

The Whispers

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

Community Trees Get Overdue Safety trimming

Last month WOHHA spent nearly \$6000 trimming perimeter trees along Wurzbach. The work was necessary to mitigate the threat of damage and disease.

These are expenses that conform to the law and that help keep Whispering Oaks the beautiful neighborhood it is—which is not to mention its keeping up the value of every home up.

But why is this necessary? If the branches are too long, passing trucks often knock them off. Since the breaks are not being painted, there is a high chance of Oak Wilt developing—which then spreads to our residents' trees. And by the time the City can get around to doing the trimming, it's just too late.

That's why the support of members is so important. Please do your share by joining WOHHA at whisperingoaks.org.

WOHHA Offers Reward for Westside Graffiti Vandal

A prolific graffiti vandal has repeatedly tagged properties along Lockhill-Selma, so WOHHA is offering a reward for information leading to his arrest. Since the holidays, the culprit has left his "geek" insignia over two dozen times in a one-mile stretch.



WOHHA has been assisting SAPD, who have obtained witness descriptions as a white or Hispanic male in his early 20s who frequently wears a knit beanie cap and a small blue backpack with string straps. He has been spotted vandalizing nearby businesses as early as 7:00 p.m. on weekends. It's possible he uses the bus as his primary mode of transportation and frequents gaming stores in the area. His mark has been seen along other major roadways even miles away, but Lockhill-Selma has borne the brunt of his wrath.

No surface seems to evade his spray can. Walls, fences, dumpsters, utility boxes, bus benches, bridges, curbs, a school, shops, restaurants, gas stations, signage, and even an SAPD roadside radar trailer have all been tagged with a variety of colors. The Whispering Oaks community wall was sprayed numerous times, including the entrance monument at Whispering Wind twice. Because the affected portions of the wall belong to the respective homeowners, WOHHA has offered assistance to its members with the cleanup.

(Continued on page 3)

It's FREE!

at the POOL!

Whispering Oaks Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 23rd
10am - 10:30am
Games & Crafts
10:30 - 11:30

VOLUNTEER

Please contact Rich Shevlin (rtshevlin@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to donate candy, prizes or decorations.

We need adult or teen volunteers to help run the games! You can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6080C49A9AB2DA4FC1-whispering>

★ CASH REWARD ★



Up to \$250 Paid for Information Leading to Arrest of Graffiti Vandal along Lockhill-Selma



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Peter's Prez-spective

A Letter from the WOHA President

Perhaps It's Time to Finally Build That Community Room

In my last column, I mentioned that residents have longed for a community room within Whispering Oaks for decades. WOHA's archives indicate the idea was first raised nearly fifty years ago, but the project never got off the ground. What a shame. Think of all the neighborhood gatherings and fun we've been missing.

Nearby subdivisions smaller than Whispering Oaks have community rooms and some of our residents drive miles to rent them for special events because we don't have one here. Imagine the types of activities which could be hosted inside a large, empty room conveniently accessible to our residents.

Visualize the concept for a moment. A cool, air-conditioned, mosquito-free gathering spot within walking distance of your home that hosts a myriad of activities for low or no cost. A simple community room could be so much more than just a place to host children's birthday parties in order to avoid Kool-Aid stains on your living room rug.

A variety of classes could be offered for young, old, and everyone in between. While I can't be convinced to drive across town in rush hour traffic to sweat in a noisy, crowded gym, I would certainly walk down the street to friendly exercise classes. I'm sure my creaky bones would benefit from yoga, pilates, or any routine that allows me to lie on a comfy mat.

I could also be coaxed into regular games of bridge, Texas Hold Em, or Mah Jongg. Perhaps some neighbors would be willing to discretely wager with leftover Halloween candy rather than cash. I tend to overbuy every year, so those Skittles need a new home.

Our community clubs could use the space not just for meetings, but to host guest speakers and exhibits on issues that pique our collective curiosity. We could host presentations by city staff and council persons as well. A room of just 1000 square feet could seat around 60 guests comfortably. And folding tables could make the spacious room an ideal prep area for club projects.

Then, of course, there's always the potential for parties. A countertop and sink could enable social events where neighbors bond over food and drinks for various holidays and causes. WOHA's annual New Neighbors Welcoming Party could be catered for far less than what is spent at a restaurant miles away.

And don't forget convenient voting. It wasn't long ago that Whispering Oaks residents could cast their ballots right here in the neighborhood with barely a wait. The county pays locations to host a polling station.

Clearly, the possibilities are endless and all would enhance our collective quality of life. In hindsight, we probably should have built a simple community room decades ago. Perhaps WOHA's upcoming golden anniversary would be better late than never.



