

# The Whispers

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

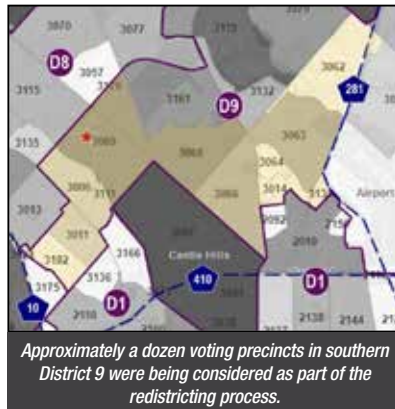
## WOHA Fights to Keep Neighborhood in District 9

By Peter Lund

Following the most recent national census, City leaders are required by law to ensure that each of the ten San Antonio City Council precincts has approximately the same population. Because, in the last decade, the three northern districts (8, 9, and 10) have grown faster than others, District 9, which includes Whispering Oaks, needs to shed nearly 14,000 people. The most logical reallocation would happen along the district's southern border with District 1, which needs to gain over 20,000 people.

District reassignment can cause significant disruption for HOAs who invest countless hours building relationships with a councilperson's staff and securing earmarked funds for community needs. Voter Precinct 3069, which includes Whispering Oaks, had been assigned to District 8 just ten years ago, so the possibility of being reassigned to yet a third district within a decade has caused concern for the WOHA Board of Directors.

For the past two months, WOHA volunteers have attended public meetings in which a committee comprised of two citizen representatives for each District negotiates a recommended



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## Simon Sez



Hey, Neighbors,

And the Texas Summer has come again. Or, as a line from one of my favorite songs as a young adult "Lights of Louisiana," by Jennifer Warnes, goes, "One summer night he'll light a lantern." It always stirs memories of summers past.

With the pandemic starting to fade away from our lives (we hope!), and now the air is filled with peace of mind, it'll be nice to transition back into a life with more relaxed personal interactions. What a beautiful time of year to renew many fellowships with our neighbors and family. The HOA Board once again would like to thank all the supporters in our neighborhood for being HOA members.

We have many nice events planned for the summer, with a Memorial Day ice cream party gathering, a shredding event, and a dumpster day as well. We would also like to do a movie night at the Tennis or Pool Club for the children, with popcorn and drinks. Check our website for updates. It was nice to see a goodly amount of participation for the Yard Sale Day we had as a neighborhood. We look forward to doing it again with even better strategy to promote it. We also have capital improvements in store for all our entrances, with a deep cleaning and painting for them all. As well, still more in the works are landscaping efforts.

I continue to see posts on Nextdoor.com with a number of concerns about our neighborhood. But instead of these many posts that go nowhere, there is so much opportunity to get involved in the community to get problems solved. Please reach out to the HOA Board to get involved. We have the COP (Cellular on Patrol) program kicking off and again, with time for someone to step up and get a COP program set up in our neighborhood. A trash pickup coordinator in our neighborhood is also needed. Volunteers for cleaning up around our entrances on a bi-weekly basis and many more ideas we have that we need more hands-on deck. Please reach out to me personally or email us at our Board email (see contact information on the left column).

There are only 11 board members, so they alone cannot get it all done. It takes a tribe to make it happen. In fact, there are a number of our neighbors who do volunteer—to work on social events, to welcome new neighbors, to help with the marquees, and work in other areas. It's time to act and make a difference. Summer, in short, is our time, a time of freedom that has never felt as liberating as it does this year.

After the imprisonment of the pandemic, we are once again released with fewer limits to travel, to gather, to celebrate. Go watch the sunrise at a lake. Eat outside whenever possible. Ride your bike or walk in the cooler mornings or evenings. Tend to some gardening. Talk with your neighbors and have a cold one! Jump in your pool, barbecue and enjoy our release. We, the HOA Board and I, look forward to a wonderful summer. As that great Jennifer Warnes song about summer says, "Our lives go by like sparks are flyin'." Enjoy, Enjoy!

Have a great summer!!

