

Wortham Villages

Volume 10, Issue 8
Wortham Villages

August 2010

www.worthamweb.org

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Stan Schoen

Of all the things we can do for our community the top 6 things might be: (some repeated from an August 2006 newsletter)

- Continuous monitoring and upgrading of facilities, to keep them fresh and minimize maintenance costs
- Monitoring for Deed Restrictions
- Payment of dues
- Neighborhood Watch – Safety issues
- Social issues – to include committees and involvement by residents, children and adults
- Protect property values to the best of our abilities

I've consistently made claims in my newsletter articles that we are a family community and everything we do should always be with the family in mind, first and foremost. As a group we have always abided by this rule and will continue to do so as long as I am here.

The top 6 issues I chose all deal with 'Value' for the community because if we do all these things the value to all of us is positive. I would love to see us on our own trend line whereas our property values increase as a result of all we do regardless of what others have done.

The number one thing residents can do to help themselves/ourselves, is to maintain your property, abide by the covenant and restrictions that we all agree to when we purchased our homes and pay our dues. When you sell your home you should want to get the best possible price, there are as many circumstances as there are people that could change this, and the best way to do this is to 'interview' a real estate professional. Get

'comps' and all the marketing information that they have to offer so you can make a sound decision. So many times I hear that someone 'gave away their home' and that brings the comps down. Again, I urge you to speak to a professional about this when you are looking to sell your home.

One of my top 6 points is Neighborhood Watch. There are many facets of this to include block captains as the mainstay of this program. The premise is that we all get to know one another and we are our brother's keeper and we watch out for each other and for our property.

We are fortunate in that we have so many bright minds and people that want to help and give so much of themselves. I've had the pleasure of being around many residents and we are very lucky and frankly you can't buy the kind of talent and volunteers that we have. Block captains are important! We need block captains to do a minimal amount of work and effort for a short period of time to gather some information for us and gives the block captains a chance to meet all their own neighbors. In the short run we are asking for them to go out, gather e-mail addresses and phone numbers so that we can communicate a possible catastrophic event or an event of concern to all. Once we have this information we need to keep it current and that is done as new people come into the neighborhood, as a greeting to welcome new folks and gather this same information.

We are fortunate to have as our new co-chairs for our Neighborhood Watch – Messrs Herman de Hoop and Shawn Lacagnina. They have been on the job for several months now and are doing a fantastic job and I ask

you again to support these folks and all of our block captains. They're all worth twice what we pay them (volunteers).

There is a situation now regarding signs that really came about with the advent of a roofing company that did a great job of marketing themselves but left us 'littered' with signs on our homeowners' property. Mind you there was nothing illegal about any of this and the homeowners' had to give approval to do this but what it did was have residents question us all about the use of signs in our neighborhood so I went to our Deeds and Covenants that reads in section 15 –

..."no sign, poster, advertisement or billboard or advertising structure of any kind other than a normal "for sale" sign not to exceed five (5) square feet in total size may be erected or maintained on any Lot in said subdivision)..."

It goes on to say that if this occurs we have the right to remove those signs without permission from the homeowner and this is not trespassing....

So here is our question – do we stay to the letter of this restriction or do we 'adjust' to neighborhood conditions and 'common sense' and in this case what is common sense? As an example – your child is an honor student or an athlete or participant on a school team and they are #10 for CyFair High School and you paid for a wooden sign to put in your yard – is this OK? How about a sign promoting your church of choice – is this OK? How about if your child is a swim team member and you want a Whitesharks sign – is this OK?

