

Wortham Villages

Volume 9, Issue 10
Wortham Villages

October 2009

www.worthamweb.org

WORTHAM VILLAGES



*Come Join the Fun
Saturday, October
31st, 2009
10 AM – 12 PM*

*(Rain Date is Sunday,
November 1st 3-5 PM)*

Wortham Clubhouse and Grounds

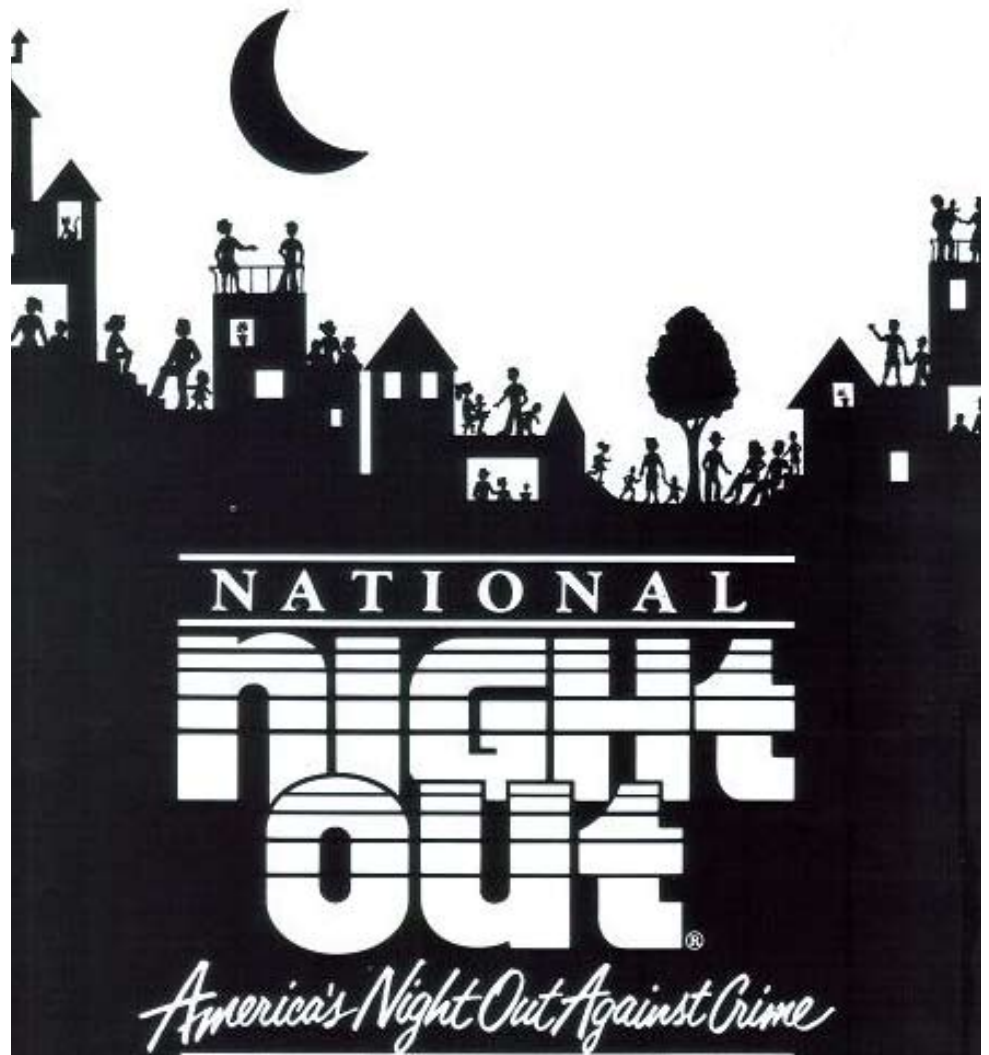
ADMISSION: Small or medium
sized NEW stuffed animal or \$2
(adults and kids)
(\$3 for non-residents)

*Come dressed in your favorite
costume for the Costume Contest!*

There will be games, prizes,
refreshments, moonwalks, crafts,
door prizes, cakewalk,
and photo ops (bring your camera)!
This year's fall festival is brought to
you by Girl Scout Troop #10327.
Your admission will provide stuffed
animals for law enforcement officers
to distribute to kids in crisis.