Submit Revisions for the Community Directory by April 1

An updated Whispering Oaks Community Directory will be published this spring and each household has been given the opportunity to verify the information that will appear. Your property should have received a mailer within the past few weeks showing what data

WOHA has on file and will appear unless revisions are requested by mail before the April 1 deadline.

As with previous editions, the printed Directory will only be distributed to Whispering Oaks residents and will not be visible online.

The new edition will indicate households which are current WOHA members with a star. If you haven't paid your 2024 dues yet, there's still time to enroll and earn your star. To pay online or print a mail-in form, visit whisperingoaks.org



("Graffiti Reward" continued from page 1)

The WOHA website offers a reward of up to \$250; respondents can remain anonymous. SAPD strongly encourages affected properties to file police reports, which can aid prosecutors in seeking maximum penalties when the culprit is apprehended.



The Tennis Park at Whispering Oaks is a Membership based club. Members of The Tennis Park at Whispering Oaks, in good standing may reserve the tennis courts online at <https://sites.onlinecourtreservations.com/>. See our reservation and guest fees information online.

Dive into the Tennis Park Summer Camp for a smashing time! Kids aged 6-16, no matter their skill level, are in for a treat! Our coaches split them into groups based on age and skills, ensuring a tailored experience. From nailing the basics to perfecting tricky moves, your little athlete will ace forehands, backhands, serves, and net play. With fun games and match simulations, they'll not just up their tennis game but also learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and fall in love with the sport. Serve up a summer jam-packed with racquets, courts, and unforgettable moments! Sign up online at www.thetennispark.com.

The Tennis Park offers league tennis and private or group lessons. Staff Information:

Executive Director:
Karen Mannheimer:
210-391-2328

In-House Leagues Leagues:
Brenda Bowerman:
210-508-3969

Director of Tennis:
Scott Wilbur:
210-325-7861

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210-313-9492
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Whispering Oaks Resident



Intn'l Women's Day (March 8)

Women's Entrepreneur Fair: Showcase and support local women entrepreneurs by organizing a fair where they can display and sell their products, fostering a sense of community and empowerment.



Earth Day (April 22)

Neighborhood Clean-Up Day: Coordinate a community clean-up event where neighbors work together to beautify the neighborhood, emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability.



MARCH 2024

- March 17th** - St. Patrick's Day
- March 19th** - Spring Equinox
- March 29** - No School
- March 31st** - Easter



APRIL 2024

- April 1st** - April Fools Day
- April 15th** - Tax Day
- April 18-28** - SA Fiesta
- April 22nd** - Earth Day
- April 26th** - Bttl. Flowers/Arbor Day - No School
- April 27th** - Flambeau Night Parade



MAY 2024

- May 12th** - Mother's Day
- May 27^h** - Memorial Day, No School

JUNE 2024

- June 16th** - Father's Day
- June 19th** - Juneteenth



Upcoming WOHA Member Board Meetings

All Board meetings are open to dues-paying members. If you wish to be on the agenda, please advise the President. All meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, except December, unless otherwise posted. All meetings are held at the Adante Independent Living Facility, 2739 Cembola Blvd., in the Game Room on the second floor and last up to two hours. Upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday, 9 April, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, 14 May, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, 11 June, 6:30 p.m.**

Whispering Oaks Online Communications

Join our Facebook page and Nextdoor Whispering Oaks HOA group for up-to-date information on events and other important news about our neighborhood.



Facebook:

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association SA



NextDoor:

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association group

Contact the HOA board and join the HOA at <https://www.whisperingoaks.org/>

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." —Henry Ford

Poison Control is a Phone Call Away

Emergency is 911, but there's another number you should post by the phone: Poison Control is 800-222-1222. If you have pets or know someone who does, don't forget Animal Poison Control at 888-426-4435. Having these numbers by the phone can save valuable time in an emergency.



SPEED LIMIT

WOHA Seeks Speed Limit Signs

A quick survey of our community entrances revealed a surprising lack of speed limit signs. Whispering Oaks technically has seven roadways feeding into the neighborhood but only two have signs reminding motorists to drive no faster than 30 mph in most places.

It's very likely that all of these incoming streets had speed limit signs decades ago when the community was formed. What happened to them over time is a bit of a mystery, but the Board has asked Public Works to verify if replacements are warranted under current ordinances. If so, new signs could be popping up this spring.

Some of these main thoroughfares generate frequent complaints of speeding vehicles. Motorists along Whispering Wind, Whisper Valley, and Whisper Willow cause the most concern. Sections of many neighborhood streets can be narrow and windy, which can impair the visibility of even the most conscientious driver.

