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What's Going on in Willo?

THE YEAR IS RUSHING PAST

us quickly, and it seems spring will be sliding into summer before we realize it. I'm hoping for a little more rain to keep us below 100 degrees for most of May.

What's going on in Willo? I hope everyone who participated in the yard sale had a great time and made a nice profit on their old things. What a great way to recycle and keep items out of the city dumps.

Thanks to the "sign crew" of board members Patrice Wappel (Windsor) and Eric Gilmore (Coronado) for the marketing and signage for the semi-annual yard sale. If you missed this one, the next one is coming in October, tentatively October 19th to coincide with the City of Phoenix' G.A.I.N. Event, also known as Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods.

This event, like "Our Night Out" in other parts of the country, is a chance to connect with our Police Department, our city's government, and more.

In previous years, Willo has hosted a breakfast, lunch, or Halloween party to honor the event. As this is a City of Phoenix Block

Watch event, I look forward to seeing what our revamped and re-ignited block watch will do to connect our neighbors with the city.

We have had a smooth rework of 3rd Avenue, especially considering all of us who have to pull out of driveways and garages onto 3rd. We've seen a lot of drivers hitting the road at higher speeds, causing our residents to ask for the return of the speed humps. We have been assured that the speed humps will return, along with street signs (Monte Vista and 3rd) and stop signs at reasonable height so drivers can see them.

The work is scheduled to be completed in July, so hopefully, when many of us return from our summer vacations, the new version of 3rd Avenue will be completed.

5th Avenue will begin/continue by the time you're reading this edition of *Inside Willo*. Thanks to President Emeritus Bob Cannon for guiding this project and to Connor Grossarth, Senior Construction Inspector for the Street/Transportation department for the city of Phoenix, who is managing this project for us and has been so responsive.

Well, neighbors, I'm going over my word limit and don't want to get in trouble with *Inside Willo*, so I'll sign off. Until next time, see you 'round the 'hood. ■



ON THE COVER:
EASTER BUNNY
BEING "ARRESTED"
BY WILLO CAOS
HARRIS &
SHERMAN AT THE
KIDS CLUB EVENT
ON MARCH 29TH.
COVER PHOTOS BY SANDRA
LEFCOVICH, VALERIE LANE,
AND SHERYL HAARMAN



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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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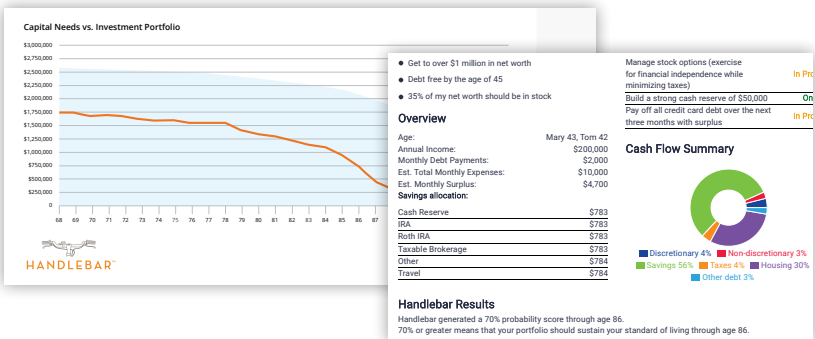
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MY DEAR FRIENDS RAE AND

Beth are huge dog lovers, so it was no surprise when they adopted their new Australian Cattle dog/Australian Shepherd about a month ago. She is 32lbs, white with brown freckles, black spots on her body, and tortoise-shell-brown ears. Her most striking feature is her amazing bright blue, translucent eyes — she can look right through you. She has white toenails, white eyelashes, a tinge of pink on her soft, wet nose, and a mere nubbin of a tail that she tries really hard to wag! Sitting in the backyard of her gorgeous home, I found the sound of the bubbling fountain and the ringing of the bells in the trees mesmerizing. Frankie, however, was enjoying the flowering vines and the visual beauty of her yard because, well ... Frankie is deaf. She has a genetic merle trait that causes some dogs to have vision and/or hearing impairments. This is one of the reasons Rae and Beth were drawn to Frankie — they wanted to give their love to an animal with special needs, and ... boy, do they love Frankie! The interview commenced via sign language interpretation.

INTERVIEWER: Hiya Frankie! (Poke poke — got her attention with my toes.) Tell me all about yourself.

