

Wortham Villages

Volume 9, Issue 8
Wortham Villages

August 2009

www.worthamweb.org

All's Well that Ends Well

by Jonathan Armstrong

What a rush! Swim Team is now over, and it's a bit of a bittersweet feeling for all of us. In the digital age of instant gratification we live in, you would think I could write this article at the end of our season and you all could read it at the end of our season. But that's not meant to be. For me it's been only two weeks since the Whitesharks finished swimming for the season, and we are now living on a high and resting at the same time. Once again we went undefeated in our dual meets, for the 11th time in our short 15 year history. It almost didn't happen, which gives me an opportunity to tell you about the incredible spirit of this team. At our last dual meet we were swimming against a team that has been steadily rising up the ranks for several years now, and half way through the meet we found ourselves behind. As you can probably guess, Wortham couldn't and didn't accept that. We started swimming out of our minds and doing some amazing things, and slowly we gained ground and ended up winning a close meet. Some may say it could happen to any team, but I know better. We have been doing this kind of thing for years. When faced with a challenge, when the team is on the line, our Whitesharks step up. We have unbelievable Whiteshark Spirit.

To top it all off, the Whitesharks also won Ponderosa, the Superbowl of NWAL swimming, for the 3rd year in a row. This still just flat out amazes me. In the 40 year history of the league, with 96 teams, less than ten teams have won this meet. It is an incredible and awesome feat.

We are proud of our accolades, but we are even more proud of our kids, and yes, our parents too. Winning is just a byproduct of the spirit, sportsmanship, effort, and love of our team that we have. The Whitesharks are not just about swimming, and we are definitely not about winning. We are about working hard, working together, good sportsmanship, and having fun. I get complimented all the time from other teams about how great our team is: well organized, well behaved, enthusiastic, great sports, and a tight knit group. Every one of our swimmers and their families walk away with lasting memories and a great fondness for this team. This year we had our largest team ever, with 280 swimmers. This is a remarkable testament to what we believe in. If you weren't a part of it, you missed out, we missed you, and hopefully we will see you next summer for another fantastic season.

Thank you Wortham for making this team such a success. We certainly could not do it without you. Thank you to the Whiteshark board and committee heads, who work tirelessly to pull this whole thing off (thanks especially to our outgoing Vice President, Joni Phariss). Thanks to all the volunteers who help us run the meets and events (over 100 per meet!). Thanks to all the parents for giving us your wonderful children for the season and for bringing them up to the pool for practices and the early morning meets. Thanks of course to our swimmers who give us their excitement and best effort, some year after year after year (after year after year). Thanks to our coaches who have such a love for their swimmers and this team that it just can't be described or contained. And THANK YOU WORTHAM for

(Continued on Page 2)

Year-Round Texas Terrapins Swim Team (TTST) Announces Open Registration Days for Competitive Training

The Texas Terrapins Swim Team (TTST) will have Pre-Registration for the 2009 / 2010 year-round swim season on Wednesday, August 19th & Friday, August 21st from 5:15 PM – 7:30 PM @ Lakeside Pool in Fairfield. Open Registration for the 2009 / 2010 year-round swim season will be on Wednesday, August 26th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM @ Lakeside Pool in Fairfield. For directions to the pool, please visit our website at www.texasterrapins.com and click on pool locations. Registration forms are on our website and can be completed out ahead of time!

TTST has accomplished some great things this past year such as almost doubling our team size. We went from a peak season of 80 swimmers to a peak season of 155

(Continued on Page 3)

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Wortham Villages

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MANAGEMENT

Crest Management281-579-0761
Kristi Buenger (Manager)..... kristi@crest-management.com, Ext 17
Stephen Johnson, (Assistant).....stephen@crest-management.com, Ext. 627
Robin Motley (Accounting) Ext. 24
Fax number 281-579-7062

