

The Whispers

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

WOHA ANNUAL MEETING – A COVID-19 SPECIAL

See pages 8–9

Simon Sez

Hello, Neighbors,

Happy summer to you all. Hope you are enjoying these hot summer months. It's great to see many neighbors taking advantage of the outdoors, even if it's just in the back yard! The care of our lawns during summer heat is so important, and with City restrictions in place now, daily hand watering is a must. See the article on page 16 for gardening and lawn tips.



With the challenges to our Annual Meeting imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety and health concerns of our HOA members, we have chosen to offer a proxy ballot for election of our Board members. In following our By-laws, we will have a very brief, live meeting at the Swim Club. Following City rules, mask coverings must be worn and proper social distancing will be required. Only those who feel comfortable in attending should do so. We do encourage all 2019/2020 HOA members to send in your proxy ballot vote by mail or to drop it off at the meeting. This newsletter includes an insert and return envelope for your proxy vote, also has all information to renew or begin your HOA membership. Please see the two-page spread, pages 8-9, dedicated to our Year in Review, with our Financial Update, and the Budget for 2020–2021, 1 October 2020–30 September 2021. Dues remain at a low \$125/year, or just \$10.42/month.

The HOA Board has stressed in earlier messages that we, as a neighborhood, need to step up to support the all-volunteer work your Board does. I challenge all the neighborhood to join up. Let's hit the 500 mark for total membership. It takes at least \$55,000 per year to properly manager our HOA—to keep it safe, keep it beautiful, plus maintain infrastructure needs—all of which keeps the value of everyone's home up! We must continue to build on our goals of lighting all entrances, holding community events, landscaping all entrances, creating signage for our Citizens on Patrol program, and many other tasks. All of you are stakeholders in our Whispering Oaks home.

One person who has been there for several years and has been a rock of steadiness in supporting my first year as President has been Pam Harrison-Martínez. I am saddened to say that she will not be continuing her service on our Board, but is taking on the presidency of the Whispering Oaks Garden Club. Pam has been tremendous in her efforts on the Board and in our neighborhood over the years. Pam's husband, John Martínez, has also been an enormous help to our neighborhood with his work with Christmas

WHAT: Annual Homeowner's Meeting

WHEN: Sunday, September 13, 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Swimming Pool Picnic Area

WHY: Required by the By-laws

HOW: COVID Rules: Masks, Distancing

NOTE: Only those who feel comfortable in attending should do so. Otherwise, please use the proxy ballot inserted in this issue and return it with your dues.

No Parade? No Problem!



Sisters Amelia and Rosalie Contreras figure out how to celebrate the Fourth anyway.

lighting every year at our entrances, trash pickup in and outside our wall common areas, and many other activities. Thank you, Pam and John.

Neighbors, I thank you for all your support in my first year as President and I look forward to continuing. Thank you also for being an HOA member and I welcome new members in helping us break the all-time membership record for our HOA.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer!!

Simon Esparza, President

"Don't believe what your eyes tell you. All they show is limitation. Look with your understanding, find out what you already know, and you'll see the way to fly." –

Richard Bach, Jonathan Livingston Seagull

2019 - 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President**Simon Esparza**

sje0365@outlook.com

First Vice-President**Pam Harrison Martínez**

pamnjon1@yahoo.com

Second Vice-President**Peter Lund**

pjl78230@gmail.com

Treasurer**Jay Pruski**

jayannsix@gmail.com

Secretary**Maricela Maldonado**

m1maldo@yahoo.com

JoAnn Aguilera

joann.aguilera@sbcglobal.net

Debra Esparza

desparza45@yahoo.com

Samantha Foster

samantha@thepinkenvelope.com

Rick López

prof71@satx.rr.com

Evita Morín

evitamorin@gmail.com

Richard S. Pressman

rpressman@satx.rr.com

Janis Witt**Editorial Staff****Richard S. Pressman, Editor-in-Chief**

Samantha Foster, Assistant Editor

Cathy Smith, Assistant Editor

210-394-5234

Publisher:

Neighborhood News

3740 Colony Dr. Ste. LL100

San Antonio, TX 78230

210-558-3160

www.NeighborhoodNews.com

info@neighborhoodnews.com

New WOHA Website Packed with Features

The Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association unveiled its new website this month. The greatly expanded site features many new pages and is also more user-friendly to visitors using mobile devices. All residents are encouraged to register their household at whisperingoaks.org to gain full access.

Perhaps the most anticipated new capability is the option to establish recurring monthly payments for membership dues via credit or debit card. Members can now choose between \$10.42 each month and the traditional one-time payment of \$125. This new pay-as-you-go option comes at a time when many households are managing expenses more carefully due to uncertainty in the economy.

“Our dues are less than what most households pay for Netflix,” says WOHA President Simon Esparza, “so this monthly option will be an easier way for residents to do their part. And our dues are less than those of the great majority of comparable neighborhoods.” Membership dues are the primary funds that cover over \$45,000 in annual community expenses—expenses that residents could easily take for granted, such as (1) landscaping, (2) insurance, (3) utilities, and (4) repair of an aging infrastructure. Other new website capabilities will include an electronic version of the Whispering Oaks community directory on-track to be fully functional by this fall when the printed version is distributed to paying members. The site already includes revised, highly detailed maps showing every street and address in the community, which can be printed.

All accessible online, as well, are (1) the history of the community, (2) the By-Laws that govern WOHA, and (3) the Community Covenants that restrict some resident activities beyond the City Municipal Code. Because WOHA serves all residents, most content is accessible to members and non-members alike. The Board even allocated pages to the Tennis Park, the Swim & Tennis Club, and the Garden Club, which provide popular services but operate completely separately from the Homeowners Association.