FRANKIE: Well, I am 2 ½ years old and came from the border of Arizona and Mexico. I've spent most of my life in foster care until my mom, Beth, and girlfriend Rae adopted me from the Amazing Aussie Rescue. I had a great life there but I really wanted a forever home, so I was just waiting for Beth and Rae to find me. I think we all got real lucky!

INTERVIEWER: Your Mom and Girlfriend? I'm confused.

FRANKIE: Well, I call Beth my mom because she's retired and devotes her whole life to me. I call Rae my girlfriend because she works, and I don't see her as much. But I know she loves me



FRANKIE
RAE BROWN &
BETH GALLAGHER
(PALM LANE)

INTERVIEWED BY
BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)

just as much as Mom. Mom and I walk Girlfriend to work in the morning and walk back to pick her up in the evening. I can't wait to see her at the end of the day, so when we get within a block of her, I just can't help myself — I go all crazy happy and start bolting toward her with the biggest galloping welcome I can muster! I'm spoiled with miles of daily walking, and every week, we go hiking with my best Frenchie dog friends. I also get these amazing big bones with marrow that I love to bury in the backyard and just check up on now and then. Maybe someday I'll dig them up, or not.

INTERVIEWER: (Now she's doing the dead-weight-head-prop on my knee — a sure sign

of contentment in every way.) Nudge — Frankie, I'm curious how you got your name?

FRANKIE: My full name is Frances Sinatra because Mom and Girlfriend think I have Frank Sinatra eyes. (She sure does!) But I have other names, too. Because Frank Sinatra had mafia ties, my mafioso name is Whitey. And you won't even believe this one: because my left eye is cocked to the side, they also call me Marty Feldman. Geez, I could live without the Marty and Whitey references (she gave me the side eye).

INTERVIEWER: Wow. That's something, Frances-Whitey-Marty Sinatra! Have you made any four-legged

friends in Willo yet?

FRANKIE: Oh, I just love little dogs, so I told Mom and Girlfriend I want a play date with that Ziggy dog down the street. He looks like he has enough energy to keep up with me. In fact, I hear that some people call him Zippy! I also love Falon, who lives on Cambridge; she looks like me, and she's deaf, too. Her mom, Kelly, knows sign language, so we all have the best conversations!

INTERVIEWER: Very cool! What other things do you want the neighbors to know about you, Frankie?

FRANKIE: I want Mom and Girlfriend to understand that the TV scares the poops out of me, and I prefer it never be on — I just don't understand the movement on the screen! I want the Willo people to know I like to herd people around the ankles by nudging them. And someday ... I'm going to herd all the people and all of the dogs in Willo over to my backyard for a big party! ■

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HAPPY HOUR ROCKS!

ARTICLE & PHOTO BY JON ROBERTS (GRANADA)



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Living (in) History
A Regular Column about Historic Preservation



A Victory for Historic Preservation! Well, Maybe.

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN

someone wants to tear down a historic home? The owner must apply for a demolition permit and place a sign on the property indicating they have applied for the permit. If the house is 50+ years old, a 30-day hold is automatically placed on the application so that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) can determine if the property is eligible for the historic register. If the Commission votes to initiate historic status, demolition cannot occur for one year. If the owner can't find a buyer for the property who would rehab the house by the end of the year, it may be torn down anyway. This causes many challenges in Phoenix because often, the land a house sits on is much more valuable than the house itself. Such is the case with a house at the base of Camelback Mountain called White Gates.

You may have seen my post on the Willo Facebook page about it or heard one of the many news stories about it. This request for a demolition permit was shocking for many in the historic preservation community. The outcry was so great that the story was covered by every local channel and newspaper, plus NPR, Axios, and Architects Magazine, among other national media outlets.

White Gates (also known as Beadle House #6, 1954) is one of several houses that architect Al Beadle built in Phoenix. Beadle is one of the Modern Masters who called Phoenix home for much of his life — he's right up there with

Ralph Haver, Paolo Soleri, and that other guy, what's his name? Oh yeah, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Beadle is most known for his commercial buildings, such as Copenhagen Furniture/Melrose Marketplace on 7th Ave. and Indian School, Federal Savings, which is now Federal Pizza, the IBEW Building on 7th Street, and apartment/condos such as Executive



Towers, Roman Roads, and Three Fountains. However, Beadle also took his "Beadle box" approach to designing houses. White Gates is significant because it clearly demonstrates his modernist approach. The house is cantilevered on a post foundation, making it appear to float above the landscape rather than impose itself on the natural surroundings. The south side of the home is characterized by a loggia — a covered patio of sorts that not only shades the main house but creates a functional relationship between the outdoor and indoor spaces of the house. The living and dining rooms are situated along the south side and have access to the loggia via floor-to-ceiling sliding

doors. There are also three screen walls along the south side, whose ovoid shapes mimic that of the oval voids in the mountain itself.

