

The Whispers

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



Brad Hughes Serenades The Whole Neighborhood

Has Whispering Oaks been turned into a nightclub?

It kinda feels that way Friday evenings when our own Brad Hughes sets up at the end of his driveway on Whisper Bluff. He's got his mic, his amp, his I-pad with the music on it, and, of course, his guitar.

Then families come out and set up chairs along the street—observing that regulation distance. Some bring picnic foods. On a typical night, Brad will draw about 40 folks to enjoy a variety of music, some country, some show tunes, some pop. And he even takes requests.

Now Brad is no rank amateur trying to get a hearing. He's a pro. First off, he's got a Bachelor's of Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa that had him teaching for 30-plus years here in the San Antonio Public Schools. Though he's retired from teaching, his wife, Abbey, his biggest fan, no doubt, remains in the Special Ed classroom (or will, whenever schools open again).

At the same time, though, Brad has carried on a musical career. Before COVID-19, he was playing with his own band, Buckshot. He also has played with Clint Taft and the Buckwild Band, as well as with Jeffery Charles. To add to that, he was also a singing cowboy for Don Strange Catering at venues such as the Alamo and Buckhorn.

Brad says he wants to continue playing "for the duration." At this writing, he is playing from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. But, with increasingly hot weather and the fluid situation of COVID-19, that may change. So watch for notices in Neighbors.com.

Meanwhile, come out and enjoy the music. And the price can't be beat!



Professional musician Brad Hughes plays Friday nights for free at the end of his driveway for all the Whispering Oaks folk.



Among the some 80 neighbors out picnicking and enjoying the music of our very own Brad Hughes.

2019 - 2020

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Simon Sez



Neighbors,

A big Happy Summer to you all! Since March, COVID-19 has hit our nation and, indeed, every corner of the globe, creating unprecedented difficulties and challenges for us all. Despite that—indeed, because of that—it has been amazing to see many Americans at every level step up and get involved to help those in need. We have seen much of that involvement here in our neighborhood, helping our seniors and our neighbors in general, being good citizens. We realize as a community how important it is that we work together during this time of uncertainty, continuing to be strong.

As I wrote in my very first message as President, back in October, I want this Board's theme to be about our building community. It has been so nice to see many of our neighbors walking, biking, running outside, families all walking together and lots of neighborly conversations happening along the way. Hearing the laughter of the many children playing outside.

Helping to build community in the days of COVID-19 is a number of spontaneous activities. One of our neighbors, Brad Hughes, plays music for our community on Friday evenings. Beautiful painted rocks, created by some of our young 'uns, are popping up around our neighborhood. And there are birthday celebrations with cars driving by the homes. It's great to see everyone being so friendly to each other and getting to know each other. This defines what a neighborhood is all about and it is great to see us get back to old school living again and where our homes and our neighborhood becomes a staple of our daily lives. I hope this will become a regular part of our everyday lives. Our neighborhood!

As noted in my last message, the HOA continues to work on developments to improve the neighborhood. One such is the near-completion of illuminating all our entranceways. Another is the soon-to-be left turn lane from Lockhill-Selma to Whispering Wind. Another is a Community Calendar of events. And still another is the Yard Lights On for Safety campaign. Of great importance is our leading the struggle against Oak Wilt. The HOA Board and the Swim & Tennis Club Board are working together to save the trees in the common areas by the pool. Your dues dollars at work!

In the process, we have had a few changes on our Board of Directors. I give a big thanks for their service to Tia Palsole, Phyllis McCullough, and Sue Schindel. At the same time, we welcome our newest Board members, Samantha Foster, who joined us in March, JoAnn Aguilera, who joined us in late April and our latest new member, Evita Morin, who joined us in May. With their professional career experiences, they bring many big positives to our HOA and our neighborhood. And please enjoy our awesome, ever-growing newsletter. Finally, thanks to all our neighbors who have reached out to me and the Board with suggestions and support.

Have a great summer. Join the Swim & Tennis Club, now open. And be safe!

Best Regards,

Simon Esparza

President

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest form of appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." ~ John F. Kennedy



Great News from the Club!

The Whispering Oaks Swim and Tennis Club Board—having monitored the state and city guidelines for COVID-19—announces:

We're pleased to tell you that the pool is now open to members, as planned, for the 2020 season!

