

# The Whispers

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

## City to Mandate More Removals of Dead and Dying Trees in WO

Some sections of heavily wooded Whispering Oaks are awash with dead and dying trees that pose a serious danger of property destruction and are a threat to both property owners and their neighbors. Last spring, when a long-deceased tall tree on the eastside toppled without warning and narrowly missed a neighbor's home, it served as a reminder of the potentially deadly threats lingering in our midst.

In a meeting last month with the WOHA Board, City Arborist Mark Bird pledged to ramp up periodic inspections of our subdivision, particularly among blocks impacted by oak wilt. It's estimated that over two dozen residences currently have at least one dead or clearly dying mature tree that is likely to be cited by City staff. Some of these trees have been allowed to linger for well over a decade and so are now heavily decayed.

Homeowners who receive a notice from a Code Compliance officer would typically be allowed 30 days to remedy. This typically means complete removal of a dead tree or trimming of large dead branches of a tree which is clearly ill. Property owners will be responsible for all related costs, and because soliciting bids from licensed arborists can be time consuming, WOHA encourages residents likely to receive a notice in the coming weeks to be proactive.

Homeowners often mistakenly assume that only trees near the street or sidewalk pose a safety threat, but the recent incident on the eastside dispels that myth. Bird reaffirmed that trees could be cited regardless of location within a property. WOHA encourages residents to report nearby trees of concern to 311, which alerts appropriate City staff to investigate.

Another myth held by some homeowners is that insurance will cover the cost of tree removal after an incident occurs. However, experts warn that most policies will not cover damages caused by known hazards, such as dead or dying trees. Within the industry, failing to reasonably mitigate an obvious risk is considered negligence.

Because Oak Wilt will continue to ravage Whispering Oaks for the foreseeable future, WOHA offered to assist the City with the establishment of on-going periodic assessments of the subdivision, likely on an annual basis. Development Services Director Mike Shannon also pledged to review the city-wide process of investigating reported hazardous vegetation to ensure that threats are promptly addressed.

City Property Maintenance ordinances prohibit hazardous vegetation and require properties to be maintained in a safe condition. Violators who fail to respond to a citation could face stiff, increasing penalties or even court action.

## Meet New Neighbors in the New Year!



**Everyone is invited to WOHA's Welcome Party for new arrivals to Whispering Oaks!**

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

**at the home of Richard Pressman & Judine Taylor  
11310 Whisper Falls**

**Refreshments provided. Kids welcome. Details at [whisperingoaks.org](http://whisperingoaks.org)**

**Contribution at Door: WOHA Member \$5 Non-Member \$10 Kids free**



2024

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# Peter's Prez-spective

A Letter from the WOHA President



## 2024 is WOHA's Golden Anniversary

In December of 1974, dozens of Whispering Oaks residents met to form a homeowner's association for their new subdivision. With that 50th anniversary approaching later this year, I decided to page through our archives to better understand our founders' motivations. It's remarkable how many issues community leaders wrestled with long ago still remain prominent today.

WOHA volunteers have dutifully collected important documents over the years, but the archives had become a jumble of boxes that had been shuttled among garages and storage lockers. Frankly, I'm surprised we've retained so many documents that shed light on our neighborhood's formation.

The community's developers had broken ground nearly six years earlier, with approximately 450 homes occupied by late 1974. Two development firms, one founded by Lloyd Denton and the other by Lloyd Booth, started in the southeast corner of the tract near Whispering Wind, and various builders had moved so swiftly that homes to the west of Upper Olmos Creek were already underway. The Swim & Tennis Club was owned and operated by Denton, who reportedly built a home on Whisper Meadow that his family occupied for several years.

With the completion of the subdivision in sight, Denton was eager to focus on his Hunter's Creek and Oak Meadow subdivisions to the north. During the early years, he played a hands-on role in our neighborhood, in part to protect his business interests, so the looming departure of the developers would leave a leadership void. Residents attending WOHA's initial meeting already had quality-of-life and safety concerns they believed needed stronger advocacy.

In just over five years, Whispering Oaks had reported nearly 50 burglaries to SAPD. Many were petty thefts committed by area teenagers, but more serious threats haunted the northside. With a rapist at large, several women had been assaulted in some of the new subdivisions to the west. Our residents had reason to be concerned, so one of WOHA's first accomplishments was to hire a security firm, Neighborhood Ranger, to patrol our streets and keep a close eye on homes that opted to pay a fee.