A few of our main roadways have deterrents such as speed bumps, but the City has strict criteria on where additional bumps could be installed, and not all streets would qualify, even if residents petitioned for them. Nonetheless, the WOHA board is committed to advocating for alternative enhancements that keep residents safe, and the Board welcomes any suggestions via whisperingoaks.org

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- Purchase certified copies of Marriage License
- Register your Cattle Brand
- Research & purchase certified copies of Real Property Records
- Get information on the Bexar County Clerk's GIS Foreclosure Map

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Our Wonderful Community Pool Seeks Your Help

Dear Whispering Oaks Neighbors:

Thank you to all those who have been able to financially support your neighborhood pool over the years. Your support is greatly appreciated and, more importantly, necessary. I know there are many neighbors who have never joined the neighborhood pool—which is certainly understandable—while others have been faithful members for years.



Memberships have helped sustain the pool since it opened years ago. Whispering Oaks residents have volunteered countless hours of their time and their energy to keep this neighborhood gem operating. Our pool gives us the opportunity to enjoy some time to relax or hang out with family and friends. Through our neighborhood Swim



Team, children have the opportunity to learn to swim or even compete in swim meets. And being on the Swim Team affords children the opportunity to make new friends and for the parents to do the same. Through the generosity of this neighborhood, we intend to offer these opportunities for many years to come.

If you can see the value of having this wonderful facility in your neighborhood, we are reaching out to you. If your family



has enjoyed some hot summer days (or cold winter days) in your neighborhood pool, we are reaching out to you. ***We are reaching out to you for some financial help. Our pool badly needs to be resurfaced.*** Most pools need to be resurfaced every 8–10 years, but we have stretched the last resurfacing to last almost 20 years. Some rebar is showing through, plaster is coming up in places, and cracks in the baby pool walls are appearing. Current resurfacing bids range from \$60k–\$100k! Fortunately, we have been able to save a little money over the last few years (typically the pool breaks even each year). We want to avoid taking out a loan to pay for these repairs, which can be expensive. Hopefully, with a good fundraising push and some generous donations, we can make this happen. Any amount of donation is greatly appreciated!



Our website is woswimclub.org

You can click the “Donate” tab to make a donation or the “Membership” tab if you would like to join.

Checks for donations can also be mailed to:

WOSC

P.O. Box 781323, San Antonio, TX 78278

*Thank you for any support,
WO Pool Board President*

- Brent Eilers

It's almost time to get wet...

WO Swim Team

Currently Seeking



Team Sponsors!
 Email teamsabluemarlin@gmail.com
 for more info

Swim Team Committee Parents! Email
teamsabluemarlin@gmail.com

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2024 season!

On-line registration is soon! Program runs from May through the end of June.

The first three weeks, offer afternoon/evening-only practices because school is still in session. Then we switch to morning practice times. Evening practice will be limited in size and all attending must be pre-approved and assigned to the sessions by the coach and/or team rep. As we approach the registration date, additional dates and times will be posted on our site.



We encourage you to enroll your swimmer in this learn-to-swim program. It is an excellent way for your child/children to learn to swim, to meet other families in the neighborhood, and to build lasting friendships. Swimmers will get to show off their talents by participating in swim meets with other teams as well. Participation is not mandatory, but our goal is for 95% of our swimmers to participate.

We allow swimmers from outside the neighborhood as well, so we encourage members to invite their friends. Dates and logistics are still being worked out, so please go directly to whisperingoaksbluemarlin.swimtopia.com for the latest information and to sign-up. For information not found on the site, send an email to teamsabluemarlin@gmail.com. Please be sure to include your contact number. Please include your name in the text.

Happy swimming!

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Annual New Neighbor's Party

This time, Sunday, 28 January, we tried something a little different. We held the Annual New Neighbor's Party at the home of long-time residents Judine Taylor and Richard Pressman. Truly, a good time was had by all in the cozier venue than a restaurant. Some half-dozen new-resident owners came, either singly or in couples.

The great variety of food from HEB Catering contributed to the warm atmosphere, as old and new residents mingled, all thoroughly enjoying themselves. Thanks go out to, first, our hosts, and then to the other planners: Adelle Barnette and Corie Dilley.

Sorry 'bout not having any pix. Next time!

THANK YOU!

In Loving Memory

Richard Zabransky

58, a long-time resident on Whisper Valley, passed away 23 December 2023 after a sudden illness. A native of Yoakum, Texas, Richard was a music teacher and elementary school counsellor. The site of several neighborhood gatherings, the Zabransky home housed a large church organ and was frequently decorated for many holidays. Richard gladly played organs in many church celebrations and services.



