

# The Orange Blossom



## Newsletter for the Valencia Neighborhood

April 2008

### **President's Message**

After consulting with several board members in January, I set four objectives for 2008. The purpose was to give some direction to our efforts in accomplishing our mutual goal of maintaining a high quality neighborhood through social, civic and political involvement.

#### **How are we doing?**

1. Membership - We now have 50 members. We have not reached our goal of 150 members. In other sections of this newsletter you will read about the activities that have taken place and plans for future events. I am particularly pleased that the Board has adopted a "Second Friday" event date. We look forward to more movie nights, bike rides and other events planned such as a fiesta party. If you have a particular event such as scrap booking, bunco party etc., let the social chairperson hear from you. We need your membership and involvement if we are going to accomplishment this objective.

Note: Please see the membership application included in this newsletter.

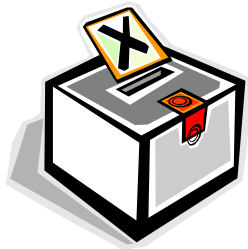
2. Social/Recreational Activities - We are on track to meet or exceed this objective. The wine tasting party, bike rides, and movie nights have been enjoyed by all who participated. We have purchased sign holders that publicize events. The e-mail addresses that we have are sent *evite* messages for all events. So, if you want to receive notices, join and give us your e-mail address. We **WILL NOT** share or sell the list.
3. Political -Ed Keely and/or I have attended District 10 Alliance Presidents meetings and "Coffee with Clamp". The Board has considered position statements on certain issues that will affect our neighborhood. We are in support of Councilman Clamp's efforts to resolve the hazardous waste problem in the District. We forward Councilman Clamps newsletters to those on our e-mail list. I believe we are currently meeting this objective.
4. Value Retention/Enhancement - Quality of Life- I must admit that we have not made as much progress and as quickly as I would like to see. We still have graffiti popping up

occasionally, stolen front yard furniture, vacant houses, landscaping leaving a lot to be desired and other problems. The COPS program is an exception. They have been very active and helped resolve a problem recently. Who knows how many problems they headed off just by their presence on patrol?

These objectives do not stand alone. For example, if we do not watch the city budget preparation process, the budget for our SAFFE officers could be reduced. They are spread too thin now but what would happen if we see a cut back in numbers or expanded territory. If we allow our houses to deteriorate to the point of an average reduction in value of \$20,000.00 Valencia would suffer a \$13,980,000.00 combined loss. We are all in this together.

There is strength in numbers. We have 699 homes in Valencia. An objective of 150 members is not out of question. Please do your part and join the Association.

Philip Jackson  
President



## **ELECTION DAY MAY 10**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> San Antonio and Bexar County will be voting on extending the Visitor Tax.

This is not a new tax; it is a tax that already exists. The Visitor Tax is paid through a hotel occupancy tax and a short-term motor vehicle rental tax, usually affecting only visitors to our area.

Following is a brief description of the four key areas of improvement which depend on continuing this existing revenue source. Each of these four propositions will require your vote.

1. San Antonio River Improvements – a Project to cultivate and expand the San Antonio River, addressing flood control and providing recreational amenities.
2. Youth & Amateur Athletic Facilities – a Project to build athletic facilities throughout Bexar County. A list of some of the new facilities include: soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds, football fields and tracks.
3. Community Arenas & Rodeo Grounds Enhancements – this project is to provide enhancements to the county-owned: Freeman Coliseum; livestock grounds; and the AT&T Center (after 2012 when the Center is ten-years old)
4. Performing & Cultural Arts Centers - this project will transform the Municipal Auditorium into a multi-use performing arts center with direct access to the River Walk, help build the region's first western art museum, and renovate the Alameda Theater.

