



September 2009

Whispers

Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO CONTAIN OAK WILT

The WOHHA Board will roll out the Oak Wilt Capital Campaign this September to raise funds to pay for the recommended excavation of a trench to contain the outbreak of Oak Wilt in our community. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by October 31, 2009, so that the trench can be cut-in and finished by the end of November.

The Whispering Oaks Homeowners' Association does not have the funds to pay for this huge project and our community will need to raise the money prior to its start. Therefore, the fundraising will take a three-pronged approach:

- o Block Captains will walk door to door asking homeowners for donations of \$300 per household.
- o Oktoberfest/Fall Social - Saturday Oct 17th with donations from area businesses for a silent auction. Please contact Norma Sackett at 479-8970 for details and participation.

Neighborhood Garage Sale – Saturday Oct 24th to be held at the WOHHA Pool. We need residents to volunteer as helpers and we need donations of household items to sell at the event. Please contact Andrea Stella at 408-7201 for details and participation.

We also plan to solicit funds from the City of San Antonio via District 8 Councilman, Reed Williams and will apply for cost share assistance from the Texas Forest Service.

We have spoken with six contractors and expect to select one by the first week of September. Norma Sackett has volunteered to keep a detailed accounting of all donations and a separate bank account will be opened solely for the Oak Wilt Capital Campaign.

Several residents of Whispering Oaks have already volunteered significant amounts of their time, knowledge and expertise to research, organize, make calls, host meetings and share information. We are grateful for their efforts and look forward to what we can all do together to try to save our oak trees. As you consider the cost of donating, please weigh it against the costs of fungicide treatments or the removal of dead trees from your property, not to mention the impact on our property values. This is our one good chance to contain the disease before it spreads to other properties and becomes too large to control. We are counting on you to do your part to help with this important effort.

-Kara Reynolds (Whisper Ridge)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome all the new residents of Whispering Oaks and hope that you have decided to join the Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association. We are a voluntary association with the primary responsibility to work towards the promotion and benefit of its residents. We welcome and rely on your membership and participation in whatever way makes you feel a valuable part of our community.

The recent discovery of Oak Wilt virus in our neighborhood has taken most of the Board's focus this term. It has taken longer than anticipated to evaluate and form plans for resolution of the problem and the reason for all the time taken is trying to make sure that the decisions of the Board are the best possible decisions to keep 'OAKS' in Whispering Oaks. The Board has developed a financial strategy that makes sense and will help achieve our goals to perform the trenching which is expected to halt Oak Wilt growth in our neighborhood.

You will have an opportunity to read and learn more about our financial strategy and the Oak Wilt trenching project. Please believe us when we tell you how serious this is and we need your help. I know that we can count on you as the Board of Directors that built the fence surrounding Whispering Oaks counted on the residents during that project years ago. This project will make a positive influence on your home value and the beauty of Whispering Oaks. We need your financial support as well as your time and energy to reach our goals. Please contact your board at www.whisperingoaks.org with your willingness to assist in our fund raising efforts to save our precious oak assets .

Cordially, **Howard Alwais, President**

W.O.H.A. MEETING OCTOBER 4

This year, our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 4. Although our meeting is usually held on the last Sunday in September, this year the venue for our meetings will be closed for the High Holidays of the Jewish Community. We have important issues to discuss and hope you will mark your calendar NOW and plan to attend!

Where: Jewish Community Center —at the usual room When : October 4th, 3:00 pm

PARTICIPATE! MAKE YOUR VOICE AND YOUR OPINION HEARD!



NEWSLETTER STAFF

writers, editors, & layout designers
NEEDED!!!

This is the last issue of *Whispers* that Terry Caesar and Eva Bueno are working with directly. If you have any experience with Microsoft Publisher, and have a knack for writing and/or editing, *Whispers* needs you!!! Contact Simon Esparza or Lisa Abramson. Terry and Eva enjoyed their time as editor and layout and design person respectively and wish the next team as much fun as they had.

Welcome Coffee for New Neighbors !

When: **September 12, 10-11:30 am**
Where: At Andie Stella's house, **11115 Whisper Ridge**
We look forward to meeting you and **welcoming** you to our neighborhood.
WOHA Board Members, Newsletter staff, Garden Club and Swim Club representatives are on hand to welcome you, too!
RSVP 408-7201
Italianstar
@earthlink.net



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: Peter Nettelfield, Oscar Galvan
Government Liaison: Oscar Galvan
Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Peter Nettelfield and David Sund
Social: Norma Sackett
Architctural: Jeanne Paulk
School Liaison: Ginny Cohen

Whispers

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

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. And she will bring a copy of our directory!

BIG Improvements at Tennis Park

The Whispering Oaks Swim Club (WOSC) has excitedly entered into a contractual relationship with our new Tennis Pro, Karen Mannheimer. Karen has been a well-known and popular Tennis Pro in our area for many years. She and her team of professionals replace our previous Tennis Pro and bring the level of activity and excitement of years past back to our Whispering Oaks. They are already teaching lessons, conducting tournaments, and bringing energy and enthusiasm back to this area of our neighborhood.

WOSC inked an agreement with Karen to resurface the courts, add a 'Pickle Ball' court, build a small building that will house restrooms on the parkside, and maintain a scheduling policy that will allow Club members as well as outside Tennis members to use and enjoy the courts respectfully. Membership in Karen's Tennis programs is limited to a specific number of people so as not to compromise our own homeowner members of the WOSC and their access to the courts. The common space and playground remain available to all residents of Whispering Oaks at all times and are maintained by WOHA in conjunction with WOSC and Karen. The three share the cost of lighting, irrigation and lawn maintenance



and pay those costs from dues and fees.

