

The Whispers

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, INC. FOR THE WHISPERING OAKS HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Report from the Annual Meeting

Esparza Re-elected President of WOHA; Courage Promises Full Range of Services

Councilman John Courage, at the WOHA Annual Meeting held Sunday, 13 September, at the Swim & Tennis Club, promised no reduction in normal City services—this despite budgetary cutbacks because of COVID-19. He pointed out that we must expect tightened budgets for the foreseeable future, but that the City has found ways to cut costs, for example, through attrition of personnel and re-negotiating loans.



Councilman John Courage



President Simon Esparza addresses neighbors at the Annual Meeting.

In the area of police reform, he points out that perhaps a third of all 911 calls should not involve the police. So, through a minor shifting of budgetary monies, the City is working to provide more appropriate response teams, according to the nature of the problem.

Finally, Courage notes that the City is developing a massive training program to aid the many who have lost or cannot qualify for jobs because of COVID-19, and that the City is committed to preserving the Edwards Aquifer, the plan for which was to be revealed the week of 14 September.

(Continued on page 3)

Last call for Annual Membership!

Be a good neighbor and due your part for about \$10 a month.

- I care about Whispering Oaks! My check for the \$125 annual household dues is enclosed.
- I can do a bit more! Please apply the additional \$ _____ included toward the Capital Fund.

WO Street Address: _____ *Please Print Clearly*

Your Name: _____

Spouse / Partner Name: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Phone: _(_____) _____

Year moved into WO: _____ I own this property and live here. I own this property but live elsewhere. I rent this property from its owner.

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2020 - 2021

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Simon Sez



Happy Fall to all you neighbors. I hope your summer months have been as good as could be, and now, with fall upon us, let's hope for still better!

My first year as President came and went so fast and was filled with many challenges and accomplishments during this tough year. Your Board of Directors wants to give a special "Thank you!" to our neighbors and members of our HOA who have been so supportive during this past year. Your emails, phone calls, and letters and been very encouraging and nice to have. If we did not have your involvement as members, we would have no HOA, nor be able to maintain our common space and the beauty of our neighborhood.

Now, beginning with this month and following election at the Annual Meeting, we have a new Board. Although several positions were filled during the past year, the Board now remains stable, with everyone returning and our even adding two new inspiring members. See the article and all our "mug shots" on page 3 of this issue of *The Whispers*.

As the Board has reminded everyone, your membership dues are so important. Being part of the HOA is a must—for, with a strong membership, the value of *all* of our homes can be maintained. If you have not joined, please visit our website or use the simple coupon in this issue on page 1 to pay your dues. Help us reach our goal of 400-plus members. A huge thanks, also, to all our neighbors who contributed to our Capital Fund. It was a huge success that will help us to complete the lighting at Whisper Path and to move toward our final entrance to be lighted, that at Whisper Willow. There's a brief story on page 9, while the names of all these heroes appeared in the August-September issue.

This past year, my overall theme has been "community." It's still the goal. I have seen many positives this past year, especially with the pandemic's having shut so much down this past year. I, along with the entire Board, see a great year coming forward. And with life hopefully getting back to something closer to normal, we can once again have some nice events in person and engage in more neighborly activities.

The Board has many goals we want to accomplish this upcoming year, so we encourage all of you to get involved with the HOA in joining a committee. We need your fresh ideas and your help to accomplish all our goals. Please look out for postings on Nextdoor.com, Facebook, and our new website for communications on events and other important happenings in our neighborhood. Of course, continue to enjoy our printed newsletter, which will remain a mainstay, along with save-the-date mailings and updates we will be incorporating. I look forward to another great year as your President and thank you again for all your support.

Have a wonderful fall!

Simon Esparza

President

"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breath, to think, to enjoy, to love." –Marcus Aurelius



(Continued from page 1)

President Esparza Re-Elected

Because of COVID, the Annual Meeting was held outdoors at the Pool, with some 20 in attendance. Voting for the new Board was held prior to the meeting through mail-in ballots. President Esparza reported that, despite the decline in membership, the Board has actually come out ahead. Despite the inevitable limitations, the budget Board saved about \$9000, which can be used toward necessary major projects: repairing the parts of the perimeter wall that are WOHA's (versus the property owner's) responsibility and completing the entrance-lighting projects at Whisper Path and Whisper Willow.

