

Worham Villages

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Worham Villages

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www.worhamweb.org

All Hail the Diehard Whiteshark Families!

By Jonathan Armstrong

You already know this, but we live in a great community. What else can you say about a place where when people need to move, they only consider moving within Worham? Also striking is the prominence of Worham volunteers in local organizations “beyond the hedges.” I like to think it’s contagious. As I have said before, I moved here just for that great sense of community.

Not so coincidentally, the Worham Whitesharks Swim Team carries on that same great community involvement. It seems that the same people who are involved in so many other things get very involved with our community Swim Team too. There are many, many families with the Whitesharks that just can’t seem to get enough. These families, whether new to the team or long time ‘sharks, wouldn’t think about missing a season, and wouldn’t think about not being involved with the greatest team on this side of the country. All hail the diehard Whiteshark families!

A few years ago, on a Saturday morning after a terrible rain storm, the pool area was full of eager parents and kids ready for a day of swimming. The other team was slow to arrive, because of high water levels, so we waited for them to get there. Some wondered if we were going to swim at all that day. One of our Dads so elegantly said, “Of course we’re going to swim, it’s a cult!” (You have to know the guy, he’s kidding). The point is, we are quite the extended family, and we love hanging out together and cheering each other on. At one of our away meets, the opposing team was amazed that we had so many parents on deck watching the whole meet. They were used to parents who came out just to watch their kids, and then would go back to the tents. One of our parents told them, “they’re all our kids.” Everyone is encouraged to come out and be a part of our family.

A neighbor was talking to me recently about this upcoming swim season. His older daughter started two years ago, then last summer the younger ones joined as well. He said that they were looking

forward to this season, and they made sure that they scheduled the family vacation around the swim season! Just what I like to hear. Another one joins the fold. (Don’t worry, that’s not a requirement – I don’t want to scare anyone off!)

We frequently have young adults return from college to swim with us their final year. We have had a family leave the country and come back to swim (well okay, they didn’t come back just to swim). We have had families involved for many, many years (some 13 and counting), and we have families that intend to be involved many, many years to come. We have even had families involved after their kids are too old to swim! And of course, they all have one thing in common – they love this team.

Then there are the families that are so heavily involved with the team that we wouldn’t know what to do without them. These are the families that work every shift of every meet - both parents. These are the families whose kids choose Swim Team over any other activity that may clash. These are the families that stay involved with the team well before and well after there is actually any swimming going on. Strangely enough, these are the same families who are always volunteering at the schools, on the various boards around the area, and are the “go to” people when something needs to get done. These family’s kids follow in their footsteps and are some of our best teammates. Or maybe that’s not so strange. To you True Diehard Whitesharks, I give out a very heartfelt Thank You. Without you, the Whitesharks, and indeed our entire community, would not be what it is today.

Don’t you want to be a part of that? Worham Whitesharks registration is April 6, 2-4 at the clubhouse, or go to www.worhamwhitesharks.com. Practice starts April 21! We’ll be glad to see you.

The Cookie Monster says that the Whitesharks are,
THE GREAT BIG COOKIE AT THE TOP OF THE JAR!



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Wortham Villages

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Wortham Villages

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Marie Trascher

We are lucky as a community to have Block Captains that are diligent in taking an interest in keeping us safe. Passing on emails and making us aware of incidents that they receive. One such email from Mike Dineen is truly worth sharing. While it is lengthy it has a very strong point and is worth reading by every resident that has pre-teens and teenagers. Here it is in its entirety:

EVERYONE NEEDS TO READ ALL OF THIS and HAVE CHILDREN READ IT TOO!

After tossing her books on the sofa, she decided to grab a snack and get on-line. She logged on under her screen name ByAngel213. She checked her Buddy List and saw GoTo123 was on. She sent him an instant message:

ByAngel213:

Hi. I'm glad you are on! I thought someone was following me home today. It was really weird!

GoTo123:

LOL You watch too much TV. Why would someone be following you? Don't you live in a safe neighborhood?

ByAngel213:

Of course I do. LOL I guess it was my imagination cuz' I didn't see anybody when I looked out.

GoTo123:

Unless you gave your name out on-line. You haven't done that have you?

ByAngel213:

Of course not. I'm not stupid you know.