Back issues of neighborhood newsletter, *The Whispers*, are easier to access than on the previous website, and upcoming community events will be better publicized online. The WOHA Board of Directors has been ramping up that content on its social media posts in recent months, and the new website will serve as a supplemental way to access timely neighborhood news and announcements.

Hey, Old-Timers: Your Whispering Oaks photos wanted!



Was this an original Whispering Oaks homestead?

Has your family lived in Whispering Oaks for decades? WOHA is seeking pictures from the community's early days to be featured in the new website archive. We're looking for pre-1980 images of homes being built, streets under construction, neighborhood parties, and the like. Check the box on the enclosed ballot if you would be willing to crack open your photo albums for us. A volunteer would simply scan a few and you would keep the original prints of course.

Now You Can... Pay Your Dues by Phone!



WOHA Oak Wilt Committee

Oak Wilt Has Gone Viral

Oak Wilt is the COVID-19 virus of Oak trees. It's one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, causing a fungus that disables the Oaks' water-conducting systems. It's no joke. Accordingly, on the morning of Monday, 15 June, several Board members and concerned neighbors met with a specialist in treating Oak Wilt. Paula Johnston, of Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas, has recently been treating the trees at the playground by the pool (as well as private homes in the area). It's a joint effort of WOHA and the Swim & Tennis Club.



As that area is public land within Whispering Oaks, the two entities can take responsibility for it. However, every individual property is the responsibility of the homeowner. And, as the Oak Wilt is spreading steadily, destroying our beautiful trees and lowering our property values, treatments are essential.

According to Johnston, who has treated trees on several Whispering Oaks properties, and who has 17 years of experience, it's best to treat trees on properties lying within 100 yards of affected trees, and to do so *immediately*. The cost is high, but the cost of waiting is higher. And the cost of losing trees is higher still, a well-established tree being worth many thousands of dollars. Treatment for an average tree costs \$150-\$200. Hence, 10 trees would cost \$1500-\$2000. Then treatments must be repeated one time 18 months later.

Treatment of the trees on one's own property will save those particular trees, but will *not* stop Oak Wilt's spread. That's why we must all keep up our guard and why it's essential that every homeowner in the affected area have the trees treated. As well, trees that have died must be completely removed—stump and all—to prevent spread to neighboring trees.

Every homeowner should know that attempting to sell a property affected by the Oak Wilt without advising the buyer is *illegal*. As JoAnne Aguilera, WOHA Board member and head of the Oak Wilt Committee says, "Be proactive! It's your best chance to save your property."

Being proactive includes questioning *any* tree trimmers you see who are not immediately painting fresh cuts on Oak trees. If they are not licensed or are not painting, they don't belong here!



Example of a diseased stump. Such stumps still carry the Oak Wilt and so must be rooted out.



Not sure some tree trimmer is really licensed by the City, as every one must be, you can pull up this link and insert the company's name. It'll tell you.

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/DSD/Online/Contractor>

Beware of Unlicensed Tree Trimmers—

Your Neighbors and the HOA in Action!

Resident Jeanne Paulk noticed that her neighbor's trees were being trimmed but the cuts were not being painted. She immediately notified the HOA's chair on Oak Wilt, JoAnn Aguilera, who swung into action. This conversation was captured on Nextdoor.com:

Aguilera: Five Star Tree Services claims they ran out of paint and are returning tomorrow to spray—at the risk of beetles that can attack in as little as 30 minutes! I have a spray can, but so many cuts are too high to get to. I reported the situation to the City, but they are unable to verify their license. Any citizen can, and should, report such behavior.

Paulk: I'll bet they are not back tomorrow.

Aguilera: Meanwhile, neighbors are painting what they can.

Then HOA President Simon Esparza got involved.

Esparza: JoAnne, thanks for bringing paint and jumping on this a.s.a.p. I painted 75% of the cuts myself with my pole. The owners are very apologetic for allowing this to happen. I then discussed this with the tree guys as well. All looks good now. It's great to see neighbors taking action, communicating with the HOA Oak Wilt Committee! Thanks again!

The lesson is clear: Before contracting with any tree trimmers, make sure (1) they are licensed by the City and (2) they paint every cut within minutes.

Again, it's your all-volunteer HOA in action.

Successfully selling homes in San Antonio and your neighborhood since 1983.



Call me for professional, expert & friendly service.

Mary Jane Bell

861-9587 (mobile)

829-2520 (office)

mjbelle@phyllisbrowning.com

www.phyllisbrowning.com



New Mailboxes

We're Big Kids, Now

Yes, folks, the powers that be have decided that we are grown up enough to have our very own mailboxes! Before this, there was actually no physical address for WOHA, with the address shifting from a post office box even to a private home, which caused confusion at tax time. Here you see the product of our efforts, installed by WOHA's own Peter Lund, with an assist from prexy Simon Esparza. The boxes are located at the tennis courts on the west side.



WOHA VP Peter Lund (left) and Prexy Simon Esparza put the final touches on the new mailboxes. There's one for the The Tennis Park and one for WOHA.

Brad Hughes on local Fox News, 3 June.

Hughes Makes Local News!

“Because of COVID-19, everything just went away. Everything just disappeared,” said Brad.

But it can't stop the music and his desire to play.

“I told them, hey, some Friday night, I'll just get up on the driveway and I'm going to play,” said Brad.

And so he did.

Often of a Friday night, Brad puts on a show in the driveway for his Whispering Oaks neighbors, taking requests as he goes.

Many, like Nancy Fitch come out every week. “Oh yeah. Been out here since the first one,” said Fitch.