These savings occurred because of re-negotiating the grounds-maintenance contract, by going to a drip-irrigation system, and by, unfortunately, having fewer events because of COVID.

WOHA Accomplishments

Vice-President Peter Lund reported on just some of the Board's accomplishments this year (all of which were listed in the August-September issue of *The Whispers*):

1. Completely revised and expanded website that now allows for online and monthly dues payment.
2. Replacement of two parts of the perimeter wall.
3. Lighting completed at Whisper Bow and that at Whisper Path begun.
4. Turn lane at Whispering Wind begun.
5. Oak Wilt Committee formed, which partners with the Texas A&M Forestry Service.
6. Partnered with the Swim & Tennis Club to treat trees on Club property.
7. Established stronger fiscal controls.
8. Worked on a new Neighborhood Directory.
9. Established an Events Calendar (interrupted by COVID).
10. Enhanced neighborhood security by re-establishing Cellular on Patrol (COP).
11. Developed a legacy fund for long-time residents

New Officers

- President: Simon Esparza**
- Vice-President: Peter Lund**
- Treasurer: Jay Pruski**
- Secretary: Evita Morin**

Correction

In last issue's list of contributors to the Capital Campaign, the name of **Charlene McGuire** was inadvertently given as Charles McGuire. Our apologies.

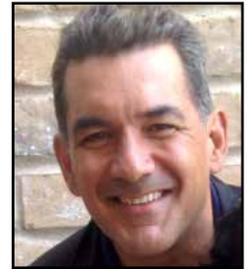
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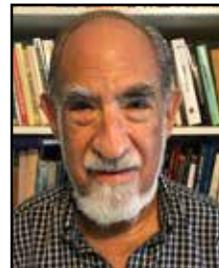
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To begin soon...

The Plan for Military and Wurzbach



The dual left-hand turn lanes construction at the intersection of NW Military Highway and Wurzbach Parkway are designed to improve the traffic flow. At Lockhill-Selma, an additional through-lane for Wurzbach will be added in both directions. The right westbound through-lane will become a right-turn-only lane at Elm Creek.

At NW Military, the project will add a second dedicated left-turn lane and convert the existing optional left/through-lane to a dedicated through-lane on all approaches (i.e., all four approaches will have two dedicated left-turn lanes and three through-lanes). All of the left-turn movements will be configured to allow for simultaneous opposing left turns. A second right-turn lane from westbound Wurzbach to northbound NW Military will be added, and the signals will be optimized for the new configuration. This project is expected to take about 18 months.

For more information, see <http://www.texashighwayman.com/prj-wurz-nwm.shtml>



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Hail to the Chief... and Family



The Eilers family enjoying the pool. Brent Eilers is the President of the Swim & Tennis Club. He happily reports that membership this year held its own at 175, just about the same as in recent years, despite the ravages of COVID-19 on the economy. So the Club remains in good shape.

I Hate Your Political Sign!

You know what? You want to remove it? Go ahead...

If you don't mind being arrested. Keep in mind that taking a sign is (1) trespassing, (2) theft, *and* (3) denial of civil rights. Is it really worth being arrested for?

If we are to have a functioning, healthy democracy, we must respect each other's opinions. So if we don't like another's opinion, as expressed on a sign, we have to live with it. Democracy is about getting along.

And please remember that, by State of Texas law, no more than *one sign per candidate* is allowed on a given lawn, and that all signs must be *removed within ten days* after an election. For the sake of our democracy, let's all obey the law!



Shred That Stuff!

If you've got a lot of paper that needs to be shredded, you can have it done for *free*, courtesy of the City of San Antonio. There is a limit though it's as many as five boxes or bags. (Let's be reasonable!)

Saturday, October 10

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

11219 Whisper Valley

(by the pool and tennis courts)

Got a Problem with a Neighbor?

