

The Whispers

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

Dues Raised to \$5000 and Made Mandatory Widespread Corruption Suspected

In a stunning move, the WOHA Board of Directors—tired of working for no pay—raised the annual dues from a low, bargain-rate voluntary \$125 to an outrageous mandatory \$5000. Those who don't pay, it was announced, will have a swami levitate their houses to the heavens, never to be seen again. This will occur regardless of whether anyone is at home at the time. So look out!

When asked why this drastic move was taken, WOHA Treasurer Jay Pruski said, "Why not? A little variety is the spice of life." This reporter, finding such an answer to be clearly a part of a cover-up, dug a little further, finding that the Board members are suddenly living rather high off the hog.

Each Board member now suddenly owns a 2005 Chevrolet Cobalt, and their families are pigging out at Mama Margie's morning, noon, and night. Not only that, but all the Board members are having their lawns mulched.

What is to be done about this outrage? At press time, it was not clear what *could* be done!

April Fool's!!

A New WINTER Sport at WO... Swimming!



The ever-popular water slide, in winter use by these not-necessarily-all-that-brave young souls.

For an explanation, a preview of the new WO pool arrangement, and how to join for the new pool season, see page 4.

OAK WILT DANGER!

No Pruning of Oaks February 1 – June 30

Then, only hire trimmers who are licensed and who have paint sprayers on their belts. If you have trees within 100 feet of an infected tree, *inject! inject! inject!*

Oak Wilt in Whispering Oaks continues to make its way throughout the east portion of the neighborhood. However, although Oak Wilt creates a serious situation, with proper analysis and treatment, the trees can survive. Please address infected and at-risk areas to stop the spread of this devastating tree disease.

For help, immediately call Erin Davis, Texas A&M Arborist, 830-792-8885 or any Board member.

For more information, see stories on pages 6 & 7.



2020 - 2021

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Simon Sez



Neighbors,

Happy spring to you all! What a first three months it has been to 2021. Our City has had one of the coldest winters on record, which put our neighborhood under deep freeze, including the latest snow on record. Many of us were without electricity and water. It was great to see so many of you helping each other out during that memorable week. The pandemic has affected many of us, as well, with friends and family who have passed on from this horrible virus. Here we are now in the spring season and, always the optimist, I am looking forward to getting back to normal so we can have neighborhood gatherings and fun events for us all.

The HOA Board is most pleased about where we are at six months into our 2020–21 fiscal year. There have been a number of initiatives that have been accomplished:

1. The turn lane at Lockhill-Selma into Whispering Wind was one of the biggest, completed in late 2020.
2. The lighting completed at the entrance to Whisper Path.
3. Oak trees trimmed at proper height at all entrances to avoid their hitting trucks. The HOA board wants to thank all the neighbors who did their due diligence by trimming their overhanging oak trees and trees in general to bring them up to proper city code. It makes a huge difference in protecting our oak trees from any scarring and possible oak wilt.
4. All of our Citizens on Patrol (COP) signs have been updated with larger, reflective ones, making them more noticeable. This will help to keep intruders out of our neighborhood. We have also erected additional poles to mount more signs on both sides of the neighborhood.
5. A project just completed is a new gate at the alley drainage off Lockhill Selma between Whisper Path and Whisper Willow. Because the old, hanging gate had become effectively inoperative, irresponsible citizens were using the spot as a dumping ground. The new gate looks so much better and, more importantly, allows us to secure the spot.
6. Power washing of our outer walls along Lockhill Selma and Wuzbach is to start early this month. This is much needed, as our walls have not ever had a cleaning since they were constructed in 1985.
7. In mid-April we will be working on all entrances with a much-needed upgrade with new landscaping and plants. As well, the harsh winter storm we had hurt.
8. Yes! Our neighborhood directories are done. Thank you to our membership team and Board for putting this together. All members will have them in their hands soon.
9. In working with the City Public Works Department, we will have all the drainage areas off Whisper Valley and Whisper Willow cleaned and leveled off at the outlets to the creek. The walkway bridge will also be cleaned up. Overhanging tree limbs and brush will be removed in the easement area. This will allow the water to drain properly, making it less dangerous for the lower-level properties. This work should be completed by the end of April.
10. There is a good amount of leaf build-up at these drainage areas. The HOA could use some volunteers to blow the leaves out from time to time. Please email us if interested in helping.
11. The HOA Board has been addressing the Whisper Valley and Wurzbach traffic situation. The Board have had very good conversations with the District 9 office. Councilman Courage wants to help initiate a plan to alleviate the traffic problems here. We will keep the neighborhood updated on this important concern for us all.