BOARD MEMBERS

Stan Schoen sschoen@worthamweb.org
Jonathan Armstrongjarmstong@worthamweb.org
Steve Carter scarter@worthamweb.org
Rick Andersonranderson@worthamweb.org
Rebecca McShane rmcshane@worthamweb.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architectural Control - Crest Management281-579-0761
Clubhouse - Linda Carter.....281-894-5821
fourlcs@comcast.net
Directory - Mindy Armstrong281-970-2187
Info. Signs - Fred Trascher fatrascherjr@aol.com, 281-970-1553
Phyllis Giblin..... Phyllis.Giblin@cfisd.net, 281-517-0191
Neighborhood Watch - Marie Trascher fatrascherjr@aol.com, 281-970-1553
Park Committee - Martin Maynemartin@mayne.us, 281-955-2240
Recreational Facilities Committee - Bob Paziteney, 832-912-8473
Sports Fields Reservations - Myra Edwards
Social - Rachel Gerhardt 832-912-1447, r_gerhardt@comcast.net
Tennis Committee - Dorota Jankovsky.....281-955-9626

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Fire 911
Sheriff's Department 911
Poison Control281-654-1701

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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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Gas - Entex.....713-659-2111

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Leaks & Repair 713-983-3604
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NOTE: If you have complaints about garbage service, after you call Republic Waste please notify AquaSource of your complaint.

U.S. POST OFFICE - FAIRBANKS STATION

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Alls Well that Ends Well - (Continued from Cover)

being such great supporters of this amazing community activity, and putting up with the minor inconveniences we cause each summer. I know you know it's definitely worth it.

Believe it or not, the next swim season is 9 months away. I can't wait. I just hope you all join us. We welcome and encourage returning swimmers and newcomers of all ages to come out and join the fun next year as we continue our tradition of friendly competition and memorable experiences. Have a great rest of summer and see you around the pool!

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Year-Round TTST - (Continued from Cover)

and we are continuing to grow while keeping our family atmosphere. All of our swimmers improved tremendously throughout the year and topped the charts during summer league as most of them were invited to Ponderosa and Red, White, and Blue Invitational where they were ribbon and medal winners. One of our swimmers, Sydney Stanford, won high point at Ponderosa for the 7/8 year old girls! Just before summer league started, we also attended short course T.A.G.S. and will be attending long course T.A.G.S. later this summer as well. We invite you to join our growing team and find out why we are a stroke above the rest.

Incident Report - June 2009

Incident	Offense Total	Incident	Offense Total
911 Hang Up	2	Forgery	1
Accident/FGSI	1	Fraudulent Use ID	1
Accident/Minor	3	Meet the Citizen	36
Alarm Local	10	MUD Building Check	40
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU	1	Neighborhood Check	4
Animal/Aggressive	1	Parking Lot Check	4
Burglary/Other	1	Special Assignment	1
Burglary/Habitat	2	Suspicious Person	5
Burglary/Motor Vehicle	8	Theft/Other	1
Check Business	15	Traffic Initiative	2
Check Park	130	Traffic Stop	58
Contract Check	88	Vacation Watch	15
Criminal Mischief	7	Vehicle Stickered	6
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Follow Up	1		



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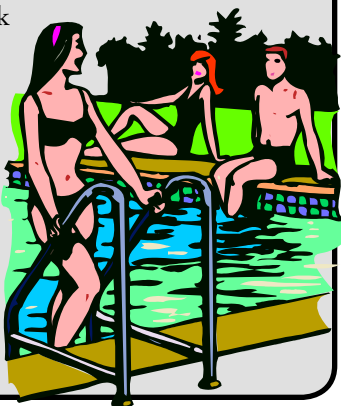
Wortham Villages

Wortham Adult Pool Party

Hello one and all. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in an end of season Adult Pool Party. I think I have enough people who can help put the thing on, now I just need to know if we'll get much participation. Many people have told me over the years that the Wortham Adult Pool party was the best way to get to know new people in the neighborhood, and I agree. I miss those parties, and I'd like to get back on track with them again.

Let me know if you have any ideas about what you'd like to eat or do, and let's think about early September, sometime around Labor Day.