Don't Just Call the Cops!

Please! The best move is not to just call the authorities. First, try having a friendly talk with your neighbor. Most folks are quite reasonable. If that doesn't get it done, then contact the WOHA. Your Board is always glad to help.

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Important Local Contact Information

District 9 Field Office

16500 San Pedro Ave., Suite #290

San Antonio, TX 78232

Phone: 210-207-0955

Emails: colt.osburn@sanantonio.gov, bryan.naylor@sanantonio.gov, milee.ray@sanantonio.gov

TxDOT San Antonio District

Main Phone Line: 210-615-1110

Public Relations: 210-615-5839

SAPD Non-Emergency

210-207-7273(SAPD)

SAFFE Officer Steven Beilstein #84

Phone: Desk – 210-207-7425

Email: Doyle.Beilstein@sanantonio.gov

Bexar County Sheriff's Dept.

Score Unit (similar to SAFFE) – SCORE@Bexar.org

Phone: 210-335-6010

Bexar County Constable Precinct 3 – Mark Vojvodich

Phone: 210-335-4750

Email: contactus@bexarpolice.org

311 – Dial 311, download the app, or go to

www.sanantonio.gov/311

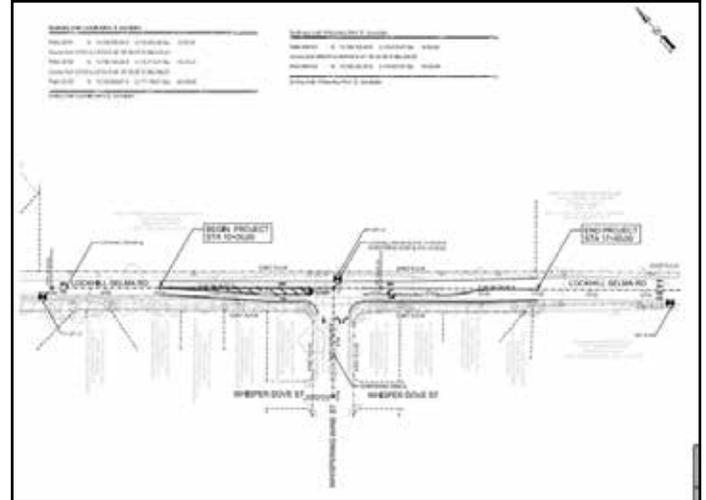
Pot holes, graffiti, traffic signal timing, restaurant food safety, construction permits, missed garbage pickup, median mowing, stray dogs, street lights, water leaks, junk vehicles, traffic issue investigation, drainage/flooding, and more.

Helpful Links

- <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>
Bexar County Elections department
- <https://www.bexar.org/1357/Dispute-Resolution-Center>
Free mediation services before it reaches the level of requiring lawyers
- <http://www.texashighwayman.com/>
comprehensive info about state maintained roads in San Antonio
- <https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=>
online complaint form for reporting issues to TXDOT
- <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>
updates on TXDOT projects
- <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>
track TXDOT projects
- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/2017Bond>
bond tracking page

Hooray! It's happening...at last!

Construction at Whispering Wind and Lockhill-Selma



As of this writing, the preliminary work of laying out and clearing had begun. We were promised a start in September and, despite COVID-19 budget shortfalls, the promise has been kept.

A left-turn lane...at last!



Finally, finally, construction has begun on the promised left-turn lane from Lockhill-Selma into Whispering Wind. Hooray! And thank you, Councilman Courage, who made the funds available.

**“During this crisis,
remember your neighbors.”**

From the Garden Club

Don't Go Out of Your Gourd – Fall is Here

'Tis the season for filling your cornucopia with a heaping bounty of squash, pumpkins, and gourds. All these fruits belong to the genus *Cucurbita* of herbaceous vines, except for the hard-skinned gourds that belong to the genus *Lagenaria*. Is this too technical already? Don't go out of your gourd!

