



September 2022

### Whiffletree Newsletter



All Whiffletree neighbors are welcome to join us to celebrate **National Night Out (NNO) at Prairie Meadow Park on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 PM**. Additionally, many neighbors from Estates of Forest Creek (EFC) will again be joining us. The primary purpose of National Night Out is the opportunity to meet your neighbors and show support of their local police departments in the fight against crime. Along with several Plano Police Officers, we expect Mayor, John Muns, and Police Chief, Ed Drain, to join us at NNO as they did last year. So come on out to Prairie Meadow Park on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 PM. We will have Handel's ice cream, and you will have the opportunity to meet fellow Whiffletree and EFC neighbors along with City of Plano Leadership and many of the Plano Police Officers who protect us and our property. Hope to see you there.

Plano ISD is holding a bond election on November 8. The items on the ballot include Proposition A for Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VARTE), which is required by the State of Texas that asks voters to consider approving a modified tax rate to increase revenues for student programs and teacher & staff salaries. Propositions B, C, D, and E are for specific elements of the proposed \$1.5B bond package. To learn more, go to <https://www.pisd.edu/election2022>.



On September 10 at the Plano Police Substation on Independence, Plano Police Officer Sheldon Krc, from Crime Prevention Unit, presented a seminar titled, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event. In addition to reviewing statistics and some of the causes behind people taking such terrible actions, Officer Krc also reviewed what we as citizens can do if we find ourselves in an active shooter event. He described the 3 steps our brain goes through in such an event. They are:

1. Denial – in other words, “this can’t be happening”.
2. Deliberation – thinking about what we should do.
3. Decisive Action – making a decision and taking action to protect yourself

The decisive actions include:

1. Flight – run as far away from the event as you need to feel safe and then call 911 to report the event. Officer Krc emphasized that your first priority is to get as far away from the event to feel safe, then and only then call 911.
2. Hide – ideally in a room where you can lock the door and barricade the entrance until the police arrive.
3. Fight – as a last resort if no other option. Officer Krc made the point that if you fight, do not fight fair. Do whatever you have to do and use whatever is available around you to protect yourself. If there are others with you, team-up and fight as a unit. Work together to overwhelm your enemy.

Officer Krc pointed out that getting from Denial to Decisive Action needs to be a rapid process. He said that in active shooter events, seconds matter. He also stated that if you encounter police arriving at the scene, make sure you show your palms to police officer(s) so that they know you are not the shooter or a danger to them, and follow their instructions. Finally, Officer Krc stated that the majority of active shooter events occur inside buildings, commercial establishments, schools, churches, etc. He said that when you enter a building, make a mental note of alternative exits, much like we do when going through the safety presentation on an airplane to look for nearby exits. It is most likely that

the main entrance/exit is where the shooter enters the building and may not be a viable exit point. He stated just a casual look around the building to identify alternate exits may help you get to the Decisive Action quickly and exit the building safely. It is just a matter of being aware of your surroundings and ready if such a horrific event happens.

Officer Krc showed a video of an enactment of an active shooter event. This video is not gory. It does highlight some of the actions to be taken in an active shooter event. You can see this video at <https://youtu.be/TeOdxKozra0>

The City of Plano is planning to start a Food Composting pilot program on November 15, 2022. You can learn more about this program at <http://www.learn2livegreen.com/CompostingFoodWaste/story.html>.



Congratulations to Whiffletree August Yard of Month (YOM) winners, Don and Sandra Bizzell of 3517 Dumond Place. Don has a love for hunting and Sandra has a love for photography. Both are longtime residents of Whiffletree and continue to enjoy living here. Stop by and congratulate them. In winning YOM the Bizzell's receive \$100 gift card at Shades of Green Nursery in Frisco. Remember that all paid Whiffletree neighbors are eligible to win YOM. The YOM team will next be out in November looking for the home with best Fall décor so there is time for you to claim this award. As we have in the past, we will award 3 YOM winners in December for best holiday decorations. Thanks to Robert Simmons and the YOM team for their work, especially in the heat, to select Whiffletree YOM winners.

If you are a paid Whiffletree HOA member, be on the lookout for the 2022-2023 Whiffletree Annual Directory that we plan to distribute shortly. The Annual Directory includes name and address of all current Whiffletree neighbors and any contact information that has been provided. It also includes a wide range of neighborhood and community information. This is a valuable tool that you can use to connect with Whiffletree neighbors.

To date, 291 Whiffletree neighbors have paid dues for fiscal year that started April 1, which compares to 328 paid members during the fiscal year 2021-2022 that ended on March 31, 2022. For those who have paid, thank you for your support. Neighbors' dues payments are our only income source and directly support keeping our entrances beautiful and inviting (landscaping maintenance, electricity and water). The balance is for social events like the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Picnic, National Night Out, the Adult Social as well as the Annual Directory. Like you, we are seeing rising costs; however, we held the annual dues unchanged at \$120, which are much lower than any nearby neighborhood. You can pay your dues online at <https://www.mywhiffletreehoa.com/pay-dues>. Note that there is \$5 online processing fee. You can also mail check for \$120 to WHOA, PMB 288; 3948 Legacy Drive, Suite 106; Plano, TX 75023-8300. Thank you

Remember that Whiffletree website (<https://www.mywhiffletreehoa.com/>) is an excellent source of info about the neighborhood, upcoming as well as past events. Additionally, check out our Facebook page, @mywhiffletreeHOA (you can search it under "Whiffletree V, VI, VII") and don't forget to Like Us! Also, click on the Links tab on our home page or go directly to <https://www.mywhiffletreehoa.com/links> to view the many outlets, services and support from the City of Plano.

Finally, Whiffletree HOA exists for the benefit of all residents. Your support and involvement is important and appreciated. We welcome your input. Feel free to contact me or any other WHOA board member.

Jim Skelly

Whiffletree HOA President