

Inside
Willow



DECEMBER 24



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2020 2021
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- 65 W VIRGINIA (2)
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- 124 W GRANADA
- 538 W WILSHIRE
- 536 W CAMBRIDGE
- 538 W MONTE VISTA
- 302 W GRANADA (2)
- 529 W CAMBRIDGE
- 505 W VERNON
- 52 W LEWIS
- 128 W ALMERIA (2)
- 314 W WINDSOR
- 108 W ALMERIA
- 313 W VERNON (2)
- 501 W PALM LANE
- 301 W LEWIS
- 332 W EDMONT
- 521 W CAMBRIDGE
- 536 W WINDSOR
- 532 W VIRGINIA
- 513 W CYPRESS
- 30 W EDMONT
- 526 W WINDSOR
- 116 W GRANADA
- 302 W ENCANTO
- 331 W VIRGINIA
- 501 W LEWIS
- 522 W WINDSOR
- 41 W EDMONT
- 74 W WILSHIRE
- 301 W ALMERIA
- 335 W VIRGINIA
- 69 W VIRGINIA (2)
- 521 W MONTE VISTA (2)
- 501 W MONTE VISTA
- 54 W ENCANTO
- 139 W CORONADO (2)
- 95 W CYPRESS
- 96 W LEWIS
- 332 W VIRGINIA (2)
- 531 W WILSHIRE (2)
- 74 W ENCANTO (2)
- 302 W CAMBRIDGE
- 58 W VIRGINIA (2)
- 312 W CAMBRIDGE
- 530 W HOLLY
- 133 W PALM LANE (2)
- 335 W WINDSOR
- 315 W CAMBRIDGE (2)
- 315 W EDMONT (2)
- 515 W EDMONT (2)
- 501 W ENCANTO
- 342 W ENCANTO
- 62 W WILSHIRE
- 61 W VERNON
- 334 W ENCANTO
- 526 W VIRGINIA
- 502 W MONTE VISTA
- 552 W ENCANTO

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Wishing You All Joy!

AS I WRITE THIS IN MID- November, the holiday season is coming. Thanksgiving is still to come, but Christmas and Hanukkah decorations are popping up everywhere. I wish everyone a great holiday season. Remember, Home Tour tickets are a fantastic gift for all your loved ones. Available at Willophx.com

As mentioned last month, we are diligently working on a consistent connection with Street Transportation regarding the completion of 3rd Avenue and the beginning of 5th Avenue construction.



that information and hopefully creating better neighbors with Camelot Homes and Arcadia Capital that are building that community at 1st Avenue and Virginia/Cambridge.

We have been monitoring and protecting Willo for years, as the Willo Conservation Plan and our Bylaws direct us to do – some for a few and some for many, but we are concerned with protecting the historic character of Willo as directed. So many things happen behind the scenes that you may never know exactly how much work we do as the Board of Di-

ON THE COVER /// HOME ON TOUR /// 518 W. CYPRESS

THE CARHARTT DINING ROOM IS READY TO CONJURE IMAGES OF WARM HOLIDAYS AND FAMILY GATHERINGS

(SEE PAGE 15) // COVER PHOTOS BY ADDISON DENT (WINDSOR)

I organized a video meeting with the Interim Director, Assistant Director, Deputy City Manager, and staff of the Streets Department, along with Committee Chair Bob Cannon, Encanto Village Planning Chair Opal Wagner, Zoning Chair Eric Gilmore, and myself. After a lengthy discussion, I think we've found enough interested parties to give us much more realistic information. I won't share their current estimations as we don't believe they are realistic. However, they have promised to go back in-house and discuss the timelines for final completion before promising

new dates/timeframes.

The permanent road closures at Virginia and Cambridge are still in progress. The Street Transportation Assistant Director is working on a more secure closure at Virginia and Cambridge. We've had a few complaints from the residents along Virginia about the trades parking where they shouldn't and working when they shouldn't. We are working with the developers to make sure that ends and would like to set up a meeting with residents along those streets to get full agreement on what is needed most by the neighbors. Sharing

rectors. We don't hold rallies to pat ourselves on the backs. But we constantly work with the city, the state, developers, and others to continue improving Willo.