The main difference between squashes and gourds is that the former are grown and harvested for food, while the latter are usually decorative. The pumpkin is both a squash and a gourd. Medium-to -large pumpkins are used for food, while mini-to-small ones are mostly ornamental.

Summer squash, such as zucchini and crookneck, are tender skinned. Winter squash are hard, with thick skins that help them last through the winter, such as, acorn, butternut, hubbards, and pumpkins.

Now, are you ready for a Multiple Choice Pop Quiz?

Q1. Why is South Texas not a good place to grow pumpkins for fall harvest?

- They require too much water.
- They require four months of cool nights.
- They attract jackalopes.
- None of the above.

Q2. Which statement is true?

- Not all gourds are squashes.
- Many squashes are gourds.
- A pumpkin is both a squash and a gourd.
- All of the above.

Q3. Australians think we are weird for making pumpkin pie. What do they use pumpkin for?

- Soup.
- Side dish with lamb.
- Seeds as a treat for their pet cockatoos.
- All of the above.

Now for a Treat from a Pun King

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin? *Squash*

Where do Jack O' Lanterns live? *In the seedy part of town*

What do you call a pumpkin who spits his seeds everywhere? *A Jerk 'O Lantern*

What do you get if you divide a pumpkin's circumference by its diameter? *Pumpkin Pi*

The Garden Club Reporter, Ann Parsons, thanks *Southern Living Magazine* and the Internet.

Pop Quiz Answers: b, d, d

Got an Idea for an Article?

Is it a topic that would be of interest to the neighborhood? Is it a something special about one of our neighbors? Let your editor know! rpressman@satx.rr.com



Yard of the Month for August:

The Home of Keith and Patricia Mulkey
10910 Whisper Hollow



Yard of the Month for September:

Home of Tom and Marissa Gutiérrez
11319 Whisper Falls



We are on Facebook!



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Homeowners Association SA
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Councilman Courage on Protecting the Aquifer

There is no question about the critical importance of water for our region's economy and our survival. So why the continued arguments, debates, fights, and frustrations over water? Some say it's over the God-given right to your land and its resources, some say it's over what's best for the common good, and some say it's about economics or, in plainer terms, "money."

Water has an intrinsic and real-cash value. There's the cost of finding and capturing it from rivers, lakes, wells, and, as in our case, aquifers. There's the cost of delivering it and maintaining the delivery system. There's the cost of treating water and the cost of selling it. And to the case in point today, there's the continuing cost of protecting it. The citizens of San Antonio have voluntarily taken on that expense for the last 20 years... and rightfully so.

Who else was willing to spend \$360 million to protect San Antonians, the local economy, and our sole source of some of the best freshwater in the nation? The people from surrounding counties who also dearly rely on the Aquifer? The ranchers, farmers, and property owners in those counties who own property

over the Aquifer recharge and recovery zones? (many of whom are recipients of much of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on acquiring conservation easements on their lands).

Meanwhile, over the last 20 years, many things have changed. We avoided a couple of 'Pigs in a Poke' by rejecting the big puddle called Applewhite, and fought and closed down the multi-million-gallon-per-hour catfish farm. We have had the creation of the Edwards Aquifer Authority that developed regulations to ensure no one's lawn sprinklers over-pump.

On the other hand, to develop more stable water resources, we have acquired multiple water contracts with other water districts in central and south Texas, including the \$2+ billion Vista Ridge project and we have built one of the biggest water-desalination facilities in the country at H2Oaks. This is not to mention one of the largest underground water storage facilities in Texas in our ASR, Aquifer Storage & Recovery project, now holding billions of gallons of water. So now the issue facing the voters of the City of San Antonio is this: *Are we willing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to continue to protect one of our region's main sources of water?*

I think the answer is yes, millions more, but possibly in a partnership arrangement with SAWS, the City of San Antonio, and the Edwards Aquifer Authority. The people of San Antonio want to continue to see the protection of the Aquifer, but should we bear that burden alone?

