

# The Whispers

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

## Oak Wilt Update

By Fred Previc, WOHA Oak Wilt Liaison

Oak Wilt continues to ravage the east side of the neighborhood. The latest semi-annual map of the treatment zones shown on page 3 was created after a visit by Erin Davis of the Texas A&M Forest Service in early May. The red line denotes the confirmed infection zone, the green line the immediate treatment zone, and the blue line the close-monitoring zone. To gauge how far the Oak Wilt has spread, the map of May of 2019 is superimposed in solid blue on the red infected area of 2023. Because the fungus is spreading rapidly, the map should be considered a conservative estimate of the extent of the infected and treatment zones.

The spread seems to be generally quicker north-south along Whisper Valley than eastward up towards Lockhill-Selma. Currently, the infection spans Whisper Fawn to Whisper Ridge. The devastation has occurred very quickly on some properties, where full canopies have been replaced within a matter of few months with bare limbs. In properties that have treated, only some of their trees, only the ones treated with fungicide have survived, although not all retained full canopies. The ones left untreated or treated with a corn meal mixture mostly died. So the message is clear: If your property is listed on the map as being in the immediate treatment zone, do not delay!

We at WOHA are often asked whom to recommend for treatment for Oak Wilt. We are not in the business of favoring one arborist over another, but the ones listed on the WOHA website are all certified:

<https://www.whisperingoaks.org/oak-wilt>

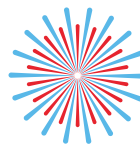
*(Continued on page 3)*

## WOHA Urges City to Limit Truck Traffic on Wurzbach

The impending threat of even more big rigs along Wurzbach Road has prompted a coalition of neighborhood groups, including WOHA, to lobby the City to limit truck usage of the roadway's residential portion alongside Whispering Oaks. Truck traffic has increased on the roadway in recent years, and an enormous warehouse facility now under construction near 281 could add dozens of rigs each day.

The Interpark Commerce Center is a warehouse complex being built on 45 acres at Wurzbach Parkway and West Avenue, which has stirred controversy since its inception. The developer initially proposed a low-rise office complex featuring a modest

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Big 4th Bash!



Every year, on the Fourth of July, the Swim & Tennis Club, along with WOHA, offers a children's parade and a picnic at the pool.

### 2:00 – Children's Parade of Bikes, etc.

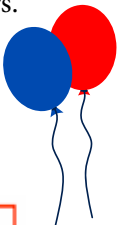
Line up at 1:55 at Whisper Valley and Whisper View.  
\$10 prize for the best decorated.

### 5:00 – Picnic at the Pool

\$5.00 per person for hot dogs and hamburgers.  
The rests is pot luck, so bring a dish!

### 1:00–8:00 – Open Swim

Come one, come all;  
you need not be a member today.



## WOHA Town Hall Meeting

We want to hear from you!

## Potential Deed Restrictions for Short Term Rental Permits

Presentation followed by open floor for feedback. All residents welcome. See article on next page.

**Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Walker Ranch Senior Center - 835 West Rhapsody Dr near West Ave



2023

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## Peter's Prez-spective

*A message from Peter J. Lund*

### Is It Time for Long-term Restrictions on Short-term Rentals?

Short-term rentals. The phrase alone can cause some residents' blood to boil. There's a lot of misunderstanding about this relatively recent internet-driven phenomenon, and also plenty of reasons to be concerned. This edition of my column aims to clear things up a bit and encourage our community to consider if safeguards are warranted and perhaps even overdue.

First, let's understand what city ordinances define as an STR. Simply put, it's any dwelling offering compensated occupancy of 30 consecutive days or less. The majority are posted on websites like AirBnb and its Austin-based competitor, VRBO, whose lobbyists persuade our state legislators to aggressively defend the industry. Just Google search Texas HB2665, which nearly steamrolled out of committee last month, and you'll see what I mean.