Send your thoughts and any other park related questions to me, Martin Mayne, at park@mayne.us.



MOPS at The MET Registration

Submitted by Jennie Everage

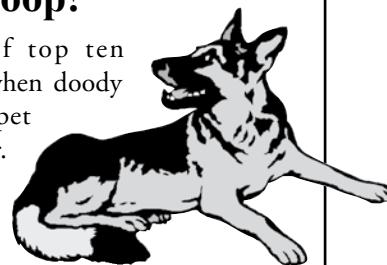
If you need a listening ear, friendship with other moms, your kids involved in a fun program, delicious breakfast buffets, advice from seasoned moms....then you need MOPS at The MET. Two dynamic groups meet two Friday mornings per month (September – May) from 9:15 – 11:45a.m. Childcare is provided upon registration. \$55 per semester. Register online today to secure your spot at metmops.org or TheMETonline.org

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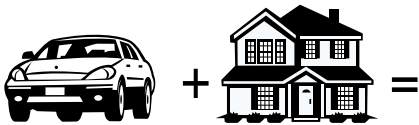
Wortham Villages Community Association, Inc. -----POOL RULES -----

1. Proper swim attire must be worn to be admitted to the pool.
2. Only Wortham Village residents and their guests will be allowed to use the pool. Residents must accompany guests. Residents are allowed four (4) guests with each adult pool tag (this does not include children 10 - 15 years old). Under this guest policy, there must be one adult for every two kids under 12 years of age. No Wortham resident under the age of 18 is allowed to bring a guest.
3. Pool passes will be strictly enforced. It is the resident's responsibility to bring to the pool. It is very awkward and uncomfortable situation for everyone when the lifeguard must ask a member to go back home and get his or her tag.
4. Lifeguards are employed to insure the safety of swimmers, and they have the authority to remove from the pool area anyone disobeying the rules and/or endangering the safety of themselves or another person.
5. There will be a 10 minute break each hour. During this time the pool will be cleared with the exception of persons who are eighteen (18) years of age and older.
6. The following activities and items are not allowed:
 - Running or rough-housing
 - Skates, bicycles or skateboards

- Glass containers and/or alcoholic beverages
 - Littering
 - Cooking
 - Loud music
 - Pets
 - Cutoffs
 - Loud, abusive or foul language
 - Cocoa butter, baby oil or other heavy suntan oil
7. Flotation items for swimming pool are allowed, but are restricted to small size tubes and floats.
 8. Diving Rules:
 - No diving in the shallow end
 - No swimming in the deep end while the boards are open for diving
 - Only one person on the diving board at all times
 - Divers must jump straight out and not towards the sides



(Continued on Page 6)



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Pool Rules - (Continued from page 5)

- Divers must wait for person in front of them to get to the side before diving
- 9. Any child nine (9) years or under must be accompanied by said child's parents or person eighteen (18) years old or older. Children 10 - 15 years of age may swim without adult supervision after passing a swim test and received pool tags.
- 10 Baby Pool Rules:
 - Only non-swimming toddlers 5 years and under may use the baby pool.
 - Parents, not lifeguards, are responsible for children in baby pool.
 - Any child not potty-trained must wear rubber pants with elasticized waist and legs over disposable diapers when in the water.
- 11 Trespassers and vandals will be prosecuted.
- 12. Parents are responsible for their children and guests at the pool. Parents must closely supervise their children at all times. The lifeguards will always enforce pool rules throughout the facility, but children who cannot swim must have an adult (18 or older) within arms reach at all times. The same rule applies even if the child is wearing a flotation device.

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	McAnulty, Chris&Kelly	281-970-1405
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Walnut Lake	Heafner, Cissy	281-477-9553
Wortham Blvd	Giblin, Phyllis	281-517-0191
Wortham Blvd	Culp, Susan	281-807-1330

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Wortham Villages

2009 Pool Season

Wortham Villages Community Association, Inc. 2009 Pool Tag Distribution Information

In order to obtain pool tags for access to the pool facility, you must be current on your maintenance fees. Tags will not be issued if there is a balance on your account. Every resident that is issued tags will be required to wear pool tags for admittance to the pool area.

