

Wortham Villages

Volume 9, Issue 3
Wortham Villages

March 2009

www.worthamweb.org

Between the Lane Lines: *The Whitesharks are a Bargain*

By Coach Jon Armstrong

**Remember the MasterCard commercials
(are they still on?):**

Swim Team registration: \$70

Swim Suit: \$22-40

Goggles: \$10

**Spending the summer with the Whitesharks:
Priceless**

It's starting to become cliché, "In today's economy...", but have I got a deal for you. Swim Team time is coming up (I know, I'm excited too). We are all looking for ways to save and cut back, but we still want to do the things we want to do, and we still want our kids to be active and have fun. You have a few choices:

Baseball – 16 practices, 7 games, \$100

Soccer – 9 practices, 7 games, \$100

Gymnastics – 4 practices, periodic meets, \$60/month

Y Swimming – 8 practices, \$85

Whitesharks – 45 practices, 7 meets, \$70

When you look at it that way, how is there really any choice that has to be made? On a per hour basis, that's less than \$1 an hour for the Whitesharks. For a lifetime of memories! (Believe me, I'm not exaggerating. I get graduation notices, wedding invitations, and run into many former swimmers who talk about how much the Whitesharks meant to them).

That's a lot of time out of the house for the kids, which is nice I know (but just to be clear, I'm not a babysitter), but they will be learning and working hard toward their goals (also nice I know). Most importantly, they will be having fun. I've described it before, but I can't talk it up enough: our number one goal of swim team is to have FUN. If it's cheap too, that's a bonus. Keep in mind as well, this is fun for the whole family. Swim Team is the largest community activity in our area, which means you have a great opportunity to hang out with your neighbors. Those of you who are already a part of the family, you know what I'm talking about. Won't you join us? Just do me one favor: don't go on vacation until July. We need everyone at all of our swim meets!



Speaking of money, the Whitesharks are now an official non-profit organization. We received our 501(c)(3) accreditation, which means if you own a business, know someone who owns a business, or just have a burning hole in your wallet, you can donate to the team and it is tax deductible. It's also great advertising. This is how we can keep our fees reasonable, so please be generous. To learn more, please contact Veronique Lamarche, 713 429-5770 or lessamson@earthlink.net. Thank you Veronique!

If you have questions, or need more convincing, talk to a Whiteshark family. You'll know who they are: they're the ones who are always trying to talk up Swim Team. They're the diehard Whitesharks (you will understand once you're a part of us).

Shouldn't that tell you something? You can also send me an email at jonathanwarmstrong@sbcglobal.net. Just don't tell me you don't like to wake up early. If I hear that one more time, I'll scream. I hope I know you better than that Wortham. Good things come to those who work at it.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer, new families and of course all my current Whitesharks.

*Come see us at Whiteshark Swim Team Registration
March 29, 2-4 pm at the Clubhouse
Or visit us at worthamwhitesharks.com*

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Wortham Whitesharks are the Best!

Wortham Villages

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 Stephen Johnson, (Assistant).....stephen@crest-management.com, Ext. 627
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 Fax number 281-579-7062

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 Sports Fields Reservations - Myra Edwards.....
 Social - Rachel Gerhardt.....832-912-1447
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 Tennis Committee - Dorota Jankovsky.....281-955-9626

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 Sheriff's Department.....911
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 Harris County Health Dept.713-440-4800
713-440-3036
 Animal Control281-999-3191
 FBI713-693-5000

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Wortham Villages

Splinters from the Board

By Stan Schoen, E-mail: sschoen@worthamweb.org

March 2009 , Website: www.worthamweb.org

We have certainly all been through a ride these past months and it is my sincere hopes that all are doing well in these tough economic times. On that note I must tell you that your association money is safe and secure and has not dropped a dime, except of course the low interest rates and we received nothing in bail out money and we did not accept millions in incentive money either.

As our community ages we have to be constantly vigilant about monitoring our deed restrictions and I should advise all to make sure you get architectural approval before making ANY improvements or changes to the exterior of your home. This will prevent any confrontations between the management of our community and the residents, which of course includes me. Even if you paint your home the same color you should still file an ACC approval form just to keep everything secure and on file.