I support a collaboration between the three aforementioned partners, to establish a long-term commitment to protecting the Aquifer, with the City using some of its income from SAWS paid to the city en lieu of taxes (that would be paid to CoSA if it were a private company) financing additional funding, which could be added to the projected \$40 million still in the pipeline from the current 1/8th cent sales tax. Together, the City could guarantee \$100 million to acquire more protective conservation easements over the Aquifer. At the end of the \$100 million city expenditure, the Edwards Authority would take over future Aquifer protection.

The devil is in the details, but who would argue that the future protection of the Edwards Aquifer could be in any better hands than the Authority established by the Texas Legislature to regulate the water usage from the Edwards Aquifer?

– Condensed from the statement released 25 August

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Wanna Read Sumpin Funny?



A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a bar. The bartender says to the rabbit, "What'll you have?" to which the rabbit responds, "I have no idea. I'm here because of autocorrect."

Code & Covenant Corner

Reminders of Municipal Code and Whispering Oaks Covenant requirements that apply to every property regardless of WOHA membership status.

Construction coming up? Don't forget WOHA review!

Although most residents realize that remodeling and new construction projects typically require permits from the CoSA Building Department, the City isn't the only stakeholder who has a legal right to review plans before work begins. Whispering Oaks deed restrictions mandate that the WOHA Board also be provided a set of plans for review. This step helps insure compliance with community-specific rules, with Neighborhood Conservation District standards, and verification of CoSA performance.

WOHA review is particularly important for, but not limited to, projects that alter the exterior of homes or property enhancements, such as fences and sheds. Failing to secure approvals from all required stakeholders could result in fines, legal expense, and removal of unauthorized work. For more information, please visit whisperingoaks.org, where residents can submit plans for review or alert the WOHA Board of nearby projects that may have not secured necessary approvals.

110 WO Neighbors Open Their Hearts...and Wallets

There just wasn't enough money for all that needed to be done to keep up our beautiful, beloved neighborhood. So your WOHA Board put out the call. And 110 of our neighbors answered that call. The result was a huge help: **\$11,500** came in!



With that money, the Board was able to arrange to add the entranceway lighting at Whisper Path and repair parts of the perimeter wall that are the neighborhood's (not the individual owner's) responsibility. As well, there was a little left for some niceties, such as those beautiful signs, designed by our own Evita Morín, thanking our healthcare workers and congratulating our spring graduates.

The complete list, as of 20 July, appeared in the previous *Whispers*.

Now, think what we could do if we had another hundred members! Have you done *your* part for your neighborhood?

Which Side of Dah Road?

When you're out for that early-morning or evening stroll around the ole neighborhood, does it matter which side of the street you walk on?

Sure does! It's always safer to walk on the side facing traffic. That way, cars can see you more easily and you can see them much more easily. So do the opposite of when driving: Always walk on the *left* side.

Not only that, but in the Age of COVID, that helps you keep a safer distance from others. Of course, don't let that keep you from stopping to have a friendly chat with a neighbor. That's what Whispering Oakers do!

What? You Haven't Paid Your Dues Yet?

It's not too late. In fact, it's never too late. But your HOA needs the money—and the sooner, the better. And it's so easy: Just go to whisperingoaks.org and pay with a card. You do it all at once—it's only \$125.—or you can do it in automatic monthly payments of just \$10.42. Or you can use the coupon in this issue and mail in a check. Please do it now?

Chistes en Español (con respeto a la religión)



1. ¿Cómo se llama el santo más chiquito?
2. ¿Cómo se llama el santo de los vegetarianos?
3. ¿Cómo se llama el santo de los insectos?
4. ¿Cómo se llama el santo más apestoso?
5. ¿Cómo se llama el santo más cuadrado?

Busque las respuestas en página 11.

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News that's close to home.

Longtime Resident Expresses Concerns ...and Appreciation

Dear Neighbors,

I have been a resident of Whispering Oaks for the past 46 years. On August 20, 2020, I emailed WOHHA President Simon Esparza requesting information on whether our streets would be resurfaced after the work done by Google Fiber. To my surprise and delight, Simon quickly answered me that he would check on the street status and get back to me, which he promptly did the very next day. I really appreciated his more-than-prompt response as, in all the years of being a resident of Whispering Oaks, I have never had such a quick answer to any of my questions. I realize the tremendous job the WOHHA Board of Directors has and I, for one, am more than grateful and thank each of them for all their endeavors in keeping our community beautiful.