WHISPERING OAKS GARDEN CLUBBING

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."
— Lady Bird Johnson

"He that plants trees loves others besides himself."
— Thomas Fuller

Big Doings @ The Garden Club



Front row: Corie Dille, Lucinda Crane, Emma Terrazas, Betty Lezanic, Teresa Walker Middle row: Isabel Cervantes, Laura Ehnstrom, Sylvia Romo, Diane Crawford, Cathy Blanca, Denise Schneider, Diane Terrazas, Letty Tijerina Back row: Diana Krauskopf, Caroline Wernli, JoAnn Aguilera, Judine Taylor, Suzanne Stewart, Colleen Escamilla



Standing with the newly filled gift bags are, L to R, Betty Lezanic, Valerie Mawi, Tammy Anderson, and Ann Parsons

What fun we had at the January Garden Club meeting!

We started by decorating 55 gift bags with Valentine hearts and sparkles donated by member Letty Tijerina. Then we filled each bag with a pair of gripper socks purchased by the club, and a variety of toiletry items donated by members. The bags were delivered to the Sarah Roberts French Home to be distributed to the residents in February. Special thanks to:

- Betty Lezanic** for serving as liaison with staff and leading the annual SRF service project
- Letty Tijerina** for donations of bags and decoration supplies
- Teresa Walker** for delivering to SRF with Betty
- All members who donated** designated travel sized supplies (shampoo, lotion, body wash, Kleenex)



L to R: Laura Ehnstrom, Jeanie Ruffini, Letty Tijerina, Becky Smock, Sue Marcum, Teresa Walker, Suzanne Stewart



Betty Lezanic (left) and Terri Richardson, Activity Director at the Sarah Roberts French Retirement Home unload Garden Club gifts for the residents.

In the February through May meetings, the club members will learn about native plants, help host a morning coffee at the SA Garden Center where we will have a presentation by the president of the SA Cactus and Xerophyte Society, host the annual Quad-Club Luncheon and Style Show, nominate and elect new officers for our club, and then relax and enjoy our evening party for guests and spouses in May.

By Ann Parsons

Advice from a Sunflower
 Know your roots. Spread seeds of happiness.
 Rise, shine, and hold your head up high.
 Keep your face to the sunshine.
 Keep growing. — Nicole Basque



For Those of Moderate Income Home Repairs Got You Down?

Texas residents have access to multiple home repair resources through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). Residents can visit their website to search programs available by city or county.

One home repair program administered by the TDHCA is the Home Investment Partnerships program (<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/hhsc/docs/video-transcripts/HomeRepair.pdf>). The program assists those in owner-occupied homes with major repairs and may even provide assistance to completely rebuild a damaged home, if needed. The program helps low-income homeowners who have paid their property taxes on time, have proof of ownership of their home, and can provide a clear title.

For more info on this program and other home repair programs available to senior citizens in Texas, you can visit the THDCA program database (<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>).

Aging residents in Texas who are also veterans can search for home repair or rehabilitation assistance through the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The VA administers all government-provided benefits for veterans.

Elder Options of Texas is an online hub for senior citizen resources in Texas. You can log on to the website (<https://www.elderoptionsoftexas.com/>) and input your region to find all kinds of resources for local senior living.



**KNOW WHAT'S
BELOW.
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**

Always call 811 before you begin an excavation project, even small ones, so that all utilities can be identified and marked. Dig with care. Damages are avoided when safe digging procedures are followed.

So call 811 before you dig!

Wanna Read Sumpin' Funny?

A grand old hotel in town, called the Sassafras, was going to be remodeled, and its beautiful Maplewood doors were to be sold off. So Mr. and Mrs. Mc Gillicuddy, owning a 19th-century, rather grand house, decided to buy some and have them installed in their home.

Showing a dinner guest around the house, they proudly pointed out, "Many of these doors are from the famed Sassafras Hotel.

The guest, unmoved, responded, "Gee, most people just steal the towels!"

Y Otro en Español

Antonito le comenta a su padre, "Papá, cuando sea grande, quiero ser imbécil!"

"¿Qué coas tontas se te ocurren, hijo! ¿De dónde has sacado eso?"

"Es por lo que tú dices: 'Mira a ese imbécil qué hebra tiene, Mira a ese imbécil qué carro tan impresionante tiene, o Mira a ese imbécil que mansión tiene...'"