A few special points to remember:

- **Swim Team Update:** Our plan is to provide an excellent coaching team and program, even though our league (MSSL) will not have an organized summer program.
- The **After-Hours** program, with fob access only, will continue to follow social distancing guidelines.
- We encourage members to **bring your own sanitizing products** to wipe down furniture/ playground equipment before and after use.
- **Guests:** We will no longer have tag-checkers and now **require all members to purchase a fob and sign a waiver**. This will be the only way to access the pool going forward. Four guests will be allowed per membership, \$5 per guest fee (payment details to follow.)
- We can have up to 50 people at the pool at any given time; this represents approximately 25% of our membership. This may change as the city guidelines change.
- **Parties**, group gatherings and cabana rental will not be possible at this time.
- City ordinances regarding **Social Distancing and Mask Requirements** will continue to apply. For the sake of your neighbors and yourselves, please comply!
- **Regular hours** have resumed: Tuesday-Sunday, 1:00-8:00.

We are all so thrilled to welcome you back to our much-loved pool so that our families—especially our children—can have a great summer experience.

We're excited to have you back!

WOSC Board

**"During this crisis,
remember your neighbors."**

From Unsightly to Sightly



Here's what one of our good neighbors has done to hide the three trashcans.

Please remember that it's a WOHA Covenants rule to hide them!

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Important Local Contact Information

District 9 Field Office

16500 San Pedro Ave., Suite #290

San Antonio, TX 78232

Phone: 210-207-0955

Emails: colt.osburn@sanantonio.gov, bryan.naylor@sanantonio.gov, milee.ray@sanantonio.gov

TxDOT San Antonio District

Main Phone Line: 210-615-1110

Public Relations: 210-615-5839

SAPD Non-Emergency

210-207-7273(SAPD)

SAFFE Officer Steven Beilstein #84

Phone: Desk – 210-207-5802

Email: Doyle.Beilstein@sanantonio.gov

Bexar County Sheriff's Dept.

Score Unit (similar to SAFFE) – SCORE@Bexar.org

Phone: 210-335-6010

Bexar County Constable Precinct 3 – Mark Vojvodich

Phone: 210-335-4750

Email: contactus@bexarpolice.org

311 – Dial 311, download the app, or go to

www.sanantonio.gov/311

Pot holes, graffiti, traffic signal timing, restaurant food safety, construction permits, missed garbage pickup, median mowing, stray dogs, street lights, water leaks, junk vehicles, traffic issue investigation, drainage/flooding, and more.

Helpful Links

- <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>
Bexar County Elections department
- <https://www.bexar.org/1357/Dispute-Resolution-Center>
Free mediation services before it reaches the level of requiring lawyers
- <http://www.texashighwayman.com/>
comprehensive info about state maintained roads in San Antonio
- <https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=online-complaint-form-for-reporting-issues-to-TXDOT>
online complaint form for reporting issues to TXDOT
- <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>
updates on TXDOT projects
- <http://txdotsanantonio.blogspot.com/>
track TXDOT projects
- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/2017Bond>
bond tracking page



Community Calendar and Info

Saturday, 11 July 2020

Get Rid of Stuff You Don't Want

DIAL-A-TRAILER

Dial-A-Trailer, a free City of San Antonio service, allows residents within their neighborhood the opportunity to load up their cars, trucks, or flatbed trailers and drop off disposal brush or bulky items at a designated location within their subdivision. A trailer will be manned by two or three city employees from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Take this opportunity to get rid of stuff you no longer need. Remember to read below what items are acceptable and items not acceptable.

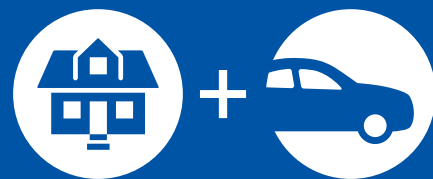
ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- appliances
- furniture
- lumber
- mattresses
- shrub



(Continued on page 5)

Bundle up for savings



When you choose Allstate to protect what matters most, you get expert agents who will make it easy for you to save. Like with bundling your insurance. It's the simplest way for you to save time and money, while getting protection for the things that matter most. Stop by or call today and let's get you bundled up.