If passed, the Projects represented in these four Proposals will provide educational opportunities and enrichment opportunities for our community, our children and our visitors. More Information at [www.ACTForSanAntonio.com](http://www.ACTForSanAntonio.com). Early Voting begins April 28



The Bike Rides continue to be an ever more popular activity in Valencia. We held another bicycle ride on Thursday, March 6. This ride was another huge success in attendance and the fun was had by all. This is a great way for neighbors to get to know one another, see parts of the neighborhood you may not know, and get some exercise at the same time. Check the calendar and watch for signs announcing upcoming bike rides.

Future rides will meet and depart from the VHOA clubhouse at 13103 El Sendero Dr. We always try to **depart** the club house at 7:30PM on Thursday night rides, please arrive in time to sign in and make the departure time. So far the night rides have worked out very well, if enough interest is shown in day rides, we will organize a day ride. All riders are requested to wear helmets and have reflectors or lights on their bikes, this is a NIGHT RIDE. The ride is paced, so it will be slow for those who don't ride often, and no one will be left behind. Riders in the front of the group should have headlights; riders in the rear should have tail lights (all riders are encouraged to have taillights). The course will be short, and only roads in the Valencia neighborhood will be traveled. The ride should be completed in less than 1 hour. These rides are great fun, if you have a bike, try to make the ride. **Understand that all riders participate at their own risk.**

Larry Johnson, Membership Chairman

## **2<sup>nd</sup> to NONE 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, Valencia Neighborhood will offer a community activity that we hope to make a part of your regular routine. Each consecutive 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday we anticipate the attendance to grow and you will undoubtedly want to be able to brag that you participated before it was THE thing to do on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month!



## **Movie Night**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Neighborhood Activity Night for March was the first time that we have attempted a movie night. It was AWESOME. If you didn't come, you missed a great night, but don't sweat it, you have a chance to experience it when we do it again! You can come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday for April (that's April 10<sup>th</sup> for those who don't have a calendar handy). We will be showing another movie outside in the "Dirt Pool". Bring a chair or blanket, and take in a movie with your neighbors under the Texas Stars! We will provide the movie; you provide the neighborhood spirit and camaraderie! There is no cost for admission, and we will have soda, candy, and lots of popcorn for a very reasonable \$.50 (you can't get it for that at the theater!). Dust off the chairs, fluff up the pillows, and bring yourself out. Just think of all the times that you went to the Drive

In with your family and the memories made there. It is a true experience to see a movie outside. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will move to inside the clubhouse, but we will still have the activity.



# FIESTA!

**Valencia Clubhouse  
13103 El Sendero  
6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

Valencia is having its own Fiesta celebration on April 19, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Valencia Clubhouse. A delicious catered Mexican dinner will be served for \$4.00 per person. Children's meals will be \$2.00. The children will get to take a turn at breaking a piñata. Music will accompany the dinner.

Come and enjoy Fiesta with your neighbors and friends in Valencia.  
To make a reservation, e-mail Sheila Clark at [ds.sanantonio@gmail.com](mailto:ds.sanantonio@gmail.com) or call 653-5331

## Neighborhood Link Website

If you have not checked out the neighborhood link website, you should. It gives you the ability to create your own page and see other's pages with the "meet your neighbors" link. It also allows you to see all the things going on in your neighborhood. There is a community calendar there that we have been updating with events and important dates; there are discussion forums where you can talk about any topic relative to the neighborhood, links to local government offices, links to official city event calendars, and much more. This is also where we upload the electronic copy of "The Orange Blossom" Newsletter for Valencia Neighborhood.

