

The Whispers

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

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Meet New Neighbors
in the New Year!



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

Tuesday, January 25th 6:30 to 8:30pm

Refreshments provided. Cash bar and dining available.
Mingle indoors or on the patio. Current CDC guidelines observed.



Nearby at 2267 NW Military

WOHA Member \$10. Non-Member \$15. Kids welcome (free).
Limited capacity. Reservations encouraged via whisperingoaks.org

Well, Well, Looky Here! New Year, New Entranceway Landscaping



A WOHA volunteer works with a professional landscaper at Whisper Bow.

Perhaps you've noticed the work being done at the five entrances into Whispering Oaks, which is another project taken on by the Whispering Oaks Homeowner's Association. Many plants and shrubs were damaged by the February freeze, so those have been removed and replaced with low-water-use plants. Shrubs needing constant trimming have also been relocated to areas where they can grow freely without costly landscape care.

The irrigation systems are being repaired and changed into drip lines, which should cut down on our water bill. Monument lighting is being reconfigured and replaced, too.

Thanks go to the WOHA and Garden Club volunteers who have worked dozens of hours to make us proud of our neighborhood. This is how paying WOHA dues can maintain and even improve our property values.

2021–2022

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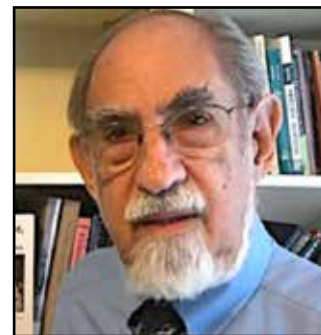
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Why I Joined the Board

By Richard S. Pressman

As the longest continuously serving member of the Whispering Oaks Board of Directors—since May of 2016—maybe it's time I explained myself. That is, what's my excuse?

In the first place, I was asked to join; I didn't volunteer. I never did understand why—at least not at the time. At first, I felt like a fish out of water since I'm not much attuned to the politics of running a neighborhood. And, yes, that's what it takes, politics. That means getting out there and arguing your case all the time. And that, in turn, needs volunteers.



Well, why did I accept? I had just retired from teaching the year before, so I knew I could make the time. But it also had to do with Whispering Oaks' being the best neighborhood my wife, Judine Taylor, and I have lived in in our adulthood. Our happiness with Whispering Oaks began quickly upon our moving here 27 years ago. Our neighbor across the street, Donna Martin, came over right away to greet us. Then our neighbors down the street, Jim and Denise Schneider, had noticed that several new folks had moved onto our block that year, so they held a welcoming party for us. Since then, we have become fast friends.

Topping that, the legendary neighborhood greeter back then, the blessed Roz Moroh, brought us the requisite plant she always gave the newbies. But then she and her beloved husband, Sig, did us one better. Two months after moving in, there occurred the first of many neighborhood parties at the pool—and we always go—for Memorial Day.

It was there we got to know the Morohs, who immediately became honorary grandparents to our six-year-old son, Samuel, and then later to our daughter, Graciela. That beautiful relationship, which lasted until the Morohs' passing, would also give us our friendship with their daughter Ivy and her husband, Arthur, as well as with Ivy's California sister, Marsha.

With neighbors like that, we knew we had a real home. So when the time came to join the Homeowner's Association that September, we didn't hesitate. So, years later, when the call came to join the Board, I didn't have to think about it. I just said "yes." Little did I know that the Board had been plotting to foist the job of editing *The Whispers* on me. And, believe it or not, when Lisa Abramson told me I was taking over for Janis Witt, I was actually nervous about whether I could do the job well enough.

But it wasn't long before I began to feel my way. As well as providing information, I wanted *The Whispers* to be fun, too; I thought it ought to be entertaining. After all, we want people to be *interested* in what's going on in the neighborhood, as well as be informed of the facts.

And a great-big thanks is owed to our WOHA Board President, Simon Esparza, who negotiated both an expansion of *The Whispers* to at least twelve pages and full color at no extra cost. Thank you, Simon!

