Amy at amyjensby@gmail.com if you are not already on the WKC mailing list, and we will get you added!

the Willo and Encanto Palmcroft Kids Clubs jointly invite you to a

HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE

Deck out your bike, scooter, or stroller with lights, and parade through our neighborhoods!

Saturday, December 16
Meet at 4:30 PM
at 516 W Cambridge Avenue
to decorate your wheels (supplies provided)

and parade to 1021 W Encanto Blvd
for cookie decorating and hot cocoa

Click here to RSVP or use QR code:



WE HAD LOTS OF FUN
at our Halloween event last month - great costumes, games and, of course, candy!

**Kids Club activities are made possible though revenue from the Annual Willo Home Tour and Block Watch grant from the City of Phoenix.*



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SOLD!

ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
329 W Lewis	ACTIVE	\$689,000
505 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$755,000
536 W Windsor	ACTIVE	\$799,000
510 W Granada	ACTIVE	\$799,999
517 W Holly	ACTIVE	\$870,000
533 W Palm	ACTIVE	\$899,000
515 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$889,000
331 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$894,000
515 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$899,000
502 W Monte Vista	ACTIVE	\$1,100,000
525 W Granada	ACTIVE	\$1,200,000
119 W Almeria	PENDING	\$650,000
505 W Wilshire	PENDING	\$685,000
64 W Virginia	PENDING	\$699,000
301 W Cambridge	PENDING	\$745,000
529 W Cypress	PENDING	\$1,450,000
114 W Windsor	SOLD	\$735,000

Real estate information provided by
Bradley B. Brauer, Broker's Hub
Realty. All figures as of 11/15/2023.
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For more information, please
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advertising realtors or your real estate
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WHT tickets



Luminaria 2023

BY CARI PAYNE & CHRIS NORTON (LEWIS)

HAPPY DECEMBER, EVERYONE!

You know the drill. Thanksgiving has come and gone, Christmas is around the corner, and that means it's time to build Luminaria in Willo! Our lovely lanterns will be placed from 12/23 to 12/25, Saturday-Monday. Important events and the dates they'll happen are listed in the table below.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER: You can sign up to volunteer today! Chris and I are looking for several volunteers to help make Luminaria more fun, efficient, and easy for everyone. We are especially interested in volunteers for Block Captains and volunteers for a position called "Floater." Back from last year, Floaters will assist Block Captains with whatever they need, can connect Block Captains from different blocks, provide guidance to anyone who needs help (if the Block Captain is unavailable), distribute and/or collect supplies (before and after the event), and distribute flyers for 1-2 blocks.

PICK UP SUPPLIES: This is the day everyone will head to our house to pick up lantern supplies. Supply boxes with bags, lights, and instructions will be distributed along with sand.

BUILD PARTY: Build parties vary significantly from block to block. They can be big or small, but the more builders you have, the merrier! Gather friends and neighbors to help

build the lanterns, bring snacks and wine, or go all out and make it a potluck. Ask your block's captain for their plans for a build party.

PLACEMENT: On this day, set out the built lanterns for your block. The flyers in the supply box will guide you on how to place the lanterns on your block and along 3rd or 5th Ave. Ask your Block Captain or Floater for guidance if needed.

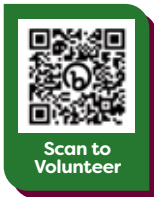
GROUP BIKE RIDE: This bike ride usually takes place on the Friday night of Luminaria, but this year, it will take place on Saturday. The delightful folks at Phoenix Spokespeople will organize this event once again. Bicycles, One-Wheels, and scooters are welcome, and this is a family event! Dress up in your ugliest sweater and flashiest Christmas lights for fun!

TEARDOWN/RETURN SUPPLIES: After Christmas, collect the supplies from around your block. Hang on to any UNUSED paper or wax bags and ANY plastic bags, used or not. Ensure the LED tea lights are turned off when you collect

them (check the switch on the bottom of the light) and give the supplies back to your block captain for return to our home. Recycle the paper bags; as always, the sand is not returnable, so do with it as you wish.

Volunteers are especially needed for build parties, placement, and teardown. Sometimes, folks can pick up supplies but aren't able to return them, so having a liaison is very helpful. Many hands make light work – the more volunteers you have at your build party, the faster you can finish construction. Are there new neighbors on your block? Inviting them to a build party is an excellent way to introduce them to Willo's local culture and make them your new friends. No new faces on the block? No problem – reacquaint yourself with your neighbors over fruitcake (if that's your thing) and mulled wine. We want to emphasize that Luminaria is about community and camaraderie. Those two things make the event happen! ■

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Sign Up to Volunteer	NOW to FRI 12/09	https://bit.ly/2023-luminaria
Pick up Supplies	SAT 12/16	60 W. Lewis Ave
Build Party – All are Welcome	12/16 to 12/23	TBD by Your Block Captain
Placement	SAT 12/23	Your Block
Group Bike Ride	SAT 12/23	www.PhoenixSpokesPeople.org
Teardown/Return Supplies	TUE 12/26	Teardown on your block, return supplies to 60 W. Lewis Ave.



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For more Willo History,
check out my website at
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