(Continued on Page 3)

Wortham Villages

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MANAGEMENT

Crest Management281-579-0761
Kristi Buenger (Manager).... kristi@crest-management.com, Ext 617
Jessica Lopez (Assistant).... jessica@crest-management.com, Ext. 627
Robin Motley (Accounting) Ext. 24
Fax number 281-579-7062

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Rick Anderson randerson@worthamweb.org
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Architectural Control - Crest Management281-579-0761
Clubhouse - Linda Carter.....281-894-5821
fourlcs@comcast.net
Directory - Mindy Armstrong281-970-2187
Info. Signs -
Meredith Miller ... meredith.miller@cfisd.com, 281-469-3967
Phyllis Giblin..... Phyllis.Giblin@cfisd.net, 281-517-0191
Park Committee - Martin Maynemartin@mayne.us, 281-955-2240
Recreational Facilities Committee - Rick Anderson, 281-890-4878
Sports Fields Reservations - Myra Edwards.....
Social - Rebecca Shane..... 281-890-730
Tennis Committee - Dorota Jankovsky.....281-955-9626
Neighborhood Watch Committee Co Chairs
Shawn Lacagnina, shawnlacagnina@gmail.com, 281-235-5830
Herman de Hoop, hdehoop@worthamweb.org, 281-546-1493

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency..... 911
Fire 911
Sheriff's Department 911
Poison Control.....281-654-1701

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 or 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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Splinters from the Board - (Continued from Cover Page)

Now mind you this subject came up because of several complaints we had regarding a sign that troubled you because there were so many of them. Who chooses what goes and what stays? I would LOVE some input on this one and it's a fair question and who is going to answer this one? Usually when there is something that is not bothering anyone and it is not a clear deed restriction we are easy going until someone complains because we believe we are a reasonable group but this situation troubles me because this is not 'my' subdivision, it is ours so I ask again, do we follow this rule to the letter or do we close one eye and to which and who is the judge? You have a board of directors who you trust to make these decisions for all of us; I am just looking for input.

There are many HOA's (Homeowner Associations) that are disliked because they don't seem to have the 'pulse' of the

community. We have excellent board members, I'm proud to be able to say, that understand your needs because we are residents, swim team parents, school parents plus we have a great M.U.D. who are more than willing to work with us and they too are residents. I speak with many people each day and sometimes this comes up in conversation, by the other person as I assure you I do not volunteer, and we are so fortunate to have such wonderful people living here, a M.U.D. that is so cooperative and great people I work with on the board and our volunteers.

Financially, we are sound and it's always good to hear that and we have no plans to increase our fees for this next year although our budget meetings aren't finalized until September and I will not say "read my lips". We have an audit performed every year and everything is a matter of public record and all

you need do is to contact Crest Management if there is ever anything you want to see. We still want to do something with the front of FM1960 and Wortham and in the direct front of our subdivision as well and will forge forward as money permits. We have not borrowed any money in my tenure and there are no plans to do so in the future as Rebecca McShane has done a tremendous job of keeping us on a straight path with her heavy hand and sharp mind. We do plan on replacing a cracked diving board and have done some necessary upgrades to the swim area restrooms plus a sun shade which is a nice addition as well.

Thank you to all of our residents for making this the wonderful community that it is and one in which to live and to raise our families.

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



School is Starting... drive with extra care!

Lets 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!

***Buying, selling or relocating,
please give me a call!***



MARGO HORTON
Wortham Resident

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Cell: 713-553-3809

email: mhorton@garygreene.com

<http://MargoHorton.garygreene.com>



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Neighborhood Watch Committee

Co-chairs Shawn Lacagnina and Herman de Hoop

While we are all fortunate to live in a rather quiet neighborhood in regards to crime, the first two weeks of May have been uncommonly active with several incidents throughout Wortham. There have been two reports of early morning break-ins of cars in two parts of the neighborhood and we have had repeat vandalism in the front yard of a resident. With extended daylight hours and summer around the corner, a neighbor's watchful eye can be the difference. Whenever you notice something "out of the ordinary", call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at 713-221-6000 and report it. Please put that number in your cell phone so that it is handy when and if it is ever needed. Only use 911 for an emergency situation.

One of the first steps in a more secure neighborhood is effective communication. It begins with neighbors knowing each other on some level and recognizing when something isn't right. It is not about being "nosey"... it is about caring. Get to know your neighbors!