In the course of our emailing back and forth I also mentioned that I would be so happy if some of our neighbors would take more pride in the upkeep of their yards. I realize that this is not an easy task. Even so, the reward is not only satisfying, but can attract others to buy here in Whispering Oaks.

I would also like to mention that it would make the work of the WOHHA Board much easier to maintain our entranceways and common grounds if we would all cooperate in paying our very nominal annual dues of \$125, money that is used diligently and with integrity to maintain our lovely community. I, for one, am so proud to be living here in Whispering Oaks and I hope you are, too.

Your neighbor,
Elizabeth Aboud



Dear Irrigator / Property Owner:

SAWS Conservation is making a special offer to all property owners who are in compliance with the SAWS Irrigation Checkup Program in 2020.

For all checkup customers in compliance, SAWS is offering a \$12 per head rebate for converting all spray heads in the zone to one of three pressure-reducing options shown in the requirements list below. The maximum number of heads eligible for this rebate is 1,165 per meter (account).

***In order to get the full rebate, all heads in a zone must be converted.*

Requirements for this rebate:

1. All heads in qualifying zones must be changed.
2. Qualifying heads for the rebate:
 - Toro 570ZPRX
 - Hunter PROS-06-CV-F-R "Flow Guard"
 - Rain Bird RD1800 Flow™ Flow-Shield™ Series
3. Invoice showing the number and type of heads replaced.
4. Representative photos showing areas where the heads/zones were installed/retrofitted.
5. Contact information for a person on site that could meet a SAWS Conservation staff member to conduct a visual inspection.

Note: If your account is more than 45 days past due and the amount of your rebate is less than the past-due balance, SAWS Conservation will issue your irrigation rebate as a credit toward your account rather than mail a check.

Don't delay! All supporting paperwork must be submitted via an online form available from SAWS no later than the close of business on December 10, 2020.

Applications are to be found at saws.org under Resources.

SAWS Conservation
210-704-7283

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Michael Reynolds

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Future Swim-Team Member!



'Twas on Tuesday, 7 July, that a child, Bodie Richard Walter Blount, was born unto Graciela Pressman, who grew up in Whispering Oaks and participated for many summers on the Swim Team, and now lives in a townhouse at the very edge of Whispering Oaks, on Whispering Wind. Mama, who teaches in the Northside District, and baby are doing well. And, of course, Whispering Oakers grandma Judine Taylor and grandpa Richard Pressman could not be happier.



Real Estate Report July-August 2020

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini, Resident Realtor®

Total Sales 8	Sales Price	Per Sq. Foot
Highest Price	\$490,000	\$162
Lowest Price	\$220,000	\$107
Median Price	\$341,500	\$133
Average DOM 46		

Currently Active 5

Highest Price	\$414,900	\$157
Lowest Price	\$274,000	\$116

Pending Sales 3

Median Price	\$249,500	\$134
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San Antonio home sales in July showed a 25 percent increase over last year, with 4,231 homes sold last month. Overall, the uptick makes for a 4 percent increase in the year-over-year comparison – 21,032 home sales compared to 20,208 sales in 2019.

Compared to July 2019, San Antonio's average price of a home increased by 10%. "The data indicates positive increases throughout home sales showing San Antonio and surrounding areas leading in the market," said Kim Bragman, SABOR's 2020 Chairman of the Board.



Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on **November 1, 2020**. Set your clocks back one hour on November 2nd.

Respuestas a los Chistes en Español



1. San Tito
2. Zanahoria
3. Zancudo
4. Sanitario
5. San Marcos

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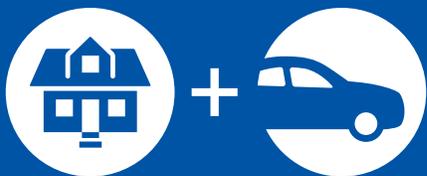


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