Many people have asked me about the trees on N. Eldridge and I am sad to say the trees had to be removed. Center Point Energy has constantly had to 'trim' the trees to keep them off the power lines and this got uglier with every year or so it appeared. The last 'whacking' just about killed the trees and certainly the next one would have killed them. We waited as long as we could to make

our final decision after seeking professional advice and the decision was to remove the trees for the benefit of all. We couldn't relocate the trees due to their proximity to the fence so we removed the trees and ground the stumps. We hated to have to do that but in the end it was the only choice we had.

We are working to improve many things but it seems that right now, for us, the best thing to do is to stay the course.

Best wishes to all for a great 2009!

Wortham, we're looking good!

Make it a great day! See you at my table.

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**Greg Riddle
Owner**

Financing Available (WAC)

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Wortham Villages Newsletter - March 2009 3

Wortham Villages

Cy Fair High School Project Prom

Do you want your child on the street after Prom? Neither do we! We are hosting an all night lock-in parent-chaperoned party for the seniors of Cy Fair High School with food, games, entertainment, prizes and more! Project Prom is looking for all the parents of Cy-Fair seniors and their friends! We need your help for this lock-in party to be a success as this is not put on by the school but by the parents after the Prom at Sam Houston Race Park on Friday, May 1st starting at 11pm and ends at 6 am, Saturday morning. We have a few fundraisers left to make the money needed to host this wonderful party that the kids will want to attend. Your favorite senior can earn Project Prom Buck\$ when your time and money is spent towards this party. Our fundraisers will help us... won't you get involved? Here is the list of our upcoming fundraising efforts.

Mulch Sales: 2 cu. ft bags of black mulch are \$5. We are taking pre-orders for the March 7th deliveries at the Wortham Subdivision club house and the StoneGate subdivision park by the guard shack. Please call Lisa

Reinhardt at 281-970-2901 or Wendy Higgins, 281-256-0876.

Carrabba's Night out: Want to enjoy a night off from cooking? Cy Fair Project Prom has the perfect solution! Just pre-order your Carrabba's dinner (Chicken Marsala, Penne Pasta, Bread and Salad) by March 9th and you can drive up to the front doors of the school on Thursday, March 12, between 4:30 and 6:30 pm to pick up your meals. It's that easy. Go online to our website for your order form and return these to the front desk receptionist or call Brenda Addington at 281-550-3276 for more information.

Powder Puff Game: Wednesday, April 1st, 6-8 pm This is always fun to watch the girls play football!

Golf Tournament: Our golf tournament is Friday, April 3rd at Houston National Golf Course. Entry fee is \$110 per golfer. We are in the need of sponsorships for holes, closest to the pin, etc. Lunch is included and also raffle prizes. You can find an entry form on our website. Call Brett Bidinger, 281-304-8888 or Thomas Dukes, 832-213-9088.

Recycling Ink Cartridges, Cell phones and more: Drop off your used items to recycle in our library bin... but please check online at our website to make sure your item is eligible. Call Sophie Buxton, 281-890-3496 for more information.

Project Prom Dress Boutique: We are collecting gently used dresses for our boutique to sell for prom! Go online to see how many PP\$ you can earn!

Senior Car Wash: Look for details on our website: www.CyFairProjectProm.org

Banners: The seniors will be able to make a banner with their own memorabilia and photos. We are making the banners you can use to create this for only \$5. Call Polly Cox at 281-213-9916 to get yours... choices of colors are gray, white, black, maroon.

Schwan's is replacing our Market Day. Look for details on our website: www.CyFairProjectProm.org

Don't forget to sign up to use your Randall's and Kroger cards to earn grocery store rebates. Visit our vendors online for savings and to earn PP\$, too.

Our next Project Prom meeting for all senior parents is Monday, March 9th in the high school cafeteria at 7pm. We are collecting the drinks for Project Prom. Coke products and Dasani water cases only. Sign up to work the event there is so much to do! See you there!

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Wortham Villages

Texas Terrapins Swim Team

Texas Terrapins Swim Team is a fast growing, year-round competitive swim team in Northwest Houston offering instruction and competition to swimmers of all ages and abilities. Our swimmers come to us from subdivisions in the surrounding areas including, but not limited to: Black Horse Ranch, Subdivisions near the new Cy-Ranch High School, Lakes of Rose Hill, Cypress Mill, Jersey Village, Coles Crossing, Cypress Point, and Fairfield. Recently, we had the distinct privilege of attending a Mardi Gras Swim Meet in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the LSU Natatorium. While some of our swimmers were attacked by the flu, the rest of them picked up the slack, improved their times and brought home many ribbons!