Letting us know what is happening around you is helpful, but getting involved with us is even more important: opt-in and register as a member of the Willo Neighborhood Association - every resident is eligible. The form is on page 11 of this issue, or our website at www.WilloPHX.com under <Resident Home Base.>

It's not just a home, it's Willo. Happy Holidays, I'll see you 'round the 'hood. ■



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brad@b3re.com
wsearles@gmail.com

happinesstogo@gmail.com
WilloPhxTreasurer@pm.me
wylie.carhartt@gmail.com
dan.childers@asu.edu
eric.b.gilmore@gmail.com
lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com
jon@ilovetosing.com
ldsands@hotmail.com
jeremys@fairwaymc.com
jameswsmith@yahoo.com
iwilliam13@gmail.com
rlcannon7@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

3.5 TRAFFIC & SAFETY ACTION COMMITTEE

DR. ROBERT CANNON, CHAIR rlcannon7@gmail.com

BLOCK WATCH

BOBBI RYALS, CHAIR WilloBlockWatch@gmail.com

BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE

LARA SANDS, CHAIR ldsands@hotmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY COMMITTEE

SANDRA LEFCOVICH, CHAIR lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com
JEREMY SCHACHTER jeremys@fairwaymc.com
W. AARON MONTAÑO SEARLES wsearles@gmail.com

HISTORIC REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL

GENE NANCE genenace1@yahoo.com

HOME TOUR 2025 COMMITTEE

COURTNEY SOUTHERLAND, CO-CHAIR willohometours@gmail.com
CRAWFORD BREEDLOVE, CO-CHAIR crawford@alliancebc.us

INSIDE WILLO MAGAZINE

SANDRA LEFCOVICH, EDITOR lefcovichmoreno@gmail.com
MEGAN DESMOND MARTINEZ,
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR insidewilloadvertising@gmail.com
RALPH GROOM, ART DIRECTOR ralphgroom3@gmail.com

KLEANSTREETS/YARD SALE

PATRICE WAPPEL, CHAIR iwilliam13@gmail.com

LUMINARIAS

CHRIS NORTON, CHAIR VividViews@gmail.com

SOCIAL & WELCOME COMMITTEE

JONATHAN ROBERTS, CHAIR willosocialcommittee@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

JEREMY SCHACHTER, CHAIR jeremys@fairwaymc.com

WILLO KIDS CLUB

VALERIE LANE ValerieLane@hotmail.com

ZONING COMMITTEE

ERIC GILMORE, CHAIR eric.b.gilmore@gmail.com

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 magazine is a communication instrument of the Willo Neighborhood Association (WNA) to share and highlight Home Tour, Block Watch, Kids Club, Zoning, Historic Preservation, WNA Board business and elections, internal committee news, and any City of Phoenix business affecting Willo.

Inside Willo is published monthly and is free of charge. Residents are encouraged to submit articles (125-500 words) by the 10th of each month. Resident business owners are encouraged to advertise in the magazine. The editor retains the right to edit material as needed, attribute the author, and determine when to print submissions or use on Willo social media, WILLOPHX.COM, and promotional materials. WNA retains the right to perpetually use all photos, media, and articles. *Inside Willo* does not accept political content or ads. *Inside Willo* is posted on WILLOPHX.COM. No copies may be reprinted electronically or otherwise.

WILLO TEXT SERVICE

Sign up for Willo events text messages. Please send us an email with your full name, address, and phone number to confirm your subscription for one-way text updates to: wilgotexts@gmail.com (for Willo residents only)

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From the Editor

IT'S ALWAYS STARTLING

when the December holidays roll around right after the summer, right? While Martha Stewart is never caught off guard, I know I am consistently surprised! There are just a few weeks to go until the luminarias are on display, and then.... 2025!

2024 has been a terrific year in Willo. Our community flourished in many ways, with the highlight being the success of the Willo Home Tour and Street Fair. This event, which attracts visitors from all over the valley and even from other states, is a testament to the charm and appeal of our neighborhood, all while bolstering the Willo Conservation Plan. This document protects Willo's Historic Neighborhood status; if you are unfamiliar with it, now is an excellent time to read it! (Find a copy on WilloPHX.com)

The location for our monthly WNA Board meetings has changed. We are now meeting at the headquarters of AZ Opera on Central Avenue. This new venue

offers a larger, more spacious environment and has attracted more attendees. We invite you to join us for this month's meeting on December 12th, followed by a Willo Neighborhood Association Membership meeting immediately afterward. Speaking of which, please remember to opt in to become a member of the WNA (see page 11 for more details).