Wortham's Neighborhood Watch utilizes block captains throughout the neighborhood. Unfortunately, we do have some blocks with vacancies... hint hint if you are not involved! These neighbors give their time to try and help the communication flow between each homeowner and eventually the Sheriff's Department. The communication has to flow both ways. The more the Sheriff's

Department knows about what is happening, the better they can manage their patrol to try and solve situations. The more we know as homeowners allows us to take steps to increase our personal security.

At least one of the vehicles mentioned above left valuables in the car with the doors unlocked. A thief will always take the easy target when presented and then look for more in the same area ... like an unlocked garage perhaps?

Whenever an incident occurs, please report it to the Sheriff's Department and your nearest block captain. You can find a list of the block captains in each newsletter. Again, it helps the Sheriff focus their patrolling and helps your block captain understand what is happening so we can alert other block captains and concerned neighbors to take steps to prevent it from reoccurring. A prepared neighborhood is not the type of target a two bit thief wants as a target.

Wortham does have two contract deputies, Officer Nick and Officer Matt, which patrol our neighborhood on a regular, scheduled basis. Introduce yourself and get to know them. The more eyes and ears we give them, the better they can do their job.

(Continued on Page 5)



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Neighborhood Watch Committee - (Continued from Page 4)

In an additional step towards better communication, we have implemented a Neighborhood Committee section on the Wortham Website; www.worthamweb.org. Under the Neighborhood Committee you will find information on problems and situations that have appeared in the neighborhood. We will also try and let you know when something is simply not true. (we all have gotten those emails!). And check Worthamweb.org (Neighborhood Watch committee) for current updates on what is happening in the neighborhood.

Speaking of email...do we have yours? We won't sell it or spam you, but we may use it to notify you of an "emergency" situation. Again, it is just another tool that can help us increase the level of communication at the necessary time. Please contact your block captain – introduce yourself if you haven't met – and make sure they have your important numbers and email. Hopefully, it is never needed!

Finally, the Neighborhood Watch Committee can always use more eyes. Please feel free to let us know if you would like to help. Specifically we need block captains for the following streets – Hillside Glen (North end), Harvest Dale, Birch Falls, Carriage Lake and Timberland Trace. While it is not a big time commitment, it can have a big impact. At the end of the day, we are all in this together. And together, we can make some neat things happen.

Thanks for taking the time! Herman and Shawn.

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 lorabergeron@gmail.com.



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INCIDENT REPORT - JANUARY 2010

Incident Offense Total

911 Hang Up.....	1
Accident/FGSI.....	1
Alarm Local.....	18
Assault/Agg.....	1
Burglary/Motveh.....	5
Check Business.....	33
Check Park.....	188
Contract Check.....	36
Credit Card Abuse.....	1
Criminal Mischief.....	6
Dist/Family.....	2
Dist/Loud Noise.....	2
Dist/Other.....	2
Drug/OD/Poss.....	1
Follow Up.....	2
Information Call.....	2

Incident Offense Total

Meet the Citizen.....	30
Missing Person.....	1
MUD Building Check.....	45
Parking Lot Check.....	4
Robbery/Agg.....	1
Solicitors.....	4
Suspicious Person.....	21
Theft/Other.....	2
Traffic Hazard.....	2
Traffic Stop.....	65
Vacation Watch.....	12
Vehicle Abandoned.....	1
Vehicle Stickered.....	4
Vehicle Suspicious.....	21
Warrant Service.....	1
Welfare Check.....	2

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WORTHAM WHITESHARKS DADS



A bunch of the Wortham Whitesharks swim dads (and a couple of swimmers) got together for a very fun golf outing at Hearthstone Golf Club recently. This group of dads work hard as the volunteer equipment setup crew throughout the summer swim season and we felt like we deserved a little R&R for the effort. We had a great time and managed to play a little decent golf.

Pictured from left to right are Kenny Saunders, Don Ryan, David Jones, Grant Camp, Kris Gagne, Rick Anderson, Sam Phariss, Greg Camp, Blake Walker, Kyle Bromley, Randy Phariss, and Loren Long.