The Texas Terrapins had three swimmers earn High Point awards including Byron Keller (second place for high point 6 year old boys), Sydney Begnaud (4th place for high point 6 year old girls) and Sydney Stanford (second place for high point 7 year old girls). Other swimmers in attendance were Delaney Crowder, Madison Ellison, Allison French, Savannah Stanford, Kenzie Golladay, Makenna Meyers, Michelle Scott, Makaylynn Seeley, Sarah Whetstone, Aaron Thompson and Coaches Jason Harold and Megan Scott. Both Beth McNeese and Tyler Bennett were there in spirit as they were at home fighting off the flu.

A great time was had by all who attended as we were able not only compete, but hang out with our team mates in a non-swim setting. Our team activities included visiting Mike the Tiger and the LSU bookstore and each evening we all gathered for Team dinners, where we had a chance to see our coaches in rare form. We are very serious about our swimming, but keep in mind that it is all about having fun! For more information about the Texas Terrapins, our year round swimming, jump start to summer league and swim lessons, log on to our website at www.texasterrapins.com.



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Neighborhood Recreational Facilities Corner

By Rick Anderson

Well, it is now March and I hope your first part of the year is going well. We have completed the minor repairs to the clubhouse due to damage from Hurricane Ike. We are also making plans for replacing the wind screens at the tennis courts, which were also damaged by the storm. As mentioned in my previous article we do not have any major repair/replacement items on the agenda for this year. We will look at some repairs/painting at the tennis courts as well as coordinating with our Parks Committee for cleaning and repairs/repainting to the playground equipment and repairs/replacements of the benches, tables and grills around the retention pond area. These items are going to be planned and priced and work may begin later in the year or early next year depending on budget constraints.

One thing I would like to discuss is the tennis courts usage and upkeep. It is certainly great to see then courts being used most of the time. At times the usage is so much that the trash cans inside and outside the tennis courts are overflowing and there is trash around the side of the courts. Please take the time and effort to pick up this trash when you are using the courts, even if you did not put it there. If the trash cans inside the courts are full, please empty them into the bigger trash can outside the courts. To help alleviate this issue, we have ordered another trash can to be installed beside the one outside the tennis courts and hopefully it will be installed soon.

Also, I drive by the tennis courts at night and several times I notice that the lights are on and no one is playing. If you are the last ones using the courts, please turn off the lights when you leave. We are trying to save money where we can.

Believe it or not swim season is rapidly approaching. I am requesting assistance and more volunteers for our Recreational Facilities Committee. We have had great help from the members of our committee for several years and we need some help going forward if we want to keep looking for ways to improve our facilities. The Recreational Facilities Committee's responsibility is 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 will have our first meeting in March, so please consider volunteering and supporting our community.

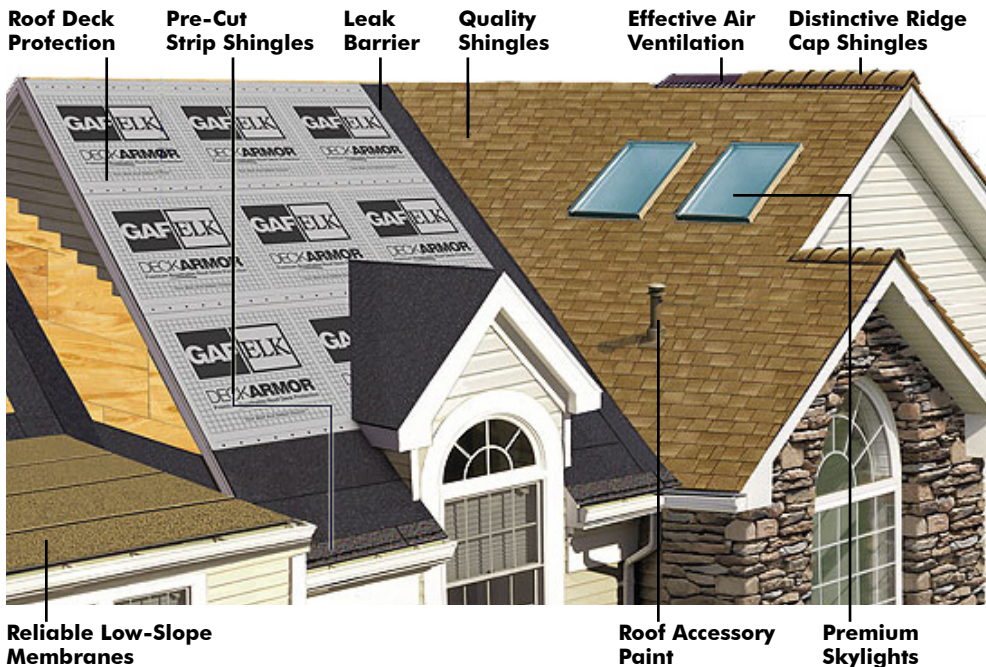
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Wortham Villages