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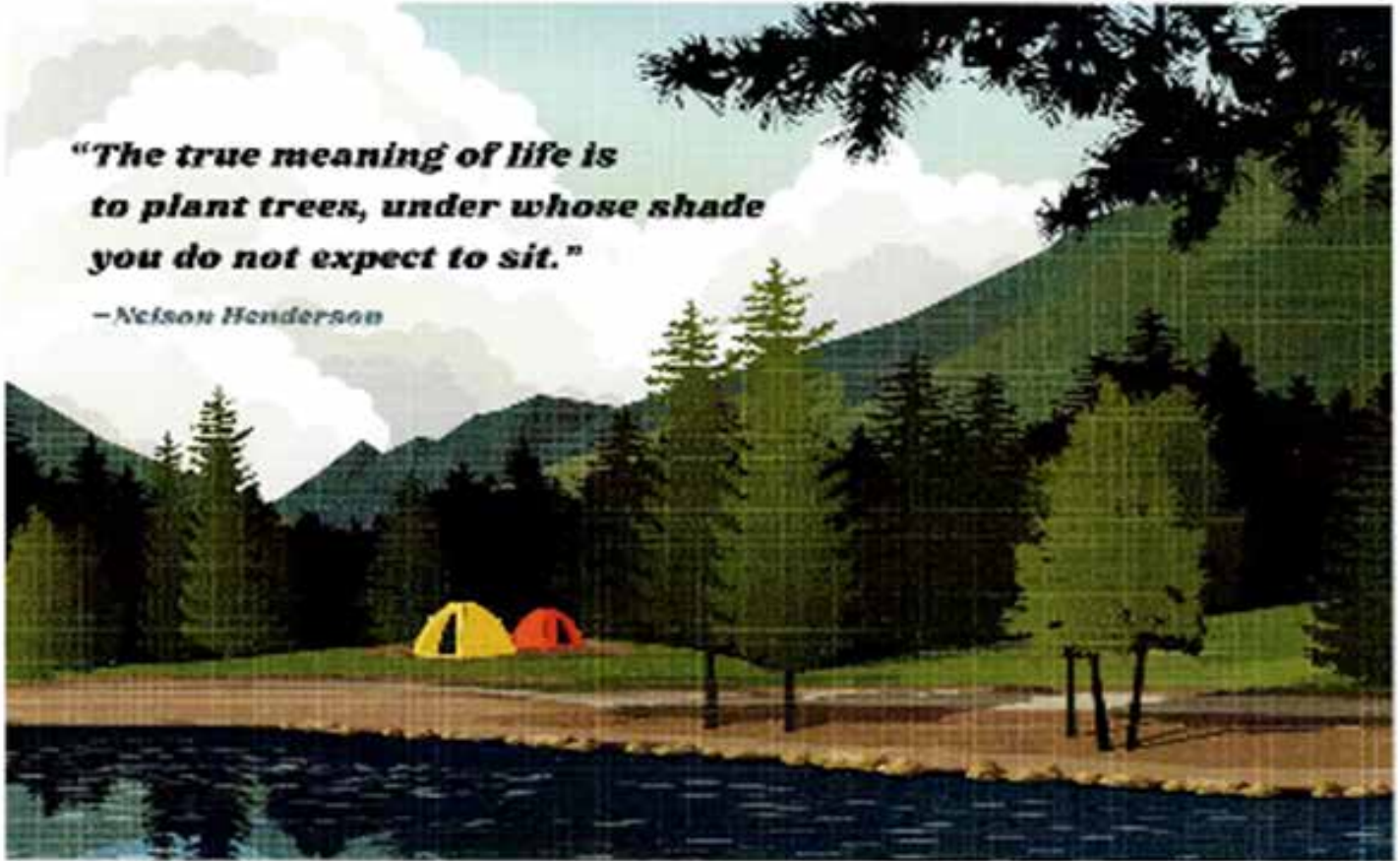
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"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

-Nelson Henderson



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Saturday, December 2 & Saturday, February 10
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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Where Is Lost Oaks, Texas?

Yes, Lost Oaks is an actual place. There are neighborhoods throughout Texas with the name Lost Oaks, and there is even, ironically, a side street in our own neighborhood with the name, although no one actually lists an address on it.

In a larger sense, Lost Oaks, Texas, is not merely a place but a particular set of beliefs:

- a belief that Oak trees are a nuisance, creating messy acorns in the fall and even messier leaves on the roof and ground in the early spring and preventing grass from growing underneath their extensive canopies;

- a belief that Oak trees are dangerous, although arborists all claim that a healthy Oak rarely drops a branch that damages a roof or car;

- a belief that Oak trees are not valuable, even though their branches and acorns support all sorts of wildlife (including squirrels and many varieties of birds), provide needed shade in the summer, help retain water, and enrich the soil when turned into organic compost;

- a belief that Oak trees are expensive because they need pruning every ten years or so and may need fungicide treatment against Oak Wilt and may occasionally invade sewer lines, even though it is far costlier to remove them when they die;

- and a belief that Oak trees are easily replaceable, even though no other tree has the same majestic curvatures of its trunk and main branching and cannot, therefore, match the value added to a property.