- ◆ Stay updated on all Willo events by signing up for neighborhood-exclusive text messages! It's an easy way to keep track of the exciting happenings in our community (see the box on page 5).
- ◆ Visit Willo's website at www.WilloPHX.com, where you'll find news posts, a calendar of events, and information about the Willo Neighborhood Association, local

2024 has been a terrific year in Willo. Our community flourished in many ways ...

Inside Willo content is all about you, our neighbors: your stories, photos, and announcements. Do you know a neighbor with a unique story or talent? Are you or your children involved in local activities? Your contributions make our neighborhood magazine unique, so please keep those stories coming!

Willo's communication channels continue to expand—don't miss out!

establishments, articles on Historic Preservation, a calendar of events, and more.

- ◆ Join 'The Official Willo Historic Neighborhood Facebook Page,' a social media page for Willo residents only.

As we bid farewell to 2024, I look forward to an even more exciting year. Happy Holidays, I can't wait to see what 2025 has in store for us!

Sandra Lefcovich, Editor ■

THE WILLO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BYLAWS are reviewed by a committee every two years or so. Goals of the Bylaws Review Committee include improving the bylaws' clarity and consistency, and recommending changes where needed. The current committee met fifteen times this summer and conducted a thorough review. The committee's proposed amendments are posted for Association membership review on willophx.com under the Neighborhood Association header. Per Article IX of the current bylaws, acceptance of the proposed amendments is subject to a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, followed by a two-thirds vote of the Association members voting at a membership meeting. The board will vote on whether to accept the proposed amendments at their next meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The board meeting will be immediately followed by a special membership meeting with the sole agenda item of taking a membership vote on accepting the proposed amendments. See the Calendar of Events for time and location details. Note that only members who have opted into the Association since January 1, 2024 may vote. Association members wishing to vote by mail must request a ballot from Nikki Armstrong, the Secretary, at happinesstogo@gmail.com. ■



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Social Committee



Cheers to Community at Willo Happy Hour!

BY JON ROBERTS (GRANADA)

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

to Julie Whelihan for hosting November's Willo Neighbors Night! Your delicious green chili was a hit and added so much warmth to the evening. We also want to thank everyone who attended, bringing food and drink to share—it's always wonderful to see our community come together. Special thanks to Lora for stepping in to help, as I had to be elsewhere that evening. Your support truly makes these gatherings so special!

**Save the date
for Happy Hour
on Friday,
December 13th!**

Save the date for Happy Hour on Friday, December 13th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, hosted by Bobbi Ryals and Tricia Amato, two longtime



residents of our neighborhood.

Bobbi, our Block Watch Chair, and Tricia, a contributor to *Inside Willo* on historic preservation, are also talented artists. Their yard and garden, showcasing

their creative displays, will be the perfect setting for this relaxed gathering.

Please bring your favorite food and drink to share. We look forward to seeing you there! ■



HISTORIC HOME TOUR & HOLIDAY STREET MARKETPLACE *Saturday*

DECEMBER 7TH

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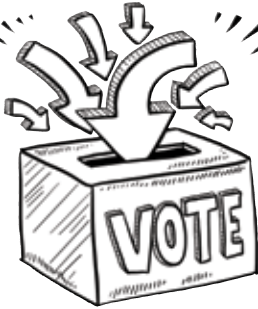
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Board Elections Coming in March 2026

BY NIKKI ARMSTRONG (GRANADA)

ELECTION SEASON IS NOT over yet: all thirteen positions on the Willo Neighborhood Association board will be up for election in March of 2025. Nominations of candidates for the board are due by January 10, 2025. If you are interested in running for the board, please contact Nikki Armstrong, Election Committee Chair, at either happinesstogo@gmail.com or (602) 791-8379. Candidates must

be current Willo residents who have lived in the neighborhood for at least one year. Candidates must also be valid members of the Willo Neighborhood Association. Members can opt-in using the paper form below or online: <https://willophx.com/residents/membership-opt-in-form/>

Please note that association membership must be renewed each year: all 2024 memberships expire on December 31 and must



be renewed for 2025 starting on January 1. Residents wishing to vote in the upcoming election must opt-in as association members by February 15, 2025. ■

MEMBERSHIP OPT-IN FORM

Send to: Willo Neighborhood Association; PO Box 36506; Phoenix, AZ 85067

DATE _____

OPT-IN _____

Yes! I want to be a member of the Willo Neighborhood Association. By checking the box above, you acknowledge that you are of voting age and live within the Willo Neighborhood Boundaries as outline in the Willo Neighborhood Conservation Plan.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