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- tree limbs
- water heaters
- vehicle tires (limit 4)

They recycle clean brush, metals, and tires. Participants are encouraged to separate brush from bulky items.

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- bricks
- commercial waste
- concrete
- construction or remodeling materials
- hazardous waste
- soil or sod
- railroad ties

All Summer Long For All You Lawn-Care Lovers COMPOST GIVE AWAY

Made Locally from your participation in the City of San Antonio's Organic Green Cart Program, the compost is a product of the organic waste the City collects. They also have mulch. The coarse mulch is free and the fine mulch is 3 cents per pound in increments of 20 lbs. Through the summer, the brush sites are open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Supplies are available only while they last.

Locations:

Bitters Brush Recycling Center
1800 Wurzbach Parkway, 78216

Nelson Gardens Brush Recycling Center
8963 Nelson Road, 78252

Saturday, 6 June Movies Under the Stars

This event has been *cancelled* due to COVID-19. We regret to have to do this for now, but believe it to be in the community's best interest. We look forward to doing this in the future. Watch for announcements on Nextdoor.com and in *The Whispers*.

The Lockhill Project Locks In

Last issue it was reported that the long-desired left-turn lane project at Lockhill-Selma and Whispering Wind would begin in November. In fact, plan execution has begun, with trees on Lockhill-Selma being tagged for trimming in preparation. The project is actually scheduled to begin in September, but could begin sooner. For more information, check the Whispering Oaks website: whisperingoaks.org.

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Would You Pay a Penny a Day to Make Your Street Safer?

by Peter Lund, WOHA 2nd VP

It's an unfortunate fact that the majority of streets in Whispering Oaks are poorly lit. It undermines safety for pedestrians and motorists and enables nighttime crime, such as car break-ins and home burglaries. The culprits are the beautiful trees that line our streets and inhibit the ambient light cast from city street lamps that are often already hidden behind the curves and hills of our roadways. WOHA's new "Yard Lights On for Safety" campaign encourages residents to supplement city lighting to make our streets safer by implementing low-cost upgrades to their properties.

Exterior lighting emanating from homes and yards can make a substantial difference. An impressive array of recent technologies is making a home's lighting both easy to install and affordable to upgrade. Many of the featured products utilizing LED technology will cost about a penny a day in CPS energy costs, which makes them extremely affordable security enhancements. This article highlights a few popular options that can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and local handymen.

WOHA is recruiting volunteers to help with the "Yard Lights On for Safety" campaign. If you're willing to speak with your neighbors about improving the lighting along your street, please contact us at woha@whisperingoaks.org.

LED Bulbs 	<p>You won't have to worry about energy costs if your outdoor fixtures have LED bulbs. They use up to 85% less energy than traditional incandescents, which means you'll pay CPS about a penny to leave a typical bulb on all night long. Pricing for these hi-tech bulbs continues to drop and reliable brands can be expected to last for years.</p> <p>Cost: \$2–\$4</p>
Dusk-to-Dawn Flood Light Fixtures 	<p>Automatic dusk-to-dawn flood fixtures feature photocell sensors that create a smart alternative to traditional motion-activated fixtures that can blink on and off all night long. Many now feature integrated LED bulbs, which can cast light farther. A wide variety of models are available and designed to replace most existing wall or ceiling mounted fixtures. Nearly all can be installed easily by a handyman. Keep in mind that the dusk-to-dawn-to feature requires the light switch to be in the "on" position at all times, so be sure to take all light fixtures on the same switch into consideration.</p> <p>Cost: \$30–\$45</p>
Dawn-to-Dusk Integrated Flood Bulbs 	<p>Already have a flood light? Swap out its traditional bulb with an LED featuring built-in dusk-to-dawn capability. You won't even need a handyman for this simple solution. But don't forget to leave the light switch in the "on" position at all times or it won't function as intended.</p> <p>Cost: \$9–\$12</p>
Dusk-to-Dawn Supplemental Sensors 	<p>A supplemental socket can provide dusk-to-dawn capability to any bulb. Just be sure your fixture can accommodate approximately 3" of added length. A more flexible alternative is to add a small photocell sensor in which the fixture's wiring meets your home's system. It can be installed by a handyman, mounting it alongside by using double-stick tape.</p> <p>Cost: \$6–\$8</p>

Programmable Timer Wall Switches



These ingenious wall switches can still be operated manually, but feature built-in timers that activate automatically each day. They are programmed much like a modern digital thermostat. Some models are so smart that they will turn on automatically at dusk regardless of the season, and then turn off after any length of time you desire. These products may not work with exterior fixtures that can be operated by more than one wall switch (known as 3-way switches). Look for models that accommodate three-wire electrical systems commonly found in most homes, but avoid those that require a fourth wire.

