



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS JANUARY 2014

Stone Oak Community of Mutual Amenities  
SOCOMA



*Happy New Year*

My resolution for this year is to work harder to take an optimistic approach and be more empathetic when I encounter unpleasant people or unpleasant behaviors. I want to look for the good first - admittedly this is not always easy.

For example, we have all experienced being in line with a young mother at HEB who too harshly scolds a rambunctious child and angrily swats a hand away from the candy display. A pessimist sees a self-absorbed woman who does not value the all too short time she has with her children. But an optimist chooses not to judge - perhaps the young mother has a second child home sick.

She has not slept more than a few hours at a time in weeks. In that moment in a slow line, she loses her composure and reacts in a way she immediately regrets as her child tearfully looks up in confusion. An optimist sees the mother curling up with her child hours later after the stress of the day has waned, as they drift off to sleep wrapped in each other's love.

Are all people good? Of course not. But if I always expect the worst from people, why should I be surprised when I receive it? I live in a community full of dynamic, exciting, creative, generous people who love their city and their neighbors and want to do fulfilling work and grow their families. I will be an optimist. I will choose to ignore anger and reflect patience. I will focus on the good stuff.

The haters will just have to work out their problems without me.

What good things are happening around SOCOMA? We are about to do some remodeling in the rec center. Twenty-five years is a long time for that building. You may already have noticed the exterior paint job, improved signs and lighting. We will be redoing the floors and counters and getting some fresh paint inside. Our managers, John and Kindra Soria, are going to make our little party room into the premier Stone Oak party destination. Book your event now!

The SOCOMA board of directors is looking for new members. If you are interested, contact [manager@socomahoa.com](mailto:manager@socomahoa.com) Kindra will answer all your questions. Being on the HOA board is a very easy job. Only 1-2 hours per month of your time, what a great way to get to know your neighbors and spend a little time serving the community.

As always, your Board of Directors are here for you. We meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm in the rec center. If you ever want to talk about a problem or if you just want to find out what we do, please come and spend an hour with us. You can contact me anytime at [president@socomahoa.com](mailto:president@socomahoa.com) or 210-279-0586.

Bill Neely  
President, Board of Directors

Here is your 2014  
Board of Directors

## 2014 Board

### President

Bill Neely  
[president@socomahoa.com](mailto:president@socomahoa.com)

### Vice-President

Steve Munoz  
[smunoz30@satx.rr.com](mailto:smunoz30@satx.rr.com)

### At Large

Steve Fedado  
[sfedado@scuc.txed.net](mailto:sfedado@scuc.txed.net)

### Secretary

Arien Adams  
[2orangeflowers@gmail.com](mailto:2orangeflowers@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Kyle Roberts  
[Kmr750@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kmr750@sbcglobal.net)

### SOCOMA CONTACTS:

President: Bill Neely / 481-2815  
[president@socomahoa.com](mailto:president@socomahoa.com)

Manager: Kindra Soria / 481-1709  
[manager@socomahoa.com](mailto:manager@socomahoa.com)

Acctnt: Sherri Kraus / 497-5115  
[sherri\\_kraus@att.net](mailto:sherri_kraus@att.net)

Pool Mgr: Lisa Cole / 481-3307  
[brigman@swbell.net](mailto:brigman@swbell.net)

## Covenants Enforcement Blitz!

One of the many privileges that we are all blessed with living in the Socoma area is the fact that we are able to manage and enforce our own deed restrictions and covenants without the assistance of an outside third party HOA management company. This has been a goal of the Board of Directors every year, to be able to keep the management "in house" and in doing so, keeping the enforcement of our neighborhood by-laws more on a personal, friendly level. If you have ever heard those horror stories from friends about those "third party" management companies, I think you will agree and appreciate what we have here in Socoma. That being said, for the most part, a majority of the residents in Socoma are doing there due diligence in keeping their property within the "laws" of our neighborhood, however, there are some who need to be reminded that these rules and by-laws must be adhered to by **everyone** within Socoma. For that reason, I sent out approximately 30 Covenant "reminder" letters in the last couple of weeks to residents who might have forgotten or may have never known that Socoma does have rules and restrictions that need to be observed by all. Again, these notices were merely friendly reminders in the hopes that everyone within our community will take the same kind of pride in keeping up their property so as to maintain the aesthetics and property values in our area. Thank You for doing your part and making Socoma a great place to live.