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Where: Cy-Fair Community Health & Wellness Expo
Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress

When: Saturday, May 16th
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

What: Paper, Plastic (#1,2,5 or 7), metal, phones,
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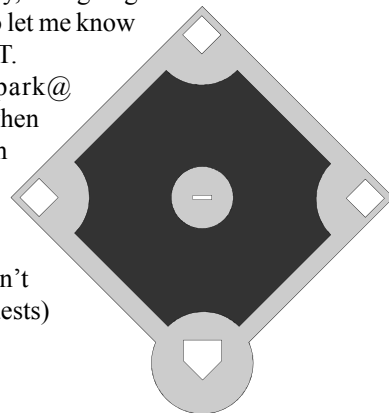
*Courtesy of Houston Computer Recycling, Sustainable Living
Houston, and Abitibi Paper Retriever.*

Wortham Park Facilities

Hello Wortham. As we fight our way out of the depths of winter into the beautiful spring shine, don't forget to let me know if you plan on using any of the park facilities. We have a calendar at <http://my.calendars.net/worthamvillages> where I keep track of who has signed up.

If anyone knows someone on one of the teams, please make sure to get them to contact me. There are a few teams that regularly use the fields, but don't sign up. If there is a conflict between people who want to use the field or facility, I'm going to have to go with the person who let me know to put it on the schedule FIRST.

Just send me an email (park@mayne.us) to let me know when your group, family or team wants to use the baseball field, the soccer field, the pavilion by the fields or any of the outside facilities. (I don't handle pool or clubhouse requests)



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Submitted by: Jane Seaman

At present we are all looking for ways to cut back on expenses, so what if I told you there's a place where you can shop with no need for a credit card, a check book, or cash and that this wonderful place is right on your doorstep, literally.

As an Image Consultant when a client says they "have nothing to wear" the first thing I do is take them shopping in their closet, because within lies a multitude of opportunities. Consider what is actually in your closet; clothes that you liked when you purchased them, clothes from the past that remind you of a particular time or event and possibly some clothes that were gifted. But so many items are never worn. Why? When my clients have an opportunity to consider this, their response is often the same; the closet is so full they forget what they have, they are bored with their clothes, some items no longer fit, some items are out of style, or they have nothing to match it with. Does this sound familiar?

Think again! Your closet can become your personal boutique, all you have to do to shop there is allocate some time. If possible include a family member or friend to help and encourage you. Then open up your closet and go shopping. Take out each clothing item and really, really look at it. If it doesn't fit, could it be made to fit? There are an abundance of excellent tailors in Houston. Look at the item differently, let's say it was a long paisley dress, could it now be shortened and worn over leggings for a more modern look? Could you remove the sleeves, add a belt? Often styles have changed with Jackets and the ones in your closet may now be too long, or have those wonderful 'Dallas'

shoulder pads. Yes, they are still lurking in closets everywhere! Could the shoulder pads be removed and the jacket shortened? Sometimes it's simply a case of changing the buttons. Imagine that navy jacket with new bright red buttons, a red tee and denim jeans, it might just work.

The key to successful closet shopping is to have fun and think outside of the box; try that cocktail dress on then add a denim jacket and a simple pair of sandals for a more dressed-down look. Add bright accessories to a tee and a pair of slacks for a more dressed-up look. Try colors together you would never have dreamed of matching, you'll be wonderfully surprised. Forget those old rules of Black and Brown should not be worn together, yes, they can. Consider 'color blocking'; put together an outfit entirely in one color, right down to the shoes, this will minimize horizontal lines on the body and is guaranteed to make us look taller and slimmer. Now add bright accessories to give the outfit a wow factor. Forget the rules and be creative. The chances are, at minimum, you'll find six to ten new outfits in YOUR closet.