So, thanks to all the friends we've made here in Whispering Oaks—and there are many—and to all of you who continue to support the Homeowner's Association. We could not ask for better neighbors or a better neighborhood.

P.S. You're probably used to seeing "Simon Sez" in this space. He hasn't gone away! Instead, he and the Board agreed that, from time to time, we need to give the guy a break by having someone else write in this space.

Hallowe'en Returns to WO!

Over 100 folks of all ages—little ones, moms, dads, aunts, uncles, and grandparents—gathered at the pool on Saturday, 30 October, the day before Hallowe'en, for not just *some* fun, but a lot of it. Sponsored by both the Swim and Tennis Club and the Homeowner's Association, the afternoon was just what a lot of Whispering Oakers were eager for.

There was plenty of food to go along with games and contests. There was face painting. And there were sports. Here's hoping that this was the first of many community gatherings to come... if the Covid gods permit!



Scary? Nah, just good neighbor Marion Madrigal having some fun with us.



Looks like that-there face needs some paintin'.



"Yup. This one's a gonner. We're gonner miss him."

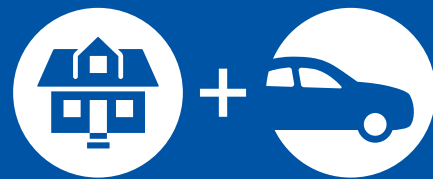


Graciela Pressman explains, "See, kids? The sausage fits inside the guitar and then my son here gets a black eye!"



"Let's wrap this one in toilet paper so well she'll never be seen again!"

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Holiday Decorations

Whispering Oaks' Bright Ideas!

This is how Whispering Oaks did it up big this holiday season. But it's just a sampling of what your editor and his "assistant" could catch at dusk just before deadline. There was much more out there that deserved to be included. It seems that there were more displays this year in comparison to years past—perhaps our recent pleasant weather made decorating easier, or maybe the proliferation of LED lights and fun, new holiday figures inspired us. Whatever the reason, many residents enjoyed seeing these homes. Maybe next year WOHA can sponsor a holiday decorating contest!





Even the Whispering Oaks Homeowner's Association got into the act, decorating the trees at Whisper Sound entranceway.



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Letter to the Editor**A Caring President**

I just wanted to give five stars to our HOA President, Simon Esparza. I have proudly lived in Whispering Oaks for the past 48 years, and many HOA Presidents have come and gone, some very good in overseeing our community needs and some not so good. However, in my opinion, Simon Esparza wins a gold star.

I and many of my neighbors had a request concerning the newly resurfaced street on Whisper Willow. I wrote to Simon about our concern and was pleasantly surprised that he answered almost immediately. As busy as he is, Simon did not stop there; he kept communicating with me and gave me hope that he would do everything possible to achieve our request.

Now, that is an award-winning president, one who has my vote. Thank you, Simon Esparza, for your kindness, for your courtesy, and for just plain caring.

Elizabeth Aboud

Did you know?**It's Illegal to Blow Yard Leaves into the Street**

Many species of Oaks drop their leaves in early spring, and the big trees in Whispering Oaks can shed more than some homeowners can handle. But don't be tempted to rake them into the gutter—for you may well receive a citation from the City. That's because wet leaves clog sewers, foul the Edward Aquifer watershed, and create a hazard of slipperiness for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Some homeowners don't realize they can even be held liable for violations committed by the landscaping services they hire. So it's a good idea to remind workers to collect your leaves and dispose of them properly. Please note that the City will not pick up leaves in plastic bags.

What can you do with all those leaves?