*For volunteer hours or other
information:*

*Debbie Veselka 281-890-9201 or
dveselka2@comcast.net*



WORTHAM VILLAGES

*Turn your porch light on and meet us at the Clubhouse
October 6, 2009 from 6-9 PM.*

Join your neighbors for food, fun, and prizes!

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency..... 911
Fire 911
Sheriff's Department 911
Poison Control281-654-1701

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance713-466-4073
Cy-Fair Med. Clinic (24 hr).....281-890-5285
Sheriff's Department713-221-6000
Harris County Health Dept.....713-440-4800
713-440-3036
Animal Control281-999-3191
FBI713-693-5000

UTILITIES

Electricity - HL&P713-207-7777
Gas - Entex.....713-659-2111
WATER & SEWER - MUD 222 (SouthWest Water Company)
Service & Billing.....713-405-1750
Telephone - Southwestern Bell713-237-6202
Cable TV - Comcast.....888-210-9147
Street Lights713-207-2222
Garbage & Recycling (Republic Waste)281-446-2030

NOTE: If you have complaints about garbage service, after you call Republic Waste please notify SouthWest Water Company of your complaint.

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What's Happening in Wortham?

If you have some news or fun activities happening in your life, please let us hear from you! We'd like to share the news in our future newsletters. Are you or someone in your family



running a marathon? Do you have a new member of your family? Any children accomplishments to brag about? Please share with your neighbors! Send your info and pictures to worthamnews@comcast.net.

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HOME ALONE IN WORTHAM

By Sairrong and Rob Fitzgerald



Having twins who just turned 18, we were unprepared for the empty nester syndrome. First we had to pack them off to school. Brian was easy; just get him on the right plane to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD for a July 1st Induction. He was travelling light: his requirement was to show up with just the clothes on his back. He went way

out on a limb and brought a second pair of running shoes. Aileen's departure was more of an entourage; we caravanned with the McCollins down the street whose son Nick was also going to UT at Austin. Our SUV was packed to the rafters with everything from emergency rations to computer and printer. Bringing everything to her dorm (where will it fit???) on their old red wagon brought back some memories. Mom makes it back from the trip, and guess what – there's nobody in the house but mom & dad. No one prepared us for this; sure people joked about us being on our own but did nothing to get us ready. First, we stared at each other across the kitchen table. Then came the obligatory master cleaning of the twins rooms; after all it was vital that their "shrines" be maintained as they deserved. The next weekend was the resulting yard sale, an excuse to clear out the whole house, attic, and the garage as a diversion from the fact that all we are going to get from now on are phone calls that don't even ask permission to stay out late. We are done with ideas now...does anyone know what empty nesters are supposed to do until they get the hang of this???



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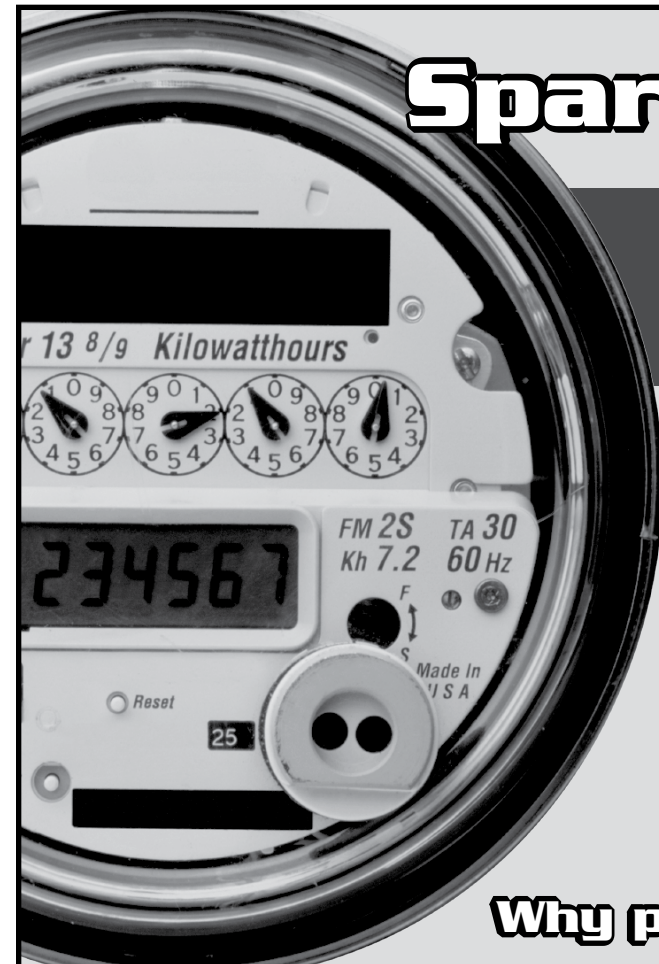
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Wortham Villages