Safety was also a concern along Whisper Valley, which had not been adjoined to Wurzbach yet. Reports of speeding vehicles along the then-narrow, twisted road had residents alarmed. Older children rode motorbikes on the street and also in the creek bed; homeowners complained. Many believed the community needed stronger encouragement for neighborly conduct if the quality of life Whispering Oaks promised would survive. Residents were aware that the Covenants the developers had instilled in every deed spelled out at least some community rules to enable harmony. But, reluctant to confront their neighbors over violations, they hoped a new homeowner's association would play the heavy. But the group's

(Continued on page 3)

*(“Peter’s Prez-spective” continued from page 2)*

leaders were reluctant to oblige, and the controversial task remains debated by board members to this day.

As the economy faltered in the mid-1970s, demand for upscale housing softened, so Denton considered alternative uses for his remaining land. His hopes for a public school on the west side, which prompted the pedestrian bridge across Upper Olmos Creek, had reportedly fallen through with the district and some less-desirable parcels were lingering. The newly founded HOA considered purchasing vacant land adjacent to the partially completed west side tennis courts to convert it to a park, but the idea faced both objections from nearby homeowners and a lack of financial resources. A few years later the group would propose the establishment of a community room as part of Denton’s swim club. WOHA unsuccessfully pitched that potential amenity again to the current club’s leadership team just last year in a partnership that would cost the cash-strapped club nothing to build, operate, or offer for its patrons’ parties. Perhaps the idea will be floated again in another fifty years.

Community tensions rose in 1975 when Denton announced plans for a two-story office complex along the south side of Whisper Quill and an apartment complex along Lockhill-Selma north of Whisper Path. Both were met with fierce resistance from nearby homeowners, who argued that such commercial developments would encroach upon their homes and violate the residential promises which garnered their investments. In early 1976, they prepared for legal action against Denton and his partners, but WOHA helped moderate the dispute by settling out of court. Years later, WOHA would contest several similarly controversial proposals for the nearby vacant lot where the Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy now sits.

By the late 1970s, with the developer’s work mostly finished, WOHA became the primary advocate for the completed community of 752 residences. Social events for children and adults were common, community organizations, including the

Garden Club, flourished, and volunteers tended to entrance landscaping of a community that brought them enormous pride. But WOHA would soon confront a series of threats which could have undermined the neighborhood’s integrity as the area surrounding it developed rapidly.

The group actively lobbied for modifications to TxDot’s plan to extend Wurzbach to NW Military and, later, beyond. It also lobbied City officials for measured development of the Voelcker dairy farm then-abutting Lockhill-Selma, which would become both the Alon shopping complex and Hardberger Park. This protective advocacy is an often overlooked but plays a critical role the board continues to provide today. WOHA partners closely with City leaders to guide responsible development and secure publicly funded improvements that benefit its residents.

For nearly 50 years, that devoted stewardship has made Whispering Oaks what we all enjoy today. And as we enter our golden anniversary year, *The Whispers* will publish more about the important contributions dozens of resident volunteers provided over the decades. The Board will also reveal how it intends to celebrate this milestone and generate enthusiasm for what the next fifty years can bring this wonderful place we call home.

Join

**In The Neighborhood**

for a weekly dive into community matters

Scan the QR code below to sign up for insightful discussions and local highlights, landing in your inbox every Friday!