- Bag them in paper lawn bags available at home stores or HEB. Up to 50 bags can be picked up at the curb, as long as the contents are only leaves and/or grass clippings. This one-time service in the spring can be arranged by calling 311.
- Rake them into the green organic cart provided for free by the city, so they can be recycled into free mulch later in the spring. Call 311 for information on that.
- If your green recycling bin can't accommodate the volume, many firms will haul them away for a modest fee. Or call the City Customer Service Center at 311 and request an additional green bin. There's no additional fee for the extra green bin or its regular collection by the City.
- Leave them on the lawn (mowing will let them decompose faster) or pile them into static compost piles for gardening use later.

On the other hand, if you see leaves being blown or raked into our streets, please call 311 and report the violation. It's actually the neighborly thing to do! And your report can be made anonymously.

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New Membership Stickers Hit Bumpers

WOHA mailed a holiday gift to its members last month. Every household that paid its 2022 membership dues received a pair of green and white bumper stickers in the mail along with a note of appreciation from the Board of Directors.

Longtime residents will recall this isn't the first time membership stickers were produced, but there has been a noticeable lapse since the previous edition. The latest batch have been received enthusiastically. Some vehicle bumpers have been adorned, and more than a few stickers appear in front windows of homes.


If you forgot to renew your membership, it's not too late to get a pair for yourself. Click on [whisperingoaks.org](https://www.whisperingoaks.org) for both online and mail-in renewal options.

Whispering Oaks Online Communications

Did you know Whispering Oaks HOA is on social media? Please 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 

Also, don't forget about the Whispering Oaks HOA website! You can contact the HOA board and join the HOA here. <https://www.whisperingoaks.org/>

*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."*

—Henry Ford

Letter to the Board

Bill Goggin, who died of leukemia a year ago, lived across the street from us and was one of the original homeowners in Whispering Oaks. Almost everyone knew him as the man who walked his black lab every day. Yet he lived a solitary life, so most people knew little about him. We who live on the same street knew him to be a kind man who lived well within his means and who appreciated any invitation to get together for a meal or to play games. Most others might have thought him unfriendly, but that was not the case. Dogs were his passion and he mourned deeply every time one of his black labs passed.

Bill asked us for help when he went into hospice, as his only relative is his 90-year-old brother, who lives in another state. Because of this, we are aware that he left to WOHA about \$65,000. Bill loved and appreciated this neighborhood and in light of his large gift, we dearly hope the Board will see fit to make some kind of dedication in his memory.

Ann and Lee Young

Grateful Response from the Board

As of this writing, the Board had yet to determine how to honor Mr. Goggin, to whom we are certainly grateful for his gift. But some appropriate memorial will be created. But perhaps of even greater value to Whispering Oaks—thanks to Mr. Goggin—is that a new fund has been established beginning with his gift: **The Legacy Fund**. Residents are encouraged to leave something to the neighborhood for its perpetuation. The fund will be used for neighborhood improvement.

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Garden Club Report

THE GARDEN CLUB COMES BACK STRONG

By Ann Parsons

Gardening can be a year-round activity, but the Garden Club didn't get back to "business" until the September, October, and November meetings with guest speaker presentations. We ended the year at our almost-annual December holiday luncheon at Club Giraud. A lovely time was had by all.

This new year will be action packed with meetings, presentations, a Quad-Club luncheon and style show at Sonterra Country Club, a barge trip on the San Antonio River, and a May luncheon and installation of officers at Milano's Restaurant. Then in August we will start up the cycle of education, charity outreach, fun, and socializing with our 2022-23 schedule of events. If you want to join us, contact President Pamela Harrison Martinez 210-690-2422.

Yard of the Month honors went to 11507 Whisper Moss (Turner) for November and 11611 Whisper Trail (Escamilla) for December. Our Yard of the Month committee always gets permission from the homeowner to accept the honor, have the YOM sign in their yard, and have their name and address on the two marquees. In the past we have had a homeowner who refused the honor and others who did not want the family name on the marquees. Your request is our command.

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the year—for gardening begins in January with the dream."

—Josephine Nuese

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle."

—Luther Burbank

"And don't think that garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous."