GoTo123:

Did you have a softball game after school today?

ByAngel213:

Yes and we won!!

GoTo123:

That's great! Who did you play?

ByAngel213:

We played the Hornets. LOL. Their uniforms are so gross! They look like bees. LOL

GoTo123:

What is your team called?

ByAngel213:

We are the Canton Cats. We have tiger paws on our uniforms. They are really cool.

GoTo123:

Did you pitch?

ByAngel213:

No I play second base. I got to go. My homework has to be done before my parents get home. I don't want them mad at me. Bye!

GoTo123:

Catch you later. Bye

(Continued on page 4)



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Wortham Villages

Neighborhood Watch- (Continued from page 3)

Meanwhile.....GoTo123 went to the member menu and began to search for her profile. When it came up, he highlighted it and printed it out. He took out a pen and began to write down what he knew about Angel so far.

Her name: Shannon

Birthday: Jan. 3, 1985

Age: 13

State where She lived: North Carolina

Hobbies: softball, chorus, skating and going to the mall. Besides this information, he knew she lived in Canton because she had just told him. He knew she stayed by herself until 6:30 p.m. every afternoon until her parents came home from work. He knew she played softball on Thursday afternoons on the school team, and the team was named the Canton Cats. Her favorite number 7 was printed on her jersey. He knew she was in the eighth grade at the Canton Junior High School. She had told him all this in the conversations they had on-line. He had enough information to find her now.

Shannon didn't tell her parents about the incident on the way home from the ballpark that day. She didn't want them to make a scene and stop her from walking home from the softball games. Parents were always overreacting and hers were the worst. It made her wish she was not an only child. Maybe if she had brothers and sisters, her parents wouldn't be so overprotective.

By Thursday, Shannon had forgotten about the footsteps following her.

Her game was in full swing when suddenly she felt someone staring at her. It was then that the memory came back. She glanced

up from her second base position to see a man watching her closely.

He was leaning against the fence behind first base and he smiled when she looked at him. He didn't look scary and she quickly dismissed the sudden fear she had felt.

After the game, he sat on a bleacher while she talked to the coach. She noticed his smile once again as she walked past him. He nodded and she smiled back. He noticed her name on the back of her shirt. He knew he had found her.

Quietly, he walked a safe distance behind her. It was only a few blocks to Shannon's home, and once he saw where she lived he quickly returned to the park to get his car.

Now he had to wait. He decided to get a bite to eat until the time came to go to Shannon's house. He drove to a fast food restaurant and sat there until time to make his move.

Shannon was in her room later that evening when she heard voices in the living room.

'Shannon, come here,' her father called. He sounded upset and she couldn't imagine why. She went into the room to see the man from the ballpark sitting on the sofa.

'Sit down,' her father began, 'this man has just told us a most interesting story about you.'

Shannon sat back. How could he tell her parents anything? She had never seen him before today!

'Do you know who I am, Shannon?' the man asked.

'No,' Shannon answered.

(Continued on page 4)



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Neighborhood Watch- (Continued from page 4)

'I am a police officer and your online friend, GoTo123.'

Shannon was stunned. 'That's impossible! GoTo is a kid my age! He's 14. And he lives in Michigan!' The man smiled. 'I know I told you all that, but it wasn't true. You see, Shannon, there are people on-line who pretend to be kids; I was one of them. But while others do it to injure kids and hurt them, I belong to a group of parents who do it to protect kids from predators. I came here to find you to teach you how dangerous it is to talk to people on-line. You told me enough about yourself to make it easy for me to find you. You named the school you went to, the name of your ball team and the position you played. The number and name on your jersey just made finding you a breeze.'

Shannon was stunned. 'You mean you don't live in Michigan?'

He laughed. 'No, I live in Raleigh. It made you feel safe to think I was so far away, didn't it?'

She nodded.

'I had a friend whose daughter was like you. Only she wasn't as lucky. The guy found her and murdered her while she was home alone. Kids are taught not to tell anyone when they are alone, yet they do it all the time on-line. The wrong people trick you into giving out information a little here and there on-line. Before you know it, you have told them enough for them to find you without even realizing you have done it. I hope you've learned a lesson from this and won't do it again. Tell others about this so they will be safe too?'