SCAN ME

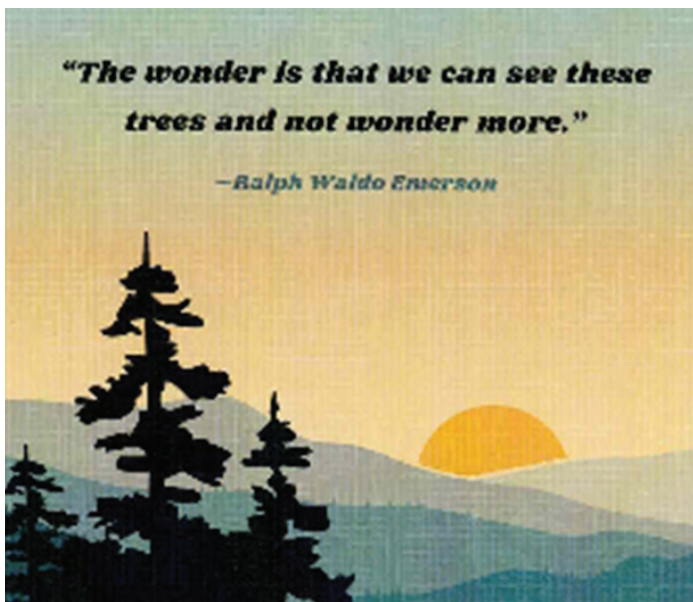
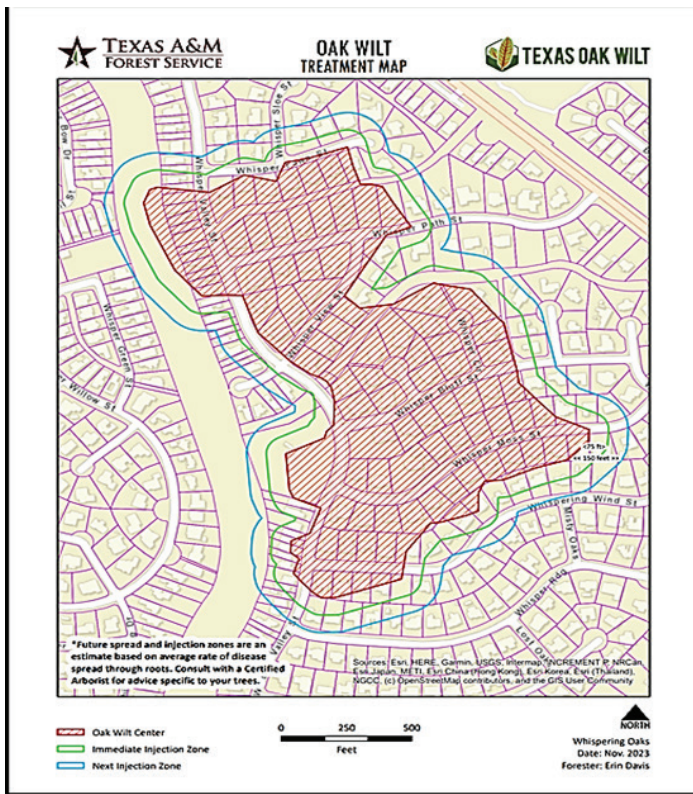
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# Updated Oak Wilt Map Now Online

Texas A&M Forest Service recently updated its map of Oak Wilt progression in Whispering Oaks. Visit [whisperingoaks.org](http://whisperingoaks.org) to determine if it's time to treat your property and avoid costly removals of dead trees.

And don't forget winter is the best time to trim oaks because it avoids the high risk months of early February through late June.



Did you know there is...

## Senior Assistance for Code Violations

### The Program

The Code Enforcement Section is offering a new program to assist the elderly or disabled residents with confirmed violations for lawn or alley maintenance, trash, debris, or a hazard imposed by a tree. To find out if you qualify, call the Code Officer on your violation notice.

### Who Is Eligible?

- You must have a confirmed Code Enforcement Violation for any of the following:
  - » Overgrown vegetation and outside placement (lawn and alley maintenance, trash, or debris)
  - » Tree removal or trimming when posing a hazard
- You must be a minimum of 65 years of age and/or disabled
- You have financial hardship and are on fixed income
- You live in a single-family residence up to a four-unit apartment

### How It Works

- You need to have a confirmed Code violation
- You submit a basic intake/request
- You have your work done by approved City contractor
- City will not bill the resident for abatement services
- Maximum twice per year per household

## Update Your Information for the Upcoming Community Directory

This January, keep an eye on your mailbox, both electronic and physical, for an announcement regarding the upcoming Community Directory. The last edition was produced over two years ago and WOHA expects the updated version to arrive early in the new year.



The mailer will notify you and each residence of the default information WOHA currently has on file and allow for revisions to be made. Many property-owner names are sourced from Bexar County Tax Records or similar public information. You will be given the opportunity to suppress sensitive information, such as email and phone, if desired, but doing so makes it more difficult for nearby neighbors to contact you away from home during an emergency.

The directory will be distributed only to current residents and hand-delivered to qualifying households. As with previous editions, its content will *not* be accessible online.