**Simon J. Esparza**

*President, Whispering Oaks HOA*

## Brief Letter to the Board



**You folks are doing a great job on the newsletter and for Whispering Oaks!**

**Tom Whitmore, *Whisper Dew***

**Editor's Note: We thank you, Tom!**



(Continued from page 1)

map that will be put to a City Council vote in late May. Their final map must reallocate entire voter precincts that can vary widely in population. The committee seeks to reallocate contiguous precincts that don't fracture neighborhood associations or dilute minority voter representation, which is protected by law.

WOHA was not alone in its lobbying efforts, but by using demographic data, the WOHA Board was able to convince the committee to remove Precinct 3069 from the current list of those to be reallocated to District 1. For now, it appears likely Whispering Oaks will remain in District 9. But further revisions to the map could transpire up until the Council vote. So the WOHA team intends to stay vigilant. Residents can follow the committee's progress at [SAspeakup.com](http://SAspeakup.com), which includes a list of key meeting dates for public participation.

## Count Me In REDISTRICTING SAN ANTONIO

### 2022 Redistricting Advisory Committee Meetings

**Tuesday, 10 May, 2022 • 6:00 p.m.**  
Ron Darner Park HQ, Barrera Room  
5800 Enrique Barrera Pkwy., 78227

**Tuesday, 31 May, 2022 • 2:00 p.m.**  
Municipal Plaza, B Room  
114 W. Commerce St., 78205

**Provide your input by attending an in-person meeting  
or by calling 311.**

(Please note that three meetings were held prior to these, but the information was received after the previous issue of *The Whispers* and were held before the present issue would be received.)

### What is redistricting?

Redistricting is when Council Districts are redrawn and given different boundaries after a change in population. This usually happens every ten years after the Census data becomes available. Based on how the City's grown over the last decade, Council Districts must be redrawn to maintain relatively equal population. Using the feedback received from the committee and the public during the redistricting process, the City will adopt a new population-based plan in preparation for the May, 2023, municipal election.

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change.

Learn more at [sabexarcounmein.org](http://sabexarcounmein.org)

(This notice courtesy of the District 9 Dispatch)

*Graduating?  
Getting Married?  
Starting a Career?  
Is There a New One in Your Family?*

Let your neighbors know about it so we can share your joy!  
Send the information to *The Whispers* so it can appear in the next issue. Photos are most welcome, too.

Send it to [rpressman@satx.rr.com](mailto:rpressman@satx.rr.com).



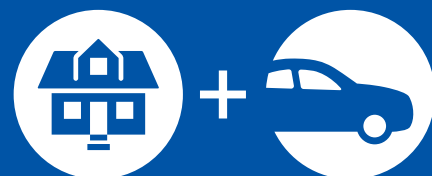
## When Is Leaf-Falling Season?

**In our area, it's simple: It begins in January and  
ends in December!**

— Many thanks for this astute observation  
from Professor of Earth Sciences Mortimer  
Snerd of the University of Pago-Pago.



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A report from...

## The Nicest Pool in San Antonio!

### Time to Join Up!

Summer is here! Your Whispering Oaks pool is open for summertime fun. We are excited to be back with a more normal summer with pool activities and parties.

Our First Party of the season will be on Sunday, May 29th. On that day, entrance is free. So if you are not a member, that will be a great time to check out the facilities. To join your neighborhood pool, visit [woswimclub.org](http://woswimclub.org).

### Tax-Deductible Pool Fundraising

Thank you to those who have stepped up to help with donations to your neighborhood pool.

If you missed our article in the last issue of *The Whispers*, please know that your neighborhood pool really needs your help. In the very near future, your pools will need to be resurfaced, and our buildings need roof replacements. As well, we hope to update our buildings with a new paint job and lighting.

Most pool resurfacing needs to be done about every 10 years. Our last pool resurfacing was in 2006 and, thankfully, that last

resurfacing has held up well. But now we have plaster peeling off in the deep end of the pool and we expect it to progress to the rest of the pool. To do this resurfacing, we will need to dig out all the old plaster to get down to the base, which will be more expensive. Considering the increased cost of materials over the last few years, these projects are estimated to cost \$135,000. Our goal is set at \$150,000 to make sure we have enough to cover the unexpected costs that are sure to arise. We realize this is a HUGE goal. There are over 750 homes in our neighborhood, most of which are not members, but, hopefully, you see the benefit of having this great facility in our neighborhood.

All donations are tax deductible! And all donations are appreciated!