As you can see, there are several initiatives we have in the pipeline—improvements that could

(Continued on page 3)

not be done without the support of membership dues, as well as donations from our neighbors. We still have a number of other projects we will be working on. Two of the most important are the completing the final lighting project, that at the Whisper Willow entrance, and continuing Oak Wilt education and preventative measures. It is imperative that each of us homeowners cares for our trees by taking the necessary steps to treat them. Please visit our website for detailed information and be on the lookout for material to be distributed. There is further information in this newsletter on pages 6 and 7.

I cannot stress enough the need to follow our Covenants and City Ordinances that are in place to keep our neighborhood a most admirable place to live. Simple housekeeping items such as keeping your lawns trimmed, blowing leaves off your roofs, and putting your trash cans away so they are not visible make a big difference. I also plead with all of you, when driving in our neighborhood, to slow down. We have many neighbors outside walking with their dogs, riding bikes, and enjoying the outdoors. Cars zooming down the streets beyond the 30 m.p.h. limit is dangerous. "Drive like your kids live here" is good advice. The HOA Board thanks you all for all your efforts and support, and we look forward to a wonderful spring season.

Simon Esparza

President

It's up and running again this summer, full speed.

Whispering Oaks Swim Team News!

Last summer, because of COVID, the Swim Team program was severely curtailed, with no competition or visits to other clubs, and it was a practice-only program. But, this summer, the Whispering Oaks Blue Marlin Swim Team will have a full, regular program.

For those who are new to the neighborhood or were not aware, we have a non-profit swim team that includes swimmers from age six up to 18 years old and/or who graduate from high school this spring. It's a fantastic way to learn to swim, meet other families in the neighborhood, and build lasting friendships. We welcome swimmers from outside the neighborhood as well, so we encourage members to invite their friends.

Dates and logistics are still being worked out. If your child has not been on the team and you would like to be included in the email distribution, please reach out to teamsablumarlin@gmail.com. For up-to-date information on the swim team, go to <http://www.woswimclub.org> and click on the Swim Team link, which can be found on the top bar to the left of the search option. Or you can go directly to <https://whisperingoaksblumarlins.swimtopia.com>. Email is preferred, but you may also text LoGina Vincelio @ 210-389-3363.

Elementary School in NISD Dedicated to Our Dr. Caroline Wernli

Courtesy of Northside ISD



Hooray for one of our own...or she was for a long time, about 40 years. Until 2017, Dr. Caroline Wernli and her husband, Ron, lived for many years right here in Whispering Oaks as original residents, but moved to Oakwell Farms to be closer to their daughter. Still, with her heart still in Whispering Oaks, she has remained a member of the Garden Club.

Caroline has had a rich and impressive career in the field of education. She has been a classroom teacher, counselor, assistant principal, Director of Human Resources for Northside ISD, and Director of Field Experience at the university level. After her retirement, she became active in the Northside Museum Association and from 2011-2016 served as the President. Currently, she serves on the School Museum Board as Past President providing insight, guidance, and a wealth of ideas, continuing to seek ways to serve the Northside School District and preserve its rich history.

As you can see from the graphic, Caroline was honored on 18 March with a virtual ceremony to officially dedicate the new elementary school that was named after her. The school is located at 1881 Arcadia Path, off of Potranco Road.

Can you imagine having a school named after you? What an honor!

We are on Facebook!



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



Get to know your Neighbors at the Pool!

We Have a Year-Round Heated Pool!

Hard to believe, but it's true! Since the end of January, the pool has been heated to 84 degrees, and it's glorious.

