January 2008

The Orange Blossom

Newsletter for the Valencia Neighborhood

President's Message

Our goal is to promote activities that contribute to a high quality neighborhood, so that residents experience property enhancements and a meaningful quality of life through social, civic and political involvement.

Can we as Board members accomplish this goal? In a word "**no**". Can this goal be accomplished? You bet it can with the involvement of the residents of Valencia.

As President of the board, I sought input from Board members and a few residents who were not members and established four (4) objectives.

1. Membership - To promote programs and activities that will encourage residents of Valencia to join the Association and increase membership to 150 by year end. This will be accomplished by providing members with social, civic and political programs planned and implemented by Chairpersons of standing committees.
2. Social/Recreational - To provide a healthy social and/or recreational activity each month geared to the needs and interest of the residents.
3. Political - To establish a good working relationship with all relevant political entities in Council District 10 so that the voice of Valencia residents will be heard.
4. Value Retention/Enhancement-Quality of Life - To work with COPS, SAFFE and Code Compliance and any other entities that will respond to safety issues, graffiti and code violations.

At our last Board meeting I appointed nine (9) committee chairpersons in the area of maintenance and Operations, Rentals, Newsletter, Social Activities, Neighborhood Coordinator, Membership, Code Compliance/COPS Liaison and Marketing. The Chairpersons are dedicated volunteers that have the interests of Valencia at heart.

How can each resident help? BECOME A MEMBER. GET INVOLVED-VOLUNTEER-PARTICIPATE.

Philip Jackson

VHOA President

Tennis Courts to be resurfaced

If you play tennis, and even if you don't, you may have noticed that the Valencia courts are not in the best of shape. We have secured the money to resurface the courts with this year's *SAWS Season to Save* program. We have volunteers lined up to help with cleaning, prepping, and applying new surface and sealer to the courts. This will bring our courts up to par with other courts in the area. Hopefully we can get some active players, and there is the possibility of a neighborhood tournament. If anyone would like to help with a tennis committee please contact the association, we would love to have this become a big draw for our community.

Valencia Activity Club

Valencia residents, are you interested in local activities? Would you be interested in participating in game nights, movie nights, karaoke, wine tasting, scheduled group walking, bicycle rides, or outings for short hikes at local parks? VHOA would like to help facilitate, we want our neighbors to be involved in their community.

We held bicycle rides on Thursday November 1st and on Thursday December 13th. They were both a huge success, and we would like to continue this great way for neighbors to get to know one another. The rides will meet at the VHOA clubhouse at 13103 El Sendero Dr. The only requirements are that you be at least 18 or have a guardian with you for the ride, all riders must wear helmets and have reflectors or lights on their bikes. This is a paced ride, so it will be slow for those who don't ride often. Riders in the front of the group MUST have headlights; riders in the rear MUST have tail lights (all riders are encouraged to have taillights). The course is short, and only roads in the Valencia neighborhood will be traveled. The ride should be completed in less than 1 hour. **Understand that all riders participate at their own risk.**

Neighborhood Activity Calendar:

Party and wine tasting February 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Food and wine will be served for all.
February activities will include another bike ride and a movie night at the club house. The movie night will have popcorn and soft drinks, and will become a regular activity. We may do a short session of Karaoke prior to the movie, so practice up on your favorite songs!

VHOA and SAWS, Saving Money and our Club House

Valencia Home Owners Association participated in the SAWS Season to Save, for the 6th and final year. This program offered homeowners the chance to upgrade to new high efficiency low water consumption toilets. The toilets were provided FREE, and only required a few qualifiers. You might ask, why did SAWS offer this program? Well the simple answer is that this program was a win/win for both SAWS and their customers. Trading out older, less-efficient toilets is an important way to conserve water. For every 100 homes that trade out older toilets, the community saves approximately one million gallons of water a year. SAWS saves on the cost of processing, you save on your water bill, and the water consumption from our aquifer is held in check. It has also been a great way for our association to earn money to help maintain our neighborhood. For each toilet that VHOA signed someone up to receive, AND they actually picked up, we received $25.00. You can see the results in our club house, and what has been done there, and you will see the results in future projects as we plan to resurface the tennis courts with proceeds from the campaign this year. With the help of lots of neighbors, this year we set up several "toilet drives" at local businesses and in our own club house parking lot. We also did walking drives in neighboring areas. As a result of the efforts of so many volunteers working to keep Valencia a neighborhood that you are proud to call home, we were able to raise approximately $9,000.00 this year through this campaign. As we have joked about in the past, we are FLUSHED with excitement. Although this program is over, you may still get a free toilet by going to www.saws.org and clicking on the link for conservation, then Kick the Can program.

Larry Johnson

VHOA Area Representative

Planning a Party?
House too small? Guest list too big?