The music draws people outside of their homes and brings them together. “Everyone comes out and sits and hangs out for the night. It's just been a really fun thing,” said Briana Eilers, who lives in the neighborhood.



People like Maria Buitron, who also lives in the neighborhood, think that's a very good thing. “It helps us not to feel alone,” said Maria.

“We just started following the music, and there was Brad, Abby (Brad's wife), and all the neighbors,” said Paul Drummond. When Paul and his wife, Melanie, saw what was going on, they had an idea. “Maybe we could raise some money for the food bank, because every little bit helps,” said Melanie.

Brad and Abby loved the idea. Now the Drummonds bring snacks to sell. So far, they've helped raised well over a thousand dollars.

Brad's daughter, Bea, said it's good to know her dad's music is making a difference, in the community and right here in her own family. “You just hear him singing and he's happy. It just makes the family a little happier just to hear music,” she said.

– Culled from a transcript of the TV report.

Reynolds
Professional Cleaning Services

210-425-2640
Michael Reynolds

Professional Cleaning - Affordable Prices
Call Today for a 15% Discount!

Call Us Today to Fight COVID-19!

We Specialize in Mold/Mildew Removal on:

- ✓ Driveways
- ✓ Patios
- ✓ Sidewalks
- ✓ Deck Restoration
- ✓ Fencing
- ✓ Walls

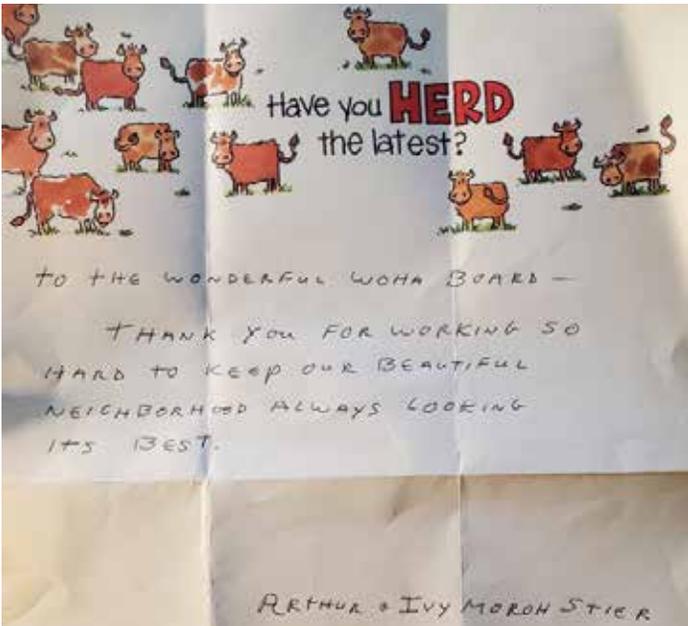
Hot-Water Pressure Cleaning!

Fight Covid-19! We use EPA-Approved Cleaning Solutions to KILL the Covid-19 Virus!

“During this crisis, remember your neighbors.”

Another Nice Thank-You to the Board

This one comes from long-time residents and formerly active in neighborhood affairs Ivy and Arthur Stier. Ivy is the daughter of former neighborhood “mama” Roz Moroh, of blessed memory.



If you can't do it inside, then you gotta do it outside. Keep on using your imagination, Whispering Oaks!

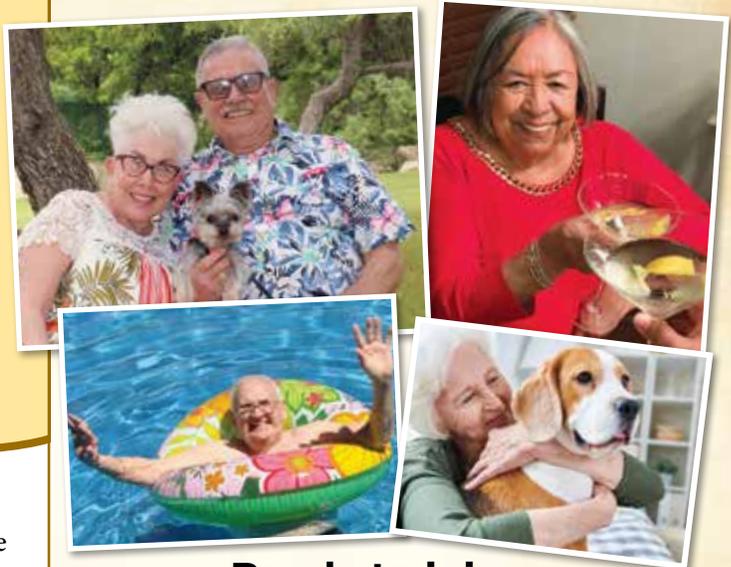


We're all in it together!

What Families are saying about *Independence* **HILL**

RETIREMENT RESORT COMMUNITY

“From the moment we took the tour, my Grandma was confident she wanted to move in. Independence Hill provided everything she was looking for and more. It's like living in an “all inclusive resort”, except you get to sleep in your own bed and use a full size kitchen if you feel like it. Plus they have housekeeping! The staff is so compassionate and accommodating, she feels like they have become part of the family. They are great at communicating what is happening to all during this difficult time. There is no way I would be able to make sure she stays safe and healthy without their help. Plus the snacks and adult beverages they bring to the residents as “pick me ups” are the icing on the cake! I am so grateful for the IH team.” – *Cristina, granddaughter*



**Ready to join the
Independence Hill Family?**

Call today for more information and Virtual Tours!