This is thanks to Streamline Aquatics. This year the Swim Club entered into an agreement with them to rent the pool for their swim team. They paid to install the gas line and heater, and they pay for the gas usage. It's a win-win for all. During the off-season, they will be using the pool:

- Monday–Friday: 4:00 p.m.–8:45 p.m.
- Saturday: 7:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- Sunday: 7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

During these times, members can still use the portion of the pool that is not being used by the swim team. If a member wants to use a lane to lap swim and everything is full, they may politely ask the coach on deck, and the coach will do his or her best to clear a lane.

This team will rent the pool year-round, but their hours will be adjusted throughout the summer season to ensure our members' maximum usage during peak times. When their schedule changes, we will update members through email and on our website (woswimclub.org).

So, eat your heart out, San Antonio, for we of Whispering Oaks may well have the best pool in the area. Besides having a swirly slide in the deep end and a kiddie area for the next generation of Blue Marlins, our pool is a 25-meter pool, making it appropriate for workouts and competition.



A members-only association offering swimming, tennis, recreational, and social activities for the benefit of our residents of the Whispering Oaks subdivision and also for our non-resident members and guests.

Bring your guests for \$5 each. Members are allowed up to 5 guests when they visit the pool. To pay for your guests, go to:

<https://paypal.me/woswim>

Summer Hours begin in early June with lifeguards on duty from 1:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Anytime a lifeguard is not on duty, our pool is a "swim at your own risk" enterprise.

To join and for up-to-date information, visit:

woswimclub.org

After-Hours Access Provides Swimming Year-Round 6:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

We use a key fob system for entry to our pool property and are one of the only neighborhood pools in the area with this much access!

Membership Levels

Memberships last one year from sign-up or renewal date and are for members of the same household only.

- Family Resident – \$350 (1-2 Adults and Children)
- Senior Resident with Grandchildren – \$320 (65+)
- Standard Resident Membership – \$260 (1-2 Adults)

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Dear, dear readers,

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Accordingly, any complaints should be directed to them. Contact information is found at the bottom of page 2. Please do not direct complaints to WOHA.

We thank you.

Who Woulda Thunked It?

Of course, it's too bad that no one *in charge* thunked it ahead of time because 'sno joke. It's another disaster that could have been prevented. But that's a story we don't cover... At least it was fun for *some* (younger) folks.



Courtesy of Samantha Foster



Courtesy of Richard Pressman



Courtesy of Graciela Pressman



Courtesy of Samantha Foster



Courtesy of Kyle Isenhower



Courtesy of Kyle Isenhower



Snow in the Greenbelt, courtesy of Mike Fanger, Hunter's Creek, on Nextdoor.com



Courtesy of Judine Taylor

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Don't Want to Treat Your Oak Wilt? You will be in violation of the law...

Article VIII. – Prevention and Control of the Spread of Oak Wilt

Sec. 21-170. General requirements.

(a) The provisions of this section apply to any person, firm, corporation, business entity, city department, public or private utility to the extent permitted by law.

(b) All wounds to the trunk, limbs and root system of oak trees in the city that expose sapwood shall be painted within thirty minutes of the wound with asphaltic or exterior oil or latex based paint.

(c) Firewood from oak wilt infected trees shall not be brought into the city at any time.

(Ord. No. 97332, § 18, 3-13-03)

Sec. 21-171. Tree maintenance license.

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing trees without a valid tree maintenance license by the city. A tree

maintenance license shall be valid for three (3) years from the date of issuance. An application for a tree maintenance license shall not be deemed complete until proof of successful completion of continuing education credits and proof of current liability insurance are submitted, and all applicable fees are paid. The applicant is required to carry general liability insurance in a minimum amount of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) in the aggregate each. Further, proof of insurance shall be required as a condition precedent to secure a permit as required in this subsection and upon each subsequent renewal. A failure to maintain proof of insurance for the permitted year shall result in a revocation of the issued permit. Proof of minimum coverage amounts maintained for the preceding year must be provided with each application for renewal. Proof of insurance shall be underwritten by an organization licensed/authorized to do business in the state. The city shall be listed on the policy for notification of any lapse in coverage.