When Lost Oaks as a belief system takes hold, it is not only the Oak trees that are lost but the character, spirit, and identity of the entire neighborhood.

Trees

Here follows what is generally considered the best-known poem about trees ever written (1917). It's by a man named Joyce Kilmer (yes, a man, 1886–1918), who died in World War I. While you think about how precious trees are to Whispering Oaks, enjoy the poem:

I think that I shall never see
 A poem lovely as a tree.
 A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
 Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
 A tree that looks at God all day,
 And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
 A tree that may in summer wear
 A nest of robins in her hair
 Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
 Who intimately lives with rain.
 Poems are made by fools like me,
 But only God can make a trees.



—Thanks to Shirley Becker for the idea

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.



Wanna Get a FREE Fruit or Nut Tree?

San Antonio Parks and Recreation is offering free fruit and nut trees.

When: Saturday, 23 March, 8:00 a.m.

Where: Monterrey Park, 5919 West Commerce Street, SA TX 78237

That's between 36th and 39th Streets

The New Pump-Switching Scam

The scam has become so rampant that the police in Philadelphia sent out a public service alert about it. This newest scam targets people using credit cards to pay at the pump. The scammers have been approaching unsuspecting victims at the gas pump to offer to pump their gas for them or put the nozzle back to complete the transaction. Then, instead of putting the nozzle back on the gas pump to close the transaction, the scammer will wait until the car has left, then continue by pumping the gas into their vehicle.



In some cases, the scammers have also offered to hang the nozzle and then left it active as they proceeded to pump gas for the next customer. In this scenario, the still-active nozzle is used to pump gas for a new customer, where the scammer will request cash for the transaction.

So let's say that you want \$50 worth of gas for your car. The scammer will offer to hang the nozzle for you, and then they may add another \$50 worth of gas into their vehicle or the next customer's, leaving you with a \$100 credit card transaction. You may not realize that you were a victim of this scam until you check your credit card balance to find out that your transaction was double the cost.

These scam artists look for victims at the gas station who may be good-natured or appear to be physically weak to offer to pump their gas or to hang the nozzle for them. In some reports, the scammers have been aggressive with the interaction. Some of the suspects have aggressively taken the nozzles from the victims' hands after they were denied their offer of assistance.

According to one report, a scam victim allowed a stranger to hang up their gas nozzle for them. The victim didn't think anything of this interaction until they noticed a \$165 charge on their credit card, which was much higher than the amount of gas that they had inserted.

How To Avoid This Scam

While there are different strategies for avoiding scams online, this particular one is unique since it happens in person, and you may be caught completely off guard. Here's how you can protect yourself from this scam.

Stay Alert When Pumping Gas

It's natural to zone out, or you may even be tempted to check your phone while pumping your gas. This is a routine activity where you may get lost in thinking about your workday or the errands you need to run. With this scam becoming more common, you must be alert when pumping gas. You should also try to avoid interactions with someone who clearly

doesn't work at the gas station who is trying to get involved in your process. If a stranger approaches you, decline their assistance politely.

Always Collect Your Receipt

Hang up your gas hose and collect your receipt every single time by pressing "End Transaction" to ensure you were only charged for the gas you used to fill up. Even if you're in a hurry, it's critical that you close your transaction so that some scammer doesn't charge you for additional gas. The time it takes to close the transaction is minuscule compared to how much you will have to deal with when it comes to contacting the authorities and your credit card company.

Alert Staff or Police

If someone gets aggressive or confrontational with you at the gas pump, don't get into it with them. The best strategy is to call for help immediately by notifying the gas station staff or contacting the police so that you don't get into a physical confrontation. The police have also recommended that if you encounter this scam, you should find a safe area where you can remain on the scene until the authorities arrive.

Closing Thoughts

It's critical to stay alert at the gas station as this new scam is becoming more common. If someone offers to pump your gas for you, politely decline. If they insist or become confrontational, call for help right away. Always be aware of your surroundings and ensure that you always collect your receipt before you drive off.



RESIDENTIAL PARKING

Owners are encouraged to park their vehicles in their driveways or garages to allow for easier traffic flow on the streets. It is illegal to park blocking the sidewalk. We want pedestrians to stay safe when out walking their dog, exercising or children walking to and from school.



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Better Check Your Water Pressure!

Whispering Oaks is known for its high water-pressure, mainly because our homes lie below the nearby water tower at LockHill-Selma and NW Military, which needs to help keep pressures adequate for higher-elevation neighborhoods miles away. SAWS recommends that the water pressure going to your home be around 60–80 pounds per square inch (PSI). Readings above 100 PSI can damage pipes, joints, and plumbing fixtures over time, but many of us in Whispering Oaks (especially in the low-lying areas) suffer from PSIs well over that limit. Those with water softeners are especially at risk when PSIs exceed 100.