Even soliciting a single STR stay requires a permit that generates hotel tax revenue for the city. Type-1 permits are for owner-occupied properties, and there are few limits on the quantity which can be issued citywide. Type-2 permits are for properties which are not the owner's homestead, and the city limits them to typically not more than two per side of a city block. Theoretically, Whispering Oaks could accommodate a maximum of nearly one hundred Type-2 permits. Renters and roommates who stay longer than 30 days do not constitute a STR.

You've probably already heard about the types of problems STRs can cause particularly for urban and suburban communities like ours, and I'm going to debunk some of that propaganda in a moment, but let's first acknowledge a few upsides which often get overlooked. For example, many STRs were long-term rentals just a few years ago and the public seems to have rose-colored glasses about how they operated. I have personal experience with this fallacy.

Five years ago, I bought an investment property near North Star Mall from an elderly, immobile woman who lived four hours away and whose local manager turned a blind eye to the home's visible squalor and its allegedly drug-dealing tenants. Nearby neighbors didn't grumble one bit when I spruced it up and turned it into an STR. My point is it's easy to forget that before STRs, plenty of long-term rentals were eyesore properties housing problematic tenants who made terrible, lingering neighbors. And yes, Whispering Oaks has had its share of problem rentals owned by absentee landlords over the decades.

Conversely, the owner of an STR property or its cleaning staff are onsite several times a week. And, unlike landlords of long-term rentals, they live in constant fear of negative online reviews that could spring up from just one disgruntled guest. For these reasons, STRs are usually well maintained, both inside and out. Similarly,

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Success! ¡Éxito! Succés!**

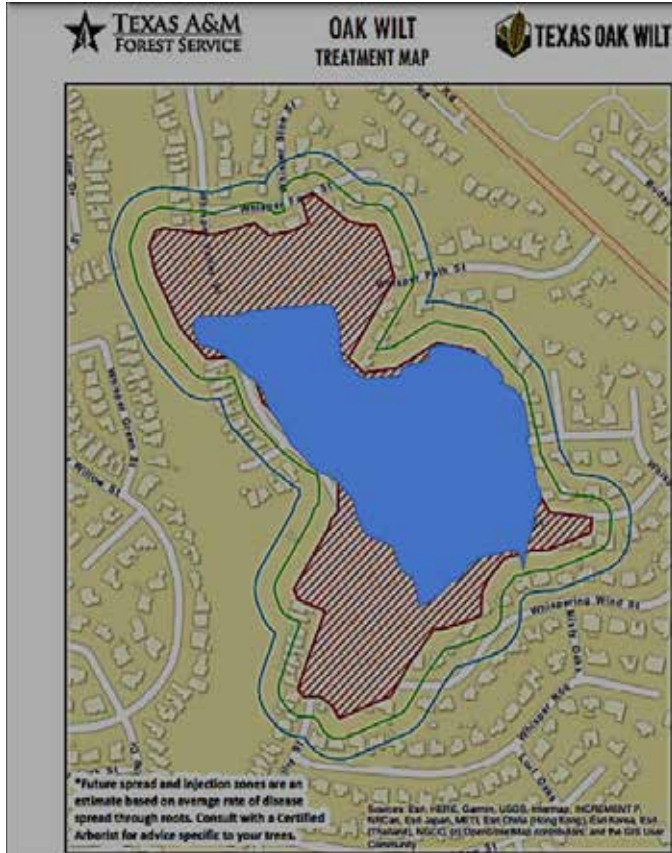
**\$5,540**

That's how much was contributed to the spring Capital Campaign.  
Now the entranceway monuments can be cleaned of mineral residue and painted.