(210) 209-8404

20450 Huebner Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78258

www.independencehill.com



www.facebook.com/independencehill



Full Service Apartments, Assisted Living and Neighborhood of Homes

Lic #100102

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

Correction

The telephone number listed for SAFFE Officer Steve Bielstein in the February issue was incorrect. As originally announced on Nextdoor.com the correct number is **210-207-7425**. SAFFE stands for San Antonio Fear-Free Environment. It's Officer Steve's job to liaison with various neighborhoods to promote such an environment.

Please
**WEAR
FACE MASK**



We're all in it together!

Trash Can Storage

We have asked before, and we're asking again to be a good neighbor: Please keep in mind that, other than on collection days, all **trash cans**, should be placed where they are **not** visible from the street, either in the garage or behind a fence or wall. Your neighbors and your all-volunteer WOHA Board will greatly appreciate your cooperation.



Yards of the Month



Yard of the Month for June:
The Smiths at 10806 Whisper Valley



Yard of the Month for July:
The Campsey/Treka Family



Board member Evita Morin with one of the beautiful signs she designed for WOHA to honor our Health Care workers and our 2020 graduates.



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

We are on Facebook!



@ Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association SA
Like us for great neighborhood information and updates.

The HOA Board in Action: Highlights of 2019–2020

1. Re-established and brought back to our HOA Committees with their roles and responsibilities. These had not been in place for several years, but were put together at our first Board meeting. This will be a requirement for future Boards going forward.
2. Archived in our HOA drives historical documents, corporate records, codes and compliance paperwork, insurance policies, financial documents, and other important documentation. Many thanks to past Secretary Ann-Marie Nicholich, who had served on the Board for several years, for setting up many of these folders. A process is now in place so that future Boards will have all current paperwork and past archives securely in on place so that no time is wasted to get to these folders. There was also a good amount of work required to get our WOHA email in order. A big thanks to Tia Palsole for organizing and getting all in order.
3. Under Treasurer Jay Pruski, reviewed our Financials and Budget to assure that all fiduciary duties were implemented in comparison to what was done in the last couple of years. We put a budget in place with review of expenses that were somewhat excessive in some areas and made changes. Budget was proposed and voted on by Board. Based on year-to-date numbers on printing, our current income statement is in the positive and has been during the year, compared to last year's numbers. I am proud of our team for doing our fiduciary duties without sacrificing efforts for our neighborhood.
4. The Board initiated a membership drive with our Member Chair getting a plan in place in visiting with our neighbors to help increase our membership. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, in-person visits are now not possible.
5. With communication being vital, the Newsletter budget has increased somewhat, but with added value and content reaching out to the neighborhood, it has afforded a big boost. We are now able to run the whole newsletter in color at no additional cost. We have been able to increase the size to 12 pages (or even 16). Many thanks to our newsletter Editor, Richard Pressman, and Assistant Editors, Samantha Foster and Cathy Smith, for all their efforts.
6. Re-negotiated our Lawn Maintenance contract, which will yield a saving of close to \$10,000 by the end of our fiscal year.
7. Established our Oak Wilt Committee – Many thanks for the collaboration of all Board members in seeing the importance of getting this committee established for the future of our neighborhood.
8. At first under Phyllis McCullough and then under JoAnn Aguilera, the Board developed a plan to disburse Oak Wilt Fund monies to work with the Swim & Tennis Club on treatment of Oak Trees in the common areas near the pool. These treatments have been completed and further long-term treatments will be reviewed. The Board in January had a meeting with Erin Davis of the Texas A&M Forestry Department to discuss the Oak Wilt situation for the short and long term. Did a review of our Oak trees and designation of areas of major concern. Then, over 100 letters went out from the Board to residents in affected areas warning of the danger and offering suggestions for getting help.
9. Completed lighting at Whisper Bow, which had started in early 2019, approved a vendor for Whisper Path, and began a plan for Whisper Willow. Some lighting at Whispering Wind was replaced.
10. The Board approved the repair work of the WOHA-owned part of the perimeter wall, which has been completed.
11. The Board approved a postal box with a physical address. Thanks to the Tennis Club for working with the HOA to get this done. After many years of using different addresses we now have an established street address: 11515 Whisper Forest, #B – San Antonio, TX 78230–3500. It's by the West Side tennis courts.
12. With work by Board member Peter Lund, we have finally updated our new website which will be serviced and operated by the HOA.
13. The social events – Under Debra Esparza, the HOA had a nice Holiday Social at the Adante Senior Living Home, a Blood Drive and a successful Dial-a-Trailer at the Swim & Tennis Club. Because of the COVID-19, several events have been postponed.
14. The Board voted in a new Communications Director, Samantha Foster, who has started working on our social networking platform. Our Facebook page has gotten a big facelift and postings have also begun on Nextdoor.com.
15. With work from our District Liaison Chair, Rick López, and the Board, work on the Whispering Wind turn lane will commence in the next few months. All has been approved by City. We also had direct communication with the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy with traffic concerns.
16. The Board engaged and communicated with the Google Fiber installation, working with both the Google Fiber manager and the construction company with problems that occurred throughout our neighborhood. We made sure that all repairs required on Whispering Oaks common areas of our neighborhood were corrected and paid for.
17. The Board reviewed and repaired all irrigation work that needed update. All backflow tests were updated with SAWS, along with all paper work.
18. The Board increased our communications and relationships with District 9, NNOD, and other various organizations and City entities, which will help with the growth and maintenance of our neighborhood.
19. The Board had positive code compliance results in direct communications with neighbors on issues related to the care of our neighborhood.
20. Increased communications and our relationship with both Swim & Tennis Clubs with the ultimate goal of the community in mind. More to come.
21. The Board is preparing a new neighborhood directory, offering both a printed and digital version to paid HOA members. Our goal is to have it ready by October.
22. The Board and many of our team members and neighbors have worked at trash pickup around the perimeter of our neighborhood.
23. One area as President of our HOA that I am most proud of is the increased visibility to our neighbors and members. The improvement of timely responses via email, phone calls, letters we received and other correspondence is so important. This will get even better and continue to be a priority for our community.