—Rumi

Trash Can Storage

Please keep in mind that, other than on collection days, all **trash cans**, should be placed where they are **not** visible from the street, either in the garage or behind a fence or wall. Your neighbors and your all-volunteer WOHA Board will greatly appreciate your cooperation.



Garden Club November Meeting

At the November meeting of the Garden Club, specialist Diane Terrazas showed the attendees how to decorate tables for the holidays.



Garden Club President Pam Harrison-Martínez introduces guest speaker Diane Terrazas.



Some of the Club members listening to the presentation and enjoying the refreshments.



Diane Terrazas shows how to do a simple Christmas table decoration.

Garden Club Fete at the Club Giraud

Doin' It Up BIG



What a fabulous group of women! Sorry for the few that were not able to attend and anyone who had to leave early, but at least we got a good shot of the majority of attendees. Thank you so much for participating in our holiday event. And let's not forget that a few of the guys showed up, too!



Some of the folks enjoying themselves while waiting for that scrumptious food to arrive.

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Yards of the Month



November

Joan and Robert Turner
11507 Whisper Moss



December

Colleen Escamilla
11611 Whisper Trail
Because Colleen has won twice, she gets *two* photos!

Fraud!

These days, we seem to be almost overwhelmed with fraudulent communications, some by email, some by telephone, some at your door. Here are some simple ways to tell quickly if the communication is a scam:

Emails

1. If it's from another country and it offers you any money, it's a scam.
2. If the name on the email is of a friend or a relative, click on the name to see the return address. If it's not the same as the person's, it's a scam.
3. If it seems to be from a legitimate company, even if it has an official logo, click on the name to see the email address. If it's not clearly the company's, delete immediately. If still unsure, call the company before reacting to the email.
4. If a mysterious email asks you to open an attachment or a link, don't do it. Check the sender's email address. It's almost certainly illegitimate.
5. If it's from a friend or acquaintance claiming to be stranded and needing a bailout, it's a scam.

Phone Calls

1. If you are told that you are in any sort of trouble or that there is "suspicious activity" on your account, it's probably a scam. If you are asked for any personal information, it's definitely a scam. Never give personal information over the phone unless you initiate the conversation, as in making a purchase. Clearly, if you don't even have such an account, it's a scam, so just hang up; don't even explain.
2. If you get an urgent phone call from a stranger claiming to be calling on behalf of a relative, such as a grandchild, and told the person is in some sort of trouble and needs money right away, it's a scam.

Door-to-Door

If a person comes to your door and makes an offer to do work on your house at a superior price, it's probably a scam. Often, the person will start the work, demand payment in advance for materials, then disappear. It's always best to get a reference, especially a personal one.





Real Estate Report

Jan – Dec 2021

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini, Resident Realtor®

	Price	Per Sq. Foot
Active listings – 4		
High	\$495,000	\$194
Low	\$281,000	\$135
Pending listings – 2		
High	\$395,000	\$151
Low	\$295,000	\$144
Sold listings – 49		
High	\$545,000	\$200
Median	\$360,000	\$154
Low	\$210,000	\$94

"In 2021, we have seen different rhythms and patterns in home sales, but the market has remained strong as we approach the year's end," said Cher Miculka, SABOR's 2021 Chairman of the Board. "More home options are available with 2,774 new listings added to the already active 3,968 listings in Bexar County alone."



Wanna Read Sumpin' Funny?

While reviewing math symbols with her students, the teacher drew a greater-than sign (>) and a less-than sign (<) on the blackboard.

"Does anyone know what these mean?" she asked.

"I do, I do," called out an eager student. "One means fast-forward and the other means rewind!"

Y un Chiste en Español

Un hombre muy feo y pobre acude a una agencia matrimonial.

"Quiero encontrar a una mujer para casarme. Quiero que sea guapa, rica y de buena familia."

Contesta el agente, "Una mujer de esas características que quisiera contraer matrimonio con usted sería imbécil."

"Bueno, ese detalle de la inteligencia me da exactamente igual."

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