**Thank you! ¡Gracias! Merci!**



(Continued from page 1)



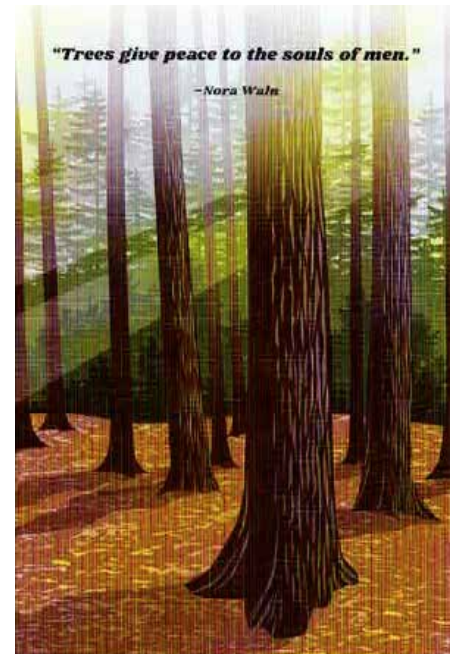
As for how many treatments are needed, it is currently recommended that there be administered two treatments at least a year apart. However, the trees in front of the swimming pool received only a single treatment in 2020 and are still holding up. But a couple of Live Oaks in the back of the property near the tennis courts and a Monterrey Oak and a pair of White Oaks in front that were never treated are infected. It's important to note that all Oaks can suffer to varying degrees from the insidious Oak Wilt fungus. To play it safe, two treatments are still recommended, but certainly careful monitoring of the trees after the first treatment is required.

## Did You Know This About Our Trees?

Of the many native trees found growing in Whispering Oaks, the two most common are the **Live Oak** (*Quercus Virginiana*) and the **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus Crassifolia*).

The **Texas Live Oak** (called *Encino* in Spanish) is found mainly in the south central and coastal plains and is noted for its longevity and majestic spreading and leaning trunk. The acorns are rich in oil and eaten by almost every creature where the Live Oak grows. Because most native Live Oaks have grown up in a cluster, called a "mott", their roots are intermingled. This is how the Oak Wilt fungus moves so quickly: Many trees have grafted roots from neighboring trees, so the disease spreads underground via the root systems.

The **Cedar Elm**, called *Olmo* by the Spanish, is found in a variety of soils, ranging from dry limestone ridges to flat river bottoms. Our Olmos Creek watershed is an excellent example of the native spread of these trees. Cedar Elm is an easily transplanted tree and will grow quickly given the right circumstances. It is a "brittle" tree and branches can break or split in high winds.



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Hey, kids, interested in winning \$50?

### "BEAT THE WILT" DRAWING CONTEST

If you are in elementary school and a resident of Whispering Oaks, you can enter a contest to win \$50 from the Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association by drawing (preferably in color) a picture of an oak tree battling against the oak wilt fungus. It will be placed in the September neighborhood newsletter. The judges of the contest will be a panel of schoolteachers.

Send your 8 ½" x 11" drawing via email to [rpressman@satx.rr.com](mailto:rpressman@satx.rr.com). **Deadline is August 1st!**

(Continued from page 1)

number of roll-up garage doors, but what has taken shape is far different. Five warehouses, the smallest being over 120,000 sq. ft., will feature up to 134 elevated loading docks and an expansive parking area to accommodate the largest semi-trucks allowed on Texas roadways.

Community leaders are concerned that because Wurzbach has no easy access to adjacent Hwy 281, westbound trucks leaving the complex will be instructed by their GPS to utilize Wurzbach as the best route to reach I-10. The concern is exacerbated by TxDot's impending years-long construction of both 1604 and 410 that will make those alternative westbound routes even less desirable to truckers.

WOHA has appealed to councilman John Courage to explore protections for the section of Wurzbach west of NW Military. One potential solution would be for the city council to pass a truck route ordinance which is commonly used by municipalities to divert thru-traffic of big rigs away from areas which pose safety and noise concerns. Western Wurzbach, which is controlled by the City, is narrower than its high-speed eastern side, which is TxDot jurisdiction, and is more residential, featuring a school, several churches, multiple stop lights, and a railroad crossing.