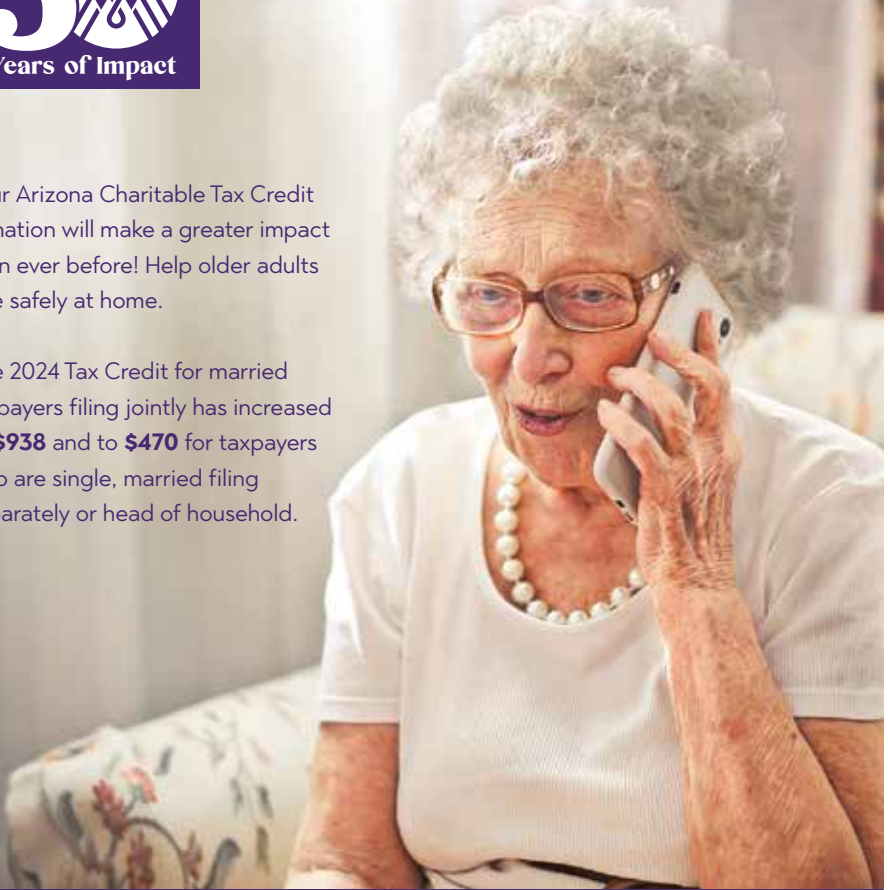
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Luminaria 2024

BY CARI PAYNE & CHRIS NORTON (LEWIS)
PHOTO BY SANDRA LEFCOVICH (CORONADO)

HELLO WILLO, AND HAPPY

December! Another year around the Sun has flown by, and Luminaria is just around the corner. Soon, it will be time to build lanterns, place, and enjoy them, so let's get to it.

Luminaria 2024 will proceed much like it has in the past few years, but there are a few noteworthy changes taking place. The event will last 4 days this year, from Sunday, December 22nd, to Christmas Day on Wednesday, the 25th. Supplies will be distributed the weekend before placement to our fantastic block captains; we'll call them "block organizers" in this article to avoid confusing them with other types of block captains. Most block organizers will receive a normal supply box, but a few will be getting special boxes.

Wait, special boxes? What for? Well, every year, boxes with tea lights, 225 paper bags, and 8 plastic bags are passed out to each block organizer. The plastic bags are meant for houses that inadvertently leave their sprinklers on; as most of you know, the plastic bags withstand a sprinkler assault and stay standing. Also, their top edges don't need to be folded over like paper bags, and won't cause a "Loom-pocalypse", or a mass-melting of paper bags in a December rainstorm. Two of the 44 block organizers really liked these features and wanted to see if their blocks could use



ONLY plastic this year. They will be guinea pigs to see if the use of plastic bags on an entire block is doable. They'll open and collapse the bags repeatedly, testing them for stress cracks on seams, and discover how much effort is involved in cleaning and drying the bags for storage next year. The block organizers' findings will be documented and eventually shared with the other organizers after the event has been wrapped. From there, we'll ask the other organizers for their feedback on the plastic bags and the event in general.

Phoenix Spokespeople a local bike group, will host a bike ride on the first day of Luminar-

ia (Sunday), just like in bygone years. The ride will start in Walton Park and work its way around the neighborhood.