'It's a promise!'

That night Shannon and her Dad and Mom all knelt down together and thanked God for protecting Shannon from what could have been a tragic situation.

On another note: The Town Watch Association as designated October 7 for National Night Out this year. We should be a little cooler than August and I suspect that many Texans complained about the heat.



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Wortham Villages

Procrastination Musings

By Terri Welch

N.B This column was first started in 2005.

Those of you sharp-eyed commuters who have driven by the Welch estate lately may have noticed we still have Christmas lights on our shrubbery. We don't turn them on, of course. But they're there, waiting patiently to be put away with all the other Christmas stuff that got put away, oh, about early February.

And the only reason the Christmas stuff got put away that early was we had new flooring put in, and I had to take everything out of the living room, anyway. My children are used to us putting Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day decorations on the tree. In fact, DD1, whose birthday is in early March, was a bit upset this year that we didn't have the Birthday Tree up so we could put her birthday presents under it. Boy is she going to be surprised when she grows up and gets married and figures out other people don't keep their Christmas trees up for three months.

I still have a stack of Christmas cards and letters to send out to those people who moved in 2007, and I didn't have their new address in the address book. The thank you notes that DD2 diligently wrote after her birthday party in June are around here somewhere, too. And you remember the column I wrote a couple of years ago about how I painted my laundry room a beautiful shade of aqua? That was

kind of a fib, in that I painted 90% of the laundry room a beautiful shade of aqua. The bit by the ceiling and the baseboards is still pristine white.

You may have gathered by now that I am a procrastinator. Creative and funny, yes. On time? Not so much. It is a Good Day in the Welch household when we don't get a single tardy. And you would think, given that we live three minutes from Adam, and seven minutes from Cypress Christian, that tardiness would not be a factor. You would be wrong.

I admire those moms so much who get up early, cook a healthy breakfast for their kids. They've already laid their kids' clothes out the night before, and all the backpacks are loaded and ready to go by the back door. Everything is neat and orderly.

In the Welch household, it's more like, "Here's a Pop-Tart, comb your hair and put your shoes on in the van, we've got to go!"

I have resolved to change, though. I have bought all these books on organizing and changing my life. If I could only find them....

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Disturbance/Loud Noise	2
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Mental Case	1
MUD Building Check	27
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Parking Lot Check	4
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Theft/Business	1
Traffic Stop	14
Vehicle Suspicious	5
Warrant Service	1
Welfare Check	1

Park Committee News

I recieved a few comments about the mess along White Oak Bayou in the neighborhood. It still doesn't look good out there, but please know that the MUD is doing what it can to help. This work is being done by some governmental entity that is not our MUD on property controlled by the Harris County Flood Control District. Our MUD engineers have apparently been in contact with the contractor responsible for the work to try to prod them into finishing and cleaning up.

If you, as a concerned citizen, want to help, please get in touch with the Harris County Flood Control District. They have an online public comment form at <http://www.hcfcd.org/contactemail.asp>. I looked at their map of major projects on White Oak Bayou, and ours doesn't even rate a mention, but they need to know we care!

Also, please let me know if you want to use any of the park facilities. We have a calendar set up at <http://my.calendars.net/worthamvillages>. We can even calendar the pool and clubhouse on that if you want to. Just email me at park@mayne.us.

Thanks again, and stay in touch!

Martin

The Foot Wellness Center

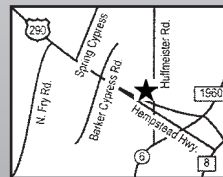
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Located at 13422 Grant Rd. Cypress, TX 77429 and 10700 Kuykendahl Rd. The Woodlands, TX 77381, they are open Mon. - Fri. 9am - 6pm; Sat. 10am - 5pm and closed Sundays. Appointments are available after hours upon request.

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Wortham Villages

Neighborhood Recreational Facilities Corner

By Rick Anderson

Well, it is now April and the swimming pool season and pool tags distribution. As a courtesy the Neighborhood Board of Directors will be handing out pool tags for the residents who are in good standing (annual maintenance fees paid in full and no pending deed restrictions). The dates for pool tag distribution are set for Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27, both from 1 to 3 pm; and Tuesday April 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We are looking forward to a great year and we have already completed our planned renovations at the pool.