Cost: \$20–\$35

Pathway Lighting



Low-voltage fixtures alongside sidewalks and driveways can provide low-level supplemental light. Most sets are easy to install and utilize transformers that plug directly into exterior receptacles. Reliable halogen bulbs are still common in these products; however, many LED sets contain bulbs that cannot be replaced, making the entire fixture disposable, which is both problematic and wasteful. Note that fixtures made of cast aluminum are more durable than plastic models and may be worth the price in the long run. Avoid cheap cordless solar versions that provide dim lighting from rechargeable batteries with short life spans.

Cost: \$125 for a basic set

Tree Up-Lighting



If your front yard features beautiful trees, consider illuminating them; the reflected light will benefit your street. Timers or dusk-to-dawn sensors can automatically light up your yard each night. Most of the low-voltage pathway kits featured above offer up-lighting fixtures that do-it-yourselfers can install for small trees and shrubs. However, to illuminate the canopies of tall trees, you'll likely need the help of an electrician.

Cost: from \$125 for a small tree DIY kit

Yard Post Lamps



Attractive architectural fixtures cast ambient lighting not just for the street and the yard, but they also illuminate the home façade. Electric models are far less expensive to install than are natural gas models that were popular before energy-efficient LED bulbs came along. Avoid solar versions, which provide dim lighting from rechargeable batteries with short life spans. This is one of the few options on our list that requires an electrician.

Cost: from \$250 plus installation

It's the Painted Rocks of Bexar County...



Some clever young folks in our neighborhood have been painting rocks and distributing them to various residences...to the delight of the recipients. These little devils are rather sly, so it's kinds hard to find out who they are. But if you catch any of them, let *The Whispers* know so we can dub them "Heroes of the Neighborhood"!



Trash Talk!

On Saturday morning, 9 May, under the ever-able leadership of WOHA President Simon Esparza, a small group of volunteers, including Simon, Pam and John Martínez, and Darrell Maatsch, picked up trash, two on the Wurzbach side of the neighborhood and two on the Lockhill-Selma. At this writing, Simon was planning to continue along Lockhill-Selma and with the aid of D9 staff.



Darrell Maatsch with his very own trash bag. Atta boy, Darrell.

Letter from Another Satisfied "Customer"



Thank you & WOHA Board Members for getting the wall repaired! The workers did a great job!! I will continue to support our WOHA in every way I can. It truly "takes a village"! I'm blessed to live in this great community!

May God continue to bless you & each & every member, our community & our country!

Stay well!

Sincerely,
Rachel Ridder

Oak Wilt!

Important Contact Info

Please! If you have *any* Oak Wilt, or even if you are right near a property that does, you must have your trees treated professionally. It's very expensive to lose a full-grown tree, many of which are worth over \$5000 each. No one will buy a property with dead or diseased trees. And you are required by law to report that fact when selling. Oak Wilt is a serious matter.

Regional expert: Erin Davis

Staff Forester II, Texas A&M Forestry Service

Kerrville, Texas

edavis@tfs.tamu.edu

830-792-8885

Information sources:

texasoakwilt.org

txforests.tamu.edu

texasconservation.org

<https://texasoakwilt.org/more-tree-info/>

This link lists 217 certified arborists,
per Texas A&M:

<https://isatexas.com/for-the-public/texas-oak-wilt-qualified-arborists/>

*Note: Information was gathered by Phyllis McCullough,
WOHA Board of Directors.*

**"During this crisis,
remember your neighbors."**

Yards of the Month



April Yard of the Month—Lovely!

George & June Lee, 11107 Whispering Wind



May Yard of the Month—Nice Job!