With the special boxes and Sunday ride, things are a little different this year, but what hasn't changed is our need for volunteers! We are looking for volunteers to help with the block supply box setup and post-event supply collection. Here's some good news about setup this year: no battery changes are needed! And lastly, as always, we'll have a great Luminaria this year so long as YOU participate and make it shine!

To sign up as a volunteer for your block go to: <https://bit.ly/2024-luminaria>. ■

THE GIFT OF HOMES FOR HOLIDAYS

BY HOME TOUR COMMITTEE

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: A FESTIVE TOUR OF CHEER!

As the holiday season approaches, the air is filled with a warm sense of joy and anticipation. Twinkling lights adorn homes, festive decorations bring cheer, and the aroma of seasonal treats wafts through the air. Join us for a delightful home tour, where you can explore beautifully decorated spaces that capture the spirit of the season. Each home tells a unique story, showcasing personal touches and creative flair. Whether you're looking for inspiration for your celebrations or simply want to bask in the festive atmosphere, this tour promises to fill your heart with joy and your mind with ideas. Embrace the magic of the holidays and get ready to celebrate the beauty of home! ■

Warmly, Courtney Sutherland (Palm Ln.) & Crawford Breedlove (Encanto Blvd.), Co-Chairs



SCAN HERE

GIVE THE GIFT OF EXPERIENCE & JOIN US FOR THE TWILIGHT TOUR

WILLO RESIDENTS ONLY –

Join us at the 2025 Willo Twilight Tour, a fun and exciting event for Willo residents, on Saturday, Feb 15th, 2025, from 4:00 –7:00 pm!

As the sun sets, we'll embark on a delightful journey through the beautiful streets of the Willo neighborhood and explore historic homes as the twinkling lights come alive. Following the Twilight Tour, complete your evening with some liquid refreshments, partake in a food truck or two, and dance with the band on the main stage by the Beer and Wine Garden.

[Please note that you must show ID to enter the beer/wine area - NO EXCEPTIONS]

We have limited tickets, and they always sell out. Be sure to grab them now! ■



A



B



C

PHOTOS BY ADDISON DENT (WINDSOR) A) Natural light floods the breakfast room; B) Historic, yet functional kitchen; C) Coved ceiling in the living room

WINTER'S WARM EMBRACE: 518 W. CYPRESS STREET

ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, you'll find the Carhartt family out for a walk, attending trivia at Roses by the Stairs, enjoying neighbor's company around a firepit, or hosting gatherings at home. And since their favorite things about Willo are the close-knit community and proximity to downtown, it's no surprise!

After renting in a nearby historic neighborhood, Del Norte Place, Lauren and Wylie fell in love with living downtown and knew they wanted to purchase a home in one of the historic downtown neighborhoods. After

touring Willo, it quickly moved to the top of their list when they learned about the happy hours, kids club, and annual home tour. So when the 1930 Tudor revival went on the market in 2016, they quickly made an offer. With its original coved ceilings in the main living areas, matchstick hardwood flooring, original doors and hardware, and other features from times past, what truly spoke to the Carhartts was the kitchen breakfast nook. It has large windows and amazing natural lighting throughout the day that overlooks the front yard, where you

can see the happenings on Cypress Street. Today, that window overlook includes the neighbors stopping to check out our neighbor's free-range city chickens!

If you are curious to see all the other gorgeous original features, join us on February 15 and 16, 2025, at our 36th annual Home Tour. Tickets can be purchased at WilloPHX.com.

Thanks to Wylie and Lauren Carhartt for participating in the Willo Home Tour! This tour is only possible with the help of neighbors like you! ■

See your path. Plan your future.

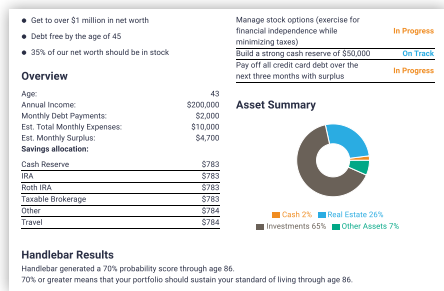
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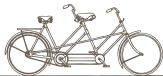
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On the Hunt to Find a Hidden Gem

THE HOME PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

is hunting for one additional home to feature on the tour. Ideally, this would be a home where the artist who lives there will showcase their own artwork within the home. This home would provide a unique experience for tour-goers, offering both a glimpse of the living space and the opportunity to engage with the artist's personal work in the environment where it's created.

