



April 2009

Whispers

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ALWAIS

WE'RE ASKING!

Ask not what your homeowners' association can do for you, ask "What can I do for my homeowners' association?" Your homeowners' association is trying to make a difference and we want and need your help.

We recently held a very informative meeting about Oak Wilt for all the residents and home owners of Whispering Oaks. You can read about our progress in dealing with our Oak Wilt issue in Kara Reynold's article.

Another very exciting and long overdue commitment is that WOHA is in the process of establishing an interactive website/directory that will allow WOHA members to access directory and information online in a secured environment. It will allow us the opportunity or option to include personal information, i.e. baby sitting, dog walking, various membership designations such as WOHA, Garden Club, Swim and Tennis Club, as well. More specific information will be coming as soon as developments are in place.

WOHA is in need of your help! Block Captains are integral part of our community and we are revitalizing this much valued resource. We have several blocks in need of new Block Captains and are asking you to step up and volunteer to serve as a Block Captain on your or a neighboring street. It's a great way to meet your immediate neighbors, share important information and promote the spirit of 'community'.

The other area in need of attention is your commitment to being a concerned resident of Whispering Oaks and maintaining the curb appeal of your yard and home. For most, "home" is the place you look forward to spending time at the end of the workday and it's the place that makes you feel welcome, comfortable and proud. Putting your 'best face forward' is valuing the first

impression we make on those who visit our neighborhood especially, but not only, if you happen to live on a corner. By keeping your yard as neatly manicured as possible and investing in the outward appearance of your home, you not only create your own 'welcome home' image, you improve/maintain your property value and the high standard for which Whispering Oaks homes are known.

Lastly, should you have any specific requests or comments regarding WOHA that either I or another board member can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at woha@whisperingoaks.org.

Cordially,
Howard Alwais
President
Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association

A Night in Tuscany is planned for May 9, 2009. Magnificent meal, wine and music and the annual Silent Auction promises a delightful evening. Free raffle ticket with your reservation. Only \$25 per person. Proceeds go to W.O.Swim Club. Contact Norma Sackett for reservations. 479-8970

CAN YOU CAN THAT CAN?



A short drive around our neighborhood this past weekend to show it to some visitors caused us some dismay. Our out-of-town visitors remarked on the presence of “those brown and blue” containers in the front of many houses. We explained that these are the trash cans the city has given us in order to encourage

more recycling and to streamline the garbage collection. All well and good.

But we were left a bit embarrassed to see that there are still some neighbors who do not put those containers inside their garages or their yards.

Those trash containers are **NOT** decoration, and indeed, their obtrusive presence makes our neighborhood look, forgive us the pun, trashy.

So, please can that can. We hope you can. We hope you do.

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association Board of Directors

President: Howard Alwais
Vice President: Andrea Stella
Secretary: Lisa Abramson
Treasurer: Jennifer Johnson
Membership: Diane Crawford
Block Captains:

Kara Reynolds/ Diane Crawford
Hospitality: Andrea Stella
Communications/Data & Directory:
Sylvia Garcia

Common Space: Norma Sackett
Code Compliance/Covenants:
David Baird

Government Liaison: Oscar Galvan
Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Peter Nettelheld and David Sund

Security: Arthur Stier
Social: Norma Sackett
Architectural: Jeanne Paulk
School Liaison: Ginny Cohen

Newsletter:

Simon Esparza, Publisher
Lisa Abramson -- Board Liaison
Terry Caesar, Editor
Eva Bueno, Layout and Design

OAK WILT UPDATE

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association (WOHA) held a very successful Oak Wilt Neighborhood Education Program on Sunday April 29th. Hosted by Mark Duff of the Texas Forest Service, the presentation covered the facts and myths of Oak Wilt, a neighborhood assessment, a Forester led Walk-About, and a question and answer period.

Additional speakers also included San Antonio City Forester Mike Nentwich, and City Council Woman Diane Cibrian's office representatives. The meeting served the purpose of creating a heightened awareness for the community on the realities of Oak Wilt. Residents in attendance learned how to treat oak wilt, contain spread and prevent future outbreaks.

WOHA is working with the City Right Of Way on trenching options. We are actively securing quotes on the project cost. The city is supporting our efforts each step of the way. For more information or questions, please contact woha@whisperingoaks.org

Kara Reynolds (Whisper Ledge)

Doggie etiquette

One of the most positive points of our neighborhood is that it is a great place to raise a family. Our (mostly) quiet streets and considerate neighbors make it safe for all of us, as well as for the children and teenagers when they play, ride bicycles, or simply walk to visit each other.

Another positive point is that, with our good-sized yards, many of us have pets, especially dogs. It is not clear if there has been a census of our dog population, but it is quite possible that at least 50% of the households have one or two of these furry friends.

Of course, dogs need to walk. Many neighbors take their friends for daily walks, and most are careful to clean up after them. We would like to say that ALL clean up after their dogs, but that is unfortunately not true, even though dog droppings left on the side of the lawns are unsightly and unsanitary.