## Mid-January is a Smart Time to Tend to the Yard

After two severe winter freezes and an awful summer heat wave and drought, Whispering Oaks' native live oaks and other trees and shrubs have suffered enough! It's time to cut back all those dead trees, shrubs and other vegetation making the neighborhood look less than the best it should.

Our area's winter Brush Collection is scheduled to start on **Monday, January 22nd**. Residents pay monthly for this twice-a-year service (January & July) billed in their City Public Service fee for garbage collection.

- Only brush—tree trimmings, shrubs and organic material—will be collected.
- All materials should be placed within 8 feet of the front curb and not under overhanging tree branches.
- Please do not block water meters or mailboxes. Avoid placing piles too near parked cars.
- Leaves in paper bags will be picked up by a separate crew—scheduled only by calling 311.

**Note:** Many tree-trimming contractors will approach WO homeowners at this time to offer their services. **All contractors are required by a City of San Antonio ordinance to have a CoSA-issued tree-maintenance license and insurance. Also, the City ordinance REQUIRES ALL cuts to Oaks be painted within 30 minutes!** Please help prevent Oak Wilt from spreading into unaffected areas of Whispering Oaks by observing these two ordinances.

Save money by taking advantage of the City's brush collection this month. Contractors who do not have to haul trimmings to the City landfill should charge less during this time.

## Spring Cleaning

### Should Whispering Oaks have a Community Garage Sale?



Volunteers are wanted to organize a neighborhood garage sale day, probably planned for a Saturday in March or April. If enough residents are interested, the Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association will make signs and provide newspaper and social media advertising.

Volunteers willing to coordinate this event should contact WOHA via [whisperingoaks.org](http://whisperingoaks.org) before February 1.


### Leaves, Leaves, and More Leaves!

Just a reminder: It's a violation of city ordinances to blow or rake leaves into the street! Leaves and other organic debris should be placed into the green Organics cart for City crews or be placed into paper bags for curbside pick-up by calling 311. City crews WILL NOT pick up leaves in plastic bags.




Paper leaf bags may be purchased at HEB, Lowe's, and Home Depot. City crews will make a "free" one-time collection in the spring and in the fall, so it's recommended to wait until all leaves have been bagged *before* calling 311 to schedule the pick-up date.

Get ready!  
**Green Waste Pickup**  
 will begin  
**Monday, January 22**



## CPS OFFICE HOURS

**AT WALKER RANCH SENIOR CENTER**



CPS will be having office hours from  
**9:30-11:30AM every 1st Thursday** of the month at WRSC

AND at West Ave Compassion food drive every 1st  
 Tuesday of the month

**Questions about  
 your energy bill?  
 Come talk to us!**

Ad



## And the Winners Are...

It was difficult to choose, but nine pink flamingos pulling a sleigh, a life-sized singing and dancing Santa, and a Santa Fe-style home with *farolitos* won out over dozens of decorated homes in Whispering Oaks this holiday season.

**The Ericksons**, at 11118 Whisper Meadow, took the Grand Prize of a \$100 HEB gift card for their flamingo-centric displays. Receiving \$50 HEB gift cards were the two runners-up: **the Muse family**, at 11010 Whisper Ridge, had Santa and his dog singing in English and Spanish at the front door, and **the Bixenman and Zinsmeyer** home at 11302 Whisper Willow used traditional Mexican-style lighting around the roofline.

Both sides of the neighborhood are worth the drive to see all types of colorful lights, inflatable and tinsel figures, wreaths, garlands, and Nativity scenes. Even an Annunciation scene is visible in the window of a Whisper Path home.

The Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association thanks all the residents who have decorated their homes with holiday spirit this year.

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## West Side Story!

Here are photos of what some of your neighbors came up with to celebrate the holiday season. Maybe next year, if Santa says the East Side has been good, your editor can feature decorations from there. Remember, Santa's watching!