It is recommended that all homeowners check their water pressure annually. Water pressure meters can be bought for \$10–\$20 at home improvement centers and attached easily to outdoor faucets. If PSIs start to rise above 90, to diminish the pressure, it is highly recommended to install an underground pressure relief valve (PRV) near the street. Nowadays, installation of PRVs by licensed plumbers costs in the range of \$500–\$600, depending on how much digging is required. PRVs typically last in the 7–10 year range, and save well above that amount in plumbing repairs over that period of time.



Whispering Oaks Sales

January 2023 - January 2024

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini,
Resident Realtor®

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Per Sq. Ft.</u>
Sold listings – 27		
High	\$664,000	\$216
Median	\$408,000	\$174
Low	\$193,000	\$127
Active – 1	\$310,000	\$188
Pending – 1	\$460,000	\$145

Despite a 4% year-over-year decrease in total sales, totaling 1625 transactions, the Bexar County market demonstrates resilience and adaptability. The average home price in Bexar County stands at \$348,362, reflecting a marginal 0.2% year-over-year decrease, while the median price experiences a modest 1.1% decline, settling at \$297,250. The price per square foot also shows a measured adjustment with a 1.3% year-over-year decrease.

No Fooling! Bulky Trash Pick-up

Monday, April 1st

It's time to clean out the garage and neaten up the yard by putting out your bulky trash. City of San Antonio trash pickup crews will arrive in Whispering Oaks on **Monday, 1 April**, to collect unwanted items, such as appliances, old tires, fencing, and all types of household goods.

Nothing green, such as tree trimmings or leaves, should be included, however. Those organic materials can be collected in the green organic cart weekly, or for special pick-up of brown-bagged leaves, call 311.



New Project?

Now reach our full listing of vetted and reliable service providers ONLINE

NeighborsWeb.com
Online Business Directory

Yes, the businesses that you have come to know and love in your newsletter are now available in our NEW Online Service Directory.



Shopping Locally Keeps Money in the Community and Supports Your Neighbors' Small Businesses

Here are just a few reasons to check out the small businesses near your home:



1. Supporting the Local Economy:

Shopping at local stores contributes significantly to the economic well-being of your community. Local businesses tend to reinvest a higher percentage of revenue locally compared to chain stores.

2. Community Involvement: Local businesses actively participate in community events, sponsor local sports teams, contribute to charities, and engage in neighborhood activities, fostering stronger community bonds.

3. Creating Jobs: Local businesses prioritize hiring from the community, promoting the creation and sustainability of local employment opportunities.

4. Community Character and Diversity: Local stores enhance the unique character of a neighborhood by offering products, services, and experiences that reflect local culture and preferences, thereby contributing to community diversity.

5. Personalized Service: Local businesses provide personalized and attentive customer service, as owners and employees understand the community's needs, tailoring services accordingly.

6. Environmental Impact: Shopping locally reduces the environmental impact associated with transportation, leading to lower fuel consumption and decreased carbon emissions.

7. Fostering Relationships: Local businesses build strong relationships with customers, fostering trust and loyalty for a more positive shopping experience.

8. Quality and Uniqueness: Local businesses often offer unique, high-quality products not available in larger chain stores, providing consumers with diverse and distinctive options.

9. Reduced Carbon Footprint: Supporting local businesses reduces the need for long-distance transportation of goods, contributing to an overall decrease in the carbon footprint associated with purchased products.

10. Preserving Local Culture: Local stores play a vital role in preserving local traditions, craftsmanship, and cultural heritage, especially in areas where businesses showcase and celebrate community uniqueness.

Shopping locally preserves the distinctive character and cultural richness of communities, fostering a sense of identity and connection among residents.

—*Courtesy of Neighborhood News*



Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup raisins (I use more)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 pint of sour cream
- 3 eggs & some milk



Instructions:

1. Mix all dry ingredients together then add eggs and sour cream
2. Gradually add a very small amount of milk until the batter is wet but tacky. You might not need milk.
3. For the pan, use a large springform pan. Grandmas used to bake it in a cast iron skillet in the oven. Take your pick!
4. Grease the pan and bake at 350 for approx. 40 to 45 minutes. Check center of bread with knife or toothpick. If knife comes out clean, it is done. Spread a pat of butter over top of bread while hot. Wrap in terry towel while hot and let cool on the counter.
5. Serve warm or toasted with your favorite spread – salted butter is perfect.

Wishing you a rainbow

For sunlight after showers

Miles and miles of Irish smiles

For golden happy hours

Shamrocks at your doorway

For luck and laughter too,

And a host of friends that never ends

Each day your whole life through!