Splinters from the Board

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

October 2009 , Website: www.worthamweb.org

The recent questions I have been asked were about our water situation and the construction on the hike/bike trail.

For the water question I will defer to the M.U.D. board, at least one of which will attend our annual homeowner's meeting which will be held again at Adams Elementary School at 7 p.m. on October 13, 2009 and end at 9 p.m. The short answer that I have for you is that the pump has worked overtime during our severe drought and the M.U.D. has a plan to replace this pump. In the meantime they have made arrangements for us to get quality water but again, I defer to the M.U.D. so please come to the homeowners' meeting to learn more about this.

The hike / bike trail had to be modified to meet the ADA (American Disabilities Act). In order to do this the trail had to be brought down so that the elevation could be at precisely the correct grade. During construction an AT&T line was hit and had to be replaced and hopefully, by the time you read this it will all be completed.

As mentioned earlier we are having our annual homeowner's meeting on October 13, 2009 at Adams Elementary. There are three (3) seats up for election on the board so please, if you, or someone you know, has an interest in running for election to be on the board

of directors of Wortham Villages contact Kristi at Crest Management Company (Kristi@crest-management.com) and she will make sure that you are on the ballot.

As another reminder we are still in need of a community neighborhood watch chair. Marie is retiring her position after the National Neighborhood Watch and we will have no one to replace her on a permanent basis and she really is leaving us right after National Night Out which is October 6, 2009. Please contact any of our board members if you have an interest and let's not wait for something to happen and wonder why we didn't have this coordinated the way it should be done.

We hope you will attend the annual homeowners' meeting to learn more of what is going on and to provide your input and be heard. We are financially sound and all things are looking good for us.

Thank you all for being such wonderful people, neighbors and friends. We are Wortham!

Wortham, we're looking good!

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

October 6, 2009 – National Night Out at the clubhouse area

October 13, 2009 – Annual Homeowners Meeting – Adams Elementary School



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Incident Offense Total

Accident/Unk Maj Min	1
Accident/FGSI	2
Alarm Local	7
Alarm/Rep. Site	1
Animal/Aggressive	1
Animal/Humane	2
Burglary/Motor Vehicle	1
Check Business	14
Check Park	149
Contract Check	78
Criminal Mischief	1
Disturbance/Family	1
Disturbance/Juvenile	2
Disturbance/Loud Noise	3
Disturbance/Other	1

Incident Offense Total

Follow Up	2
Meet the Citizen	5
Meet the Officer	1
MUD Building Check	34
Open Door/Window	1
Parking Lot Check	8
Property Found/Lost	1
Solicitors	1
Suspicious Person	5
Traffic Stop	50
Unknown Medical Emergency	1
Vacation Watch	23
Vehicle Speeding	1
Vehicle Stickered	1
Vehicle Suspicious	3

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Wortham Villages

Wortham HOA Annual Meeting Notice

The Wortham Villages Homeowners Association Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 7:00 PM at Adam Elementary. Elections for three board positions will be held and information about the state of the neighborhood will be shared. If you would like to run for the board, contact Crest Management. Please come and find out about your community, elect your representative board members, and have your questions answered. If you cannot attend, please remember to sign your proxy that should arrive in the mail soon (if it hasn't come already), and give it to a neighbor who will be there. We need at least a 10% quorum of homeowners to make the meeting and elections "official." Refreshments will be served.

Attention!

Neighborhood Girl Scout Troop Partners With WVCA Social Committee

Girl Scout Troop 10327, whose membership is composed entirely of Wortham Villages 8th grade girls, will be hosting the Fall Festival, Breakfast with Santa and Easter Egg Hunt as their Silver Award Project titled "We Are Community". At each of these events, donations of selected items will be collected to benefit community charitable organizations. More information will be published in the monthly newsletter as the dates for these much enjoyed WVCA events approach. Please support this neighborhood troop with your volunteer time and donations as they serve their community.