To donate, please visit our website: [www.woswimclub.org](http://www.woswimclub.org)

**For mail-in donations, please mail to:**

**Whispering Oaks Swim Club**

**P.O. BOX 781323**

**San Antonio, TX 78278**

The Blue Marlins are helping raise funds for these pool projects and allows you to make tax-deductible donations. If donating by check, make payable to Whispering Oaks Swim Team.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### May

14th & 15th ..... First Weekend Pool is open with Lifeguards (1–8 p.m.)

16th ..... Blue Marlins Swim team practice starts

29th (Sunday) ..... Memorial Day Weekend Party

#### June

3rd ..... First Weekday Pool is open with guards (1–8 p.m.)

6th (Monday) ..... Pool is closed for a home Blue Marlin's swim meet

20th (Monday) ... Pool is closed for a home Blue Marlin's swim meet

#### July

4th (Monday) ..... Pool Party and Parade

#### August

2nd ..... Lifeguard hours are adjusted (4–8 p.m.)

19th ..... Last weekday with lifeguards

#### September

3rd & 4th ..... Last weekend pool is open with Lifeguards

4th (Sunday) ..... Labor Day Weekend Party



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## To Reduce Mosquito Population, Report Stagnant Pools!

Whispering Oaks has well over 100 swimming pools. Most are well maintained, but each summer the few that are not can become prolific mosquito-breeding ponds. WOHA encourages residents to promptly report pools with stagnant, cloudy water.

All mosquito breeds need still water to lay their eggs. Swimming pools that circulate chlorinated water prevent colonies from taking hold, but a neglected pool can quickly breed thousands of larvae every week. Because mosquitos spread numerous diseases, including West Nile, Zika, and dengue, City staff move quickly to cite breeding grounds on private property.

Residents who are aware of a neglected swimming pool or other stagnant water hazards should dial 311 to file an anonymous report. The operator will issue a case number that can then be shared with WOHA via its website so that its volunteers can help monitor City follow-through.



*An example of a not-so-friendly disease-spreading mosquito and stagnant pool water, as evidenced by the cloudy, brackish color.*

## Vehicle Owners, Beware!

### Vehicle Break-Ins in Whispering Oaks!

I'm making everyone aware that I recently had my Ford F-150 broken into. The truck, which was locked in my driveway, was broken into at 4:06 a.m. Fortunately, I do not leave anything of value in my truck, so nothing was taken. I also saw on my Ring app that another vehicle was broken into at the intersection of Whisper Willow and Whisper Spring. For anyone who owns a Ford F-150, I found out they are extremely easy to break into. It takes less than 10 seconds and makes no noise.

—from Steve Macha on Nextdoor.com,  
18 March



## Whispering Oaks Blue Marlin Swim Team

### It's Swim Team Sign-Up Time!

On-line registration for the Whispering Oaks Blue Marlin Swim Team has begun. This 8-week program runs May 16th through July 8th. **The deadline to sign up is May 20th!**

The first few weeks will be afternoon/evening practices. Starting June 7th, practice will switch to morning and limited-space evening practice. Exact dates and times will be posted on our site upon registration. If you are new to the neighborhood, we want to encourage you to enroll your child in this learn-to-swim program.

It is a fantastic way for your child to learn to swim, meet other families in the neighborhood and build lasting friendships. Swimmers will get to develop their talents by participating in swim meets with other teams as well. Participation is not mandatory, but we do hope that 95% of our swimmers will want to participate. What counts is not winning, but trying!

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. For the latest information and to sign-up, please go directly to <https://whisperingoaksbluemarlinsswimtopia.com>. For information not found on the site, send an email, that includes a call-back number, to [teamsabluemarlin@gmail.com](mailto:teamsabluemarlin@gmail.com). Email is preferred, but you may also text LoGina Vincensio @ 210-389-3363. Please include your name in the text.

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## Easter Egg Hunt!

On Saturday, 9 April, starting at 10:00 a.m. and lasting about an hour and a half. Whispering Oaks children came to the pool area for fun and games at the annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Swim & Tennis Club. It was a beautiful day, perfect weather. We had about 30 children for the egg hunt and an additional 10 showed up later for the games. Probably had about 45 adults, both parents and grandparents.