VICTORY! The outcry and publicity that ensued after the demolition permit was made public have caused the owner to withdraw his demolition application at this time! The owners do not want the historic overlay but are willing

to work with HPO to find an acceptable solution. This certainly is a victory for historic preservation. Congratulations to those of you who reached out to HPO and the city on behalf of this property! Ultimately, however, if no acceptable alternative is found (one that will still make the owner a ton of money on the property), they may reapply for the demo permit.

So keep reading this column, and I will let you know what happens to this iconic house. ■

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.



LINDA HELSER'S STORY

BY JAN O'ROURKE (CYPRESS)

LINDA HELSER'S FIRST memories of the Willo neighborhood were from 1949 when she attended Miss Maxwell's nursery school at the corner of Cypress St. and 7th Avenue. It would take almost 20 years from those kindergarten days for her to return to Willo in 1968 and purchase her house at the corner of Encanto

and 3rd Avenue (301 Encanto), where she has lived ever since.

MOVING TO WILLO

Linda, her son, and her succession of German Shepherds have witnessed a series of changes in Willo over the years, emblematic of the larger changes in Phoenix and Arizona. She moved to Willo

in 1968 when she and her ex-husband, both reporters at the Arizona Republic, were first married. Having migrated to Arizona with her parents from Ohio as a child, she was drawn to the old homes here. They reminded her of the variety of architecture found in small-town Ohio rather than the repetitive ranches popular in most Phoenix areas. She has seen the Willo neighborhood blossom from its somewhat depressed state in the late 60s through a move to preserve the historical significance of the architecture and the sense of the past evoked by the neighborhood to its renaissance of carefully maintained properties that we see today.

"ALLEY FINDS"

Following her divorce, Linda's resources were scarce, and as a single mother, she had to economize on repairs and furnishings for her old house. She tells of the remarkable "alley" finds of priceless Persian rugs, antique tables, chests, and even perfectly usable patio furniture and cushions, all found in early morning walks with her dogs.

CENTRAL AVENUE

Before all the high-rises towered above Central Avenue, Linda remembers the stately Goldwater home at the corner of Central Ave. and Palm Lane (site of the current Chateau on Central condos.) Where the current Bureau of Indian Affairs is located was the Encanto Apartments, a beautifully crafted Art Deco building. The large Thompson House was turned into the Thompson Art Gallery at Central and Encanto.

The Palms Theatre was the place to go to the movies at the corner of Central and Virginia (across from Durant's.) Everyone went to Durant's for special occasions or after-work cocktails and Jordan's for Mexican Food.

SHOPPING

Park Central was the vibrant hub for shopping, grabbing lunch or a late-night snack, and stocking up on groceries at El Rancho. Linda remembers that the press would be invited whenever there was a new place opening or a new event in town. She and her fellow reporters would make a plan to go to the opening, but first, she would pop down to Park Central to find a new dress at Goldwater's, Diamond's, Casual Corner, or Penney's. There were jewelry stores, shoe stores, and a coffee shop called Guggy's with the best lemon meringue pie in town.

NIGHT LIFE

After a quick trip to freshen her outfit, 23-year-old Linda would meet up with friends at places like the Sombrero Playhouse on 7th St., where Hollywood and Broadway stars would perform in the winter. Buster Bonoff had the theatre in the round, Celebrity Theatre, where there was always a party after the show. She met Liberace, who she thought might be conceited and difficult. But she said he was a terrific showman, and when she met him at Lulubelle's in Scottsdale, she was surprised at how personable and kind he was, even remembering her name the next year. She also met Ida Lupino and Howard Duff there, as well as other well-known

entertainers of the day. People partied at the Green Gables on Camelback, Mountain Shadows, and the Camelback Inn. But the fun with out-of-towners ended as May turned into June in Phoenix, and "the town died completely in the summer." (Some things never change.)

NEIGHBORHOOD

Closer to home, Linda and her son, P.J. Dean, often played in Encanto Park. She said it was fashioned after Balboa Park in California. At that time, the schools in the area were not viewed as the best in town, and few families had children. Most homes that had been built in the 30s and 40s were in disrepair by the late 60s/early 70s. The children of the original families had grown up and moved on, and many Willo houses were owned by widows who could not maintain the upkeep. Young couples, willing to expend the sweat equity, began buying houses. People she knew at the paper began to be interested in the neighborhood due to its short commute and relatively bargain-priced real estate. Editorial writer Jennifer Dokes asked Linda to find her "a Grandma House in your neighborhood." She did, and her ulterior motive was having a close colleague give her a ride to work in case her unreliable car broke down. Linda recounts that she connected at least 18 buyers with Willo sellers because the word got out about how great it was to own a "place in Willo."