2020–2021 Nominations Bio's

JoAnn Aguilera

As a 14-year resident of the neighborhood, JoAnn Aguilera is shifting gears from busy working mom to empty nester. So she'd like to give back to this community that she's proud to call home. Her positions in information technology included database administration, project management, problem resolution and risk and compliance. These equip her to contribute to the operations of Whispering Oaks. She has invested in my home here in many ways, and is ready to invest in our neighborhood.

Simon Esparza

Simon Esparza, a long-time printer, has been involved with the community for some time, beginning with his organizing cleanup crews for the surrounding area. He has been on the Board for two years, the second of which as our HOA President.

Samantha Foster

Samantha Foster is a mid-30s mom of two daughters and wife to a commercial photographer. She thrives on fashion, wine, subscription box, and empowering other women to be their best self. She loves animals and the great outdoors, including her cats, fish, turtle, and her backyard chickens. You will often see her out in her yard gardening or working on her DIY home remodel. Honest, sincere, and tons of fun, Samantha loves her Jesus and attributes all joy and success to Him!

Maricela Maldonado

Maricela Maldonado is currently employed by Judson ISD as a Professional Learning Coordinator, where she plans and oversees training sessions for the Curriculum and Instruction Department. She has a Bachelor's degree in Finance and a Master's in Education Administration. In December of 2019, she completed a Master's in Business Administration–Human Resources. She and her son, Justin, have lived in San Antonio for ten years and in the neighborhood for two. Her son works as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Nurse. In her spare time, she enjoys walking in the evening with her son.

Evita Morin

Evita Morin is a native to San Antonio, a mom of three, the CEO of local nonprofit called Rise Recovery and a board member of Blood & Tissue Center Foundation and Masters Leadership Program San Antonio. While still fairly "new" to Whispering Oaks, she hopes that by serving on this Board, she can honor and continue the hard work and dedication of generations of Whispering "Oakers" (her word) that have made our community such an inclusive, diverse, safe and friendly place to grow and thrive.

David Shimizu

Did you know an anagram for Whispering Oaks is "worshipping sake"? And how apropro for David Shimizu, because, as a five-

year resident of this beautiful neighborhood and fifteen-year resident of Japan, he feels right at home with both terms. Before all the whispering and worshipping, he studied at UCLA, where he earned a degree in arboriculture and a graduate degree in *sake* production. (Just kidding. It was actually in sociology and education, but wouldn't that have been perfect?) Presently, he teaches Japanese at LEE High School, but he would also very much like to join his neighbors in keeping Whispering Oaks from becoming something that is also anagram, "perishing oaks."

Cheri Wiese

Cheri Wiese, her husband, and their two children moved to Whispering Oaks in August 2005. She has worked at UTSA for the last 16 years, where she serves as the Chief of Staff for the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations. So she has extensive administrative experience. She loves reading, watching movies with her family, and spending time in their home in Rockport.

Janice Witt

Janice Witt is a retired Air Force officer and many-years' resident of Whispering Oaks. She served on the Board for several years until 2016, which included a stint as Editor of *The Whispers*. Because of her extensive experience on the Board, she was asked this past year to resume a seat. She is now ready, willing, and able to serve a full term.

Budget versus Actuals: How We Stand Financially

With 744 addresses in the neighborhood, we budgeted for 336 addresses, or 45%, to participate in contributing dues, which would have yielded \$42,000. But only 238 addresses, or 32%, contributed to the dues membership (with 25 contributors undefined due to lack of information in the electronic process).

The budget for the original Capital Campaign was \$6,000, but with \$4900 contributed. However, the supplementary Capital Campaign that was just launched, about \$11,000 has been raised (final figures not determined by press deadline), with 43 of the contributions coming from addresses that did not participate in dues membership.

As a result, although some projects could not yet be funded, WOHA will be able to come out ahead for fiscal year 2019–2020 (1 October–30 September, each year).

For the new fiscal year, 2020–2021, we make these projections:

Revenue goal:	\$56,250
Projected Expenses:	\$48,200



Councilman John Courage on the Major Issues

On Defunding the Police

I came to San Antonio 49 years ago as an Air Force recruit. I became a military police officer for the Air Force and served proudly for four years. As a police officer, I not only wore the uniform, I wore the badge, carried a gun, and protected the lives and property at the Air Bases I was assigned. I understand the tough job a police officer faces every day. However, I and every police officer took a similar oath:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter.” And in San Antonio that includes the statement supporting and defending the laws of this city, this state as well as the United States.

I believe we need to strive to maintain the highest levels of effectiveness and integrity among our Police Department and all of its officers. With this understanding, in light of the terrible tragedy of the death of George Floyd and the public display of outrage, I believe the time has come for the Council to reexamine where we are with our Police Department as a community.

I do not favor defunding the San Antonio Police Department. I believe we should review procedures in the field manual and ensure they follow best practices. We should review our recruiting, testing, and training procedures to ensure that we are always putting the best people possible in these most critical positions of authority.

Additionally, we need to carefully look at our bargaining agreement with the SAPOA and insist on changes that ensure we are in the strongest position to enforce discipline and cull bad actors from our Police force. I will work to establish the reforms and improvements

ADVERTISE HERE

Discounts • Multiple AD Sizes

Ask about other newsletters in your area

210-558-3160 sales@neighborhoodnews.com



to keep us safe and make the San Antonio Police Department better guardians of the people.