Click on: [www.neighborhoodlink.com/sat/vhoa](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/sat/vhoa)

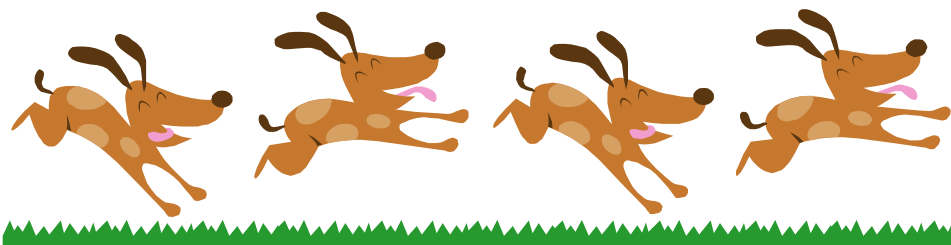
2008 VHOA Board of Directors		
President	Phillip Jackson	656-4842

Vice President	Heather Hedquist	599-8380
Treasurer	Ed Alexander	637-1000
Secretary	Sheila Clark	653-5331
Club Scheduler	Charles Payne	654-8288

## VOLUNTEER

We need some additional Board members. In particular, if you live behind the clubhouse we could especially use a representative from your area. This involves attending monthly meetings, which are held the second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (April's will be the first Sunday, though), & being as active as your schedule allows on a committee of your choosing (we have several, two of which need someone). You should, of course be a member of the association. It's a wonderful way to be aware of what's going on in the subdivision, as well as meet more neighbors. Please call Dianne Johnson at 655-2327, if you're interested.

## VALENCIA'S A GREAT PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG



As the owner of an energetic, spoiled dog, I do quite a bit of walking in the neighborhood. It's a fun way to meet neighbors, because your dog often becomes a conversation starter. It's also great exercise for you & your dog! Two important tips: Make sure you leave the house with a bag in your pocket, in case your dog decides to leave his/her "calling card" on someone's lawn along the way. This will keep you & your dog from creating enemies. I know it's embarrassing to carry around a bag with that in it, but that's better than leaving it for someone to step in & develop a dislike for all dogs in the area & their owners. Also, for obvious reasons city ordinance requires they be on a leash when out of your yard.

I can list streets I know are safe to walk your dog down: El Marro; La Haya; La Quinta; De Luna; La Ventana; El Sendero between El Charro & La Ventana; Hacienda between La Quinta & El Charro; La Posita between La Ventana & El Charro; El Sonteo; La Fuente; Cima Linda; El Medano; Esplanade; & El Charro between La Haya & Hacienda. I have three routes I stick to, because I've very rarely if ever encountered a loose or ferocious-sounding dog while walking them. There are undoubtedly others.

I look forward to encountering fellow dog walkers in the coming months (I promise to try to keep mine calm when she sees yours!).

Dianne Johnson

Valencia Area Representative

### VALENCIA ORANGE BLOSSOM ADVERTISING RATES

Business Cards	\$15.00 per issue
¼ Page	\$24.00 per issue
½ Page	\$48.00 per issue
Full Page	\$96.00 per issue

Call Sheila Clark at 653-5331 or Pops Rodriguez at 656-4208 to place an ad.

## **Dewberry Jam Community Radio**

Did you know that we have a radio station right here in the neighborhood where you live? Do you know that local artists can be heard on your AM radio? William "Dew" Dewberry is a hobby broadcaster that is providing great music, interesting conversation and syndicated shows to Valencia, El Dorado, and Northern Hills. He has a website that has a popular chat room, and he can be found leading those chats most nights, Tuesday nights are especially popular. He has even been known to send out dedications to the volunteers on COP patrol in your neighborhood.

Dew is an example of a Part 15 hobby broadcaster, who didn't have any prior broadcast experience prior to launching his station. An Advanced Class licensed amateur radio operator, he previously worked as a radio and morse code operator in the military as part of Army MARS in Germany.

Dew is also an ex-professional tour musician and has always been interested in music. "Part 15 seemed like a good mix of my skill set" says Dewberry. "My goal is to help promote San Antonio music" with a format featuring local unsigned artists whose music runs the gamut of Indie, Americana, Metal and Blues. Among the station's mission is to provide emergency broadcast relief for the neighborhoods within the station coverage area in the event of bad weather, disasters, or other force majeure events.

