



March 2020

Whiffletree Newsletter

I hope that you are staying safe during this unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak.

- Whiffletree HOA (WHOA) Annual Meeting, typically scheduled for early April to coincide with start of our fiscal year on April 1, has been postponed. When we are able to schedule this meeting, we will advise Whiffletree neighbors via email, Nextdoor post, signs at all neighborhood entrances, and our website (<https://www.mywhiffletreehoa.com/>). At this meeting we hold election of WHOA board members and committee chairpersons and review and approve the annual budget. We will also invite a representative from the City of Plano to speak about important issues impacting Whiffletree and surrounding communities. More info to come.
- For most current local information about COVID-19 in Plano and Collin County, you can go to www.plano.gov or www.collincountytx.gov. You can also follow the City of Plano on Facebook or Twitter at cityofplanotx. You can also find community updates on Redit at r/plano. Another option is Nextdoor, which includes posts from Collin County, City of Plano, including Plano Police. You can obtain latest information on Nextdoor by following these steps.
 - PC desktop version: log onto Nextdoor and go to Public Agencies, which can be found on left side of home page under Directories near the bottom of the page.
 - Smart phone app: from home page, click on More at bottom right of screen, then scroll down to Directories and just below is Public Agencies.
- Please be wary of public posts on Nextdoor (other than from government officials) as well as other social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. There is a lot of misinformation out there. Examples of recent misinformation include that due to COVID-19 Plano Police would not be responding to major emergencies, such as home invasions. Another rumor is that you may be able to contract COVID-19 from your pets. These are both totally wrong. Plano Police will respond to all emergencies. If the 911 operator determines that your situation does not require police presence, you will be referred to Plano Police Telephone Response Unit (TRU) to handle the matter. This may include minor car accident with no injuries. Plano Police will continue to respond to emergencies. In the case of the rumor that people can contract COVID-19 from their pets, some people are taking their pets to the animal shelters. There is no scientific evidence of transmission of COVID-19 from pets to humans. Please do not drop off your pet at the animal shelter.
- The project to replace the screening brick wall facing Legacy Drive is scheduled to start in April; however, it is likely that this start date will be delayed due to recent rainy weather and COVID-19. We will communicate schedule updates as they become available. See Whiffletree HOA

website for more information about the impact of the project

(<https://www.mywhiffletreehoa.com/>).

- Whiffletree HOA annual membership drive is currently in full swing. Annual dues remain at \$120/household. Please note that there will now be an additional \$4 fee to cover the added expense for online payments completed through the website. Dues paid by check will still be \$120. We have sent emails with annual dues invoice to all families that provided email addresses and will also be sending invoices by mail to families that have not given email addresses or have not responded to the emailed invoice. Membership dues are our sole source of income. Over 50% of the dues support our 4 beautiful entrances with landscape maintenance, planting of seasonal flowers and holiday decorations and lighting. We also sponsor several social events held throughout the year. Your support of Whiffletree is important and is greatly appreciated. As of today, 94 families have paid dues (out a total of 477 homes in Whiffletree). To them we say, THANK YOU!
- We are looking for volunteers that want to get more involved in Whiffletree activities. Our goal this year is to increase the number of social activities across the neighborhood so that we can all get to know our neighbors better. Specifically, we are seeking to add volunteers to our Social Committee. Also, we have a Membership Committee of one, HB Bartz. HB does an outstanding job with our annual membership drive going on right now. He also publishes the neighborhood directory that is circulated annually in September. He would love assistance on these important tasks. We can always use more help with our Beautification Committee, which monitors & reports on issues at our 4 entrances (damaged plantings, sprinkler issues, trash, etc.) and also helps to select the Yard of the Month winners. And we could use support for the annual North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) Peanut Butter Drive held in September. Last year, Whiffletree was recognized by Plano Mayor, Harry LaRosiliere, and NTFB for our donation. If you are interested in getting involved but not sure what you want to do, contact Jim Skelly at jimskelly15@gmail.com. We can discuss options that would fit with your interests as well family and work commitments. Even if you can only commit a little time, it will be greatly appreciated by your neighbors and will continue the legacy of Whiffletree being an exceptional neighborhood in which to live.
- In 2016, Whiffletree was designated a Plano BEST Platinum neighborhood, the first year of this recognition program and the only voluntary HOA to achieve BEST Platinum level at that time. This is highest recognition level, is a source of pride of all of us, and is a prime selling point for Whiffletree as an exceptional neighborhood, which positively impacts home selling prices. In 2021, we will need to re-apply for BEST designation. In reviewing the most recent application form, we have identified several areas that we need to address, most notably engagement of our neighbors. This translates into broader community involvement, higher rate of dues paying membership (last year 65%) and more social activities. Hence the active membership drive and request for volunteers to engage with our neighbors. The City of Plano has raised the bar for BEST Platinum designation, and we need to take steps to meet this challenge and remain one a few voluntary HOA's in Plano that are designated BEST Platinum.

- Whiffletree HOA is participating in an event with Estates of Forest Creek (EFC) HOA. EFC has contracted with a document shredding company to station a shredding truck at Mathews Elementary on May 16, 9-11 AM. All paid Whiffletree HOA members will be able to safely and securely dispose of important documents at this location. More information to come as we get closer to this event.
- Finally, we all should have received census 2020 packet in the mail. This mailing includes instructions as well as the 12 digit census ID. The questionnaire is easy to complete and will typically take 10 minutes or less. By completing the census online, you eliminate the need for a census worker to visit you at home to gather the information.

In closing, I want to reiterate that WHOA exists for the benefit of all residents. Your support and involvement is important and appreciated. We welcome your input. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

Stay safe.

Jim Skelly