Pool tags can be picked up at the Wortham clubhouse located at 19011 Wortham Blvd on the following dates and times. An adult must be present to pick up tags.

Saturday, April 25	1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 26	1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 28	6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

If you are unable to attend the listed registration days, tags will be issued by Crest Management Company via regular mail. Please complete the enclosed form and submit it to our office via regular mail or fax. There is a fee of \$20.00 per home if you come to the Crest Management office to obtain pool tags. **Again, you will not be admitted to the pool area without a tag. The cost for replacing lost tags is \$20.00.**

HOURS OF OPERATION: The pool will be open during the following hours:

JUNE 4TH THROUGH AUGUST 23RD

Mondays.....	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tuesdays through Thursdays.....	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Fridays.....	10:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturdays.....	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sundays.....	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm

EXCEPTIONS:

August 24th through September 7th	
Mondays through Fridays.....	Closed
Saturdays.....	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sundays.....	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

EXCEPTIONS:

Monday, September 7th (Labor Day).....	10:00 am - 8:00 pm
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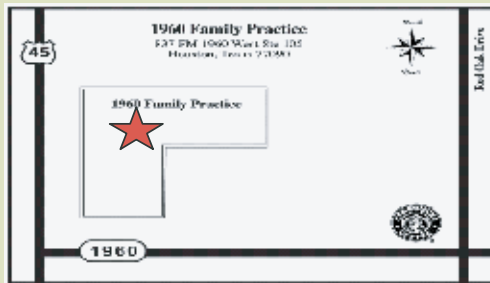
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Wortham Villages



Meet Johnathan

DOB: 10/1997

Johnathan is an affectionate child who loves to give and receive hugs. He loves trains, building with Legos and cardboard boxes. He also enjoys going on outings and watching cartoons, especially Scooby-Doo. His favorite food is pizza.

He has been diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder which requires therapy. He is not able to communicate as easily as other children his age, which can be very frustrating for him. He has made tremendous progress in foster care and has a strong desire to please the adults around him. Johnathan requires a high level of supervision due to his activity level and his social skills. Johnathan's foster mom describes him as a "lovable child" and a "good kid."

For more information about adoption in general or Johnathan, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at info@adopttexas.org.

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a sermon series

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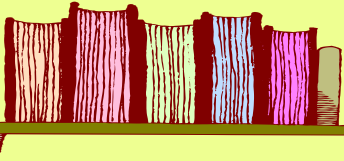


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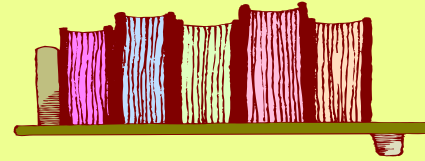
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Britt's Book Buzz: *It's Criminal!*



THE ASSOCIATE BY JOHN GRISHAM

I am a positive person and I feel bad about putting negativity out there, especially in a book review. I must say, however, that *The Associate* by John Grisham was a terrible book. I hadn't read anything by Grisham since *The Firm* and *The Pelican Brief* while in high school. At the time, they seemed like somewhat smart novels. I came across *The Associate* at Half Price Books and thought "why not?" Boy, has time changed the author—and not for the better. My mom put it best, "he has a formula to his books." Meaning, he doesn't put much thought into the books other than to get them on the bookshelves as quickly as possible. Do lawyers even read these books or find them even mildly entertaining?

In the book, a hotshot law student has two great job offers and a bright future, but a blackmailing expert team has found a skeleton in his closet and exploits it to the fullest in order to obtain highly confidential information. Only in the last 50 or so

pages does the law student finally realize that he should just come clean and face the issue. Wouldn't a Yale law student know how to resolve the situation without having to work with the blackmailers? I have absolutely no law background, but I saw no evidence to even convict him!

Character development was poor and the book was loaded with cliché after cliché and stereotypes (i.e. the hot law student who dressed really great and showed off her perfect body to the enjoyment of her male colleagues). The ending was horrifically lazy and unfinished.

