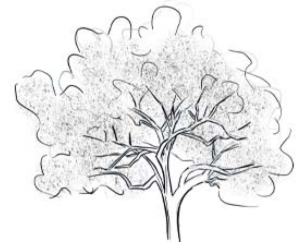




Gardens of Oak Hollow

A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH A BIG HEART

Neighborly News



Number 079

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Is This Your Year?



The last Neighborly News lead with article titled "Seeking New Treasurer". While Treasurer is a very important position, it is only one of the HOA Elected positions.

Homeowner's Voice

At the upcoming HOA General Meeting on March 26, each of us, as homeowners, will express our preference for the 2024 HOA Executive Board members. The paper ballots will be distributed shortly before the General Meeting.

NOTE: The Executive Board consists of four (4) elected officers and six (6) appointed Block Captains. The elected positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Will You Step Up?

I have heard a couple of people grumble that it is only an "insiders clique" that make up the HOA Board.

Did you ever think that is because there are only a few people who step up to help out? Will you step up and be a nominee for a seat on the Executive Board?

Think about it!

If (when) you want to ask questions or offer you name for consideration, talk to either one of the existing Officers or your Block Captain.

Check the "HOA Page" on our Community website for a list of the Board Members names. In addition, on that web page, you will also find the Duties and Responsibilities for each Board Member.

Rest In Peace Rocky



We all called him Rocky.

Mary Lou gave him that name because his nose always seemed to be beat up. He was a small kinda scrawny orange and white "neighborhood" cat. He lived around the end of Shoal Run as it curves onto Misty Creek.

He managed to cage kitty treats, breakfasts and dinners from all his regulars. We all kind of tried to look after him. I fixed a house for him to get out of the weather and the cold. He wouldn't really let you pick him up but he was a funny, friendly and endearing little guy. He would stand by my sliding glass doors and look in when he wanted food or just to watch my indoor cats. He would sunbathe on Mary Jo's roof. Over the last couple of years many of us at the end of Shoal Run grew to love and try to look after him.

Last Tuesday evening someone driving too fast hit him and killed him. He was left in the street. Al picked him up but it was already too late. He wasn't "my" cat but I miss him. We all do. We are all sad to be without him.

*Was it worth the few seconds
you saved getting home by
driving down Shoal Run too fast?*

We've all noticed that happening far too often lately.

This is a wonderful neighborhood full of neighbors who care and look out for each other as we can. It's a neighborhood where we can walk or bike the streets in safety. It's full of pets and yes, kids who should be able to play out front and know that we will all be watching out for them.

Please, when you turn off Jones-Maltsburger into the Gardens, slow to a crawl if need be. Your house will still be there and your dinner won't get cold if you take another minute.

Ask your guests to do the same.

We miss Rocky.

Denny Fagan, 1834 Shoal Run

Let's Rodeo, San Antonio



Western Heritage Weekend

February 2-4

Every year the kick-off the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo includes the Western Heritage Parade and Cattle Drive.

Along with the cattle drive, the parade features mounted infantry groups, authentic wagons, and heritage organizations to celebrate the western heritage and local culture of San Antonio and Texas.

On Saturday, February 3, the parade starts at 10:50. It begins the staging area at I-35 and Houston Street in downtown San Antonio and ends on Avenue E at the Alamo.

SA Stock Show and Rodeo

February 8-25

When I was growing up, my brother and I raised rabbits. We looked forward to the fall when the Fair came to town and we could enter one of our rabbits into the Stock Show at the Fair.

So, for me, the SA Stock Show and Rodeo is all about strolling the fairgrounds and barns, visiting with the youth who have brought their livestock in to compete. I also like to catch some of the action in the Youth Rodeo and marvel at the skill of these young contestants.



Fairground Admission

Fairground tickets for adults are \$15, for kids and seniors \$5. There is also a special \$2 Thursdays offer. Of course, parking is additional. Maps and further details are on the website SARoder.com.

Family Entertainment

Throughout the day, around the Fairgrounds are a number of performances you can stop by and enjoy. Such as "Bustin' in the Barn", "Dan Dan the Farmer Man", "Swiftly Swine Pig Races", and the "Purina Incredible Dog Team".