Lost!

My name is Vickie Jones and I live on Harvest Dale Ave. Wednesday the 19th of August, I left a yellow folder on top of my car, which contained important information. If you found this folder, please contact me at 281-894-4441, 11226 Harvest Dale Ave. Thanks so much for your help.

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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

How you fund college expenses is divided naturally between using your money, and by using other peoples' money. This sounds simple but each scenario requires understanding of the long-term impacts. In this article we are going to focus on free money, and on "Tax Scholarships," where the Federal Government helps you send your child to college through tax savings and other methods.

Recently the federal government boosted financial aid for higher education, including various tax breaks. An expanded version of the Hope Scholarship tax credit appeared called the American Opportunity tax credit. The new credit can save taxpayers as much as \$2,500 in tax, or \$5,000 for two collegians, and a refund of \$1,000, if you satisfy certain rules.

Remember that you can't claim the American Opportunity credit for expenses paid with withdrawals from a 529 plan. So you may wish to limit 529 withdrawals so some college expenses are paid with other money, to allow the use of the new tax credit. Some students won't qualify for the American Opportunity credit. Fortunately, a Lifetime Learning tax credit provides a maximum annual credit of \$2,000 for tuition and fees, subject to rules.

The tax advantages of 529 plans are many. A down year for stock funds, combined with a poor year for many bond funds, has driven

down the value of many folks' 529 accounts. People with younger children can keep contributing and look to a rebound. Parents of college and pre-college students, though, may have few options other than using 529 plan withdrawals to pay for higher education. Having said that, it may be better to pay for college from cash flow or from cash reserves. This delays liquidation of 529 assets as long as possible, allowing for a recovery. Remember to reimburse yourself from your 529 plan before the end of the calendar year in which the expenses were incurred.

If the market does not come back in time for your needs, you still have options. If you have other funds that can cover college bills without disrupting your financial plan, keep the money in the 529 as long as feasible, in hopes of future tax-free growth. Of course, if a child is finishing school and there is no younger sibling who could use the funds in the future, then you should spend down your 529 funds. Tax tip: parents of college-bound children should realize net losses in their taxable accounts to lock in tax benefits. The proceeds can be reinvested in 529 accounts so that any future gains from today's low levels can be withdrawn, tax-free, to pay for college later on; perhaps in graduate school. Check with your financial coach and tax advisor for full details.



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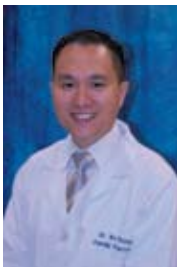
meet our team

Huong T Le, MD
Quoc Le, MD
Alex Nguyen, MD
Blandina Sison, MD
Anthony Yee-Young, MD
Diana Malone, MD
Shital Patel, MD
Heidi Nashed, MD
Luz Marquez, MD
Jennifer Dong, MD
Asma Ahmed, MD
Vu Anh Phung, MD
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Tami Berckenhoff, PA-C
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Dr. Annie Hoang joined our practice in August of 2009. She graduated from Texas A & M University and finished her training in Family Practice at Texas Tech University. She is board certified in Family Medicine and has been providing comprehensive care for adults and children with compassion and kindness for the past 10 years. She welcomes all new patients to her practice.

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Wortham Villages

Get Ready for Windows 7 For Lovers of XP and Haters of Vista

Submitted by Laurie Scott

Users of Microsoft Windows have been waiting a long time for a great upgrade from Windows XP. Well, I have good news - Windows 7 is coming.

On October 22nd, the successor to the less than popular Windows Vista will begin to ship with new PC's and be available in stores and online. If you bought a new PC with Vista Home Premium installed in the last 3 months, you're probably going to get a free upgrade disk from the manufacturer.

Should you upgrade your current PC? There are some very compelling reasons to do so. In almost every area Windows 7 outperforms Vista and even XP in the time it takes to install, copy files on the hard drive or move files over a network. It also doesn't need quite as much memory to run well. It has MUCH better security than XP and is less annoying than Vista. Vista users know about the constant pop-ups of the UAC (User Account Control) every time you make the slightest change to the system, encouraging many to disable it altogether. Windows 7 has modified it so that it can be adjusted to be less intrusive while still protecting you from unwanted program installations. This makes it much easier to run

as a regular user rather than an administrator (an almost impossible task in XP), providing better protection from viruses and trojans.