Looking at the bright side, I hope this review saved you a worthless read.

Feel free to comment on this review or your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog at <http://www.brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

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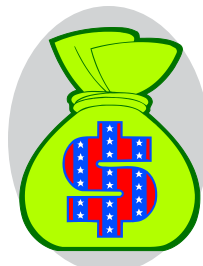
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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

As a parent, you may feel a moral obligation to fund your children's education, but you don't want to sacrifice your current lifestyle or rob your future retirement in order to fund education costs. Well, to make funding both their education and your retirement a non-issue, you must consider how to:



- Maximize your cash flow so that you can invest funds in education and retirement accounts. This includes both reducing debt and lowering expenses.
- Utilize the numerous education tax incentives provided by the IRS to reduce taxes and produce so-called "tax scholarships" for your family.
- Qualify for merit and need-based financial aid offered by colleges

If you can maximize the benefits produced by the above strategies, you may not have to compromise your education and retirement goals. Historically, we see that college costs have risen at 2 to 3 times the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index. And college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. Depending on which tax bracket you are in, the amount you must

earn to pay for college is a good deal more because you must first pay the IRS...before you pay the college.

How old will you be when your last child graduates from college? Assume that you are 45 years old and you plan to retire in 20 years and that a public college costs \$60,000 for 4 years. You take the money out of your retirement savings today. The money you give to a public college for four years will cost your retirement fund about \$280,000 at an 8% return. Elite colleges cost more, but there is a hidden benefit which we will get to later. And remember, these numbers are for just one child's college education.

Clearly this presents a funding dilemma shared by parents everywhere: how to fund college and retirement? Experts agree there are two methods to make this work:

The first method is by using your money through: (A) paying out of your current income, (B) paying with withdrawals from your savings accounts, or (C) borrowing. Most people use some combination of all three. The second method is to use money from others. This comes in the following forms: (A) financial aid, (B) by using special education tax strategies, (C) gifts from relatives, or (D) your child's resources (his/her income and assets). We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses.



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Wortham Villages

Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster?

(It might be and you don't even know it)

Submitted by Laurie Scott

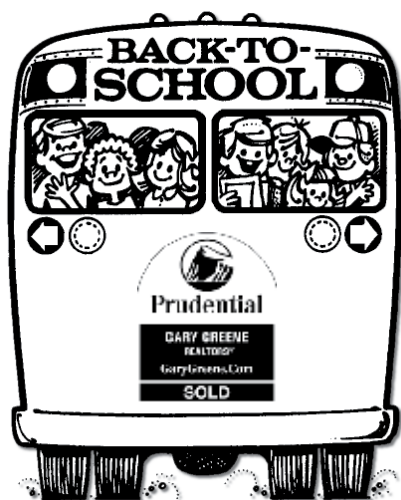
Laptop computers have made computing mobile and very convenient. Wireless routers in our homes have made it possible to use our computers anywhere in the home, and not just where the connection comes into your home.

If you have a wireless router at home, then you are using one of three possible levels of security, 1) none, 2) poor and 3) what you SHOULD be using. "None" is real simple, open the box, plug in the router, connect to the Internet. With this connection, ANYONE within range, meaning your neighbors, passersby and that annoying teen-age kid down the who likes to hang around your house in the evening can use your wireless network to access the internet or worse, access your computers at home. Also, any illegal activity over the Internet is going to be traced back to your home, not to the person or computer that may have done it.