Youth Rodeo

Events include Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing, Tie-Down Roping, Breakaway Roping, Ribbon Roping and Team Roping. .

- Feb. 19 | 8 & Under/9-12 Age Group: 2 PM
- Feb. 20 | 13-15 Age Group: 10 AM
- Feb. 21 | 16-18 Age Group: 9 AM
- Feb. 21 | Youth Rodeo Finals: 7 PM

Horse Events

Of course, the Horse Events are the real highlights: cutting, barrel race, breakaway roping, and team roping.

There is also an **Escaramuza Charra**, the only female equestrian event. The escaramuza means "skirmish" and consists of a team (8 riders) riding horses in choreographed synchronized maneuvers to music. Escaramuza blends equestrian skills, handcrafted tack, and beautiful costumes that help showcase the rich heritage and tradition of the Mexican culture.

Grandson's Trip to Rodeo



In the SA Rodeo article, I told you how much I enjoy visiting the Rodeo Grounds. When they were young, I tried (unsuccessfully) to pass that to my grandsons.

One year with my 6-year-old grandson in tow, I headed first for the Petting Pen. When my girls were that age, the LOVED petting all the animals. Not him!!! He wanted NOTHING to do with those creatures.

As we were making our way to the exit, he suddenly pulled on my hand and pointed down, "Granny, LOOK !!!" He had discovered how different the "droppings" are from various animals. (My daughters would have been appalled!)

Thus began an adventure of looking at "poop" in around the grounds. You should have seen the absolute delight on his face when we were in the cattle barn and one of the large animals released a "water fall" right in front of his eyes.

The highlight of his day happened as we headed to the parking area, we were behind the arena as the Sheriff's Pose exited from their Rodeo performance. We were standing right on the curb as the beautiful costumed horses and riders paraded right in front of us. I was thrilled - he was bored. Then -- wait for it -- you guessed it -- one of the horses "dropped a load" right in front of him. He screamed with delight and wanted to have a closer look!!!

Little boys and little girls sure are different!

Valentine's Day



Who Was St. Valentine?

According to History.com, there are at least two men named Valentine that could've inspired the holiday, including one Valentine who was a priest in third century Rome. As the story goes, this Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage (he thought it distracted young soldiers), illegally marrying couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death.

Another legend suggests that Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome, and that he actually sent the first "valentine" message himself while imprisoned, writing a letter signed "From your Valentine."

Who Is Cupid?

He's the charming cherub that appears on Valentine's Day cards, often depicted with a bow and arrow — but how did Cupid become a common symbol of Valentine's Day? According to Time, the figure can actually be traced all the way back to 700 B.C., to the Greek god of love named Eros, who was actually a handsome, immortal man with the intimidating power to make people fall in love. It wasn't until the 4th century BCE that the Romans adopted Eros into the image of a cute little boy with a bow and arrow, naming him "Cupid." By the turn of the 19th century, Cupid had become

linked to Valentine's Day due to his love-matching powers.

15th Century

The oldest record of a valentine being sent, according to History.com, was a poem written by a French medieval duke named Charles to his wife in 1415. Charles penned this sweet note to his lover while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London at just 21 years old. One of the lines in the poem? "*I am already sick of love, My very gentle Valentine.*" Swoon!

17th Century

Giving red roses may be an obvious romantic gesture today, but it wasn't until the late 17th century that giving flowers became a popular custom. In fact, the practice can be traced back to when King Charles II of Sweden learned the "language of flowers" — which pairs different flowers with specific meanings — on a trip to Persia, and subsequently introduced the tradition to Europe. The act of giving flowers then became a popular trend during the Victorian Era with red roses symbolizing deep love.

19th Century

The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was introduced in 1861. It was created by Richard Cadbury, son of Cadbury founder John Cadbury, who started packaging chocolates in fancy boxes to increase sales. He introduced the first heart-shaped box of chocolates for V-Day in 1861, and today, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold each year. That's 58 million pounds of chocolate!