*John W. Soria - Covenants Manager*

## Welcome New Neighbors



**Alex & Carrie Richter**

20602 Oak Farm

**Victor & Connie Ortiz**

17910 Winter Hill

**Mary Jo Larsen**

1309 Wooded Knoll

**Octavio & Veronica Viramontes**

908 Lemon Cove

**Barnett**

18031 Green Knoll

**Banda**

17927 Fawn Knoll

**Natividad & Misty Rios**

1318 Muleshoe Pass

**Sean Doctor**

911 Sutters Rim

**James & Jeanne La Haye**

911 Almadin

**Kevin & Jana Hatch**

17903 Winter Hill

**Anthony Vasquez**

17818 Winter Hill

## Socoma Security

Car burglaries continue around our area and the Glen has been hit particularly hard as of late. Also, a lot of Stone Oak subdivisions have seen an increase in mail theft as well. As always, be vigilant and watch out, not only for your own property, but for your neighbors as well and call 311 or 911 if warranted.



## NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDERS

- \*\* **Please Please Please** clean up after your pet. This continues to be a concern around our area.
  - \*\* Don't forget to keep all of your valuables out of view if keeping them in your vehicle overnight. Temptation will eventually get the best of a would be burglar.
  - \*\* Please email the HOA manager if you are in need of a key to the sports courts.
- Also, if you move out of SOCOMA, you must turn in your key to the manager or you will be assessed a \$50 replacement charge at closing.

## Neighborhood Youth Job Corp.

Name	Age	Phone	Jobs / Qualifications
Jessica Butcher	20	481-1592	babysitting and pet sitting
Alicia Davis	18	497-3781	babysitting, Safe Sitter Certified
Emma Gaona	16	499-5115	babysitting and pet sitting
Lucia Gaona	13	499-5115	pet sitting
Kristian Padilla	20	497-2452	babysitting and pet sitting
Laura Padilla	21	497-2452	babysitting and pet sitting
Kristyn Kraus	16	497-5115	babysitting/pet sitting Safe Sitter-CPR
Ryan Kraus	14	497-5115	dog sitting, mow/yard work
Brian Sula	13	685-7136	will bag and dispose dog's droppings
Christopher Sula	9	685-7136	will bag and dispose dog's droppings
McKenna Toomey	16	497-0288	babysitting and pet sitting-CPR Certified
Rachel Trueblood	19	497-2414	babysitting and pet sitting
Hannah Woodworth	17	495-9635	babysitting Safe Sitter-CPR Certified

# Knights Cross Crusaders Swim Team News for 2014

As we look ahead and begin to plan and prepare for the upcoming swim team season, we need to start by recruiting, not only for swimmers, but for the swim team coordinator position for the 2014 season and beyond. As some of you may or may not have heard, Tom and Sandy Munson, who have been our swim team coordinators over the past several years and who can be accredited with a large part of the success of our swim team program, will no longer be able to serve in this capacity. We first want to begin by saying THANK YOU Tom and Sandy for volunteering so much of your time and efforts in making the Knights Cross Crusaders Swim Team such a huge success over the years and we wish you all the best. With that being said, we need to begin the search for parent volunteers to step in and volunteer their time to help keep this program afloat (pun intended). What we are looking for is an individual or "team" of parents who have children participating on the swim team who would be willing and able to help coordinate and assist with various aspects of the program. Some of the more important events that will require a coordinated effort and involve investing some personal time are the swim team registration process, league meetings, practices, and of course swim meets, especially the events held at the Socoma pool location.

As an incentive to help in our recruiting efforts (per Board of Directors approval) we are offering those parents who would be willing to volunteer for this position, free swim team registration for their children for the upcoming swim year (we will limit the number of parent volunteer households to 4 at this time). After we have enough volunteers, we will then schedule a meeting to coordinate and assign various positions and duties for each to fulfill. We hope to assign a lead coordinator who can become the main point of contact for the team and events, which we will discuss in detail at the first pre season meeting.

We are hopeful that we will be able to recruit enough help to continue such a popular program here in our community, however, if we are not able to get the assistance that we need to operate and manage it successfully, we will be forced to discontinue the swim team until such time we can once again get the assistance required to offer it to our HOA members and community. Again, for those of you who have children wishing to join the team this year, we ask that you give serious consideration in lending a helping hand in continuing with the Crusaders traditions and success. Please contact Kindra Soria at [manager@socomahoa.com](mailto:manager@socomahoa.com) or 481-1709 for more information on how to sign up to be a volunteer.