I often tell the story of the time I moved to Austin from Sacramento 4 1/2 years ago over the Thanksgiving holiday. I stayed overnight with a friend in Flagstaff, Arizona at her parents' home. Lots of relatives were there and they all smoked (and smoked a lot). Even though it was 35 degrees outside, I went and sat in my car for an hour just to breath fresh air. While in my car I powered up my

laptop and discovered a completely unsecured network within range. I connected to it and took the opportunity to check my email and do some web surfing. Then the good Samaritan in me decided to do them a favor. I figured they hadn't changed the default password on their router, and sure enough I was right. I logged onto their router and took a screen shot of it. Since they were also using the default name for their computer network, I changed mine to match and could see that they had a computer turned on with one of their hard drives shared (no, I didn't peek at it.) I also saw that they had an Epson printer connected to it, so I downloaded the printer driver and installed it on my laptop, opened Microsoft Word and pasted the screen shot of their router into it. I also included instructions on how to keep prying eyes out of their network, thanked them that I was able to check my email, and then I PRINTED the document out on their printer. Keep in mind I have no idea which house I had connected to. I imagine if they were home that they were a little shocked to have their printer start all by itself and print a note from a complete stranger. Lucky for them I wasn't someone who wanted to copy their files, plant a virus or lock them out of their own network.

(Continued on Page 17)



School is Starting... drive with extra care!

Let's all work together to help make our streets safer for our children this coming school year. We can do this by leaving home earlier, driving slower, and asking all our friends and neighbors to do the same!

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Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster? - (Continued from Page 16)

The two levels of security that are usually displayed with a padlock symbol are WEP and WPA. WEP falls into the "poor" category of security. WEP will keep honest people out of your network, and will prevent someone from accidentally getting connected to your network, but WEP was "cracked" several years ago, and nowadays it only takes a laptop and 60 seconds to break into a network secured with WEP.

What you should be using is WPA (or WPA2) to provides a connection that (with a good password) can't be cracked in a comfortable lifetime. Log into your router (usually at <http://192.168.0.1> or <http://192.168.1.1>), go to the wireless security settings and set it for WPA. Then change your laptops and other wireless devices to match.

There are many different routers on the market, but there are a few standard rules to follow: Changing the security settings on your router should always be done with the computer attached to the router via a network cable - don't change it over a wireless connection. If you make a mistake, you won't be able to get back in to fix it. In the wireless security settings on your router, you will see WEP and SHOULD see WPA as options. If you don't see WPA as an option, your router is probably several years old. Go to the manufacturer's support page on their web site and look for updated "firmware" to

download. Download the firmware and update the router per the instructions provided by the manufacturer. If the latest firmware doesn't provide WPA encryption, then it's time for a trip to Best Buy or Fry's for a new router. ANY new router will provide WPA encryption. Next use a strong password. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long, feel free to make it a lot longer - the longer the better. Be sure to use upper and lower case letters, use numbers AND use special characters like # * (\) [@ ! & . Write it down and put it in a safe place. If it helps, use 2 or 3 non-related words or numbers that you know but no one is likely to guess. Something like maybe the city you got married in with the year of your first car and the name of your brother's daughter. It might look

Even people you know you won't guess this. Be creative and have fun, but **MAKE IT STRONG!**

Next month I'll talk about keeping your information secure when you're online both at home and away.

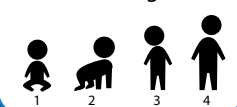


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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW



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For more information, check out our website at

www.colinshope.org

DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" - no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.