Some of the goodies that power DJCR include Sony and Behringer mixers, MXL and Electro-Voice microphones, Alesis Microverb, and a TinyTools telephone hybrid. Dew's computer background, which includes Microsoft certification, proves valuable in his studio as also has Shoutcast and Windows 2003 servers as part of his operation. "I currently have 2 remote DJs that are coming on-board using Radmin software to access the server directly through a broadband connection." according to Dewberry. They have the ability to use their own microphones and cue up music remotely directly from ZaraRadio automation software. On air transmission is handled by a Hamilton Rangemaster transmitter with an Inovonics 222 AM processor.

Anxiously awaiting FCC rule changes and congressional authorization, his eventual goal is to work toward an LPFM station. He's currently putting together resources for non-profit organizational status as well as donors and supporters.

You can find his website at [www.am1670.net](http://www.am1670.net) and his myspace page is [www.myspace.com/am1670](http://www.myspace.com/am1670) , check out his sites. He is also a friend on the Valencia myspace page, [www.myspace.com/vhoa](http://www.myspace.com/vhoa) .

# Valencia Neighborhood Association

Dear Valencia Resident,

This mailer is included in this issue of the Orange Blossom Newsletter, informing you of the Valencia Neighborhood Association annual dues. There are two of levels of participation this year. In the past we only offered a full privilege membership that cost \$75.00 each year. With plans to resurface the tennis courts, and to offer many fun activities aimed at increasing membership, we hope residents will see the value in a paid membership, but we want all of our residents to be informed. With a goal of keeping our residents informed, we will offer email updates and newsletters at no cost. We will also continue to offer the full price membership that gives you access to all the great things that we will offer this year, and keeps this association running.

## Description/Annual Dues/Benefits

**Resident Membership, \$75.00,** This level would include all of the benefits listed above as well as invitations to club events. These events would include such activities as game nights, movie nights, bicycle rides, group walking, wine tasting events, and neighborhood cookouts/dinners held at the club house for members only. The full membership would also include access to the tennis courts, the ability to rent the club house, and special cookouts targeted towards our membership.

**Associate Membership, \$85.00,** This level is for NON-Residents who join solely for the reason of renting our clubhouse.

**Email, \$0.00,** The best and most timely way to share important neighborhood information is through email. This level allows us to do just that with all residents, regardless of membership in the VHOA. This level is available to anyone in Valencia or Old Farm II who provides the association with contact information, including an email address. Valencia will never share your contact information with any other organizations. This level includes invitations to the annual National Night Out event held in conjunction with the San Antonio Police Department.

Your annual membership dues may be one of the best investments you can make. The Valencia Association uses the dues collected each year to:

- Maintain the clubhouse and its grounds
- Publish a neighborhood newsletter
- Maintain the tennis courts
- Sponsor National Night Out events
- Plant and care for our entryway and clubhouse gardens
- Provide neighborhood security through sponsoring the COP program
- Reduce and cover graffiti in our neighborhood
- Enforce neighborhood covenants
- Monitor and if necessary, fight zoning changes
- Conduct neighborhood activities

All of this work just can not be accomplished without the strong support of our residents. Please do your part to help protect and preserve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Send your dues payment as soon as possible. Lets keep Valencia one of the cleanest, safest, and most attractive neighborhoods in San Antonio!

Larry Johnson  
Membership Chair, VHOA, Neighborhood Association

Make Check payable to : VHOA  
Mail to: Ed Alexander – Treasurer\*13318 Los Indios St.\*San Antonio, TX 78233

Name \_\_\_\_\_, Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_, Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_

2008 Membership Level (circle) Email-\$0.00, Resident Member-\$75.00, Associate Member-\$85.00

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in helping with:

VHOA Board Member _____	Cellular On Patrol _____	Code Compliance _____
Grounds Committee _____	Fund Raising _____	Newsletter _____
Parties/Activities _____	Flyers _____	Welcome Committee _____