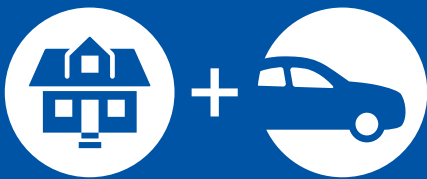
A tree maintenance license shall require proof of completion of a minimum of fifteen (15) continuing education credits (CEU's) as approved by the city arborist per three-year licensing period before the license is issued, including written acknowledgement by signature of the code of ethics for the city tree maintenance license. An initial temporary license may be issued for a period of one (1) year to allow the applicant time to obtain the necessary CEU's. A temporary license shall only be issued following the completion of a two-hour city sponsored introductory class on safety, Oak Wilt, tree biology, tree pruning and tree identification. The two (2) hours credit will be applied to the 15-hour CEU requirement for the three-year maintenance license. A knowledge assessment administered by the city must be successfully completed to receive credit. Certified arborists will qualify automatically for the tree maintenance license and shall receive fifty (50) percent reduction on their tree maintenance license fee. In addition, if the tree maintenance license holder is not on the job site, a crew member with at least a minimum of two (2) hours of city arborist approved continuing education credits shall be on site during tree pruning operations.

Failure to maintain or submit any of the above requirements will result in the immediate revocation of the tree maintenance license.

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

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Oak Wilt—Part 2 of 3*

FAQs from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Management (Trenching and Injections)

How effective are trenches?

Since the inception of the Oak Wilt Suppression Program in 1988, the Texas A&M Forest Service has assisted landowners in installing over 4 million feet of trenches, following program protocols, with a success rate of approximately 74%. Protocols include placing trenches at least 100 feet beyond symptomatic trees, excavated to a minimum depth of 4 feet, and having at least 1 non-symptomatic tree between the infection and the trench. When trenches fail to contain the disease, they were either not placed far enough from the infection or were not cut deep enough, resulting in remaining root connections that are still linking the diseased side to the protected side.

How effective are injection treatments?

Properly injected trees, which do not currently show any Oak Wilt symptoms, but are in the vicinity of the disease, will have the highest success rate—reaching 80-90%—using the approved fungicides and the macro-infusion method. The success rate decreases drastically depending on the severity of the crown loss in the tree and the amount of visibly symptomatic leaves. Approximately 10–20% of Live Oaks survive Oak Wilt with no treatment. Note: surviving trees (both treated and untreated) may show significant canopy loss, but remain alive.

Will injections stop the spread of Oak Wilt?

No. Most of the fungicide moves up into the tree, rather than into the roots. There is not enough fungicide in the roots to provide a sufficient barrier to disease movement; therefore, the fungus still has the opportunity to travel in the unprotected root system to adjacent trees.

Are “alternative” Oak Wilt treatments as effective as trenching and injections?

We don't know. Current treatment recommendations are based on years of research from USDA Forest Service, universities, other state agencies and years of experience managing this disease. We can provide a landowner with realistic expectation of results using current treatment protocols. We can only recommend products that are legal to use; labeled and registered for Oak Wilt. We can only recommend delivery methods based on research results. If hiring vendors to treat trees, those vendors must be licensed through Texas Department of Agriculture. One must have a thorough understanding of the fungus, the trees, and how they interact and any treatment must increase the survival rate compared to what occurs in the natural population (10–20% survival). Unless these criteria are met, we do not know the success of alternatives.

Can/should I inject Red Oaks? What about White Oaks?

Although uncommon, Oaks can form root grafts between differing species and it is possible for Red or White Oaks to contract the disease from the other through these connections. Depending on the value of the tree and proximity to the disease, injecting Red or White Oaks may

be warranted. Note: it is more common to inject Live Oaks (which are White Oaks) due to the fact their root systems are frequently grafted together.

How often do I need to treat my trees?

It depends on the progression of the disease in that area. For best results, trees should be evaluated every 18–24 months for new Oak Wilt symptoms and re-treated if necessary. In most cases, trees are initially treated, then re-injected two years later.

Can I just push the trees over/cut them down instead of trenching?

No. Live Oaks have vast, interconnected root systems that stretch for hundreds of feet in all directions. Pushing or cutting trees causes very little if any root disruption, and the fungus can still live in the roots without the tree present. This method was tried at the onset of the discovery of the disease and proven ineffective.