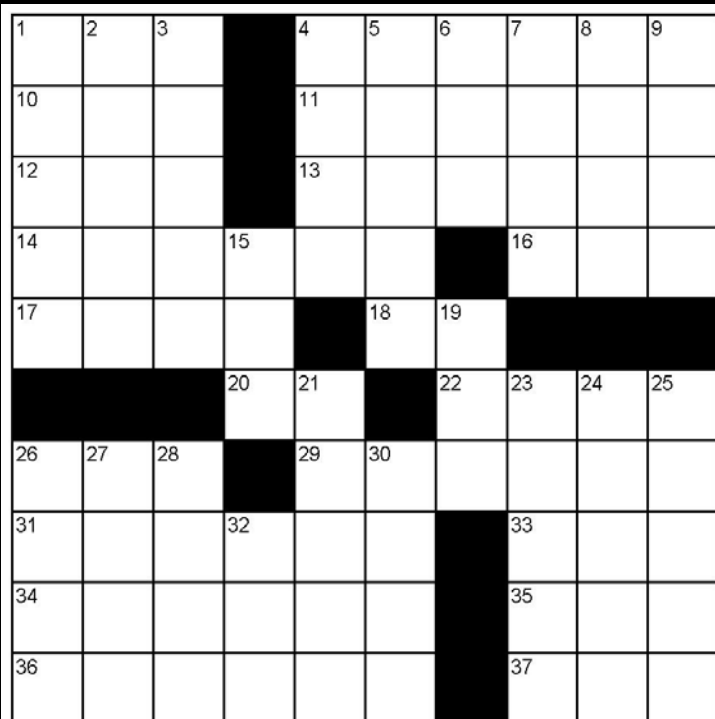


Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

Wortham Villages

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Belong
4. Elevator alternative
10. Fire remains
11. Short guy, hairy feet
12. Manipulate
13. Indoor
14. Coaxing
16. Condensation
17. Adolescent
18. South Carolina (abbr.)
20. New Jersey (abbr.)
22. Hornet
26. Rock
29. Loves
31. Demonstrate
33. Government agency
34. Subordinate
35. Cause of sickness
36. Elapse (2 wds.)
37. Surface to air missile

DOWN

1. Finds _
2. Make available
3. Not here
4. Tibia
5. Fire iron
6. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
7. As previously cited
8. Cycle
9. Soup
15. Hotel
19. Cash with order (abr.)
21. Rachel's husband
23. Regions
24. Reddish brown
25. Sacred song
26. Pearls
27. Vile
28. Brief
30. Refuse to believe
32. Pinch

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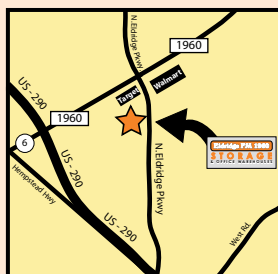
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The “Four Awareness” Points When Playing Tennis

Submitted by Fernando M. Velasco

In past issues, I have written about how to choose proper tennis equipment and efficient ways to practice. This issue offers advice on how to tackle the “critical points” in your matches.

In every match, you will find critical points that can determine whether a player wins or losses. At these critical points, I suggest reviewing what I call the “four awareness” points:

FIRST AWARENESS: SELF

Every player possesses certain shots that they feel more comfortable hitting on a critical point. For example, it could be a forehand topspin, or a slice one. When choosing which shot to hit on a critical point, decisively utilize the shot that comes more naturally without changing your mind. That is when mistakes are made.

SECOND AWARENESS: OPPONENT

When the players decide on a shot at a critical point, they need to consider their opponent's strengths and weaknesses. During the match, they should notice the shots the opponent has less success with than others. On a critical point, players should use the shot they feel more comfortable with but also they will aim towards their opponent's weaknesses.

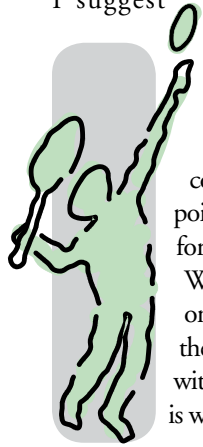
THIRD AWARENESS: COURT

Once you decide on your most consistent shot, consider the opponent's weakness, you also need to take into account the court conditions. Factors such as the sun, wind, and surface will make a difference on the shot executed. When in doubt, you should either choose a shot toward an opening on the court, or directly at your opponent's feet; open spaces or shoe laces.

FOURTH AWARENESS: SCORE

When you decide on your shot, the placement and being aware of the court challenges, a good player should also remember the score in hand. Players will be aggressive when the score is in their favor, and be more conservative when tied, or behind. For example, when a player is serving at 40-15, the serve should be a powerful and assertive. In contrast, if the score is 15-40, the player should serve the first serve with some power, but with more placement.

Over time, these four awareness points will become both automatic and reactionary as players become more experienced in playing and competing. After the shot has been properly executed, they will sometimes give themselves a pat on the back for doing the right thing at the right time, and remind themselves that they followed the “four awareness” points.



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