Does this sound like the home you live in or your neighbors? Shoot Crawford and Courtney an email at willohometours@gmail.com ■



VOLUNTEER & DOCENT HAPPY HOUR

FOR HOME DOCENTS AND HOMEOWNERS ONLY

Join us for a cozy evening of connection and laughter as we celebrate our volunteers! ♦ We'll have a signature cocktail crafted by our local cocktail maven, Lisa Carrington (Vernon), and a local food truck. ♦ You'll also have the opportunity to ask any questions and finalize details. ♦ **LOCATION:** 26 W Vernon Ave ♦ **DATE:** Friday, Jan 31st ♦ **TIME:** 6-8 pm ■

HELPING HANDS FOR HOME TOUR

THE HOME TOUR CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT neighbors! We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers and docents to help make this event successful. The Willo Home Tour is a fantastic opportunity to share our neighborhood's rich history, engage with visitors, and meet fellow community members. ♦ We need help with set up and take down, docents at houses, checking IDs, working at the ticket sale booth, wayfinders, and much more! ♦ Come be a part of this celebration of our heritage and help create lasting memories! Scan the QR Code to volunteer, get involved, and make a difference in our community. ♦ Bonus: You'll receive this rad Willo volunteer shirt designed by Tricia Amato (Lewis)! ■





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Block Watch Report

BY BOBBI RYALS (LEWIS)

A LOT IS GOING ON IN WILLO

these days. Unfortunately, we had another busy month in Block Watch land.

10-12-24 On the 500 block of Cambridge, between 11 am & 12:30 pm, two breakers were stolen from a breaker box on the rear of the home. Entry was gained via an unlocked gate.

10-16-24 On the 500 block of Palm, a man was caught on ring camera trying to enter the backyard over a block wall. Police were called, and he was arrested on multiple warrants.

10-16-24 On the 300 block of Cambridge, drug dealers were back at the house that they had been previously arrested and banned from. They were reported to the probation officer and eventually caught and arrested a few weeks later.

10-18-24 On 3rd Ave and Encanto, a resident approached a man he saw looking over fences in the alley. When approached, the suspect attacked the resident, knocking him to the ground. There were no serious injuries. Police were called, and the suspect was arrested.

10-19-24 On the 500 block of Monte Vista, a neighbor reported a disheveled woman trying to get into the resident's car at 6:15 pm. This was reported to police.

10-20-24 On the 300 block of Cypress, a woman tried to get into the back door of the home while the parents and two small

kids were home. They chased the woman into the backyard and through the garage to find she had been sleeping in one of their garaged cars overnight. There was a fair amount of damage to the interior of the car. They believe the suspect gained garage entry using the garage remote in their ungaraged car. The suspect was arrested for felony burglary.

10-20-24 On the 300 block of Virginia, a Harris-Walz sign was stolen. Camera footage showed a car pull up and a person getting out and taking the sign.

10-22-24 On the 300 block of Almeria, between 6 p.m. 10-22-24 and 6 a.m. 10-23-24, a vehicle was egged. The owner is unaware of any reason they were targeted. There were no political signs in the yard.

10-25-24 The owner of a neighborhood business notified block watch of an encampment in front of the Vermillion building at 124 W. McDowell. He reported it; it was gone and cleaned up within 6 days.

11-03-24 On the 300 block of Vernon, three cars were broken into/entered in the early morning hours. A neighbor chased off the suspect and called the police. It is believed that he was caught. Another car was broken into/entered about the same time in the 300 block alley between Cypress and Encanto, per a Facebook post. The poster did not respond to follow-up questions regarding the incident.

11-05-24 On the 500 block of Cypress, four hanging flower baskets were stolen from the front porch between 5:30 pm 1-4-24 and 6 am 11-5-24.

11-05-24 On the 500 block of Cambridge, a man appearing to be the same suspect from an 8-23-24 porch theft incident was seen on a bike in the alley between Cambridge and Windsor. Two other men on cell phones may have been working in cahoots with him as they also seemed suspicious and were in the area at the same time.

11-09-24 On the 500 block of Holly between 5:30 pm 11-8-24 and 6 am 11-9-24, a six-foot plumeria tree was dug up and stolen from the front yard. A police report was made.

11-11-24 On the 500 block of Encanto, an ocotillo cactus was dug up and stolen from the front yard.

