

SENDERa

SENDERA HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Q&A with Wheel of Fortune Contestants

By Alison Carpenter



Photo credit Carol Kaelson

Melissa and Reagan Sosebee of Sendera were contestants on a recent March airing of the iconic game show Wheel of Fortune. It was a pleasure to watch them on TV and they were incredibly kind to chat with me about their experience.

The Sosebees competed against two other couples during their show taping on Family Week. It was hard not to feel nervous and excited for them as the show began. They easily won the first round, then fell behind

in the second after a disappointing bankruptcy cost them a \$10,000 prize. They battled on, and though they solved the final puzzle, it wasn't enough to put them in first place at the finish. Nevertheless, they went home with decent winnings of second place prize money. A big congratulations to them!

Q: What decided you to try out for the show?

M: Reagan has been a longtime fan and makes the whole family watch it often. His father kept telling him to audition, and when we got the email that they would be coming to Austin, [Reagan] made a one-minute rap about Wheel of Fortune that got him noticed!

R: I've always loved the show and thought it would be so fun to go on there one day and participate, especially with my wife since every time I don't know an answer she always does.

Q: What was the tryout like?

M: Different than expected and very hands on. Our try-out was in a conference room of a hotel in Austin with several steps [in the process.]

R: It was really fun. We played a lot of different word games and even took a written test. We were encouraged to be loud and confident and to choose "logical letters" such as "ing," or "s" if the puzzle was identified as plural.

Q: Tell us about the hosts, Pat Sajak and Vanna White?

R: We did not meet Pat until the show started, and what you see on TV was our only interaction with him. I couldn't believe how much makeup he had on, and for a military man he gave a very weak handshake. But I guess he deals with a whole lot of people and maybe not everybody shakes hands very strongly. Vanna came out prior to the show with no makeup and said hi to everyone and wished us good luck. She is a very, very, tiny woman and she is super friendly.

Q: How did they prepare you for being on camera?

M: There is a LONG list of what you should and should not wear (no solid white, nothing with stripes or crazy patterns, etc.) We had to come ready with our own hair and makeup, but they had a team there that got us camera ready.

R: They put makeup on the men and touched up the women and the makeup ladies were also very sweet. Oh, they touched us up on commercial breaks too.

Q: What were your fellow contestants like?

M: They tape 6 shows in one day and all of us were couples, so we had a VERY large group. It was fun to meet other couples from all over the U.S., and there was even another couple from Austin.

R: We basically spent the whole day with 17 other couples. They were all pretty nice and as nervous and excited to be there as we were.

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(Continued from Cover)

Q: Did anything happen off-camera that was worth mentioning?

R: Jim Thorton, the announcer for the show, was very involved with the audience members and very engaging. He was talking to people and asking questions and telling bad jokes.

Q: How nervous were you both?

M: I was surprisingly not very nervous at all! Reagan wanted me to do the calling out of the letters and answers as he was much more nervous.

R: I was incredibly nervous and was trembling pretty badly during the first commercial break. I'm so glad it's something I can go back and watch again because almost the entire experience on the show is a blur. Melissa was very calm and kept her cool (Thank God) and was able to get us through.

Q: Any anecdotes you would like to share?

M: Originally, it was only I that got a letter back from Wheel of Fortune that I was chosen to be a contestant, although Reagan was the person that was selected to audition. They gave him the option to bring a spouse and grandparent... he did both. I was over the moon when I got the call to see if Reagan wanted to join me on a couples' taping! I cannot imagine having this experience without him.

R: Very simply put, solving puzzles is completely different in person than from the comfort of your living room, at least for me. I really am pretty good at the game, and I wouldn't say I choked but my nerves definitely played a role in my performance.

Q: How did you feel about the conclusion?


M: It was such an amazing whirlwind experience from [the audition] last June to getting the call in February with only two weeks' notice for the taping. It was a bucket list dream come true type of experience and winning money was just the icing on the cake.

R: I was happy with what we got to bring home, but mostly the experience of it all. It's a very fun and special thing to be able to say I went on the show and saw the studio and got a chance to play America's Game.

Q: Any plans for the winnings?

M: No big plans. Mostly save it and maybe buy a new bed... such a grown up thing to do. <smiles>

R: Not much. We're typically pretty frugal people, and I don't believe this will be an exception. What we bring home after taxes and paying for the trip to California will more than likely be saved, and what does get spent will be on boring everyday things like contact lenses and vet and medical bills.





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Join the Fun of the Neighborhood Watch Team

By James Craft

Do you have as little as 30 minutes a week to give? Were you just wondering where or what to do on date night? Are you looking to get out of the house for some peace and quiet? How about Sendera Neighborhood Watch!

You'll be amazed by the things you'll see happening as folks and critters use Sendera for a shortcut—the coyote, the fox, the armadillo, and the cats, and it's all free! Did I mention cats?