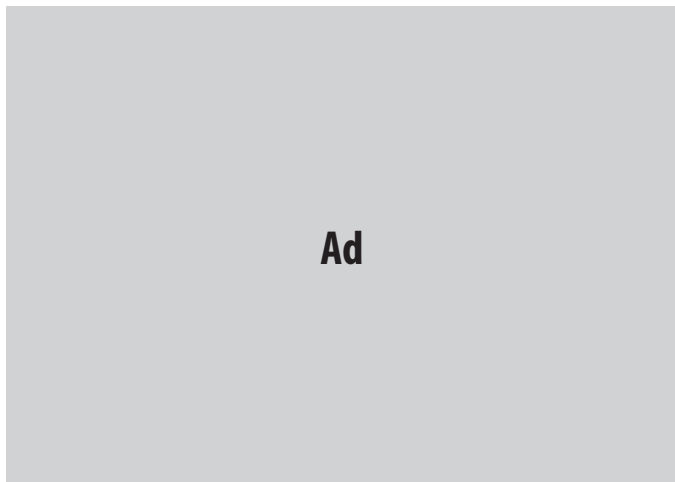
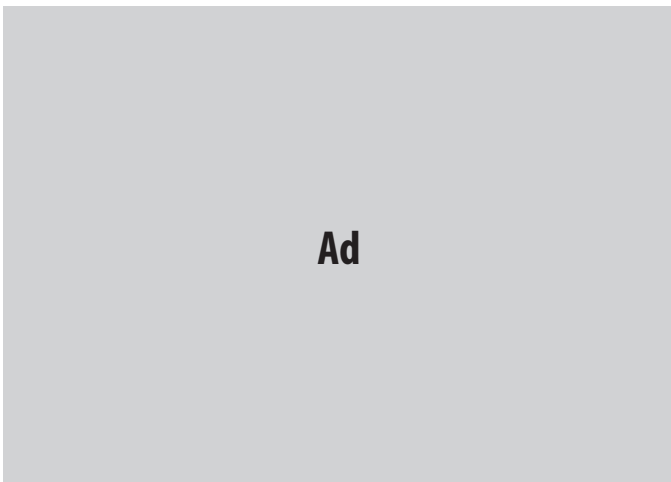
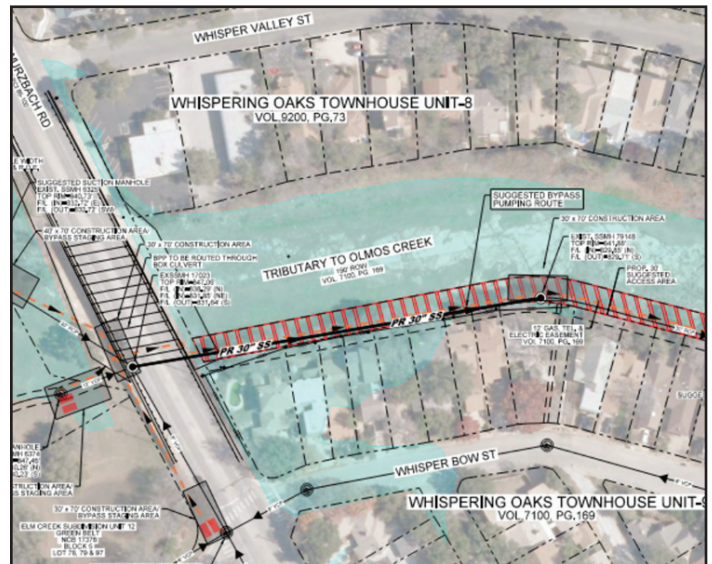


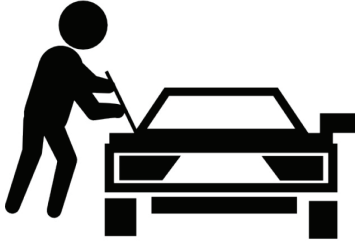
# What Was Going On in Olmos Creek?

Below is a map of the sewer line that runs to and under Wurzbach Road in Olmos Creek. Over several weeks in November, crews cleaned, put new lids on, and built an above-ground bypass to circumvent the old line. They neither trenched nor installed a pipe, but instead put a new pipe inside the old one by inserting a heavy-duty felt tube impregnated with resin into the original (or "host" pipe). Then they circulated hot water to kick off a reaction in the resin which turned the felt and resin into a HDPE, a PVC-type product.

After about 48 hours, there was a fully structural new pipe inside the old one. The aboveground pipeline running under the bridge (bypass) conveys the sewer around the segment they worked on while the new pipe cured in place. This way, the structure should have about 50 years more of life.

While the work was being done, because of the heavy equipment involved, there were some difficulties with traffic and even parking. But it's all done now!





## Car Break-Ins and Theft

It's happening right here in Whispering Oaks (and neighboring areas as well). Youngsters, some as young as middle school, are breaking into cars and even stealing them. It's common knowledge that people leave guns in their cars, usually "hidden" in glove compartments, so that is often what the thieves are looking for. And it appears that these youngsters have been bragging for months about their exploits.