– Public statement on 11 June

On the Columbus Statue Relocation

Christopher Columbus never set foot in San Antonio, he never set foot in Texas, in fact, he never set foot in the United States. He landed in the Bahamas and other Caribbean islands, and also explored the Central and South American Coasts. He sailed for Spain, which eventually would claim San Antonio, but it wasn't until 200 years later, in 1691, that Spanish explorers first visited the site—already a settlement of the Payaya, the indigenous peoples. San Antonio was founded on May 1, 1718, when a Spanish expedition from Mexico established the Mission San Antonio de Valero.

We are not attempting to “rewrite” history, but the public should remain aware that over time and through examination, our understanding of history expands, not retracts. We are also not putting Christopher Columbus on trial. It is not our role to declare him a saint or to send him to history prison; it is our role to govern our city parks and speak as representatives for the people of this city.

I also don't believe that once a representative body has acted by erecting a monument or naming a street or a park, this action is untouchable or should exist in perpetuity. Monuments are a snapshot representation of the norms and values of the society that created it, and as we have seen throughout history and across this nation, our norms and values have changed. As a result, our public monuments may also change. Decades from now, a Council may decide something we established today lacks significance or may even be offensive. And that Council is well within their authority to rename or remove the tokens of the past.

On Black Lives Matter

The citizens in attendance at a recent meeting were very disruptive and disrespectful. It reminded me of many prior meetings when other similar groups have taken the opportunity in City Council meetings to demonstrate their anger and frustration at the actions or inactions of their city government. These protests span the political spectrum. Over the years, I've seen it with COPS/METRO; earlier this year, I saw it with Texas Freedom Force. This is what sometimes happens at City Hall. After their demonstration subsided, the people asked those on the Council who believe Black Lives Matter to show they do so by raising their fist. I did so. I believe that Black lives matter. I believed Black lives mattered before I ever heard the term Black Lives Matter. I will continue to believe Black lives matter; just as I believe all lives matter.

That doesn't mean that my allegiance is not to the citizens of San Antonio, or to my oath to the Constitution which I have made both as a soldier and as a Councilman. I want to make it perfectly clear that I serve for the best interests of you, and the city, and not any manifesto nor angry crowd.

– Public statement on 6 July

My time on the Board

It's Been a Great Ride

I have had the privilege of living in Whispering Oaks for 14 years, and before that, my parents built one of the first houses in our neighborhood back in 1972. So I knew that returning to San Antonio after many years, I wanted to move back to Whispering Oaks—to home! That my husband, John, and I did.

For the last six years, I have been a proud Board member for the Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association and recently served as a Vice President. It has been a pleasure to work alongside the other dedicated Board members, who consider our neighborhood a wonderful place to live and strive to keep it that way. Now, I am moving on to another role in the neighborhood as the President of the Whispering Oaks Garden Club.

At the upcoming Annual Meeting, a new slate of nominees will be voted on to fill the roles for WOHA. Some are returning members and some are new to the positions. I applaud them for their service to our community and ask for all Whispering Oaks residents to support the actions they undertake.

Remember that the undertakings are for the good of the neighborhood and benefit every one of us. I thank all who work to keep Whispering Oaks a valuable community and ask that others get involved in various initiatives for the future.

~Pam Harrison Martinez

State Changes to Restrictions on Some Yard Signs

With another election season upon us, you'll see campaign signs popping up in Whispering Oaks yards. This may cause some confusion because our Community Covenants prohibit yard signage. However, recent changes to Texas law regarding political signage take precedent with some exceptions.



Here's a snapshot of what's allowed by default:

- One yard sign is allowed per candidate or ballot measure.
- Signage must be ground-mounted and not larger than 4 x 6 feet.
- Signage may not be enhanced so that it distracts motorists.
- Language or images that would be offensive to the ordinary person are not allowed.
- Signage must be removed within 10 days following the election.
- All other signage is prohibited, except that notifying the public that the home is for sale or rent.

COVID-19: What to Do



Stay **6 feet** away from all people not in your household.



Wash hands often for **20 seconds** and encourage others to do the same.



When soap and water aren't available, use hand sanitizer with at least **60% alcohol**.



Please **wear a face covering**. Cover coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs and other places touched often.



Stay away from people who are sick.

COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS (SARS-CoV-2)

TEXAS
Department of State Health Services

updated 05/21/20
4:00 pm

For updates and more information, visit dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.
Dial:  **211** or: Visit: 211texas.org COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line: [1.833.986.1919](tel:18339861919)

Bundle up for savings


+




David Pfau Insurance
210-257-0117
2211 NW Military Hwy.
Castle Hills
davidpfau@allstate.com

When you choose Allstate to protect what matters most, you get expert agents who will make it easy for you to save. Like with bundling your insurance. It's the simplest way for you to save time and money, while getting protection for the things that matter most. Stop by or call today and let's get you bundled up.

Call or stop by to see how much you can save.



Allstate
You're in good hands.

Subject to terms, conditions & availability. Savings vary. Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co., Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co. © 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

261464

Annual Swim Team...

Well, sorta. Normally, for five weeks in the early summer, over 100 Whispering Oaks and other children participate in the WO Swim Team and compete with other nearby neighborhood teams. Not this year. COVID-19 said “No!”

But there still was Swim Team. A crew of coaches led by Gracie Redding, regularly the Assistant Swim Team Coach at the University of the Incarnate Word, ran some dozen swimmers through their paces in the weekday mornings for five weeks from 1 June to 3 July. So they will be ready for next year!