The Media Center provides support for playing Blu-Ray discs (if you have a drive that can play them), and the Home Group feature makes sharing files and printers between computer really simple.

Windows Live is a separate but I think important product from Microsoft that works well with Windows 7. It's a set of free online products that features SkyDrive, offering 25 gigabytes of online storage, and Family Safety, that in conjunction with your Windows user accounts provides access control to web content, and provides activity reports as well as administrator access (i.e. the parent) from any computer, anywhere.

The Professional version of Windows 7 includes the ability to run Windows XP as a "Virtual Machine" in a window, so if you have programs that need XP to run, you can run them in the virtual machine while continuing to run everything else in the Windows 7 environment (I know, that was geeky and your eyes probably started to glaze over, but it's a great feature none the less.)

(Continued on Page 11)

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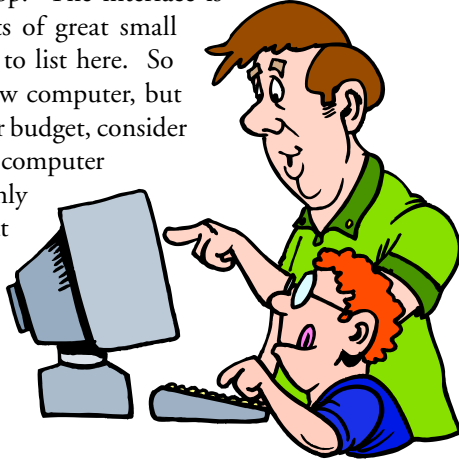


Greg Riddle
Owner

Get Ready for Windows 7 - (Continued from Page 10)

System requirements for Windows 7 are a 1GHz or faster processor and at least 1GB of memory. You can perform a check of your computer by downloading the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor from microsoft.com. The upgrade for Windows 7 Home Premium will be \$119, but Microsoft will also be making a "Family Pack" available, giving you 3 licenses for \$149.

I've been using Windows 7 since the Beta version was released in January, having it on 3 systems without problems, including 2 desktops and 1 laptop. The interface is much cleaner with lots of great small features too numerous to list here. So if you're ready for a new computer, but it's not presently in your budget, consider upgrading your current computer to Windows 7. The only regret you'll have is that it took Microsoft so long to finally get it right.



New Cell Phone Law

*"I'll Have to Call You Back;
I'm in a School Zone."*

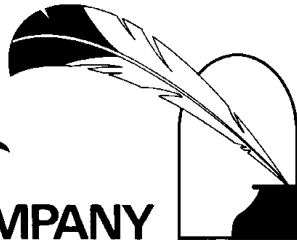
THE LAST SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE PASSED A NEW LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN A SCHOOL ZONE. THE EXCEPTIONS ARE:

- if you are using a hands free device
- if your vehicle is stopped
- if you are calling 911 for an emergency.

The law took effect September 1, 2009. Soon you can expect to see new signage in school zones reminding drivers to hang up or face a fine of up to \$200.



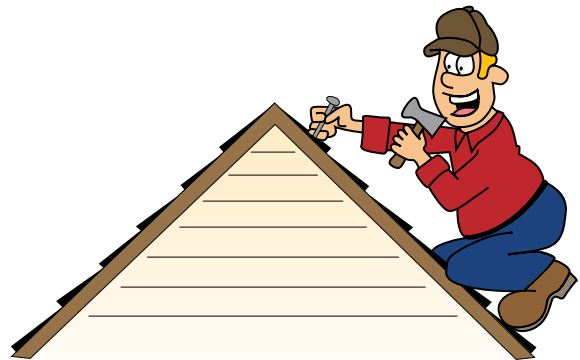
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Wortham Villages

Wortham Adult Party

If you missed the Wortham Adult Party recently than you missed a great time. We had tons of food, drink, music and good times up at the clubhouse. Dinner was catered by Johnny Carino's and the liquor was provided by Pernod-Ricard (Absolut, Malibu, Glenlivet, Jameson, Jacobs Creek wine, etc). A very big thanks goes out to the committee who put everything together - Martin Mayne, Beth Wade, Ray Walker, Elio & Tate Cunningham, Lisa & Randy White, Dan Kurth, and Michael Patrick. The Wortham HOA hopes to keep up the tradition so look for the promotions next year and volunteers are needed to make it all happen.