Another problem is that some people believe that, if they are in the front yard with their dog, they don't need to use a leash. Not so. For people who are walking alone or with their own dogs, the possibility of an attack by an unleashed animal defending his territory can be a reason for much anguish and, sometimes, anger. If your unleashed dog attacks a person, or another dog, you are responsible.

Be considerate to your neighbors and to all the other dogs in the neighborhood: pick up after your dog when walking, and if you are outside your home with your furry friend, make sure he/she has a leash.

More retail building in the area!!

As we have seen, a new **Walgreens** is under construction on the corner of Wurzbach and Vance Jackson. A Walgreens spokesperson says that the new drugstore will be open by July 2nd. It will have a drive thru Pharmacy and it will be a 'regular hours' Walgreens, not a 24-hour service location. Additionally, **Barnes and Noble Booksellers** is scheduled to open at Alon Towne Centre on the 1st of October 2009. Fulcrum Property offered no further information on other retail tenants.

Faces of the Neighborhood: Nomi and Brett Solomon

Some of our neighbors have lived in Whispering Oaks for a lifetime. Others are anxious to begin a life here. At present, Nomi and Brett Solomon wait patiently while their newly-purchased home is being remodeled.

Nomi is a psychotherapist. Brett is a general surgeon in an Emergency room. Both are delighted to be about to live among us, and their reasons for choosing their new home are especially instructive, given the current housing crisis.

Of course they are pleased with their house—a single-story four bedroom, ideal for raising a family. But a home is not merely a house. Nomi and Brett love the neighborhood, which Nomi, a native San Antonian, has known since childhood.

The couple's previous home was, they agree, "not a neighborhood." In contrast, before they had even noticed it one of their new neighbors was quick to fix a branch for them that the moving company had accidentally broken off.

Both Nomi and Brett remarked on the physical beauty of Whispering Oaks. There is clearly a general sense of being "vested in the neighborhood," in such contrast to the "false sense of security" or "prefabricated air" of their earlier gated community.

We welcome the Solomons to our neighborhood and wish them many happy years here with us.



New to the Neighborhood?

If someone new has moved onto your street, or if you are a new resident, please call

Roz Moroh(Whisper View) at
492-2563.

Roz is Whispering Oak's "welcome lady" and the friendly face to new residents. She will visit and bring information about the Homeowners Association, Swim and Tennis Club and Garden Club.

Growing Good Corn- (Author Unknown \)

There was a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year he entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon.

One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

That farmer, we see, is very much aware of the connectedness of life. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor's corn also improves.

So it is in other dimensions. Those who choose to be at peace must help their neighbors to be at peace. Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.



The lesson for each of us is this: if we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn.





Whispering Oaks
Homeowners Assn
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BLOCK CAPTAINS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Communication in our community travels several pathways. We publish a quarterly newsletter-WHISPERS. We maintain a neighborhood website- www.whisperingoaks.org. We post announcements on the marquees. We hand deliver flyers and door hangers from time to time. We place placards at the entrances with important information.

BLOCK CAPTAINS help us connect with our neighbors in a more person-to-person manner and make a significant difference in sharing information, gathering feedback, facilitating discussion, identifying interests and neighbors interested in being a part of the process.

We want to recognize and express our appreciation for our current BLOCK CAPTAINS.

Diane Crawford	Whisper Spring	Janis Witt	Whisper Ridge
Ed Einstein	Whisper Hollow	Ann Young	Whisper Glenn
Beatriz Noetzel	Whisper Willow	Pamela Harrison	Whisper Falls
Miriam McDowell	Whisper Valley	Donna Lee Gohmert	Whisper Green
Kara/Kevin Reynolds	Whisper Ledge	Michele Thiet	W. Sloe & W. Fawn
Sue Riggs	Whisper Moss	Michael/Cynthia Nash	Whisper Sound
Mary Russell	Oak Bluff	Ann Ratliff	Whisper Lark
Audra & Manuel Serrata	Whisper Wind	Jeannie Nettelfield	Whisper Dove
Andie Stella	Whisper Ridge	Simon Esparza	Whisper Breeze

Thank you for your willingness to serve your/our neighborhood! You'll notice, not all streets are represented.

We need your help and would welcome you to volunteer to cover your block or a nearby street, if yours is already covered.

If you are interested in becoming a block captain/associate block captain, please contact **Diane Crawford**, crawford_d@att.net; 479-3413.

REAL ESTATE STATISTICS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

2 TOTAL SALES

LOWEST PRICE: \$155,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$182,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$168,700
AVERAGE PRICE PER S.F: \$89.97
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET: 34

CURRENTLY FOR SALE: 15

LOWEST PRICE: \$172,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$314,900
AVERAGE PRICE: \$232,828
AVERAGE PRICE PER S.F: \$95.03
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET: 70

**Source: Nancy Doucette (789-1500)
(Whispering Wind) of Kuper Realty**