Here's some history and then an update from the Police Department: On 9 October, a teen with what appeared to be a gun was caught on camera scoping out the car of a Whispering Oaks neighbor. It appears that when the thieves break into cars, they take what want and toss the rest into trash bins at a school. On 20 October, a WO neighbor reported that a teen with what appeared to be a gun attempted to enter a car. Another neighbor reported a similar incident.

According to Joe Frank Picazo, Assistant to the Director of Police, there have been multiple suspects identified and warrants have been issued. Of course, since they are juveniles, they cannot be identified to the public. Meanwhile, the police are actively engaged in the area. Officer Picazo urges that, should you see anything suspicious that is not of an emergency nature, you contact our SAFFE Officer, Troy Holmes, at 210-400-0790. SAFFE stands for San Antonio for a Fear-Free Environment.

## Don't Get Scammed!

**Here's solid advice from the investment company TIAA:** No one wants to fall victim to a scam and knowledge is power. We identified scam tactics and provided tips to recognize red flags so you can keep yourself safe from scammers.

### What you need to know about scams:

Scammers are calling, emailing or texting their victims, impersonating employees of businesses, financial institutions and government agencies.

Here are some tactics scammers use:

- A tech support company 'representative' informs you of fake computer issues and requests you send them money or grant them access to your computer.

- 'Representatives' from government agencies such as the IRS, FBI, Social Security Administration, or other officials, indicate you must take an action immediately.
- Falsified Caller IDs to convince you they are real.
- Urgent requests for you to send money via cryptocurrency, gift cards or money transfers to address a made-up story or need.

### Five tips to prevent getting scammed:

1. Legitimate companies and government agencies will **never** ask for payment in the form of gift cards, money transfers, or cryptocurrency.
2. Never provide any personal or financial information to anyone who contacts you via an unsolicited email, phone call, or text message.
3. Always remain cautious of callers using high-pressure tactics to get you to act quickly.
4. If you're unsure, hang up and call the company or agency directly using the number listed on their official website.
5. Always keep all your software and antivirus programs up to date.

### What to do if you've been scammed, or think you have:

If you have received any unsolicited calls, texts or emails matching the descriptions mentioned above, **do not respond** but take the following actions.

- File a complaint at the Internet Crime Complaint Center.
- Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission.

## Boo!

Perhaps a good idea for scaring away the baddies:



—Culled from Nextdoor.com





In November, members of the Garden Club enjoyed a tour of the Walker Ranch Senior Center. Those there for the first time were amazed at the number of activities offered. And it's all free to seniors.

We capped off the year on 21 December in downtown San Antonio with a lovely luncheon at the elegant Club Giraud.

In January we will once again gather to prepare dozens of Valentine gift bags for the residents of the Sarah Roberts French Home near Woodlawn Lake. This is one of our projects for the Garden Therapy Program assigned to us by the San Antonio Garden Center.

At the February meeting, the presentation will be how to choose and grow native plants.

In March, ours will be one of the hostess clubs at the First Wednesday meeting at the Garden Center.

There is always much to look forward to as a WOGC member. It's never too late to join us. For more information, call President JoAnn Aguilera at 210-394-5234 or V.P. Corie Dilley at 210-215-1458.

*"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." — William Shakespeare*

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." — Helen Keller*



*The Garden Club gang at the Senior Center*

*Yard of the Month*

**November 2023**  
Fred & Peggy Schultz—3003 Whisper Fern

There was no Yard of the Month for December.

### WOHA Seeks Documents for Its Historical Archives

Over the decades, dozens of resident-volunteers have served on the WOHA board, and WOHA is asking them to scout for any documents that could be copied for the organization's archives. The group intends to review important milestones in preparation for its golden anniversary.

Of particular interest are photos of community events from over the past 50 years, and newsletters and board-meeting minutes from the 1980s and '90s. Residents are asked to crack open their storage boxes to help us create a trip down memory lane. Former board members are also encouraged to reach out to their counterparts who may no longer live in the community and therefore not see this posting.

Every document will be appreciated. Our secretary will even go to your home to retrieve and then return them. Please contact us via [whisperingoaks.org](http://whisperingoaks.org).