The Cole Family, 11218 Whisper Willow



How to Take a Bite Out of Mosquitos

By Peter Lund. 2nd VP, WOHA

It's a summertime riddle. If most mosquito species live only a few weeks, don't travel far their entire lives, and can't reproduce without water, then why does Whispering Oaks have them months after the rain has disappeared? The answer is usually man-made.

All known species need water in which to lay their eggs. Most prefer stagnant water, but some will lay eggs on moist surfaces just above or adjacent to water. Luckily, San Antonio isn't rife with the ponds, slow streams, and marshes that provide the ideal habitat, but mosquito mamas aren't fussy. They'll make due with a surprisingly small amount of water.

Yards provide myriad water sources mosquitos can exploit. Swimming pools and koi ponds aren't of concern, thanks to their continual pumping. Mosquitoes prefer the standing water of a birdbath, so it's critical to fully dump the basin's water every week to disrupt the 10 to 14-day incubation cycle. The same goes for dishes under potted plants.

Can't lift those heavy pots? Consider adding 'dunks,' all-natural, two-inch rings that release a bacterium that disrupts larvae development, harmless to birds and mammals. Home stores sell them under \$9. Lasting the entire season, the rings divide easily to treat small water features such as birdbaths.

Yard debris is a major mosquito risk because buckets, soda cups and bottles, old tires, and plastic tarps can collect water from lawn sprinklers and hold it for weeks. Look around your yard for any standing water. You might also peak into your neighbor's yard, too. If still in doubt, look up. Gutters clogged with leaves can retain rainwater for weeks, even in the hottest weather.

Eliminating standing water is an easy, no-cost way to inhibit mosquito breeding. With a little diligence, our neighborhood could see its mosquito population plummet. Removing or treating water sources can also reduce the need for costly insecticide services that spray chemicals on your vegetation and exterior surfaces that inadvertently kill beneficial insects and harm wildlife that eats mosquitoes in the first place.

Keeping Whispering Oaks' mosquito population low every summer will not only lead to a more pleasant outdoor activities, it will limit your family and pet's exposure to the seemingly endless list of harmful diseases mosquitoes can transmit, such as West Nile, Zika, malaria, dengue, and heartworm. Residents can help the City reduce the spread of these diseases by calling 311 to report standing water hazards on any public and private properties.

Got an Idea for an Article?

Is it a topic that would be of interest to the neighborhood? Is it a something special about one of our neighbors? Let your editor know! rpressman@satx.rr.com

If you'd like another version of this info in video form, and featuring WOHA's own movie star Samantha Foster, go to <https://youtu.be/CV7j5K2SeWc>. It's a State of Texas PSA. Enjoy!

A Special Garden Club Report

Summer Yard and Flower Garden Tips



San Antonio lucked out last summer with no watering restrictions, while 3-digit temperatures delaying their arrival until the last day of July. What could be in store for us this summer?

Trees – Starting in July, oak trees may be pruned. Take care to disinfect pruning tools and to *paint cut wounds immediately*. Hire tree maintenance professionals who are licensed by the City. Spring flowering trees, such as Redbud and Mountain Laurel, may be pruned now that they have finished blooming. First-year tree transplants may need weekly watering, whereas established trees will rarely need it. Frequent irrigation of turf or beds beneath tree canopies may make leaf diseases worse. If you must water an established tree, use a soaker hose on a slow seep around the tree drip-line.

Grass – In the summer the amount of water your lawn needs to look healthy varies each week. To help keep lawns green without using excess water, SAWS now offers a Water Saver Irrigation Phone Consultation service. For information call 210-704-SAVE or visit www.saws.org. Grass that is cut frequently will look best. Avoid cutting off more than one third of the grass blade with each cutting. Frequent mowing helps grass grow thicker. Electric mowers can be used to help protect air quality.

Perennials – Flowering perennials can add glorious color to a landscape. Some sun-loving choices are Pride of Barbados, Gold Star Esperanza, Firebush for the hummingbirds, and Zizotes Milkweed for the monarchs. Mexican Bush Sage, another full-sun lover, is a drought tolerant and pest resistant salvia that can be planted now for fall color. Plants that prefer dappled sunlight and can be planted any time from containers are Plumbago and Turk's Cap, which is another hummingbird favorite.