Some of the youngsters on the WO Swim Team 2020

It's a Rocky Road Ahead ...and We're Glad!

Last issue, we began showing the rocks being painted by mystery children of the neighborhood, then left at various people's homes. Here are some more samples.



Rocks left at the home of Jerilyn Pecotte, which she arranged under a cactus plant.



Quality Service
Since 1989

Certified Arborist
#TX-3713A

ARTISTIC TREES INC.

PROFESSIONAL TREE & LANDSCAPING SERVICE

(210) 561-0155

www.artistictrees.net

BBB A+ Rating "Experienced and Dependable"



Real Estate Report May - July 2020

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini
Resident Realtor®

<u>Total Sales</u>	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>Per Sq. Foot</u>
Highest Price	\$490,000	\$156
Lowest Price	\$220,000	\$106
Median Price	\$337,000	\$134
Average DOM 93		
<u>Currently Active 4</u>		
Highest Price	\$389,900	\$167
Lowest Price	\$329,900	\$121
<u>Pending Sales 3</u>		
Median Price	\$324,900	\$130

“While we saw a little downward trend this month compared to May 2019, if we’re looking at total numbers for the year, the sales number are only at 0.3% decrease, so we’re near par for year-to-date home sales,” said Kim Brogman, SABOR’s 2020 Chairman of the Board. “Also, we are entering into June with total number of pending sales up to 20%, which is promising for an upward trajectory to round out the year, as we move into summer buying months.” ~ SABOR

Gorgeous!...But What Is It?



It’s an immature grasshopper, specifically an immature Aztec Spur-Throated Grasshopper, *Aidemona Azteca*. Wow!



Bloody Awful?

If you can give blood,
you can help fill a dire need.
And there are gift cards and prizes, too.
Contact: SouthTexasBlood.org

How D’Ya Say...



One of the greatest weaknesses in writing is the tendency to string ideas together simply with “and.” Witness the speech pattern of a certain famous unnamed executive. However, there are times when it *should* be used instead of trying to get fancy.

Would you say, “I would like a sandwich of both peanut butter as well as jelly”? Or how about, “I would like a sandwich of both peanut butter but also jelly”? Of course not. A simple “and” will do.

Yet people try to get fancy, undermining the language: “As well as” refers to something added on that is not expected: “The committee was made up of students Maria, Ellen, José, and Frank, *as well as* teacher Mrs. García.” The phrase “but also” means that what is being added on is in a position of seeming contradiction to or surprise at what was just said: “In high school, Francine played three sports, *but also* was the class president.”

Remember that basic advice: K.I.S.S.

Please
**WEAR
FACE MASK**



We’re all in it together!

Another sign designed by Evita Morin and posted around the neighborhood by your Board.



Howdy Neighbor! 🤝

Franchise Opportunity Available with Neighbors Choice™

- ▶ Make a difference in the community you serve.
- ▶ Build a foundation for your future.
- ▶ Work with a well established local company.
- ▶ Receive comprehensive on-going training and support.

(210) 558-3160 Info@NeighborsChoice.com

What we offer:



Printing



Shipping



Graphic Design

What you do:



Work at Home



Make Sales



Community Builder

Neighbors Choice LLC, is a company that offers qualified individuals a franchise opportunity to produce Neighborhood Newsletters, Websites, E-blasts and other communication tools that neighborhoods need and rely on.

Currently Seeking Applicants In:

Austin, DFW, Houston, El Paso, Arlington, Corpus Christi and throughout Texas



Plumbing the Depths of Humor... 😂

A bachelor physician was forced to stay home one day because he had a simple plumbing problem. When the plumber finished, he handed the good physician his bill. Taking one look at it, the physician hit the ceiling.

“I can’t believe this!” he cried out. “I’m a doctor, but I don’t charge this much”...to which the plumber retorted,

“I know what you mean. When I was a doctor, I didn’t charge that much either!”

A little summer joke for our Spanish-speakers

Un chiste en español para el verano

Hay un joven salvavidas vigilando en su puesto al lado de la piscina cuando, de repente, entra una chica sumamente bonita. Parece que ella quiere reunirse con unas amigas allá.

De vez en cuando, el salvavidas le echa una mirada a la chica, preguntándose cuándo podría verla en su traje de baño. Pero pasa mucho tiempo sin que ella se quite la ropa.

Por fin, él se acerca a ella y le pregunta, “¿No nada nada?” y ella responde,

“No traje traje.”