## The Last Leaf

*Since it's the heaviest leaf-falling time of the year, perhaps you will find this story, "The Last Leaf," was one of the most prominent of the short stories of the famous writer O. Henry, pen name of William Sydney Porter, who spent two years in San Antonio, and the house he lived in is preserved as a museum on South Presa Street. This is a condensed version of "The Last Leaf," a story about two young women painters named Johnsy and Sue and an old man who dreamed of painting a masterpiece before he died.*

Toward winter a cold stranger entered Greenwich Village. No one could see him. Mr. Pneumonia was not a nice old gentleman. A nice old gentleman would not hurt a weak little woman from California. But Mr. Pneumonia touched Johnsy with his cold fingers. She lay on her bed almost without moving, and she looked through the window at the wall of the house next to hers. One morning, the busy doctor spoke to Sue alone in the hall, where Johnsy could not hear. "She has a very small chance," he said. "She has a chance, if she wants to live. If people don't want to live, I can't do much for them. Your little lady has decided that she is not going to get well."

Then she walked into Johnsy's room. She carried some of her painting materials, and she was singing. Johnsy lay there, very thin and very quiet. Her face was turned toward the window. Sue stopped singing, thinking that Johnsy was asleep. Sue began to work. As she worked, she heard a low sound, again and again. She went quickly to the bedside. Johnsy's eyes were open wide. She was looking out the window and counting—counting back. "Twelve," she said; and a little later, "Eleven"; and then, "Ten," and, "Nine"; and then, "Eight," and, "Seven," almost together. Sue looked out the window. What was there to count? There was only the side wall of the next house, a short distance away. The wall had no window. An old, old tree grew against the wall. The cold breath of winter had already touched it. Almost all its leaves had fallen from its dark branches. "What is it, dear?" asked Sue. "Six," said Johnsy, in a voice still lower. "They're falling faster now. Three days ago, there were almost a hundred. It hurt my head to count them. But now it's easy. There goes another one. There are only five now." "Five what, dear? Tell your Sue."

"Leaves. On the tree. When the last one falls, I must go, too. I've known that for three days. Didn't the doctor tell you?" "Tell me as soon as you have finished," said Johnsy. She closed her eyes and lay white and still. "Because I want to see the last leaf fall. I have done enough waiting. I have done enough thinking. I want to go sailing down, down, like one of those leaves."

Later that day, Old Behrman, a painter who lived on the first floor of their house, visited. He was past sixty. He had had no success as a painter. For forty years he had painted, without ever painting a good picture. He had always talked of painting a great picture, a masterpiece, but he had never yet started it. He got a little money by letting others paint pictures of him. He drank too much. He still talked of his great masterpiece. And he believed that it was his special duty to do everything possible to help Sue and Johnsy.

She worked through most of the night. In the morning, after an hour's sleep, she went to Johnsy's bedside. Johnsy with wide-open eyes was looking toward the window. "I want to see," she told Sue. Sue took the cover from the window. But after the beating rain and the wild wind that had not stopped through the whole night,

there still was one leaf to be seen against the wall. It was the last on the tree. It was still dark green near the branch. But at the edges it was turning yellow with age. There it was hanging from a branch nearly twenty feet above the ground. "It is the last one," said Johnsy. "I thought it would surely fall during the night. I heard the wind. It will fall today, and I shall die at the same time." "Dear, dear Johnsy!" said Sue. "Think of me, if you won't think of yourself. What would I do?"

The day slowly passed. As it grew dark, they could still see the leaf hanging from its branch against the wall. And then, as the night came, the north wind began again to blow. The rain still beat against the windows. When it was light enough the next morning, Johnsy again commanded that she be allowed to see. The leaf was still there. Johnsy lay for a long time looking at it. And then she called to Sue, who was cooking something for her to eat. "I've been a bad girl, Sue," said Johnsy. "Something has made that last leaf stay there to show me how bad I was. It is wrong to want to die. I'll try to eat now. But first bring me a looking-glass, so that I can see myself. And then I'll sit up and watch you cook."

The doctor came in the afternoon. Sue followed him into the hall outside Johnsy's room to talk to him. "The chances are good," said the doctor. He took Sue's thin, shaking hand in his. "Give her good care, and she'll get well. And now I must see another sick person in this house. His name is Behrman. A painter, I believe. Pneumonia, too. Mike is an old, weak man, and he is very ill. There is no hope for him. But we take him to the hospital today."