City traffic planners will weigh in on the proposal at a meeting this month arranged by our councilman, Joh Courage. If approved, trucks would be allowed to utilize Wurzbach between I-10 and NW Military for deliveries within the surrounding area, but be prohibited from using Wurzbach as a pass-through route. Westbound rigs from the Interpark complex would then be required to utilize NW Military to reach either 1604 to the north or 410 to the south. The route restriction would eventually appear on most GPS apps.

Even so, the solution won't help reduce congestion at Wurzbach's problematic stop light at NW Military. Large trucks are slow to recover in stop-and-go traffic; therefore, adding more rigs to the intersection would likely increase delays for all motorists.



## Upper Olmos Creek Drainage Clear



The view of Olmos Creek from the culvert at Whisper Valley and Whisper Fawn looking toward the bridge at Wurzbach—after COSA's brush and tree removal.

One of the liabilities in a neighborhood divided by a drainage creek is the danger of flooding during major rain events. At the behest of WOHA members and individual homeowners, the City of San Antonio performed a major brush removal in Olmos Creek during the end of May and the beginning of June. Included in the drainage clean-up was the removal of a large collection of trees in the middle of the creek, just below Wurzbach Parkway. The goal of the effort was to remove any impediment to the flow of water in the creek and reduce the risk of flooding to adjacent homes. Special thanks go to Councilman John Courage and his assistant, Charlie Mazuca, for their efforts on our neighborhood's behalf!



### Good News!

Noticed the temp Speed Signs on Wurzbach? Councilman Courage's office has arranged to make them permanent.



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(Continued from page 2)

the guests must behave, or they'll be blacklisted from some of the most popular lodging websites in the world. The fact is that most of San Antonio's nearly 5,000 permitted STRs generate surprisingly few complaints.

But this reality gets drowned out by the publicists and lobbyists the hotel industry hires to drum up fears of wild parties supposedly enabled by its competitor's business model. In reality, AirBnb generates millions of transactions annually, and if a significant portion led to police raids, you'd be hearing it on the evening news constantly. The fear is stoked in part for competitive advantage.

That being said, Whispering Oaks has already had a few problematic STRs pop up in recent years. They generally have two features in common: (1) out-of-state owners who fail to adequately supervise local property managers doing a terrible job, and (2) swimming pools that generate an endless parade of shrieking guests taking a backyard dip often late into the night. Those two factors can create the perfect storm of a nuisance STR. If you lived next to one of these, you'd likely be pulling your hair out. Just ask the residents on Whisper Circle.

Whispering Oaks has about eight permitted STRs currently operating to varying degrees. That's about double the quantity from just two years ago, with several of the recent-entry investors operating multiple properties across multiple states. In 2021, 46% of San Antonio home sales were to institutional investors, a significant portion of these properties being then converted into STRs that can be more profitable than long-term rentals. The trend is clear, with plenty of opportunity remaining citywide for continued expansion of this business model.

This means the number of STRs in Whispering Oaks is expected to grow unhindered unless the majority of our property owners vote to legally curtail the activity in some manner. And, yes, we can do that. WOHA's attorney advises that many communities that are fortunate enough to have deed restrictions like ours have already taken action. Some have enacted total bans for both types of STR permits, while others have taken a more surgical approach.

Although the Whispering Oaks deed restrictions, more broadly known as Community Covenants, were installed by our builders several years before WOHA formed and therefore aren't "HOA Rules," our organization has received repeated calls recently to address the problems some STRs generate. Ironically many of the most pressing calls for action have come from property owners who have steadfastly ignored pleas to become WOHA members and thereby chip in a measly \$10 a month to help pay a qualified attorney to guide the community through challenges like this. Life is full of irony... But I digress.