11-15-24 On the 500 block of Holly, two large, heavy, and valuable plants were stolen from the front yard. A police report was filed.

Please be vigilant and lock your doors, gates, windows, and cars! I also strongly encourage you to invest in a security system and/or security cameras. And please report any crime or safety incidents to your block watch captains. All of this information is being tracked. If you don't know who your captain is, please write WilloBlockWatch@gmail.com and leave your address.

Let's keep Willo safe! ■



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CALENDAR



**FRIDAY,
DEC. 6th**

**Willo Home Tour
Movie Night**

WHEN: 6:00-8:00pm
LOCATION:
Broadmoor Park
(Lewis Ave)

**SATURDAY,
DEC. 7th**

**38th Annual F.Q. Story
Home Tour & Holiday
Street Marketplace**

HOME TOUR:
11:00am - 7:00pm/
Marketplace: 11:00am -
5:00pm. Tickets \$20 in
advance, \$25 at
the door

FOR MORE INFO:
fqstoryhometour.org
or fqstoryhometour@gmail.com

**THURSDAY,
DEC. 12th**

■ **Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm**

NEW LOCATION:
Arizona Opera - 1636 N
Central Ave, Phoenix,
AZ 85004. Please check
WilloPHX.com and *The
Official Willo Historic
Neighborhood Facebook
Page* for more details

■ **Special
Membership
Meeting - 7:30pm**
LOCATION: Arizona
Opera Company, 1636
N. Central Ave., Phoe-
nix, AZ 85004
WHY?: The purpose
of this meeting is to
vote on accepting the
proposed amendments
to the Willo Neigh-
borhood Association
Bylaws

*Please check WILLO-
PHX.COM and The
Official Willo Historic
Neighborhood Facebook
Page for more details*

**FRIDAY,
DEC. 13th**

**Willo Happy Hour
5:30 - 7:30 pm**
(ages 21+ please)

LOCATION:
97 W. Lewis
HOSTS: Bobbi Ryals
and Tricia Amato
*Please bring a dish,
dessert, or drink to
share—whether it's your
signature recipe or a
favorite treat.*

**MONDAY,
DEC. 16th**

**A Chorale Christmas
Concert with the
Phoenix Chorale and
Willo residents Urban
Nocturnes at Trinity
Cathedral.** More in-
formation and tickets
at phoenixchorale.
org 100 W. Roosevelt
Street in downtown
Phoenix

**SUNDAY,
DEC. 22nd TO
WEDNESDAY,
DEC. 25th**

**Willo Holiday Luminaria
Display** - see page 13 for
details. Every block in
Willo!

**SUNDAY,
DEC. 22nd**

**Phoenix Spokespeople
Luminaria Bike Ride -
sunset.** Meet at Walton
Park

////////////////////

**LOOKING
AHEAD
TO 2025**

**THURSDAY,
JAN. 9th**

**Willo Neighborhood
Association Board
Meeting - 6:30pm -
8:00pm**

LOCATION: Arizona
Opera - 1636 N Central
Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

**THURSDAY,
JAN. 10th**

**Willo Neighbor's Night
WHEN:** 5:30 - 7:30 pm
**LOCATION &
HOSTS:** TBD.

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





Living (in) History
A Regular Column about Historic Preservation

A Bunny Thing Happened ...

BY TRICIA AMATO (LEWIS)



Happy people at the Phoenix Club

I STARTED OUT WANTING TO write an article about how the holidays were celebrated in the desert in the early part of the 20th century. I learned they were about the same as everywhere else, so I proceeded down a rabbit hole (you'll see why that's funny) and ended up with another festive topic, the Playboy Club of Phoenix.

Many people don't know that Phoenix was home to a Playboy Club, let alone one so close to Willo. The Phoenix Playboy Club opened in December of 1962 on the 8th floor of the Mayer Central building at 3033 N. Central. "Key" holders (those who paid \$25 a year for a membership) could ride the elevator to the



Phoenix Club matchbook



3033 N. Central



Bunnies on the Balcony

penthouse level of that building and party the night away with all those cute Playboy Bunnies!

The club had a living room with floor-to-ceiling windows, a restaurant, and a large balcony with expansive views of the valley. Many of Phoenix's movers and shakers hung out at the club, including governors, mayors, coaches, players, actors, businessmen, and musicians. In fact, live music was one of the main draws, and several albums were recorded there.