We commenced with the egg hunt, with 1300 eggs hidden on the backside of the property. Most were stuffed with candy, but 36 eggs contained a gold coin which children could trade in at the prize table for a prize of their choosing.

We had seven games plus a craft station that we ran after the egg hunt. There were games geared towards older children, such as the egg toss (a classic!), Minute to Win It type games, such as Jelly Bean Pick Up, in which the child has one minute to move as many jelly beans as possible from the plate to the cup using only a straw and a strong pair of lungs, and some games for younger ones, such as the Bunny Tail Toss and Ring Toss.

It was just a thrill to be out from under the COVID umbrella once again and to get back to socializing with great friends at our wonderful pool! And there was plenty of swimming afterwards!

—Thanks to Rich Shevlin



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## Big, Successful Yard Sale

On Saturday, 26 March, a WOH-organized yard sale was held at upwards of a dozen Whispering Oaks households. All were registered individually and, of course, all profits went to the homeowners. It was a service to the community.

Board member Evita Morín, the chief organizer of the event, said, "Our first community garage sale brought dozens of shoppers to the neighborhood in search of treasures. Thank you, those who participated in the inaugural event. In future iterations, we will increase the signage at the neighborhood perimeter and throughout lesser trafficked streets. Homeowners who register through the HOA will also be promoted on a publicized Google map. Anticipate another bigger better community garage sale shortly before the next bulk pickup!"

One resident-displayer said, "I was planning to have a garage sale on my own soon, but when the HOA plan came up, I was really glad. So I planned it for today!"



*A huge spread at 11527 Whisper Dew*



*At 11529 Whisper Valley, much to choose from, both outside and under the carport*



*Folks checking out the goodies at 11720 Whisper Bow*



*At 2612 Whisper Leaves, some long-times residents showing their wares, but one attempting to escape...*



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## For Your Information

### Tax Relief Is Needed Opinion by Councilman John Courage



San Antonio homeowners are seeing shocking increases in their property appraisals. That's why I believe now is the time for the City to increase the homestead exemption to the maximum allowed by state law (20%). This relief is meant to target working families that are just now recovering from the economic trauma of the pandemic.

As Council begins to discuss budget goal-setting for next year, tax relief will be my number one priority. My office has been laying the groundwork on property tax relief since 2019, and I'm hopeful my Council colleagues will agree that now is the time to act with significance. In partnership with the County and other taxing entities, we can begin to stack these exemptions and create significant relief to help fight the increased cost of living for San Antonio homeowners.

The deadline to protest these valuations is May 16th. You can find the notice of protest form on the Bexar Appraisal District website, [bcad.org](http://bcad.org). Every protest is unique and has different factors that affect its value (depreciation, repairs needed, external factors surrounding the property, etc.).

If Texas voters approve the proposed constitutional amendments to increase the general homestead exemption for school taxes from \$25k to \$40k, your exemption amount will automatically increase and school districts will compute your taxes using the greater exemption amount. See the link below for more info on this proposed amendment.

—Reprinted from the Councilman's online *District 9 Dispatch*

### Those Door-to-Door Solicitors

First off, they had darned well better be licensed by the City. So ask to see the license. Otherwise, they do not have the right to be soliciting. And if they are soliciting without one, they are likely to be scamming. **Solution:** Call the police right away.

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## Signs and Flags What's Permitted

Before you put that flag out or that sign up, be sure you know the rules—rules both of the HOA and the State of Texas. In short, be a good neighbor!

**Signs:** Political signs may be placed in yards 90 days before an election and must be taken down 10 days after. They should not exceed approximately one foot square. No yard should have more than one sign per candidate supported.

Other signs of a personal nature, such as school signs or religious signs may stay long-term, but must observe the size requirement.

No sign should have language or images that would commonly be deemed offensive.

**Flags:** The only flags permitted are official government flags—U.S., State of Texas, City of San Antonio, and the various branches of the military. Flags should be flown on flagpoles, not tacked onto the sides of homes. Any deviation is a violation of covenants and/or State law. So please cooperate with your neighbors!

## Wanna Contact the HOA? Wanna Know What's Goin' On?

**There are several ways to do it or to find things out:**

You can email the Board at: [board@whisperingoaks.org](mailto:board@whisperingoaks.org)

You can email any Board member from the list on page 2 of *The Whispers*.