Can I inject the trees myself?

Yes. The fungicide is not a restricted-use pesticide. A pesticide applicators license is not required to purchase the fungicide to you treat your own trees; however, you cannot treat trees for money, goods, or services for others. Learn how to treat trees by watching an instructional video at our website. If you are not confident with the treatment process, there are arborists who have specific training and experience with Oak Wilt injections.

Where can I find the fungicide and equipment?

Many arborists and vendors sell the fungicide and equipment. Some rent equipment. You can find results on our vendor page or by doing a quick internet search using keywords like “Oak Wilt injection kits” and “Oak Wilt fungicide.”

Who do you recommend for trenching, injections, removals, etc.?

As a government agency, the Texas A&M Forest Service cannot make vendor recommendations. Learn how to hire an arborist to make sure you are making the right choice, then find local Oak Wilt vendors in your area.

Source: <https://texasoakwilt.org/faqs/>

* This series is reprinted from *The Whispers* from 2019 and 2020, with this section reprinted from the December 2019 issue.



This Oak tree was destroyed by Oak Wilt—or perhaps by negligence. However, not only was this tree lost, but because it was not treated, other trees in the vicinity were subjected to the disease.

Important Local Contact Information

Council 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

Code & Covenant Corner

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

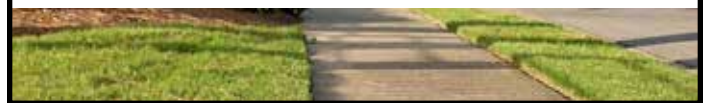
Your property extends to the curb, regardless of the sidewalk.

Many property owners don't realize that their land can include features they can't refuse municipal access to. Public Easements and Rights of Way allow government to access and install amenities that serve the common good. City sidewalks, utility junction boxes, road signs, and fire hydrants are just some examples. The concept is similar to eminent domain, but the property owner does not relinquish the land itself and is typically not compensated for the intrusion.

Rights of Way along San Antonio's residential streets usually extend six feet into yards alongside the entire curb. Some homeowners mistakenly assume their land ends at the sidewalk and so are surprised to learn that vegetation, including trees close to the curb, are their responsibility to maintain.

In most cases, the City or utilities companies are responsible for the upkeep of their assets, but there are some exceptions. For example, when tree roots push up a sidewalk, thereby creating a trip hazard, most cities nationwide, including San Antonio, require homeowners to repair the government-installed amenity they never agreed to accept on their land in the first place.

If you have questions regarding public assets on your property, call 311 for clarification.





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The return of the Garden Club Report



**Spring Has Sprung!
(Betcha Didn't Know That)**



If you and your neighbors have wondered how the landscapes of Whispering Oaks would survive days of subfreezing weather, February's cold spell separated the truly hardy plants, trees, and shrubs from the "too frail to make it" variety. Even carefully covered Lantana and potted Mother-in-Law's Tongue (cozily stored in the garage) showed signs of distress.

The couple of mornings, snow-covered lawns and streets in a continuous white blanket offered a picture pretty. After the snow melted, the sago palms glowed like gold in the sunshine, but only time will tell which ones will go on to thrive.

The local gardening experts caution us to take our time, not to rush to discard damaged plantings. They recommend cutting them back, then waiting to see what happens. The aforementioned Lantana is already showing good green signs of a comeback. Calvin Finch suggests planting Plumbago, Zinnia, Mistflower, Milkweed, Pavonia, and Cosmos to attract butterflies May through July. And be prepared to tolerate some level of plant damage, or "sharing" with insects, especially caterpillars. As a good reference book, Finch recommends Geyata Ajilvsgi's *Butterfly Gardening for the South*.

The San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels Avenue, will hold first Wednesday meetings in April and May. Members of the Whispering Oaks Garden Club are welcome to attend and are assured that all city/county COVID protocols will be followed. The officers of WOGC are in discussion about future gatherings. So stay tuned! And get vaccinated! We may be able to "party" soon.

WOGC member Caroline Wernli was honored on March 18 at the formal dedication of the Dr. Caroline Wernli Elementary School in Northside ISD (see story on page 4). Garden Club fellow members and friends were able to "attend" virtually. Congratulations, Dr. Wernli, we are so proud of your accomplishments and your ongoing service to education and educators.