Our mission is observation of “out of place” activity. 99% of observations are normal life in the neighborhood. Our charter is to be visible in the neighborhood to deter crime from occurring, and if possible, be the eyes and ears for APD if a crime is being committed. Some of us are very visible and others blend into the night, but the objective is the same: to deter crime.

Please understand that neighbors on patrol are not directly affiliated with the Sendera Board of Directors or the management company and are NOT on patrol to identify deed restriction violations. We DO NOT report to the big Kahuna! We are all Sendera residents who volunteer to help out.

If you'd like to connect and volunteer with the Sendera Neighborhood Watch team, contact us at senderacrimewatch@gmail.com. Y'all be safe out there, and may I recommend you turn on some lights at night and shut your garage doors. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Editor's note: I became aware that Sendera desperately needs more participants in our Neighborhood Watch! As one anonymous volunteer said, 'If one adult in every household committed to one hour a few times per month, every night would be easily covered.' So please consider a small donation of your time to help prevent the car and mailbox break-ins that are now unfortunately common.



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Traffic Light Update

Construction for the traffic light at Davis Lane and Copano Drive is expected to start after April 30, 2018. Pending any unforeseen delays, it should be on schedule for this summer.

Need Help? Find it on Nextdoor



Are you looking for a reliable babysitter, yard worker, or tutor? The best way to find neighbors for hire is to ask for recommendations on Nextdoor.

If you haven't done so already, create an account at Nextdoor.com. Then post your inquiry to find neighbors available for hire, or advertise your own services in

a quick and easy way. Nextdoor is essentially a free job listing service that is always up-to-date and based on community participation.

Sendera neighborhood currently has almost 75% participation on Nextdoor, so it is the most efficient way for Sendera residents to solicit jobs or hire help. Best of all, it's online, so the more people use it, the better connected we can all be.

Sendera Recreation News - May 2018

By Suzann Vera

Ladies Night- Friday, May 4th, 7-9PM

Join neighbors to socialize, shop, and enjoy light refreshments. Vendors will be available to browse. Please bring your own bottle of wine to share, or other beverage.

Dive in Movies are back this summer at the Sendera pool! Come early. Movies start at dusk. Bring your snacks and chairs.



June 9th - The Incredibles

July 14 - Jumanji

August 11

- Pirates of the Caribbean

In the Garden

By Pamela Kurburski

As this article is being written, we have just had an April really, really cold front that suspended my garden time for a couple of days. However, I suspect that by the time you read this, our standard Texas heat has made itself at home and will be with us for many months. Here are a few suggestions to help your garden/lawn survive and maybe even thrive until things cool down again.

Consistent watering is important for all plants whether they be little annuals in pots or 100-year-old live oaks. With our current watering restrictions, you want to be sure and not miss your assigned days or else be resigned to hand watering. This is not so bad with pots but really is a pain if you have to do it for large beds or, heaven forbid, an entire lawn. Not sure about your schedule? Check at <http://austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation>. Spraying lawns and beds with liquid seaweed will also help them deal with heat and drought.

One of the best defenses against our extreme summers is to choose the right plant material. Those pretty Gerber daisies may be attractive, but they aren't going to do as well for you as our native Blackfoot or four-nerve daisies. We have many native and naturalized species that flourish despite the heat and lack of moisture. I have three different colors of Esperanza (yellow, orange, and red bells), a spectacular loropetalum (Chinese fringe flower), anacacho orchid (tree and bush forms), and my current darlings, two little Pride of Barbados that made it through the deep freeze winter and are putting on leaves right now. They provide a riot of color from early spring all the way through fall. If roses are your thing, check out the wide variety of knock-out and antique roses available at most locally-owned nurseries. If you want to indulge in annuals, go for it. Just be mindful that the bones of your garden should be made up of plants you won't have to buy every year and that are suited to the soil, water, light, and spatial conditions in your yard. Unless, of course, you really like replanting every year.

Sendera Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to join us, please call me at 512-940-8430 to find out when and where our next meeting will be held.



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Meet and Greet with the Easter Bunny

By Alison Carpenter

Another Sendera Eggstravaganza had kids laughing and scrambling for brightly colored eggs on a beautiful spring morning in late March. HelloNabr and several sponsors provided food and entertainment for this exciting annual event. Families gathered at the park on Sendera Mesa Drive for music, a bouncy house, egg hunts, and a visit from a VIR (Very Important Rabbit), the Easter Bunny!

A BIG THANK YOU to Suzann Vera for organizing this event and to Sharon Boatwright and Hillary Pittman for all the snacks and decorations!

HelloNabr put together a gallery of photos that can be found here: <https://hellonabr.com/nabrhoods/austin/sendera-nabrhood/2018-sendera-easter-eggstravaganza/>. If you are in a picture you do not want in the gallery please email Jed@HelloNabr.com and they will remove it.



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