Always remember Crusaders:

***"Swords Forward" and "Prepare to Conquer!!!"***



## **SOCOMA HOA DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

### ***E-mail Dues Invoices?***

Send me your email and we can send your invoice via E-mail. It's cheaper, quicker, and more reliable!

### ***Pay dues annually?***

Yes! You can pay your dues annually. It saves time and \$\$ for both you and the association. No more late charges. Just \$92 times the number of quarters you want to pay. It's just that simple!

**Let us know @ [sherri\\_kraus@att.net](mailto:sherri_kraus@att.net)**

## **SOCOMA WOMEN'S GROUP**

**Come and meet and chat with a great group of ladies.  
We get together for lunch every month in different  
restaurants.**

**Luncheons are always at 11:30 AM on the 4th Thursday  
January - May and September - November  
(Novembers will be on the 3rd Thursday)**

**Invitations are made by e-mail. If you want to join us, please write to  
[ZeSilia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ZeSilia@sbcglobal.net) with SOCOMA monthly luncheons as the  
subject.**

### ***A Friendly Reminder to ALL Socoma Residents***

***Please remember to store your trash containers out of view from  
the street except for the purpose of trash pickup, as per Article  
VIII, Section 2.5 of the Socoma Covenants. Thank You in advance  
for your compliance!***

# MORE SOCOMA NEWS!



## Board of Directors

### Positions Available

This year, your Socoma Board of Directors will be looking to fill 2 of the 5 positions due to terms expiring. Steve Fedako, our prior VP, now At Large, will be stepping down and Kyle Roberts our Treasurer will also not be pursuing another term. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for either of these upcoming Board positions, please contact the manager or one of our Board members for more information and specifics of what will be required for each.

## NO DUES INCREASE in 2014!

As we head into a new fiscal calendar year, I am happy to announce that our annual homeowners dues will once again go unchanged from what it has been now for the past few years. This is due in no small part to all of the hard work, dedication, and expertise of your Socoma Board of Directors and more specifically our Accountant Sherri Kraus and Treasurer Kyle Roberts. We are fortunate to have them and all of the Board members serving our community. Socoma continues to be in a strong financial position and by all indications, we should remain so into the foreseeable future, pending any government meltdown. Let's all do our part in keeping costs down in our area by maintaining our properties, adhering to the Deeds and Covenants and staying vigilant to vandalism.

## **CITIZENS ON PATROL (COPS)**

Bad Boys, Bad Boys...Back by popular demand and due to the increase in crime around our community, the neighborhood COPS program is about to start up again. We have always had this program in place, however throughout the years interest has fallen off as well as enrollment. If you would be interested in volunteering to patrol or would like more information, please visit our website at [www.socomahoa.com](http://www.socomahoa.com) and click on COPS tab or send me an email to [manager@socomahoa.com](mailto:manager@socomahoa.com). Please help us keep crime out of our area.

## Manager's Forum

Changes are abound in 2014 for the Socoma HOA. As Bill mentioned in his cover letter, this year we will be renovating the interior of the rec center. This will be a major undertaking which will require there be no rentals for the better part of April while the work is being completed. We are actively recruiting input from anyone with an interior design or construction background to assist in the design phase, although not a requirement. We are also considering assembling a project team to oversee the day to day progress and make any changes or suggestions as needed. Other noteworthy projects we have budgeted for during the year are: new raised lettering on our monument (an upgrade from the painted on letters), additional perimeter pool lighting (increased safety), xeriscaping of various islands around our area, pet waste stations and the addition of a new piece of playground equipment for the little ones. Also, we recently had the parking lot resurfaced and striped to keep it from deteriorating further and keeping it aesthetically appealing. These are only a few of the many projects that your manager and Board of Directors have planned for and/or accomplished as we continue to try to maintain and upgrade where possible to keep our community attractive and continuing to be a desirable place to live. As always, we welcome any input or feedback from any and all members of our community.

Kindra Soria, SOCOMA Manager

## **SOCOMA 2014 BOARD MEETINGS**

**SOCOMA Board Meeting Dates for 2014:  
2nd Monday of every Month @ 7:00 pm  
Open to ALL Socoma Residents**

January	13	July	14
February	10	August	11
March	10	September	8
April	14	October	13
May	12	November	10
June	9	December	8

## **2014 NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORIES**

This year we are trying something a little different with the distribution of the neighborhood directories. Due to lack of interest and in an effort to save money, we will not print or distribute any new directories or distribute them door to door for residents. What we will do, is if you are interested in receiving an up to date directory, I will email a PDF version to you. If this trial is successful, we will continue with this distribution method in the future as well.