NEIGHBORS

One of the most outstanding memories of her time in Willo

has been the good friends and neighbors she has gotten to know here. Linda observed that you either need to be a character or want to be friendly or both to be happy in Willo. The diverse set of neighbors and friends she remembers included her next-door neighbor, Joe Donofrio, born in 1913, and owner of Donofrio's Soda Fountain. According to Linda, he brought Cactus Candy to the area, and his place is where every high school student in the 40s and 50s went after school. Another neighbor, Jack Cavness, a prominent Phoenix attorney, said his family walked cattle from Texas to create a ranch from McDowell Rd. to the south side of Encanto. Mrs. O'Connell, the spinster schoolteacher who lived down the street, said she watched Pancho Villa run raids across the Mexico border.

The neighbors banded together in the late 70s/early 80s to begin the effort to preserve the charm and history of the neighborhood. Linda worked to gather signatures on a petition to create one of the first Conservation Districts in Phoenix. This was the precursor of the Historic Preservation District designation created by the city in 1987. Many neighbors were skeptical of signing on, fearing that they couldn't paint their houses the colors they wanted or control other standard exterior decisions. Linda had to convince them that it would not be that intrusive. It served to curtail the random destruction of old homes and begin to pave the way to preserve the charm and grace of the architecture and history of Willo. ■



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Willo Block Watch News

BY BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)



GRAFFITI STILL REMAINS our most common block watch issue. If you see graffiti, please take a pic and email it to: WilloBlockWatch@gmail.com. Then report it to Graffiti Busters: blight@phoenix.gov; 602-534-4444. Once it's reported to the city, they will come remove/paint over it within days.

For illegal dumping (grass clippings, furniture, etc.), call 602-262-6151. Try to get a photo of their license plate and other supporting documentation.

Block Watch Captain Only meeting 4/27/24; 3pm; Wal-

ton Park; 301 W. Holly. All captains are highly encouraged to attend this meeting for the "relaunch" of Block Watch. We will hear from Officer Ben Harris, learn about the city's citizen-led Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol, and discuss any questions/issues you may have as a captain. It will be informational and fun!

Welcome to our NEW captains! We are now 83% filled! Thanks to you!

▶ Lynn Balzer; 100 block of Coronado

- ▶ Davis Wolfe; 500 block of Holly
- ▶ Noah Deitch; 500 block of Encanto
- ▶ Sarah Bradley; 100 block of Wilshire
- ▶ Matt Abbe; 500 block of Virginia
- ▶ Tom Doescher; 100 block of Cambridge

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WILLO KIDS CLUB

ARTICLE & PHOTOS
BY VALERIE LANE (LEWIS)

EVERYONE HAD A GREAT time at the Safety in the Park Spring Fling. Our community action officers, Officer Ben Harris and Officer Jared Sherman were able to drive the patrol car onto Amphitheater Island and into the event. As you can see on the cover of this issue, even the Easter Bunny got in on the action!

We were grateful to join forces with The Roosevelt Action Association and The FQ Story Mother's Group. Everyone helped with games, crafts, and fun. The egg hunt had a record number of eggs. Face painting and our infamous Easter Bunny, Venancio, provided great photo opportunities.

I want to thank everyone who made this day memorable for our kids. Venancio and Sandra have been honored guests at this event for two years and are still going strong. Marie Hullander was also invaluable in helping to set up and clean up. We hope to keep the tradition going next year. ■



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Calendar



FRIDAY, MAY 3rd
First Friday -
Downtown Phoenix
- <https://artlinkphx.org/artinerary-calendar/>

THURSDAY, MAY 9th
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm;
LOCATION: Oven &
Vine - 14 W. Vernon
Avenue

FRIDAY, MAY 10th
Willo Happy Hour -
5:30pm - 7:30pm -
Hosts:
THEME: School's out
for Summer!
HOSTS: Nic &
Lawrence Andrews
LOCATION: 90 W.
Virginia Ave.