You can contact the Board through Facebook at:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/WhisperingOaksHomeownersAssociationSA)

[WhisperingOaksHomeownersAssociationSA](https://www.facebook.com/WhisperingOaksHomeownersAssociationSA)

You can join the [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) HOA group by searching: Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association.

You can join the WO Garden Club.

See the article on page 9.

You can join the Swim & Tennis Club at [woswimclub.wildapricot.org](http://woswimclub.wildapricot.org)





## Garden Club Report

### The Key Is Continuing Education

By Ann Parsons

An important part of the Whispering Oaks Garden Club is continuing education. That's why club officers seek out gardening experts to give presentations at many of our monthly meetings.

In February, horticulturalist Leslie Bingham schooled us with a fact-filled presentation on growing herbs and using them both medicinally and as flavor enhancers in food and drink. Fun fact: Unlike mad dogs and Englishmen, most herbs hate the noonday sun. Consider growing them in pots to move around for morning sun and afternoon shade.

Then in March, master gardener Karen Gardner gave us the low-down on composting. We now know there is more to it than meets the eye. Fact: The ratio of "green" nitrogen-rich waste to "brown" carbon-rich waste matters. And toss all meat scraps in the garbage!

Okay, so all work and no play, where's the fun in that? That's why club officers seek out fun stuff, such as a barge cruise along the River Walk, the Quad-Club luncheon and fashion show, and an evening party for members, spouses, and guests in May.

Want to join us? Dues of \$30 are now being accepted for the August 2022 through May 2023 programs and events. Checks made out to WOGC should be sent to Pamela Harrison Martínez, 11307 Whisper Falls, San Antonio, TX 78230-3539.



**The Garden Club Meets in Person...Again!**

*Speaker Leslie Bingham, Secretary of the San Antonio Herb Market Association, speaking to just some of the group at the Garden Club's February meeting.*

“This is my domain and I shall keep it beautiful  
— a place of joy and light.”

—from *Through the Garden Portals*,  
by Grace Noll Crowell

## Yards of the Month



**March 2022**  
The Kaufmans, 2727 Whisper Path



**April 2022**  
Julabeth Carden, 11226 Whisper Spring

## Our Andi Stella Is One Cool Lady!



Andi is an ace vendor of Mary Kaye products, has been for many years. As a result, she recently won a pink Cadillac! So if you see a pink Caddy sportin' 'round the neighborhood, you'll know it's our gal Andi.

**WARNING**

## Exposed Wires!

Whether they're telephone or cable wires, when they're exposed, they're dangerous!—dangerous to pets, to children, and to big kids, too. We're talking about those posts that stick up out of the ground. Exposed wires need to be reported and, happily, they will be taken care of in a timely manner. But yuh gotta report them! All you need do is call 811 and give the location.

—Thanks to Eleanor Siegal





## IN MEMORIAM



### Norma Sackett

On 23 February, Whispering Oaks lost one of its long-time leading lights, Norma Sackett, at the age of 82. Norma was born on 29 December 1939 in Seagoville, Texas, to James Kalton and Callie Thedford Burt. Norma is preceded in death by her parents, by her loving

husband of 44 years, Lt. Col. Carl L. Sackett, USAF (Ret.), and two brothers, Kalton Shaw Burt and Robert Wayne Burt. She is survived by her loving daughter, Tamera Doak Anderson, son-in-law, Jesse L. Anderson, and many nieces and nephews.

Norma retired from the University of Texas Health Science Center, then devoted her time to multiple non-profit organizations, including these: the Republican Women's Club, the San Antonio Women's Club, the San Antonio Garden Club, the San Antonio Council of Nationally Credited Flower Show Judges, the Assistance League of San Antonio, and the Terrell Heights Garden Club. She served as President of the S.A. Garden Club and the S.A. Council of Nationally Credited Flower Show Judges.

At Whispering Oaks, she served our community both as a long-time member and as President of both the Garden Club and the Homeowner's Association.

Though passionate about community service, Norma mostly cherished the friendships she developed in both her career and her volunteer associations. She thrived on being involved and took pride in her friendships, her projects, and her family, helping neighbors and friends in need and the multiple causes of the various organizations she supported.