It's clear to the Board that our community should make some decisions about STRs. We need to have a thoughtful dialogue about the risks and how to mitigate them, while acknowledging there can be some advantages to STRs versus traditional long-term rentals. We need to hear from our neighbors who have lived near problematic STRs, as well as from those whose properties are currently operating as STRs with few complaints. One thing is certain: Waiting to settle the issue could become increasingly difficult and litigious as STRs proliferate in the absence of some type of clear community policy.

On page 1 of this issue of *The Whispers*, WOHA announces a community meeting to be held on 19 September, inviting all residents to discuss the rise in various types of STRs. We'll want to hear all sides of this complex issue and we'll share input from peer communities and legal counsel. The feedback gathered could lead to a later ballot in which WOHA members in good standing would decide if their organization should take action on the community's behalf. In the meantime, my hope is this article gives our residents a jump start in mulling over this complex issue. We look forward to hearing your thoughts in a few months.

**Peter J. Lund**

*WOHA President*

**John M. Martin IV, M.D.**  
**Board Certified Dermatologist**  
 President of the San Antonio  
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## Beware: Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD is a fatal neurological disease found in certain cervids including deer, elk, moose, and other members of the deer family. This slow, progressive disease may not produce visible signs in susceptible species for several years after infection. As the disease progresses, animals with CWD may show changes in behavior and appearance.



CWD is primarily transmitted through deer-to-deer contact. However, it can also potentially be transmitted by tires of contaminated vehicles, hunting equipment, supplemental feed, improperly disposed carcasses, as well as byproducts of taxidermy.

**Feeding wildlife can also increase the spread of disease and result in reliance on humans. For these reasons, TPWD does not recommend feeding wildlife.**

To date, there is no evidence of CWD infecting humans. However, based on recent research the risk is not zero. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) recommend hunters test harvested deer for the disease and not consume the meat of infected animals.

CWD is not known to be transmissible to pets or livestock.

—From the District 9 Dispatch, 14 June

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## Evita Does It Again

Rise Recovery, a rehabilitation high school on Mossrock, on Friday, 31 May, held its 22nd Annual Benefit Breakfast at the Westin Colonnade. A challenge of \$25,000 was more than matched by the attendees. Rise Recovery's Chief Executive Officer is Whispering Oaks's own Evita Morin, who also serves as Secretary of the WOHA Board of Directors, who had their own table.



*WOHA Board members January Smithy, Evita Morin, Simon Esparza, Janis Witt, and Adele Barnett*

## Sam Fisher, Past WOHA President



Whispering Oaks has lost a good friend, neighbor, and colleague with the passing of Sam Fisher in April.

Sam graduated from West Point in 1953 and retired as a Lt. Colonel after having served at numerous bases, including in Europe and Vietnam.

After retiring, he went into teaching math, mainly in El Paso but eventually in San Antonio. Many of our neighborhood youth may remember him as a substitute teacher in his later years at Clark and Health Careers high schools.

Sam moved into his house on Whisper Moss in 1994, first with his wife Joan and then, after her passing, with Eve Fisher. Within a few years, Sam started serving on the WOHA Board. After 2000, he stepped up and took over the updating and publication of the annual membership directory from Sig Moroh. In addition to many years of single-handedly working on the directory, he eventually became president of WOHA.

We'll all remember Sam for his ability, kind demeanor, and dedication while both enjoying and serving our community.



## Whispering Oaks Professor Gains Large Grant



**Verónica Contreras-Shannon, Ph.D.**

Under the leadership of Whispering Oaks’s own Verónica Contreras-Shannon, the National Institutes of Health have awarded a grant of \$2.1 million to enable St. Mary’s University to train the next generation of biomedical scientists. The Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (URISE) program at St. Mary’s will build the pool of students interested in research by exposing high school students to research in STEM fields. The grant will also provide St. Mary’s students with more opportunities to participate in biomedical research with faculty mentors. Additionally, the grant will fund training for a cohort of students intent on pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences.