Homeowners Who Contributed to the 2019-20 Capital Campaign Fund This Fiscal Year

Gary & Peggy Walter	Jim & Suzanne Stewart	Kent & Debby Moulton
John & Carolyn Clark	Edwin & Ida Rose Shapiro	Darrell Maatsch
Steve & Olivia Sanchez	Harold & Patricia Burkhardt	Selma D. Sablow
William & Theodora Johnson	Helen H Kerman	herman C Gadeke Jr
Cheston Thurman	Adele Barnett	Marlene & Jeffrey Stafford
Robert & Twila Icenogle	Fred & Carol Myers	Tom & Teresa Nguyen
Patti & Marvin Porter	Molly C. Bailey	Richard Benjamin Baldiga
William Duvall	Marjorie & Joel Baseman	Debbie Knight Ryniker
Charles and Maria Briseno	Ann & Andy Parsons	Diane M Crawford
Thomas & Karen Campsey	Loren & Louise Peters	Berniece Moore
David McFarland & Nancy Hildenburg	Boyd Family	Gerald & Ida Beth Carden
Doug Smith & Rebecca Gonzalez	Dorothy Frank	Richard & Olga Sharer
Wendy Faldet	John Bell & Gina Garrison	Emmie & James Burk
Donna Harrington	Sunay & Tia Palsole'	Carl & Jerry Rutherford
Gale Morrow & Dexter Katzman	Don Schecter	Dr. Yvonne Katz
Lois & Arthur Solomon	Phyllis Davis	Wright & Martha Nadine
Michael & Aimee Flanagan	William & Patricia Miller	Edward & Mary Steele
Elizabeth L. Aboud	Gail & Robert Hughlette	Ernest & Rebecca Sorola
Magdalena Trevino	Debbie Cook	Laurie Hogan
Charles McGuire	Alma Saldivar	Cathy Smith
Jai Dev	William & Rosemarie Johnston	Richard Zabransky
Rachel Ridder	Mr & Mrs Robert M McAdams	Cart & Betty Lezanic
Lonna Atkisson & Jason Giles	Alfred & Judy Rath	Frank & Mary Caraballo
Brenda Melton & Dan Crutchfield	Ryan & Allison Everett	Dmitri Ivanov & Maria Luisa Gomez
Raul B Fernandez	Bill & Becky Miller	Clinton & Anne Swift
Sharon Cook	Mike & Sharon McCarley	K. Robinson
Lora Makowski	Nils Smith & Patricia Cruz	Greg & Diane King
Judy Castleberry	Harry Titus	Dorothy Hoy
Timothy and Gilda Short	Robert & Joan Turner	William Matthews
Sylvia Romo	Kenneth & Louise Baker	Lloyd & Dorothy Wright
John & Pamela Harrison-Martinez	Mary Snead Holmes	Denes & Dorothy Marton
Richard Pressman & Judine Taylor	Dr John & Mary Russell	Ronald & Stamata DeCarlo
Mike & Pat Storlie	David & Betty Kasischke	Oscar & Donnette Saldana
Jim & Denise Schneider	Lillian (Mrs Glen) McAlister	David & Helyn Culclasure
Cristelo & Michele Garza	Richard & Alpha Bragg	Jack Moynihan
Fred & Peggy Schultz	Ricardo Cuellar/Cynthia Ruiz	Elizabeth & Jack Michel
Walter Martinez	Dr Clyde Wagner Jr & Barbara	June & George Lee
Larry & Edith Fischer	Robert Brannon	Diane Greene & Michael Gleason
KV & Donna Speeg	Eleanor Siegal	Doug and Becky Smock
Lawrence Canedy	James & Deborah Sherwood	Lawrence Zertuche
Tom & Susan Ginnity	Paul Davila	Simon & Debra Esparza
Ivy, Scot, & Jason Stier	Evelyn & Carl Jackson	
Albert & Nancy Karam	Roger & Sally Tietz	



Whispering Oaks HOA
P.O. Box 780454
San Antonio, TX 78278

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1568

Time Dated

From the Garden Club

Garden Club Report

Congratulations to these neighbors for Yard of the Month honors:

Smith Family, 11401 Whisper Valley for June

Campsey/Treka Family, 11514 Whisper Breeze for July

See photos on p. 7

A little Garden Club humor:

Gardener: Have you heard? There's a plant that can prevent COVID-19.

Neighbor: Really? What plant?

Gardener: Plant your behind on your couch and stay home!

Note: There is no regular report from the Garden Club because of the pandemic.

Tips for Hot-Weather Gardening

Scorching hot days are looming, but that doesn't mean your landscape has to fry. Now's the time to perk it up with some heat-hardy plants!

Here are some examples of warm season annuals that are easy to grow and don't take a lot of water to keep them happy!



Marigold – These showy annuals thrive in hot weather and bright sun. Deadhead fading flowers and gangly stems to keep them blooming all summer long.

Pentas – Butterflies and hummingbirds love feasting on the clusters of tiny flowers. Pentas also thrive in container gardens, as they love well-drained soil.

Periwinkle – This popular shade-loving flower, also known as vinca, can be found in a rainbow of colors. It's also highly drought-tolerant and pest-resistant.

Portulaca – Sometimes called sun rose or moss rose, portulaca thrives in full sun and is exceptionally easy to grow, even for beginners.

Purslane – This low-growing annual scoffs at dry, hot South Texas summers. Originally from India and Persia, purslane also looks striking in a hanging basket.

Of course, instead of annuals you could plant a new bed in your garden with hardy drought-tolerant plants that can survive the summer with little to no water – and use the SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupon to help defray some of the cost. Or if you prefer, use the WaterSaver Patioscape Coupon to replace your grass with a pervious patio!

Short on ideas? Visit the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Watersaver Garden and Watersaver Lane at <https://www.sabot.org/explore/featured-attractions/> to get ideas on landscapes that sizzle in the summer heat.



Published and distributed by:
Neighborhood News, Inc.
3740 Colony Drive Suite LL100
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 558-3160 * (210) 558-3163 fax

Info@NeighborhoodNews.com • www.NeighborhoodNews.com

For advertising sales and information please call or send an email to Sales@NeighborhoodNews.com

Articles that appear in the Whispering Oaks newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of Neighborhood News, Inc. and their publication does not constitute an endorsement therein. The appearance of any advertisement in the Whispering Oaks newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Neighborhood News, Inc. of the goods or services advertised. Neighborhood News, Inc. is not responsible for errors beyond the cost of the actual ad space. Any publication of Neighborhood News, Inc., whether draft or final, is the sole property of Neighborhood News, Inc. and cannot be reproduced or distributed in any way, whether in print or electronically, without the express written consent of Neighborhood News, Inc. ©Neighborhood News, Inc.