A visitation was held on Monday, 28 March, at Porter Loring on McCullough, with a funeral service the following morning. Interment was at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Donations in Norma's memory may be made to the San Antonio Garden Center or the Assistance League of San Antonio.

—This obituary is edited from the Porter Loring site

### Rev. Dr. Harold Dean Burkhardt

September 22, 1927 – April 7, 2022

Whispering Oaks has lost one of its leading lights, one who served not only his church and the community at large, but Whispering Oaks itself, being elected to the WOHA Board of Directors for several years from about 2011 to about 2017. Harold passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on 7 April from complications due to a heart ailment.



He was born on 22 September 1927 in Topeka, Kansas, as the son of Floyd B. and Aileen McPhail Burkhardt. He is survived by his beloved wife of 20 years, Patricia Fullingim Handy Burkhardt. He is also survived by his daughters Rebecca Louise Burkhardt and her partner Cynthia Goatley, and by Deanna Rochelle Weibel, her husband Robert J. Weibel, Jr, and their sons, his grandsons, as well as Patricia's children.

Harold finished High school in Corpus Christi in 1945 and received his Bachelor's Degree from Southwestern University (Texas) in 1949; a Master's of Christian Education from Duke Divinity School in 1950; a Master of Theology at Perkins school of Theology, Southern Methodist University in 1956; a Master's in Health Care Administration, Trinity University (San Antonio), in 1984, and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Southwestern University in 1981. As a United Methodist clergy, he first served as Associate Pastor at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church from 1951 to 1954. After another seminary degree, he served as Pastor of churches from 1956 to 1973 in Lytle, Kingsville, El Campo, and Brownsville.

He was President of the Methodist Mission Home (now Providence Place) in San Antonio from 1973 to 1994, during which over 1800 babies were placed for adoption and all birth mothers were nurtured as well. He created a second ministry at the Mission Home soon after he arrived in 1973, serving hundreds of hearing-impaired youth and guiding them to independent living. The Burkhardt Activity Center at the Mission Home was dedicated and named in his honor in 1994. He was active in state and national groups dealing with childcare and rehabilitation of handicapped persons. In 1994 he was given a Resolution of Appreciation by the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church for his work at the Mission Home, and in 2000 he was awarded the Servant Leadership Award by the Southwest Texas Conference of the UMC.

He enjoyed playing his trumpet from junior high through college

(Continued on page 11)

# Go Green

LET'S DO OUR PART IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!

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to 20 years in dance bands in San Antonio. He also loved his 1968 candy-apple-red Mustang convertible, which he restored and owned for 37 years. He drove it in many parades and was active in the San Antonio Mustang Club, of which he was president in 2003. During his retirement, in the "Third Half" of his ministry (1994–96), he directed the financial campaign and served on the building committee to erect the "Methodist Center" on Huebner Road in San Antonio, where the Bishop and other church officials of the Methodist Church are officed. He served as Interim Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, during 1996–97, his home church as a youth. During 2002–2014, he was back at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church as part time Associate Pastor working with seniors and helping in pastoral duties.

Harold's guidance continued throughout his lifetime. His dedication, inspiration, and enthusiasm along with his giving heart, passion, and love for the Lord continued into his nineties. He was a mentor who inspired many young men and women to their call to serve God. He was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, pastor, and friend of many during his 94 years. Harold "Burky" was a gentle mover and shaker, a visionary... an innovator... always seeing opportunities to go forward with the newest ideas and creative thoughts. He was loved by everyone he met and will be missed.

Donations may be made to the charity of your choice in Harold's memory.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.neptunesociety.com/location/san-antonio-cremation](http://www.neptunesociety.com/location/san-antonio-cremation) for the Burkhardt family.



## Real Estate Report

February – April 2022

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini, Resident Realtor®

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Per Sq. Ft.</u>
<b>Active listings – 1</b>	\$291,000	\$134
<b>Pending listings – 3</b>		
High	\$450,000	\$238
Median	\$396,000	\$173
Low	\$250,000	\$166
<b>Sold listings – 1</b>	\$349,900	\$181

"2022 is showing a steady pace with homes on the market for 38 days and 100 percent being sold for listing price. Price per square foot has increased to \$176 a 20 percent increase from 2021. Even with this large increase, the area saw a 9 percent increase in total closed sales with 2,681 homes sold."