*"Spring is a time of new beginnings, new possibilities...
What quality would you like to grow this spring?"* —Tara Killen

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month." —Henry Van Dyke

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."
—Margaret Atwood



Yard of the Month – February 2021

**Wright & Martha Nodine
10935 Whisper Valley**

Note: Because of the storm, there is no Yard of the Month for March.



**THE LAW
ON
OUTDOOR
DOGS**



Texas Statute 821.077 Unlawful Restraint of Dog

Animals cannot be outside in extreme weather:

- A) Temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- B) A heat advisory has been issued.
- C) A hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued.

Leash Requirements:

- A) Five times the length of the dog or,
- B) 10 feet;
- C) cannot be in an unsafe condition; or
- D) cause injury to the dog.

**ANIMALS MUST HAVE FOOD, WATER,
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Salute to Juan



On the 19th of February, Whispering Oaks lost one of its heroes. Native Chicagoan Juan Escamilla passed on. Juan had worked for AT&T in Chicago for 30 years, and his wife, Colleen, had for 20. But then, happily for us, they moved to the San Antonio area.

Happily for us because Juan served two terms on the Board of Directors, doing yeoman work as the “boss” of landscaping and code compliance. Many folks knew Juan because he was always out and about, and with a quiet but friendly word for all.

Colleen and Juan had lived in the area for 21 years. At first, Colleen and Juan lived in Helotes, then moved to Whispering Oaks in 2012. There was a two-year hiatus when they tried Las Vegas to be near their son, but Whispering Oaks was the place for them! This was true despite their love for Chicago...or at least for the Cubs. They loved that baseball team so much that their email address begins with “Cubs1,” as in “number one team.”

Today, Colleen has her own business, the Sportmen’s Barber Shop, located at 14415 Blanco, at Cadillac. Now, after a year of looking rather scruffy, there are surely a number of WO guys who could use her services.

And thank you, Juan, for all you gave us.

And the 40 Under 40 Award goes to...

Our Gal Did It!



WOHA Board Member **Evita Morin** has been selected as one of 40 San Antonians under 40 “who have demonstrated excellence in business, leadership, and community involvement.” The award is for people across all industries, with the emphasis on contribution to the community.

Evita is the Chief Executive Officer of Rise Recovery, an agency that helps youth and young adults recovering from the effects of drug and alcohol use. A licensed social worker, she explains that her work is deeply influenced by her innovative experiences in the City of New York Mayor’s Office and at San Antonio’s Haven for Hope. Her interests are, as she says, “in community stewardship, program development, strategic planning and operational growth.”

A San Antonio native, Evita grew up throughout urban and rural Texas before attending undergraduate and graduate school at Columbia University, then remaining in New York to work for the mayor. Through working with Haven for Hope, she developed an interest and expertise in recovery.

Now the CEO of Rise Recovery, she runs an organization with about 24 employees who serve, in a year’s time, over 2,000 clients. Presently with two locations, Rise Recovery is developing a larger, unified site on Mossrock at Vance Jackson, which should be ready early next year.

Evita is married with two beautiful children. In addition to the job and the family, she finds time to serve on the WO Board as its Secretary. But she also serves on two other boards, the Masters’ Leadership Program of Greater San Antonio and the Blood & Tissue Foundation.

Now, Evita claims that she just made the age requirement, turning 38 this January, but she certainly has proven worthy of the award on all counts. A busy gal, indeed, and a most worthy member of our Whispering Oaks community.

Wanna Read Sumpin’ Funny? 🤔

A buzzard is planning to take an airplane trip and he’s taking with him a couple of rabbits he’s hunted. He arrives at the airport, checks in, goes through security, then gets in line to board. As he approaches the last check, the employee stops him and says, “I’m sorry, sir, but only one carrion per passenger.”

Two old ladies who love to complain have gone to a resort hotel in the mountains. After a couple of days, they are sitting on the veranda following dinner. One says to the other, “The food here is terrible.”

To which the other responds, “Yeh, and the portions are so small!”