Annuals – Any cool-season annuals left in your yard should be removed. Although they may look alive, they are probably acting as a breeding ground for garden pests. Plant heat-loving summer annuals in good soil with full sun and let them

provide color all season long. Drip-irrigation in annual beds is an efficient way to water that will not wash away the nectar for visiting butterflies and hummingbirds. Some good choices are Periwinkle Vinca, Zinnia, and Cosmos, which is one of the easiest annuals to grow.

Resources – Keep in mind that SAWS offers WaterSaver Coupons through October 16 and Landscape and Patioscape Coupons to be redeemed by November 15. Check out their GardenStyleSA.com/coupons website. If you look around our lovely neighborhood, you will see a variety of xeriscape plants in yards with little or no carpet grass. What a great way to save water!

Article information taken from "San Antonio Landscape Care Guide," by SAWS, and "Texas Superstar: Strong and Stunning Plants for Texans," by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center.

A Mail-Theft Mitigator

There's no doubt that mail theft is a problem. You can't necessarily stop someone from stealing your mail, but you can certainly know what's missing.

With the Post Office's "Informed Delivery" service, you can digitally preview your mail and manage your packages scheduled to arrive soon. Informed Delivery allows you to view greyscale images of the exterior, address side of letter-sized mailpieces and to track packages in one convenient location.

The service is free! And it's easy to sign up. Just go to "USPS.com," then to "Quick Tools." It's right there.

How D'Yu Say That?



Irregardless of the fact that you are bright, you don't work hard enough.

The correct form is *regardless*. The prefix "ir" means "not" and so does the suffix "less." So you are creating a double negative: "regardful"?

The divorce occurred during a period in my life **where** I wasn't coping well.

A "period" is one of time, not place, so the correct form is "when": "a period in my life when I wasn't coping well."

We are on Facebook!



@ WhisperingOaksHomeownersAssociationSA

Like us for great neighborhood information and updates.

"During this crisis, remember your neighbors."

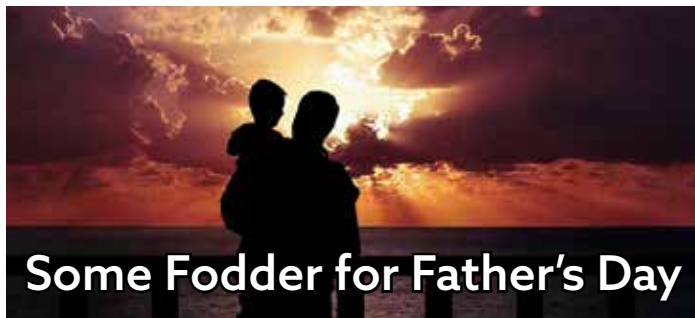
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We're sure you honored Mom last month, so surely you will honor Dad later this month. And we need to do as much celebrating as we can! A few of our Whispering Oaks dads talked to us, in different ways, about fatherhood and Father's Day. As a tribute to all out Whispering Oaks fathers, we present these testimonials:

Karl Staib, on Whisper Hill, father of two boys, 10 and 5, has fond memories of what he and his family did last year: "My older son, Gavin, made me breakfast, toast with Nutella [future chef!]. We went to the Zoo and they let me pick which animal we would go to see first. Then we relaxed at home. Then we went to the Pearl and played soccer, played, they in the fountains, and we ate outside. It was memorable because I got to play with my sons throughout the whole day. To hear them laugh and play is such a gift. Finally, we had a dance party after dinner and that is so much fun too." What will they do this year?

Bill Miller, on Whisper Leaves, is the father of two adult children, a boy and a girl. He says, "We barbeque. It's just good to get together. It's all about spending time with my family. That is my favorite pastime. I'm lucky to have great children and we are also blessed with their great spouses."

Richard Pressman, on Whisper Falls, has two children, Sam 31, who, unfortunately, is far away in Brooklyn, and Graciela, 24, who just moved into one of the townhouses at the north end of Whisper Valley. So she's close by. "Fatherhood might have a different meaning for me, since we began late in life and since both of our children were adopted at later ages out of most difficult circumstances. But, like most folks, we try to do something special. On the holidays, we avoid the restaurants because when they're crowded they're not so much fun. So we usually go the night before. Not this year, though! Maybe barbequing is a good idea. Maybe we should spend the afternoon watching my all-time favorite movie, *Lawrence of Arabia*. Just the three of cozy at our house...or maybe hers. It's about time!"