W
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*Bring your favorite
snacks and libations to
share as we bid farewell
to another year.*

FRIDAY, MAY 24th
2025 Willo Home Tour
Committee Planning
Meeting - 6:00 -
7:00pm
LOCATION: 70 W.
Encanto
HOST: Crawford
Breedlove

LOOKING AHEAD

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 13th**
Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -

8:00pm;
LOCATION: Oven &
Vine - 14 W. Vernon
Avenue

FRIDAY, JUNE 28th
2025 Willo Home Tour
Committee Planning
Meeting - 6:00 -
7:00pm
LOCATION: 541 W
Palm Lane
HOST: Courtney
Sutherland

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

Op-Ed

Dog Poop Troubles

BY A NEIGHBOR

I HOPE EVERYONE IN THE neighborhood is doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather.

As the days grow longer and more temperate, I've noticed an increase in the outdoor traffic of people and their dogs. Unfortunately, some dog owners let their pets use my property as a

bathroom, and I have had to pick up several pieces of dog poop left behind by absent-minded owners.

I'm allergic and have anxiety from being bitten by dogs in the past, so I'm not especially fond of them. I want neighbors to realize that only some people like

dogs. Everyone has a right to their opinion and to live without disturbance from dogs. When people put up "No dog pooping" signs on their lawns or ask to please refrain from letting their dog go to the bathroom on their property, it's a valid request that deserves respect. ■





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ADDRESS	STATUS	PRICE
542 W Cypress	ACTIVE	\$630,000
536 W Windsor	ACTIVE	\$745,000
518 W Holly	ACTIVE	\$799,999
517 W Holly	ACTIVE	\$840,000
541 W Windsor	ACTIVE	\$850,000
502 W Monte Vista	ACTIVE	\$949,000
309 W Encanto	ACTIVE	\$1,190,000
345 W Wilshire	ACTIVE	\$1,950,000
70 W Edgemont	ACTIVE	\$1,200,000
329 W Lewis	PENDING	\$649,000
505 W Edgemont	PENDING	\$699,000
318 W Palm	SOLD	\$649,000
334 W Encanto	SOLD	\$690,000
38 W Edgemont	SOLD	\$695,000
510 W Granada	SOLD	\$775,000
325 W Encanto	SOLD	\$802,500
515 W Edgemont	SOLD	\$830,000
533 W Palm	SOLD	\$879,000
548 W Windsor	SOLD	\$880,000
92 W Windsor	SOLD	\$915,000
324 W Monte Vista	SOLD	\$1,450,000

Real estate information provided by **Bradley B. Brauer**, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures as of 04/16/2024. 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.



Home Tour Committee Planning Sessions

ARE YOU NEW TO WILLO? Or just want to get more involved? The Home Tour committee plans the Willo Historic Home Tour held in February every year. We have an ongoing committee that gets together and plans throughout the year. This is a great way to meet neighbors and get involved.

OUR NEXT SESSION

WHEN: MAY 24TH

TIME: 6-7PM

WHERE: 70 W ENCANTO BLVD

EMAIL US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:

Willohometours@gmail.com

Home Tour Committee Meetings

2024	MONTHLY
MAY 24	PLANNING COMMITTEE
MAY	70 W ENCANTO BLVD
JUNE 28	PLANNING COMMITTEE
JUNE	541 W PALM LANE
JULY 19	PLANNING COMMITTEE
JULY	70 W ENCANTO BLVD
AUG 16	PLANNING COMMITTEE
AUGUST	70 W ENCANTO BLVD
MORE INFO:	WILLOHOMETOURS@GMAIL.COM



REMINDER TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@Willophxhistoric

#CommunityConnection

OUR INSTAGRAM IS SUCH an amazing platform to highlight our neighborhood and spotlight neighbors + local businesses! Instagram: @Willophxhistoric

If you would like to be highlighted + involved, please email Willohometours@gmail.com

Here are the themes around

our posts throughout the week- reach out if any resonate with you:

#MONDAY RITUALS Coffee Chronicles- Share a picture of your favorite brew or cozy coffee spot

#SNAPSHOT TUESDAY- Capture the moment e.g., walking dog around Willo or at Trivia w/ neighbors, hanging out with

neighbors or at local businesses **#WILLO WEDNESDAY**- highlight favorite parts of Willo e.g., happy hours, Christmas bike ride, walks, neighborhood events

#TALENTED THURSDAY- show off your hobbies/talents

#FRIYAY CELEBRATIONS- what is happening this weekend ■

BRADLEY BRAUER

Associate Broker
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For more Willo History,
check out my website at
www.B3RE.com

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Gorgeous Craftsman Bungalow in Roosevelt **54 West Lynwood Street | \$1,500,000**

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Vicki Vanderhoff

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