When returning your clothes to the closet hang them in groups; put all your jackets together and then the same for trousers, blouses, skirts, dresses. For your tops try hanging them in order of sleeve length. Hang your suits as separate pieces so you can visually see that they can be worn with other items other than just as a suit.

And at the end of your closet shopping you may have found some items that have to go. Take a look at these

items closely and ask has the item been worn much, is it somewhat in style? If so, then make sure they are cleaned and pressed and take them along to one of the many consignment stores. You might just earn some extra cash. If you feel the item is not up to being sold then a charity will make good use of it? And finally, in six months time go through the whole process again and reinvent some new outfits from your personal boutique....what fun!



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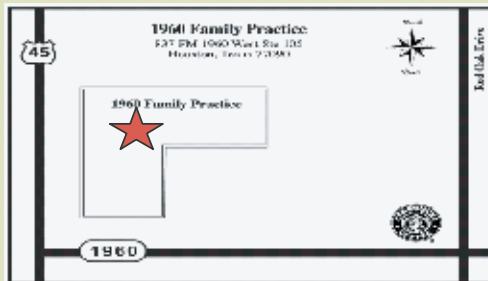
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Musings on Food

By Terri Welch

The way many of my writings focus on food, you'd think I'd get paid, like those commercials on TV – the ones IN the show, and the ones that come about every ten minutes.

Anyway. You may have noticed that our available ice cream/frozen yogurt/gelato shops have plummeted. Piccomolo? Gone. TCBY? Gone. For a while there, we had to go all the way to Connie's or Dairy Queen to get our frozen treat fix.

But! We recently discovered this fabulous place by where Gugliani's used to be. It's called Frozen Café, and it is FABULOUS. They have gelato like Piccomolo used to, and frozen yogurt like TCBY used to. But! The FroYo at Frozen Café is self-serve, and they have this pomegranate flavor which is beyond fabulous. My mouth is watering just writing about it. We've been twice a week ever since we discovered it. They have one of those punchy frequent buyer cards, and I'm on my third one so far. The only thing that would make it more perfect is if it were a tad closer so I didn't have to go through any traffic lights to get there....

OK, so, speaking of Gugliani's closing, I want to tell you that I am the Kiss of Death to restaurants. My daughters and I liked going to Pancho's Mexican Buffet at Jones and 1960. It is gone now. I liked Gugliani's. Gone. I ADORED Maui Tacos. Gone.

I don't think the Terri Welch Kiss of Death applies to Pete's Barbeque, however, as it was briefly located in the Restaurant of Doom. The Restaurant of Doom used to be a McDonald's, I think, on 1960 east of Jones. Since I moved to Wortham in 1997, there have been at least seven or eight different restaurants there. Some new tenant will move in, paint, put up signs, prepare food, and wait for customers, who apparently never come. The signs outside the restaurant will become more and more desperate, from Grand Opening! to Now Open Sundays! to something like Combo Meals Only \$5!!! And then, about three months later, they'll close. And the Restaurant of Doom will sit empty for about three months, until some new tenant moves in. So I won't tell you to visit the Restaurant of Doom, because, really, what would be the point?

I will tell you to visit Frozen Café some day, especially when it warms up a bit. Just don't tell them I like the place, because

I want it to stay open.....

Wortham Villages

Marathon

Submitted by Cissy Heafner

January 18th was a day to be celebrated by many Wortham residents and friends. It was a day filled with running marathons(that's 26.2 miles!), half marathons(13.1), and driving around cheering marathoners on/offering them whatever we could to ease their way! A post marathon gathering was held at Goode Co. Barbecue where bbq, beer, and conversations reliving the day were enjoyed! Those present celebrating their success were John Carnicle, Sonny Mimms, Joey Carnicle(1st timer at the age of 16!), Blake Walker, Frank Scanterbury, Rick Brooks, Brenda Hassebrock, Amy Parker, Dana Cirelli, Eloise Scanterbury, and Cissy Heafner. Congratulations to all you endurance athletes! And to those that weren't present but ran that day too, we're proud of you, and hope to see you next year!