–SABOR

## Creating Your Dream Garden in a Few Easy Steps



By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

- 1. Draw Your Dream Garden.** Put your concept on paper. Draw an overall design or scan through design magazines and cut out your favorite pictures of walkways, stones, colors, plants, lighting, etc., and arrange them to create your perfect aesthetic.
- 2. Fresh Soil.** Next, decide where your dream garden will reside. Once you have the area scoped out, the fun part begins. Make sure the area you have chosen for your garden has been cleaned out so that you can create your dream garden using a blank canvas. Remove any weeds, grass, or debris so that you start with a nice fresh base of soil.
- 3. Stepping Stones.** If your dream garden has inexpensive steppingstones in the design, you can use these stones to create sections in your garden or simply provide a pathway to walk around the flowers when the weather is rainy or damp.
- 4. Time to Plant.** Visit your local nursery and choose either flowering plants or seeds. If you choose to go the seed route, I recommend these easy-to-grow flowers to start:
  - **Sunflowers** – These are easy to grow and can reach a height of 14 ft! These flowers love sunny, sheltered soil.
  - **Sweet Peas** – These flowers smell so great and are beautiful. Whether seeds or plugs, you will find these flowers are easy to grow in a sunny spot with plenty of water.
  - **Nigella** – This flower is definitely tougher than it looks. It grows well in full sun with watering in dry conditions (like our Texas summers!).
  - **Aquilegia** – This flower is one of the best ones to grow from planting seeds. The best part is they come back year after year. It loves sun or semi-shade and moist soil. It's best to start this one in a small pot for transplanting later on. Once established they seed themselves, so you'll have fresh plants each year.
  - **Eschscholzia** – This beautiful flower remains content in poor, dry soil and is perfect for the forgetful gardener. Loves full sun.
- 5. Outdoor Furniture.** This does not have to be a huge expense. Look around in your garage or attic to see if you have small pieces that would fit in your dream garden. Continue adding pieces until it fits with your overall design and aesthetic.
- 6. Lighting.** The final touch of a dream garden is the lighting. With so many options to choose from, make sure the ones you choose give you the end result that promotes peace and tranquility. If the budget is tight, consider using Christmas lighting to light up your outdoor space.

I hope you've enjoyed this piece about creating your dream garden. Honestly, there are so many variables and items to choose from that the end result can be just what you've imagined. So, don't wait, get out there and bring your dream to fruition!

To read more:

- <https://www.lifehack.org/404433/spring-diy-5-tips-on-making-your-garden-magical>
- <https://www.thompson-morgan.com/top-10-easy-to-grow-flowers>



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## VOTE YES DURING EARLY VOTING APRIL 25 TO MAY 3

School Bond 2022 Improves NISD Schools. 95% of Funds are Dedicated to Existing Schools.



**NO  
TAX RATE  
IMPACT!**



### VOTE YES FOR THREE NEW MAGNET PROGRAMS

School Bond 2022 adds three more magnet programs at NISD middle schools to provide students with more choices.



### VOTE YES FOR SAFE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

NISD proposes to buy new buses and multi-purpose vehicles to replace an aging bus fleet. NISD has almost 900 buses and retires them when they reach 250,000 miles traveled.



### VOTE YES MEANS NO TAX RATE IMPACT

There is NO tax rate impact for property owners, and if you are 65 or older, or disabled, your taxes are frozen.



### VOTE YES FOR MORE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Improvements to NISD schools include alarms, door hardware, camera surveillance systems and access controls.



### VOTE YES FOR TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS AT SCHOOLS

School Bond 2022 upgrades computer hardware, firewalls, routers and telephone systems.



### VOTE YES FOR UPGRADES AT OLDER SCHOOLS

School Bond 2022 upgrades older NISD schools to meet current standards. 95% of the bond is dedicated to existing, older neighborhood schools.

**EARLY VOTING: APRIL 25 – MAY 3, 2022 | ELECTION DAY: MAY 7, 2022**

Pol. ad by Northside Bond Committee; Katie N. Reed, Treasurer; PO Box 680073; San Antonio, TX 78268-0073