And the next afternoon Sue came to the bed where Johnsy lay. She put one arm around her. "I have something to tell you," she said. "Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia today in the hospital. He was ill only two days. Someone found him on the morning of the first day, in his room. He was helpless with pain. His shoes and his clothes were wet and as cold as ice. Everyone wondered where he had been. And then they found some things. There was a light that he had taken outside. And there were his materials for painting. There was paint, green paint and yellow paint. And— Look out the window, dear, at the last leaf on the wall. Didn't you wonder why it never moved when the wind was blowing? Oh, my dear it is Behrman's great masterpiece—he painted it there the night that the last leaf fell."

*Ah, how depressing would it be if more and more of our beautiful Whispering Oaks Oak trees were to die! After all, that's our name—Whispering Oaks!*

Ad



## Whispering Oaks Sales

Oct–Dec 2023

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini,  
Resident Realtor®

	Price	Per Sq. Ft.
<b>Sold listings – 1</b>	\$565,000	\$216
<b>Active – 4</b>		
High	\$499,750	\$198
Low	\$325,000	\$138
<b>Active – 3</b>		
Median	\$445,000	\$183

For the month of October, the San Antonio Board of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service (MLS) shows the average price of properties held steady with a year-on-year change of 0%, resting at \$379,206. Similarly, the median price remained consistent at \$319,420, demonstrating stability in the market values. The average residential rental stands at \$1,822, maintaining its competitive edge within the region. Despite a marginal 1% decrease year-on-year, the price per square foot remains attractive at \$180. Properties stayed on the market for an average of 66 days, marking a notable 47% increase from the previous year.

## Wanna Read Sumpin' Funny?

Category: Trying to get a job

A job seeker at an office was filling out an application. After writing in his address, he was asked, "Length of residence?"

The applicant wrote, "One acre."

After two stress-filled years of preparing for, then taking, a professional certification test, a young man gets the results in the mail.

Thrilled, he exclaimed, "I passed!" He then texted his family the good news.

But his excitement waned when after receiving this reply from his sister:

"We are so excited to hear of your passing. Let us know when the family will be celebrating!"

## Y Otro en Español

Dos monjas están pidiendo contribuciones para su congregación.

"Por favor, una limosnita. Somos hermanas de Cristo."

"¡Qué bien se conservan!"

El rabino ve pasar a un cura amigo en un auto de cero kilómetro. "¿Te compraste un auto? ¿Lo vas a bautizar?"

"Claro. Le voy a echar agua vendida."

Al tiempo, el rabino también se compra un auto y el cura lo encuentra. "¡Qué lindo!" dice el cura. ¿Lo bautizaste?

"¡Sí! Le cortó un poquito el caño de escape..."

## Our Gal Has Done It!

At the 9 November 2023 Legends Gala banquet, our own **Yvonne Katz, Ed.D.**, long-time resident of Whispering Oaks, was honored, for, as the program stated, "Having profoundly contributed to the Region. Through [her] unwavering passion, resilience, and determination [she has] transformed our business landscape and played an instrumental role in shaping our community and the South Texas Region."



Dr. Katz accepting her award

Dr. Katz received a special award from the South Side Chamber and the South Business Community for her work to bring businesses to the southside when she was Superintendent of the Harlandale ISD, from 1984 to 1992. She moved from her Whispering Oaks home of over 2000 square feet to a southside home of 800 square feet and lived there for the entire time she headed the District. Prior to becoming Superintendent of Harlandale ISD, Dr. Katz worked on many statewide committees to improve education. Her work at the state level helped all 1600 school districts improve education for students. She was selected as "Superintendent of the Year" for two consecutive years in Texas—which never before had happened nor since!

She also served as Superintendent of the Beaverton School District with 45,000 students in Beaverton, Oregon, for ten years. The NIKE Shoe Company campus was two blocks from her central office. She returned to her teaching school district of Spring Branch ISD in Houston as Superintendent for a final three years in her career. Dr. Katz retired in 2004 and returned to her home in Whispering Oaks.

Dr. Katz has also served on the Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees for almost 12 years, representing our area of town. As well, she chaired the Board for a two-year period when she helped define and get passed the last bond issue of over \$450 million for the Alamo College District. Dr. Katz continues to serve on state and federal school boards to set challenging goals for educational improvement.



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