“The first aim is high school outreach to plant the seed that you can be a scientist,” said Verónica Contreras-Shannon, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Sciences and the grant’s director. “Most high schoolers know what a doctor, nurse or dentist is because they’ve interacted with them. They don’t necessarily think about becoming a scientist because they’ve never met one.”

URISE will offer an ambassador program to high schools in San Antonio so that if a high school teacher needs to know something about a scientific topic, like genetics or microbiology, they can tap into the St. Mary’s University faculty or URISE scholars for expertise.

Verónica is the wife of Mike Shannon, Director of Development Services for the City of San Antonio.

### Lockhill-Selma

Wondering what’s going on on Lockhill-Selma?  
 Alas, it’s not road improvement.  
 It’s just ATT laying more cable.



## Whispering Oaks Sales

April 2023-June 2023

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini,  
Resident Realtor®

	<u>Price</u>	<u>Per Sq. Ft.</u>
<b>Sold listings – 6</b>		
High	\$493,000	\$198
Median	\$390,000	\$190
Low	\$193,000	\$129
<b>Active – 5</b>		
High	\$589,500	\$212
Low	\$425,000	\$193

For the second month in a row, the San Antonio area saw a slight decline in average and median home prices, according to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) Report from the San Antonio Board of REALTORS® (SABOR).

The average price of a home in April 2023 was reported at \$372,810, a 4% decrease from the same month in 2022. Median home prices declined 1%, now at \$320,000. Meantime, residential rentals saw a 3% increase, now at \$1,848.

–San Antonio Board of Realtors

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# Empower Your Community, Empower Yourself

By Susan Schopp

In a world where isolation and loneliness have become prevalent, it's important to acknowledge the positive impact we can have on ourselves by helping our communities. Multiple surveys have highlighted mental health as the top concern in America today. However, research also indicates that when our communities thrive, we experience an enhanced sense of well-being.

Here are some ways in which we can contribute to our community while also improving our personal lives. It stands to reason that reducing stress for more people will ultimately benefit us all.

**Expand your perspective and lend a hand:** Seek out volunteer and support opportunities by engaging with local community organizations. These groups work tirelessly to provide resources, education, and support to individuals and families in need. By offering your time, skills, or resources, you can make a significant difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Getting out of your own head and helping others always makes us feel better. Of course, one such group is our own Whispering Oaks Homeowner's Association!

**Share your expertise and elevate others:** Do you possess a skill or knowledge that could benefit others? Mentoring and education are powerful ways to give back while boosting your own self-esteem. Become a mentor to individuals from diverse backgrounds, ranging from the young and disadvantaged to the lonely or elderly. Additionally, you can support educational initiatives and scholarships that promote equal access to education and skills development.

**Advocate for equality in the workplace:** Take a stand for fair hiring practices, both within your own workplace and beyond. Encourage your employer to prioritize diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all individuals. Supporting initiatives that foster workplace diversity not only benefits you personally but also reduces stress levels among your colleagues.

**Foster financial literacy:** Many states still lack financial literacy classes at the high school level, leaving countless individuals ill-prepared to manage their finances as adults. By providing resources and education on budgeting, saving, and investing, you can help people lay a strong foundation for their future. Every time you assist someone in gaining a better start in life, you contribute to their well-being.

**Champion local businesses and entrepreneurs:** While the Small Business Administration defines "Small Business" as having fewer than 500 employees, there are numerous local and regional employers with even smaller teams. By supporting small, micro, and local businesses, you often back hometown entrepreneurs. It's important to remember the entrepreneurs in underrepresented communities who

face additional challenges. By investing in local economies, you help create opportunities and contribute to economic growth, benefiting both your community and yourself.

## Here are some places to get started!

**Teach for America:** An organization that recruits and trains individuals to teach in low-income schools across the United States.

**American Red Cross:** Provides disaster relief, emergency assistance, and health services. Volunteer opportunities include disaster response, blood drives, and teaching CPR/first aid.