Un Chiste en Español

Un borracho llega a su casa cantando y haciendo mucho ruido. En eso se asoma un vecino y le dice,

“¡Psst! ¡No haga ruido, que su mujer se va a despertar!”

“¡No se preocupe! Cuando llego así, mi mujer y yo jugamos al exorcista.”

“¿Ah, sí? ¿Y cómo es eso?”

“Bueno, ella me sermonea y yo vomito.”



Real Estate Report January - December 2020

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini, Resident Realtor®

26 Sold	Sales Price	Per Sq. Foot
Highest	\$490,000	\$167
Lowest	\$220,00	\$93
Median	\$343,000	\$134
Median days on the market	21 days	
5 Active		
Highest	\$390,000	\$145
Lowest	\$319,888	\$110
Median	\$335,000	\$141
1 Pending		
Median	\$385,000	\$138

“Year-to-date, the housing market in the San Antonio area has shown a 10% percent increase in sales from 2019. The average price of homes sold in November was \$311,604.

As we look to the finale of the year, the housing market is one of the things that has remained steady and strong in 2020,” said Kim Bragman, SABOR’s 2020 Chairman of the Board. Our state, and specifically San Antonio, is definitely a great place to live, and the numbers show it.” —SABOR



Real Estate Report January - March 2021

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini, Resident Realtor®

Active Listings - 1	Sales Price	Per Sq. Foot
Highest Price	\$319,900	\$138
Pending Listings - 2		
Highest Price	\$425,000	\$157
Lowest Price	\$320,000	\$144
Sold Listings - 9		
Highest Price	\$382,000	\$162
Median Price	\$355,000	\$138
Lowest Price	\$290,000	\$112

“San Antonio and its surrounding communities began January 2021 with a 20% percent increase in home sales compared to January 2020. The average price of homes sold in Bexar County for January was \$281,833, with a median price for the year of \$265,000. The demand for housing typically experiences a slower start at the beginning of each year, but in seeing a consistent and quick rise in home sales, we expect a bright 2021.” —SABOR

My apologies for failing to include the Real Estate Report in the last issue, the February–March. The error was most unintentional.
—The Editor

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Little Free Library



Whoever Said There's No Such Thing as Free!

How about the new Little Free Library, located in front of the residence of Bob and Gail Hughlette, 11503 Whisper Ledge, at the corner of Ledge and Whisper Bluff.

How does it work: Just as it says right in the picture: "Take a Book, Share a Book." In other words, for every one you take, you should bring one to deposit for another reader. And it's free.

How did it come about? The Hughlettes heard about the Little Free Libraries several years ago and liked the idea of promoting reading and the easy exchange and circulation of second-hand books. So they asked an acquaintance if he could make one for them. He used all second-hand materials: leftover plywood, plexiglass, a shingle or two, and slices of cedar from a dead tree in his yard.

The Hughlettes' focus has been maintaining it with children's books; however, any donation is welcome. Once their LFL was installed they registered it with littlefreelibrary.org and received the official charter sign. Living in a small, close community, they decided not to place their LFL on the international map because they didn't want to draw vehicle traffic into the community, rather just posted the location to Nextdoor.com for their Whispering Oaks and local neighbors.

And, just at press time, another LFL was found at 11102 Whispering Wind, in front of the home of Grant and Haley Catlett. Thank you for your generous community spirit.

It's power-washing time

You Dirty Wall!

Can you imagine not having had a shower for 30 years! Well, our perimeter wall is now 30 years old and it's never had a cleaning. So your Homeowner's Association is taking the steps to have it done.

While the individual homeowners are responsible for the repair of their own section of the wall, the HOA believes that we, the members of the Association, should take responsibility for the outer wall's appearance. That's important because it reflects on the appearance of the neighborhood as a whole. And that's reflected in our individual homes' values.

Hence, the individual homeowners will not be asked to pay anything for the cleaning, which is being done by a professional, insured crew. The homeowners will be advised if the workers find any areas that need repair. But otherwise, this is a neighborhood project.

Work will begin sometime in early April. Perhaps by the time you receive this new issue of *The Whispers*, it will have begun already.

Your HOA Dues and Contributions at Work for Everyone's Benefit.



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