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Party organizers - Ray Walker, Martin Mayne, Beth Wade, Tate Cunningham, Lisa Walker, Michael Patrick



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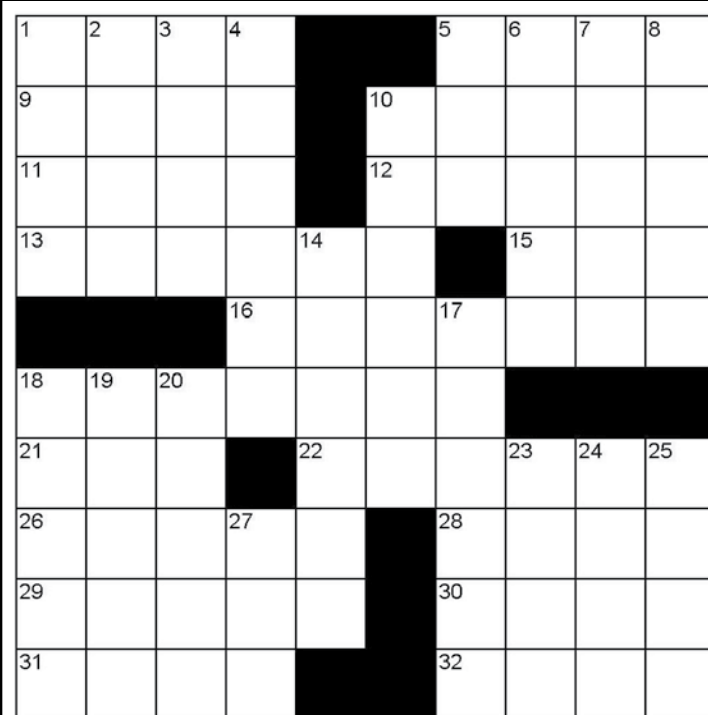
Phu Do, M.D.
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Wortham Villages

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.)
5. Swiss mountains
9. Waterless
10. Expression
11. Unwanted plant
12. Striped animal
13. Seasickness symptom
15. Affirmative
16. Set loose
18. Pups
21. Epoch
22. Vapors
26. Vapor
28. Singing voice
29. Japanese city
30. Not mine
31. In __ (together)
32. Skewer

DOWN

1. Worship
2. Domain
3. In __ of (instead of)
4. Totals (2 wds.)
5. Wood chopper
6. African country
7. Tiny skin holes
8. Hit
10. Rhododendron
14. Mystery
17. School writings
18. Spanish coins
19. Salaam
20. Encomium
23. Pig food
24. Decorative needle case
25. Classify
27. American Kennel Club (abbr.)

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Azalea Creek	Slacik, Deborah	281-955-2146
Birch Falls	Carter, Linda	281-894-5821
Brook Mill	Young, Deanna	281-890-0598
Carriage Lake	Boushley, Connie	281-890-3499
	Betty Meineke/J. Harrove	281-890-4329
Chestnut Woods	Hutchinson, Mark & Jan	281-894-8410
	Claiborne, Ed & Pam	281-469-7646
Dawn Point & Elm Bough	Ramos, Angelina	281-970-8545
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	McAnulty, Chris&Kelly	281-970-1405
Elm Bridge Ct	Henkhaus, Kim	281-469-7105
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	Franklin, Vernette	281-807-3834
Hickory Tree	Pickens, Cindy	281-894-0444
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	Lara, Peggy	281-970-4052
Magnolia Leaf	Canterbury, Eloise	281-894-8424
	MacDonald, Lori	281-469-0874
Orchard Hollow & Town Elm	Dineen, Mike	281-894-6258
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	Chisari, Paul	281-894-7053
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	ACTIVE	PENDING	SOLD Last 6 Mos
# of Listings	15	4	42
Price Range:	142,500 239,000	160,000 219,900	131,927 230,000
Average Price	\$184,916	\$177,350	\$169,414
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$69.47	\$71.89	\$65.61
Avg DOM	90	28	50
High Price/sq.ft.			\$85.75
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$38.79



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*According to information taken from the HAR MLS Computer

**Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009