**YMCA:** The YMCA focuses on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Volunteer positions include mentoring, coaching, and assisting with youth programs.

**VolunteerMatch:** An online platform that connects individuals with volunteer opportunities in their local communities.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America:** Boys & Girls Clubs provide a safe and supportive environment for children and youth. Volunteer as a mentor, tutor, or activity leader.

**Meals on Wheels America:** Meals on Wheels programs deliver meals to homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities. Volunteer to assist with meal preparation, delivery, or social interaction.

**National Park Service:** Volunteer opportunities exist in national parks across the country, including conservation, interpretation, and trail maintenance.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing for those in need. Volunteer for home construction, repairs, or support services.

**Best Buddies:** Best Buddies promotes social inclusion and friendship for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Volunteer as a friend, mentor, or event supporter.

**American Cancer Society:** The American Cancer Society supports cancer research, patient services, and advocacy. Volunteer opportunities include fundraising events.

Watch Out This Summer!

## UV-Induced DNA Damage!

One hour of sunlight (UV rays) exposure generates about 100,000 DNA lesions per cell. In response to UV, cells activate multiple biological processes to cope with these deleterious lesions. However, chronic UV exposure leads to development of skin cancers, the most prevalent cancers in humans—annual incidence is 3.5 million in the U.S. that exceeds all other cancers combined. So cover up—with clothing, hats, and sunscreen.

Source: University of Washington Department of Dermatology



## 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



What's the difference between...

### "who" and "whom"?

The first is the subject, the second the object. Or just use a simple test: If you can substitute the word "him," while placing it last, then the correct word is "whom."

Example: "Who are you dating?" Turn it around: "Are you dating him?" Then it becomes clear that the sentence should read "Whom are you dating?"

The test holds regardless of whether the person in question is male or female.

### "farther" and "further"?

"Farther" refers to distance that's physical: inches, miles, etc., whereas "further" refers to distance that's abstract. Here's a simple example: "While we walk farther down the road, let's discuss this question further."

### "its" and "it's."

There's a little rule that few people know: All one syllable possessive pronouns do not take an apostrophe: "mine," "ours," "his," "hers," "yours," "theirs," "mine," plus "its."

There is, however, one exception—the word "one's." That's to differentiate it from the plural of the word, as in this: "Those are the ones responsible."

## Wanna Read Sumpin' Funny?

At the end of a physician's missionary-work stint, in which he served as a village doctor, the people bid him a warm, tearful farewell.

"Please don't go," an elderly villager pleaded.

"Touched, the physician tried to reassure him. "Don't worry. You will soon get a much better doctor than me here."

"That's what the previous doctor told us!"

## Y Otro en Español

Pablo está haciendo una caminata por la vecindad. Le encuentra a su amigo Alfredo y nota que Alfredo lleva un libro extraño y le pregunta lo que es.

"Toda nuestra familia está aprendiendo a leer Braille."

"¡Oh, no me digas que se están quedando ciegos!"

"No, es para ahorrar luz a la noche."



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## Water for Birds and other Wildlife

By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer



As the weather turns from warm to hot, it's important to remember that wildlife around us need water to survive. By adding a bird bath to your backyard, you can, eh um, *'kill two birds with one stone'*. Birdbaths provide water to local wildlife and can be a great design feature too. If you have ever had the pleasure of watching a bird flutter around in a birdbath, then you know it's a joy to observe.

Adding any type of water feature to your backyard not only increases the value of your home, but also increases wildlife's chance for survival. Moving-water features attract wildlife because the motion catches their eye, and they can hear the splashing of the water. Water features that move water also stay cleaner longer, meaning less time spent cleaning and changing the water and more time spent enjoying your new backyard paradise.

Birds, especially, need water for drinking and preening. On a hot day, water keeps their little bodies cool from the inside out. As birds flutter around in the birdbath or water feature, they are removing parasites, dust, and other debris from their feathers. Adding medium-size rocks to the center of the bird bath allows baby birds to use it too.