The Recreational Facilities Committee will continue to look at ways to upgrade our amenities. Any reasonable suggestions/ideas are always welcome, so please feel free to join our committee or drop me an email (rick_anderson@efiglobal.com). We are planning for the Annual Pool Opening Party soon and really need some help with the committee to make this a success and enjoyable event. The pool Opening Party, sponsored by the Wortham Villages Homeowner's Association, will be held on the first day the pool will be open, which is Saturday, May 3 from noon to 3:00 pm. Once again we will have games for the kids provided by our pool management company (Greater Houston Pool Management), door prizes and food. Any Wortham resident who would like to donate prizes or food for this event or would like to volunteer (great opportunity for community service hours for teenagers) should contact me.

We are also asking the residents to provide comments on the operation and usage of the pool (lifeguards and operations/maintenance by Greater Houston Pool Management), tennis courts and clubhouse from this past year. We are looking for positive and not so positive comments, as appropriate, so we can try to meet the needs of the community and fix anything wrong with the operation/upkeep of our facilities. Please send any comments to my email and the Board will take them under consideration.

Thanks to everyone for making this neighborhood a great place to live.

Send Us Your Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the Wortham Village Newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to articles@PEELinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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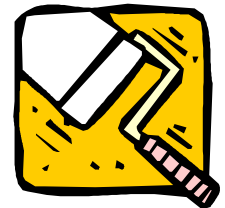
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WOW – WOW is Turning Our Great in 2008!

By Reschele Lawrence



Catch up time...WOW was great in January! We took up the whole back corner of Brewsky's and had a great time chatting and playing games. Thanks to Brewsky's for allowing us to visit!

We had an interesting evening at Angela McDaniel's house in February. The Merlot was good and the conversation was safety oriented. Everyone, please be careful when you're out-and-about. Our world

is ever-changing (and not for the better); so be vigilant, aware of your surroundings, prepared for anything, AND TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!

I would like to thank Donna Sommer in advance for hosting March WOW (which as of this printing has not happened yet). I'm sure it was a huge hit with many laughs shared and a foot or two inserted into my mouth!

Margo Horton (12718 Azalea Creek) will be hosting April WOW on Tuesday, the 29th. If you've never been to WOW before, this would be a great evening to try us out. You just come when you can and miss us terribly when you can't! WOW is a great group of women who share life's experiences and offer great support when you need it! WOW is not only for Wortham women either! We have members in Copperfield, Wortham Grove, and Ohio (though Barb and Karen don't make it to many get-togethers), so bring your BFFs with you!

Merry Spring to everyone and I hope to see you at Margo's in April!

Reduce your Property Taxes

These homes in Wortham Grove recently sold for less than the taxable value set by the Harris County Appraisal District. Call us now for a review and appeal of your assessment. There is no charge of any kind unless we reduce the amount of property tax you pay.

MLS#	Closed Date	Address	Bldg SqFt	Sold Price	2007 assessed
9744564	5/23/2007	13118 OAK LEDGE DR	1,694	\$125,000	\$139,512
6074411	9/27/2007	13119 BAINBRIDGE TRAIL	1,957	\$142,500	\$153,774
7226463	6/04/2007	13011 BRETTFORD CT	1,980	\$149,000	\$153,501
3376479	9/21/2007	13015 TURNBRIDGE TRL	2,200	\$154,000	\$167,700
2501284	12/20/2007	13023 BAINBRIDGE TRL	2,295	\$160,000	\$170,704

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WORTHAM MARKET REPORT

Courtesy of Super Dave

This market information report is provided to keep you informed of resale market activity in your subdivision.

	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08
\$250,000 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$220,000 - 249,999	0	0	1	0	0	0
\$200,000 - 219,999	1	0	0	0	0	0
\$180,000 - 199,999	0	0	0	2	0	0
\$160,000 - 179,999	1	0	1	1	0	1
\$160,000 -	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	2	0	3	3	0	2
Highest \$/Sq Ft	72.97		68.66	68.16		80.72

This chart represents the homes that have sold and closed in the past 6 months according to the Houston Multiple Listing Service.

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* According to information taken from the HAR MLS Computer

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