- by Louisville Family Fun



It's Easy to Deter Mosquitos All Summer Long

As the aftermath of winter rains begins to dry up, San Antonio's mosquito population should decline. After all, most species need water to breed and the adults live only a few weeks. So if your yard is infested long after puddles and creeks have turned to dust, you may have overlooked man-made problems prolonging pests.

Mosquitoes can reproduce with a surprisingly small amount of stagnant water and are very adept at finding it. Clogged roof gutters, trays under potted patio plants, yard debris routinely being refilled by nearby sprinklers, and bird baths with water older than 10 days—all these are common trouble spots.

To deter the problem, consider adding "dunks" to features that routinely collect water. These all-natural two-inch rings release a bacterium that disrupts the development of mosquito larvae, but is harmless to birds and mammals. The City of San Antonio believes in them, relying on dunks to treat problematic areas each spring and summer. Look for the Summit brand at Home Depot or Lowe's, where a pack of six costing under \$9 can last the entire season. And the brittle rings can be divided easily to treat small water features such as bird baths.

Of course, neglected swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and decorative fountains can breed thousands of mosquitos every month. If a neighbor's pool is turning greenish, talk to your neighbor; if no action, call 311 to file an anonymous tip. Inspectors aren't allowed to peek over fences, but they can use pix of the problem which have been emailed and attached as evidence to the case number. Ask the 311 operator how to submit images.

Eliminating nearby standing water sources is an easy, no-cost way to inhibit mosquito breeding. With a little diligence, your yard could see its mosquito population plummet surprisingly quickly without the need for costly, risky chemicals.



Dunks utilize natural bacterium to inhibit larvae in reservoirs which collect water.



The Gift-Certificate Scam

Don't fall for it! Either in an email, purportedly from a friend, asking for help or a phone call from a supposed authority. In the case of the email—which can come from an actual, correct email address of someone you know and be signed by the same—you will be asked to help your friend to get a gift certificate and email the numbers to someone, such as a presumed relative of the sender.

In the case of the telephone call, you will be told that you could be in trouble unless you can prove your identity through purchasing certain gift certificates and then sending the numbers to either an email address or a telephone number. In both cases, you will be told that you will be reimbursed.

Example in point: A friend of your editor's, who lives 1700 miles away, supposedly asked me to buy \$200 worth of Amazon certificates for her niece's birthday because the bank was having a problem processing her credit card and the celebration was that evening. "She" promised to pay me back in a couple days when the problem was straightened out. Yeah, right.

In either case, don't fall for it!



Go Green

LET'S DO OUR PART IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

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Neighborhood News is pleased to be offering this free service!

Questions: Feel free to contact us at (210) 558-3160 or info@neighborhoodnews.com

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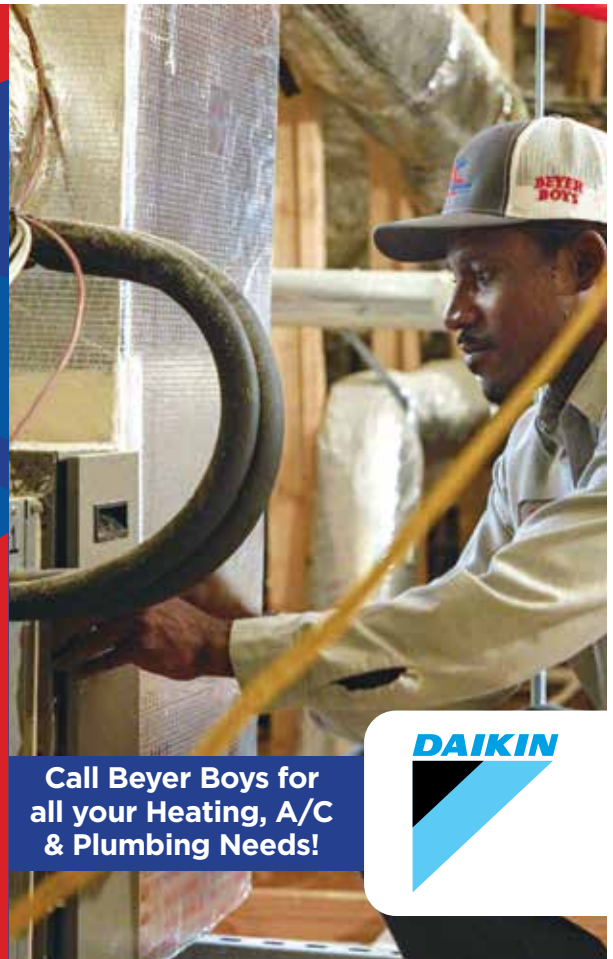
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