Other wildlife such as deer, raccoons, squirrels, etc. also benefit from a birdbath or water feature in your backyard. These local animals will greatly appreciate a cool drink of water on a hot summer day.

### Resources:

- <http://www.waterforwildlife.org/>
- <https://www.therockpile.com/2011/03/10/the-importance-of-birdbaths/>
- <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/garden-resources1/water-for-wildlife/>

## The Challenges of Millennial Parents

By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

Millennials are all grown up and have become millennial parents. Millennials are typically known for being born at the end of the millennium. They grew up in the midst of a technology-driven world in their teens and twenties and came of age around the same time as the Internet took the world by storm. While there is some confusion about the time range in which millennials were born, scholars tend to recognize millennials as being born between 1977 and 1996. Now that millennials have grown up and are raising children of their own, it's time for them to make some tough decisions.

Children of millennial parents are even more technologically advanced and begin using technology in adolescence. Today it's not unusual for a five-year-old to want a smartphone. Millennials have the tough challenge of navigating their children through the age of technology. As we have all learned over the past ten years or so, excessive screen time is not good for children's developing minds, so it's as important as ever to get kids outside to play in a traditional manner. As challenging as it is to modify their children's use of technology, limiting their own use may be even more of a challenge.

Millennials are parenting a little differently due to the generation they were born into. Here are a few ways their parenting styles differ from previous generations:

- **Mini Democracy.** Millennials have been raised to value individuality and self-expression. They prefer to run their families as a mini democracy rather than a calendar of over-scheduled activities.
- **Documentation.** Millennials value the documentation of their lives and believe their experiences should be shared with the world as illustrated by vast libraries of selfies.
- **Parenting Advice.** When needing parenting advice, the previous generation (Generation X) looked to their parents for answers. However, millennials cast their nets far and wide by looking to Google, Facebook, and Twitter to answer important questions about parenting.
- **Drone Parenting.** Helicopter parenting among some of the previous generation is taking place less with children of millennials. Millennial parents often choose a drone-parenting style, meaning they still hover but instead of directing and scheduling their children, they are more apt to follow and respond to their kids.

Overall, millennial parents are open-minded, empathetic, and questioning. Their children are more confident, more verbal, and expect to be heard. Millennial children are more interactive and engaged in learning and more flexible with how they interact with the world around them.

### Resources:

- <https://time.com/help-my-parents-are-millennials-cover-story/>
- <https://theprivatetherapyclinic.co.uk/blog/challenges-facing-millennial-parents/>



# WHISPERING OAKS GARDEN CLUBBING



## Garden Club Update

The Garden Club is using its summer break to plan for the new schedule of meetings and outings to take place August through May, as they do each year. Our newly elected officers are President JoAnn Aguilera; Vice President, Corie Dilley; and Secretary, Shirley Carter. Treasurer Teresa Walker and Assistant Treasurer Betty Lezanic have been reelected for another term.

These officers and helping members are busy lining up speakers and hostesses for our in-home meetings, and planning tours to various places of interest. The Quad-Club Luncheon and Style Show, usually held in February or March, is the Whispering Oaks Garden Club's responsibility this time around.

If interested in joining us, mail a \$30 check made out to WOGC to Teresa Walker, 11214 Whisper Willow. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the third Thursday of August.



Members enjoying the April meeting.

*Gardening imparts an organic perspective on the passage of time.*  
—William Cowper

*Just living is not enough ... one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.*  
—Hans Christian Andersen

And here's a little something for you vegetable gardeners:  
What did the broccoli say to the cauliflower when making their getaway?  
Floret!

## Yard of the Month Winners



**Yard of the Month – May**  
11207 Whisper Falls  
Todd Guyette



**Yard of the Month – June**  
11414 Whisper Valley  
Rebecca and Ernest Sorola

*E. L. Smith Plumbing*



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