Because the properties involved belong to the Whispering Oaks Swim Club, which has its own membership, the **WOSC** board made the decision to enter into the agreement. Their Board of Directors courteously met with the **WOHA** Board of Directors to inform of & explain their plans & share their enthusiasm while this agreement was being developed.

WOHA wishes WOSC & Karen continued success for the next 30 years & will be proud to watch the teams collect titles & trophies and other accolades for their ultimate successes achieved in our midst.

For more information or answers to concerns or complaints about the **WOSC** plans and operations and further developments of the Tennis Center, **WOSC** Board of Directors invites you to contact them and plan to attend their upcoming Annual Meeting. Watch for that date to be posted soon.

Faces of the Neighborhood: Samuel Pressman

Sam Pressman presents himself as an artist as well as a resident of Whispering Oaks. About to begin his junior year at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Sam, 21, values the beauty of our neighborhood as someone increasingly committed to a practice of environmental art.

What if young people were urged at designated times to paint the bridge that spans our two housing areas? Such an idea seems to come naturally to Sam, as he reflects on his fourteen years spent growing up in Whispering Oaks. He has always particularly valued the gardening of homeowners so visible everywhere here.

Sam, who was born in Peru, has only one regret: that he didn't join the swim team (as has his sister, Graciela, 14). Now he would urge young people to "get involved" in our community. Meanwhile, he himself plans to continue his major in sculpture and to pursue ways of blending his own Inca cultural heritage with other contemporary artistic idioms.



Waterobics



WATEROBICS is the newest addition to the wonderful groups here in Whispering Oaks. YOU too can join us everyday except Sunday from 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. at the pool. Since June 5th, 2-10

people have been enjoying a "no-sweat workout". We alternate aerobics with stretching. We also trade stories and encourage each other. Marilyn Taylor is the leader, with Grace Nunez as "sub". Ivy Stier is our most regular member. She tries not to miss a class. It is also great to see the other swimmers there every morning. We all love the class because "it feels so good, and starts our day off right!" If you are a member of the pool, it is free. If not, a Social Membership for \$50 will get you a whole season of Waterobics plus 5 passes to swim other times. What a deal! We want to continue after school starts until it gets too cold, so... come on down. Look for us next year also.

—Marilyn Taylor

Whispering Oaks ... Or ... Lost Oaks!

Protect the value of your property by joining in the fight against the dreaded Oak Wilt disease. Each homeowner needs to be aware of this impending disaster.

Please, help us fight this tree disease by giving generously to the Oak Wilt Fund. Everyone's help is needed; by contributing a minimum of \$300.00/ house....our money will pay for the only known way to STOP the slow and painful death of our beloved live oak trees! Trenching around the diseased area is our only choice! We know that we can count on our neighbors. Whispering Oaks is a beautiful neighborhood....let's keep it that way!

—Andie Stella
(Whisper Ridge)



Whispering Oaks
Homeowners Assn
P O Box 780454
San Antonio, TX 78278
www.whisperingoaks.org

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 212

Realtor Corner

Welcome to Realtor Corner, an informational column about current market conditions and their effect on Whispering Oaks. In addition to real estate information, we will also include human interest stories abounding in our neighborhood.

Currently, as we all know, our neighborhood is in "Stage 2 Drought Restrictions." Everyone in our neighborhood is working hard to keep their lawns green. Although we will all welcome the rain, I have noticed a silver lining in this restrictive time. As my husband and I walk the neighborhood several times a week, we look forward to visiting with the many morning and evening walkers in our neighborhood. Lately, however, due to the water rationing, we have had the opportunity to see and meet even more of our neighbors as they stand outside handwatering their thirsty plants and lawns - morning coffee in one hand and a watering hose in the other.

While we collectively pray for rain, we are also grateful for the wonderful neighbors that make Whispering Oaks such a wonderful place to live. And for all of you who haven't tried hand watering your lawn, just think of all the new people you will meet!

-Tanya Smith Power, tpower@phyllisbrowning.com

Landscape Watering :

Watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler is allowed only once a week from 3-8 a.m. and 8-10 p.m. on your desig-

<u>Last Digit of Street Address</u>	<u>Watering Day</u>
0-1 _____	Monday
2-3 _____	Tuesday
4-5 _____	Wednesday
6-7 _____	Thursday
8-9 _____	Friday

No watering on weekends with a sprinkler, soaker hose or irrigation system. Areas without a street address, such as medians and neighborhood entryways, water on Wednesday. **Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.**

Membership W.O.H.A

Dear Neighbors!

It's that time again! Dues statements will be delivered within the next 30-45 days. We have had a challenging summer and will need your financial support more than ever to maintain the common area. Do you have a new neighbor? Please call me as I'd like to welcome new residents to the neighborhood on a personal basis and invite them to any upcoming events in our community.

-Diane Crawford, Membership , 210-479-3413 (Whisper Spring)

Real Estate Current Statistics

TOTAL SALES: 26

LOWEST PRICE \$127,000
HIGHEST PRICE \$315,000
AVERAGE PRICE \$214,546
AVERAGE PRICE PER S.F. \$90.23
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET 117 DAYS

HOMES FOR SALE: 9

LOWEST PRICE \$157,900
HIGHEST PRICE \$339,999
AVERAGE PRICE \$236,655
AVERAGE PRICE PER S.F. \$97.45
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET: 126 DAYS

Information regularly provided by
Nancy Doucette (Whispering Wind)
Kuper Sotheby Realtors