Bunnies wore custom-made suits that cinched their waists and pushed up their cleavage. It took two bunnies to get another bunny out of their suit to go to the bathroom. And bunnies were not allowed to sit down during their shifts. When not busy, they had to pose with their tray positioned above their shoulder. These women also did charity work outside the club, such as gathering Christmas donations for the less fortunate. It seems like a grueling job, and it was, but the bunnies made a lot of money. They often collected hundreds of dollars in tips a night from wealthy men who could "look, but not touch." Bunnies were also local celebrities who would

It took two bunnies to get another bunny out of their suit to go to the bathroom. And bunnies were not allowed to sit down during their shifts.

get special treatment when they went out about town.

My spouse has told me stories about how she used to go there for lunch with her manager (the "key" holder) and coworkers from the phone company. Apparently, it was a swanky and fun place with an incredible lunch buffet. So, what happened to the Phoenix Playboy Club? It closed in 1983, and the penthouse level of what is now the Phoenix Professional Tower became office

space. How dull.

Unfortunately, nothing remains of the old club, except maybe a few matchbooks. But many memories were made at Phoenix's one and only Playboy Club. ■

Tricia is a City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Commissioner. Visit phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation for information regarding historic guidelines and approvals. Reach Tricia at amatotricia@gmail.com.

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533 W Coronado	ACTIVE	\$799,900
30 W Cambridge	ACTIVE	\$760,000
542 W Vernon	ACTIVE	\$859,850
73 W Lewis	ACTIVE	\$1,275,000
517 W Granada	ACTIVE	\$1,400,000
329 W Encanto	PENDING	\$799,999
306 W Cypress	PENDING	\$865,000
52 W Lewis	PENDING	\$899,000
342 W Cambridge	SOLD	\$590,000
531 W Wilshire	SOLD	\$850,000

Real estate information provided by
Bradley B. Brauer, Broker's Hub Realty. All figures
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or purchase exceptional!





Kids Club Holidays

BY VALERIE LANE (LEWIS) /// PHOTO BY LARA CERRI (VERNON)



MOST MAGIC MAKERS (A.K.A. PARENTS)

are busy chasing elves around the house, baking cookies, and trying to keep the presents hidden from the kids. It is often hard to take a breath and really enjoy some of the things the holidays have to offer. Now is the time to make new holiday traditions and enjoy time with your family and friends. There are several events happening in and around our neighborhood – here are just a few!

◆ **APS Electric Light Parade:** December 7th at 7:00 pm, Central Ave and Montebello.

◆ **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer:** Herberger Theatre November 17th – December 23rd

◆ **Phoestivus:** Open air night market - 720 N. 5th St. December 12th – 14th

◆ **The Phoenix Theatre has several holiday shows:**
◆ *Miracle on 34th Street:* November 20th -

December 29th (starring Willo's own resident star, London Cairney!)

◆ *Die Hard: A Christmas Story:* November 22nd - December 29th

◆ *Seussical the Musical:* December 18th - January 26th, 2025

Also, the annual Phoenix Spokespeople Luminaria Bike Ride takes place on Sunday, December 22nd. WKC will be there, and we encourage families to attend. Decorate your bike and your family with all sorts of holiday lights and baubles to ride around Willo at sunset! We are not the organizers; please check our Facebook page for more details closer to the date.

Be sure to email valerielane@hotmail.com to volunteer. New families are free to send a request to join the Willo Kids Club FB group as well. ■

Maximize your Phoenix area home sale with a systematic process and expert guidance...

As a homeowner in Phoenix, particularly this historic and central corridor, you've likely put life, love, and funds into your home, but when you find yourself desiring extra space or amenities in your home, you may decide it's time to sell. That's when the question then becomes, how do you ensure you're doing everything possible to maximize your home's value?

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I can help.

When you're selling your home, you want to know you have the guidance of someone who will go the extra mile to help you capture every bit of equity you've earned. Unfortunately, many agents today expect MLS and a click of the internet to sell your home. But that isn't how you ensure you're getting the maximum sale price.

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5 W. Casa Hermosa Dr
\$405,000



3235 E. Camelback Rd
\$325,000



525 W. Granada Rd
\$1,116,000



8227 E. Echo Canyon St
\$1,700,000



3838 N. Red Sky Circle
\$875,000



417 E. Berridge Ln
\$1,300,000



5162 E. Pasadena Ave
\$3,875,000



4018 E. Montebello Ave
\$1,835,000



4709 E. Mulberry Dr
\$1,650,000



95 W. Holly St
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417 E. Berridge Ln
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