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	McAnulty, Chris&Kelly	281-970-1405
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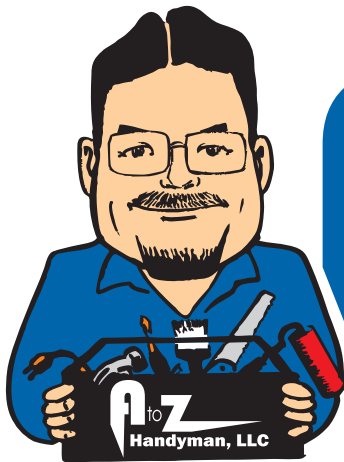
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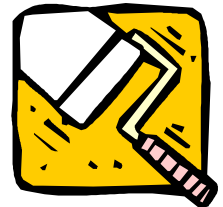
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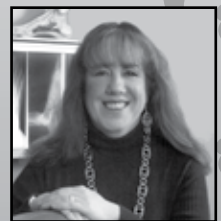
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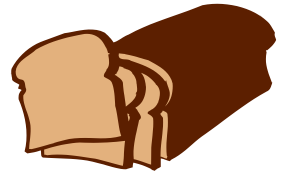
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Recipe of the Month:



Jalapeno Corn Bread

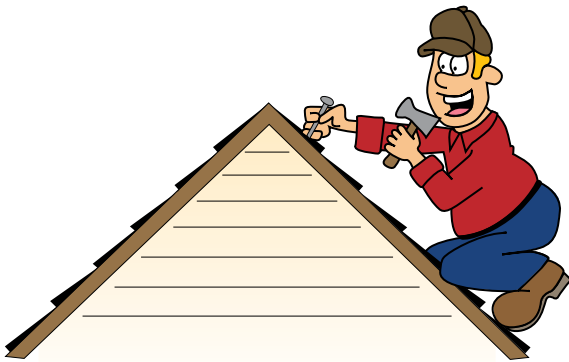
- 1½ Cups Corn meal
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 small jalapeno peppers
- 1 C. cheddar cheese (grated)
- 2/3 C. Vegetable oil
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 can cream corn
- 1 C. sour cream

Mix all ingredients except the cheese. Pour half into greased pan. Sprinkle on half of the grated cheese. Pour rest of batter over the cheese, then top with remainder of cheese.

Bake at 450° for 30 minutes.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe
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Wortham Villages

Alternatives to Microsoft Office

Submitted by Laurie Scott

Anyone who works in an office and with a computer probably has Microsoft Office installed on it. Word, PowerPoint and Excel and found in almost every corporate environment. But when it comes time to buy software for your home computer, most people don't realize there are free and low-cost alternative.

To start, Microsoft does offer an Office 2007 "Home and Student" edition that I've seen online for as low as \$80. This edition includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote, but not Outlook, which is what many Office users expect with their "office" suite.

The most popular free option is probably Sun's Open Office 3 (available at www.openoffice.org) It has powerful word processing, presentation and spreadsheet programs that are compatible with Microsoft Office, and also includes a graphics program and database (but again, no e-mail program.)

Another free alternative is a surprising name from the past. Lotus (owned by IBM) has resurrected its Symphony suite and is closer to Open Office than Microsoft Office. Its programs are IBM Lotus Symphony Documents, IBM Lotus Symphony Presentations and IBM Lotus Symphony Spreadsheets and also offer Microsoft Office compatibility.


Google has recently entered the office application fray with their own product (which are still in "beta" – a Google trademark), Google Docs. It offers Microsoft Office compatibility for Word and Excel with a twist, everything is stored online. You can access and share your files with anyone from anywhere. Some consider this the future, known as "cloud computing" (the internet is the cloud in computer network diagrams.)

Corel offers an \$89 alternative that is compatible with Office Word, PowerPoint and Excel, but includes VideoStudio LE for editing your home videos, and MediaOne SE for enhancing and organizing your photos.

At the time of this writing, the most popular (non-Microsoft) email client, Eudora is undergoing a rewrite but the older versions are still available at www.eudora.com. If you're already using hotmail, yahoo mail, Gmail, or your Internet Service Provider's (ISP) web-based mail, then you don't need an e-mail client to run on your computer anyway.

So don't automatically feel like you have to fork out a couple hundred dollars just to have Office functionality at home. There are affordable and even FREE alternatives out there for you.

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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.

	Aug 08	Sep 08	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09
\$250,000 +	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$220,000 - 249,999	0	1	0	0	2	1
\$200,000 - 219,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$180,000 - 199,999	0	1	0	0	1	0
\$160,000 - 179,999	0	1	1	0	0	0
\$160,000 -	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	0	3	1	0	4	1
Highest \$/Sq Ft		74.04	57.91		72.38	57.13

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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