Do you know that the Valencia Club House is available for rentals? As residents and members of the Valencia Home Owners Association the rent and membership fees have remained the same for 2008. Membership is still $75.00 for the year 2008. As a Valencia resident and member the first club house rental on a Saturday is $125.00. The second club house rental on a Saturday in 2008 would be $100.00. Rentals for residents and members on any other day – Sunday through Friday – the first rental is $75.00 and the second rental in 2008 – Sunday through Friday – would be $50.00. With each rental you get the use of 12 six foot banquet tables and 100 folding chairs FREE. This is your neighborhood club house so we hope you will take advantage of these low resident rental fees. Consider renting the Valencia Club House for some you your future events such as baby showers, wedding showers, birthday parties, anniversary parties, holiday parties, or family reunions.

To schedule a club house rental, call Charlene Payne at (210) 654-8288.

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	Charlene Payne	654-8288

BITS AND PIECES

✓The board would like to try to revive the concept of block captains. These people would deliver newsletters & pass on other vital neighborhood information to & from the board, since not everyone has e-mail access or has given their e-mail address to Ed Alexander. They want a safe subdivision for all residents. If anyone would be willing to do this, please call Dianne Johnson at 655-2327.

✓John Clamp, our District 10 Councilman publishes an e-mail newsletter for the citizens of District 10. If you would like to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to this address: Amanda.padilla@sanantonio.gov.

✓There's a city ordinance telling residents to water their lawns with a sprinkler between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. This reduces the amount of water that evaporates and saves water.

FROM THERE TO HERE

Five Years ago there was a Valencia Neighborhood Clubhouse that was about 30 years old. It was next to what had been a beautiful pool which no longer met the city code requirements and which the Valencia residents no longer wanted or would support. The clubhouse was in need of repair and renovation or it would soon be abandoned and turned over to vandals and decorated with graffiti. The financial situation was grim. Available funds and projected income would not be sufficient to open the pool and to pay our bills.

A plan was developed to do the following:

1. Close the pool if we were unable to obtain help from the City of San Antonio or find schools or other organizations that would help to keep it in operation.
2. Develop fund raising projects.
3. Repair and renovate the clubhouse building.

The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department conducted an extensive study. They determined that our pool was not viable due to lack of interest by the residents in this area. VHOA members at an annual meeting voted unanimously to close the pool.

Our fund raising project consisted primarily of our participation in SAWS Season to Save program. This entailed our solicitation of SAWS customers to apply for water saving toilets. These toilets were given to qualified customers and we received $25.00 for every toilet we were able to place. We also assisted in the distribution of these toilets. VHOA has earned over $35,000 and these funds have been used to improve the clubhouse.

The improvements are the following:

A new roof was installed.

Water damage to the ceiling was repaired and portions of the leaking drains in the walls that carried water off the roof were replaced eliminating ceiling and wall damage.

Interior walls in the largest room were painted.

New floors were installed in both clubhouse rooms.

New chairs and tables were purchased.

The pool was drained and filled. The surface was covered with limestone and crushed marble. Portions were landscaped.

The exterior walls, wood trim and doors were painted. Rotten wood trim was replaced.

The clubhouse improvements have resulted in increased utilization of our facilities for parties, receptions, meetings, and other events.

The VHOA property is owned free and clear of any mortgage. Valencia homeowners are members of this neighborhood organization. Members are those Valencia residents and others that live outside of Valencia who pay annual dues. Deed restrictions have been removed by Morton Southwest, giving VHOA complete control of the property.

We are now planning for the future. Programs and activities are being developed that will meet the needs of Valencia residents. The purpose of VHOA is to keep Valencia an attractive and safe place to live and to provide programs and activities for your pleasure and enjoyment.

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and help that you have given to help me the past five years. It has been a pleasure to serve as vice-president and president of VHOA. Our success is a result of a lot of hard work, time, and effort by members and friends of Valencia.

-- Ed Keely, Past President, VHOA

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE VALENCIA HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION WINE TASTING PARTY

February 9, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Valencia Club House
13103 El Sendero

Reservations Requested
$4.00 per person

Are you looking for a different way to celebrate Valentine's Day? Come to the Valencia Home Owners Association Wine Tasting party. This is a great opportunity to take your sweetheart to a wonderful event. We will be learning how to taste wine, which wines to serve with different kinds of food, and the characteristics of wine. Snacks will also be served.

You do not have to be a member of Valencia HOA to attend. Bring a friend.

Please fill out the form below to make your reservation. Mail your check and form to Sheila Clark, 12719 Villa Madero, San Antonio, TX 78233.

Valencia HOA Wine Tasting Party, February 9, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Name _____

Phone number _____

Number of guests _____

Please make out your checks to VHOA.