George Salinas, on Whisper Hill, has a meditation to share: "In 2015, I experienced my first Father's Day after the birth of our son Luis, now 5 ½. We followed that up with our son Diego in 2016 and, for an encore, we completed the hat trick with our daughter, Sofia, in 2019. There is not an hour in the day that goes by in which I don't think about them. It can be a mixture of joy, fear, love, anxiety, wonder, or a combination the emotions that consume me as a father. While the garden of parenthood isn't always perfectly pleasant, it is always fulfilling with the sense of purpose that comes with growing something through love, care, and dedication."

"In 2018, we were given the diagnosis that our older son has autism. That brought home the reality of our new journey. More than that, it gave me a new understanding of the important role I would play in his life as a father, as well as with my other children—about letting each of them grow into their full and unique potential. I collect paintings from a local artist, Albert Gonzales, who uses a simple, but powerful, combination of vibrant colors to depict flowers' many shapes and sizes. For me, the beauty of these works is not in the realistic imagery, but in the depth, color, and arrangement of these plants with each other. Fatherhood, I have learned, is about letting my children bloom into the most perfect versions of themselves, not the pre-conceived versions of what or who I may have had for them. For me, Father's Day is a celebration of my commitment to bring color, depth, and meaning to each of my children's lives."



Real Estate Report March – May 2020

Prepared by Jean Marie Ruffini
Resident Realtor®

<u>Total Sales 3</u>	<u>Sales Price</u>	<u>Per Sq. Foot</u>
Highest Price	\$319,000	\$125
Lowest Price	\$250,500	\$93
Median Price	\$316,000	\$115
Average DOM 146		
<u>Currently Active 2</u>		
Highest Price	\$500,000	\$109
Lowest Price	\$225,000	\$13
<u>Pending Sales 1</u>		
Price	\$369,900	\$137

Home sales and prices in San Antonio continued rising in March, but a slowdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic may lie ahead. Active listings dropped to 9,279 last month compared to 9,766 during the same period last year. Real estate agents say showings are declining, and some sellers are pulling their homes off the market. But plenty of people are still buying. We know many buyers and sellers might be hesitant to get into the market amidst coronavirus concerns, but with so many virtual options available, they are still able to tour properties and meet with their Realtor to achieve their homeownership goals, said Kim Bragman, SABOR's chairman of the Board. ~ SABOR



Wanna Read Sumpin Funny?

A man goes out to his front lawn to pick up his newspaper. He looks over and sees his next-door neighbor standing there, staring off into space, just snapping his fingers. Seems rather strange, so he asks him, "Hey, Joe, why are standing there snapping your fingers?"

With a big, confident smile, Joe responds, "I'm keeping the elephant herds away!"

"Are you crazy? There aren't any elephant herds for 7000 miles."

"Works, doesn't it!"



Whispering Oaks HOA
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WO Garden Club Report

Carry On, Garden Club!

Despite having to cancel a field trip, an evening party for members and guests, and two luncheons with fashion shows, the Whispering Oaks Garden Club will keep calm and carry on! President Gloria Elizondo appointed a nominating committee to put forth a slate of officers for the upcoming year, which begins in August. Treasurer Teresa Walker prepared suggested changes to our By-Laws, which will be distributed and voted on at a later date.

Leti Brown, chairwoman of the Garden Therapy Program, recruited members to make cotton facemasks for the residents and non-medical staff at the Sarah Roberts French Home. Reita Campbell and Leti were the chief seamstresses. Mary Catherine Fuchs, a real “cut up” at Garden Club meetings, cut out many of the pattern pieces. A few other members donated fabric and supplies. All involved practiced social distancing. By the end of April, Leti delivered more than 70 colorful cotton masks to the home. See the illustration below.

Yard of the Month honorees were the Lee Family, 11107 Whispering Wind, for April and the Coles Family, 11318 Whisper Willow, for May.

“The very act of planting a seed in the earth has in it to me something beautiful.

I always do it with a joy that is largely mixed with awe.”

~ Celia Laighton Thaxter, 1835–1894, American Poet



**Garden Club mask handiwork for the
Sarah Roberts French Home**



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