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Wortham Villages

2010 WORTHAM VILLAGES

Pool Schedule

MAY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 2ND

Mondays through Fridays	Closed
Saturdays	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Sundays	12:00 AM – 8:00 PM

EXCEPTIONS:

Saturday May 1st (Opening Day)	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Saturday May 8th (Swim Meet)	2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturday May 22nd (Swim Meet)	2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturday May 29th (Swim Meet)	2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Monday May 31st (Memorial Day)	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

JUNE 3RD THROUGH AUGUST 22ND

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:

June 12th (Swim Meet)	2:00 PM – 9:00 PM
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AUGUST 23RD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6TH

Mondays through Fridays	Closed
Saturdays	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Sundays	12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

EXCEPTIONS:

Monday, September 6th (Labor Day)	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Investors Can Learn from World Cup Teams

It's World Cup time, and soccer fans everywhere are focusing on South Africa, where 32 countries compete for what may be the most coveted championship in all of sports. As a spectator or casual athlete yourself, you can certainly admire the skills of the World Cup players — but as an investor, you can also learn a great deal from them.

Let's Look At Some Key Areas Of Soccer And See How They May Apply To Your Investment Philosophy And Techniques.

• **Offense** — When a forward, or “striker,” scores a goal in a soccer game, it can look almost effortless. But it's not that simple. Before the striker could even make the kick, the ball had to be moved around, sometimes by almost the entire team, before it was in the right place for the striker to shoot. As an investor, you, too must position your portfolio properly so that, when the occasion arises, you can take some “good shots.” Specifically, stay invested in the market, so you'll be prepared to take advantage of good buying opportunities, as when prices drop.

(Continued on Page 9)

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Wortham Villages

Financial Focus - (Continued from Page 8)

- **Defense** — In soccer, the defenders, such as the fullbacks and the goalkeeper, must anticipate the opposing team's moves and then react to them. And as an investor, you must be ready to cope with threats, such as market volatility, economic turmoil, inflation and so on. When these forces appear, you may need to adjust your portfolio in one way or another. However, your best defense is preparation — and one of the best ways to be prepared for any event that could affect your investments is to build a diversified portfolio. Diversification can help smooth out the ups and downs of the market to help reduce the effect any one investment may have on your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.)
- **Stamina** — As you watch World Cup matches, you will see very few substitutions. In fact, only three players can be substituted throughout the entire course of a game, which places a premium on players' stamina. As an investor, you also need to have the staying power to "go the distance," despite the bumps in the road you will encounter. But if you have the patience and discipline to keep investing for the long term, your efforts may be rewarded.

- **Teamwork** — For a World Cup team to succeed, it needs outstanding teamwork. The players must know one another's tendencies, must communicate well and must trust each other to make the right plays. When you invest, you can also benefit from working with a team, which may consist of your financial advisor, your tax advisor and your legal advisor. The investment world can be complex, with ever-changing laws and regulations, so you'll want to be confident that you're making the right moves at the right time.

You may never get to play in the World Cup, but, by observing the players and the games closely, you can learn some lessons that can apply to your portfolio.

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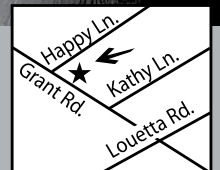


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Wortham Villages



Project Prom 2011



GENERAL MEETINGS

Aug. 30th
Sept. 27th
Oct. 25th

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& how **YOU** can keep your
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PROJECT PROM
April 29, 2011
Dave 'n Busters

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Casino Night**
 >Nov. 14th
- **Christmas Wreaths**
 >Aug. 30th – Oct 25th
- **Homecoming Mums**
 >Sept. 23rd
- **Texan Football**
 Concessions
 >TBD
- **Denim & Diamonds**
 >TBD
- **Golf Tournament**
 >TBD



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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

	2	3	6					
				4			8	
9	6			2				3
								1
		7				3	4	6
4	5						2	
	9	5			4			
6	4					9	7	
					8			

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# of Listings	10	1	24
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Average Price	\$205,359	\$196,000	\$186,904
Avg Price/sq.ft.	\$72.03	\$69.01	\$67.92
Avg DOM	46	3	65
High Price/sq.ft.			\$79.03
Low Price/sq.ft.			\$51.42



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