

# Whispering Hills News

*A Community of Neighbors*

Serving the Residents of the Whispering Hills Neighborhood

FEBRUARY 2023

## The January Gift Card Drawing Winners: Alan and Judy Ravkind

The Ravkinds have lived in the Whispering Hills neighborhood since 1990. They have been married for almost 55 years and have always lived in Dallas during that time.



Judy immigrated from Zwicau, Germany at age seven. She graduated from Memorial High School in Houston and attended the University of Houston. Judy retired ten years ago after a 28 year career with Louis Vuitton.

Alan has lived in Dallas all his life. He graduated from Hillcrest High School and attended UNT. He is a realtor with expertise in helping clients buy or sell a home.

Alan and Judy have three children and six grandchildren who all live in Texas. Their daughters are realtors in Katy. A son lives near White Rock Lake and he's in the liquor industry.

The couple enjoys traveling, hiking and spending time with their family, with an emphasis on grandkids. Their oldest grandchild is a registered nurse. Her younger brother attends Sam Houston State University. With many hours of soloing, their 16 year old grandson is on his way to becoming a commercial pilot. Three other grandchildren attend St. Thomas Aquinas in Lakewood.

**The next WHNA drawing for a \$25 Kroger gift card will be held April 11th during the board meeting. Every WHNA membership active at that time will be included.**

## If You're Against STRs in Our Neighborhoods, Let Our Councilman Know Now

Whispering Hills neighbors that are concerned about Short-Term Rentals in our neighborhood causing "Loss of Neighborhood" in so many ways, should let our City Councilman, Adam McGough, know of their concerns and experiences by emails and phone calls. The concern comes in the form of unknown people not owning or living long-term in rental property, causing crime and safety issues in the neighborhood. A majority of STR owners do not live on the property or in the City or even in Texas. Some STR owners are investment businesses set up to own and operate 20 or more properties in the city limits of Dallas and other cities.



Since 2019, when the first reports of nuisances and criminal activities in Whispering Hills started to be reported to the WHNA Crime Watch group, the number of known STRs has grown from 1 to 4. Owners of STRs are supposed to register and pay Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) which, as of a few months ago, had not been done by any of them. Hotels and motels must pay the HOT as required by law.

The Zoning Use question has been through multiple city committees, all approving the existing zoning standards for use of property. The Keep It Simple Solutions (KISS) zoning proposal would provide the clearest, brightest line for where STRs can and cannot legally operate in Dallas. I would protect ALL residences, in single family and multi-family zoning categories.

If you feel strongly that you did not buy your home with the intention that any commercial type of business could open up next door to you, then you need to send your email now. Any delay will let current council persons "Kick the Can Down the Road" to the next city council and the State of Texas possibly overriding the City of Dallas' Home Rule status.

**Adam McGough** (D10 Councilman)

[adam.mcgough@dallas.gov](mailto:adam.mcgough@dallas.gov) or [district10@dallascityhall.com](mailto:district10@dallascityhall.com)

**Maddy Madrazo** (Councilman's Liaison)

[maddy.madrazo@dallas.gov](mailto:maddy.madrazo@dallas.gov) Phone – 214-670-5958

**Tiandra Caesar** (Councilman's Asst.)

[tiandra.caesar@dallas.gov](mailto:tiandra.caesar@dallas.gov) Phone – 214-670-4068

## WHNA Board & Committee Chairs

**NEXTDOOR NETWORK:**  
whisperinghills.nextdoor.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.whnadallas.com

**WHNA MAILING ADDRESS:**  
10323 Cimmaron Trail  
Dallas, TX. 75243

### **2022 Board Members:**

#### **President**

Jacob Bruch

WHNApresident@whnadallas.com

#### **Vice President**

Davene Morgan

WHNAvicepresident@whnadallas.com

#### **Secretary**

Anne Meadows

WHNAsecretary@whnadallas.com

#### **Treasurer/Website**

Cynthia Houck

WHNAtreasurer@whnadallas.com

#### **Member-at-Large**

Wendy Kelly

WHNAmemberatlarge@whnadallas.com

#### **Past President**

Keli Kincaid

WHNApastpresident@whnadallas.com

### **Committee Chairs:**

#### **VIP /Crime Watch Coordinator**

Mike Gorman

WHNAvipcoordinator@whnadallas.com

#### **Newsletter**

Sonia Harms, Editor

WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com

Helen Meyer, Features

WHNAnewsfeatures@whnadallas.com

#### **Social**

Paulette Standefer

WHNASocial@whnadallas.com

#### **Parks/Recycling**

Carol Tobias

WHNAparks@whnadallas.com

#### **Grounds and Improvements**

Alan Ravkind

WHNAgrounds@whnadallas.com

#### **Membership Drive Coordinator**

Roxanne Singletary

WHNAmembership@whnadallas.com

## Meet the New WHNA President, Jacob (Jake) Bruch

*By Sonia Harms, WHNA News editor*

As the WHNA board was losing hope in the search for a new President, a voice came out of the wilderness said "I'd like to do it."

That voice belongs to Jacob (Jake) Bruch, who at the time he volunteered was still in the process of renovating the house he'd just bought in the neighborhood. Following are his answers to some questions directed to him.

What made you decide to move to Whispering Hills?

*We like how quiet the neighborhood is and that it is located in the City of Dallas.*

What made you decide to take on the challenge of answering the call for President?

*I wanted to get involved in my community. This would be a great way to get to know my neighbors and do what I can to help out. I want to make sure everyone who wants to have a voice in our community is given that opportunity.*

Where did you come from?

*I am from Wichita, KS. Went to Kansas State University and graduated with an Architectural Engineering degree. My fiancé is from Eudora, KS. She went to Kansas University.*

What do you do for work?

*I sell commercial HVAC products, working with engineers and owners to design systems that will fit their needs.*

Do you have hobbies?

*I like to stay active. Playing different sports: golf, softball, basketball, pickleball, tennis. I love lounging by the pool.*

Are wedding plans in the near future?

*Alexis Finucane and I plan on getting married New Years Eve 2023 in Destin, FL*



## Dine Out With Neighbors

Thursday, February 23rd 5:30 pm

**Dos Charros**

NE Corner Beltline and Plano Rd, facing Beltline

Thursday, March 16th 5:30 pm

**Spring Creek BBQ**

270 N Central Expressway  
East side north of Beltline

All Whispering Hills residents are welcome.

Let Paulette Standefer know you are coming so she can tell the restaurants how much seating is needed at WHNASocial@whnadallas.com.



## 2023 WHNA Board Members



### **Davene Morgan, Vice President---Year 2**

Grew up in a small town southwest of San Antonio and moved to Dallas after graduation from Texas A&M. Has visited this neighborhood since the early 1980s during trips to see her extended family, and has lived on Deermont Trail since 2005. Works as an architect specializing in programming and planning of healthcare facilities. Hobbies include walking her dogs, gardening, putting together puzzles, and reading. WHNA concerns include reducing the speed of traffic along Whispering Hills and Deermont Trail.



### **Anne Meadows, Secretary---Year 2**

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Attended Southwestern State (Weatherford, OK). Graduated with a business degree. Has 4 grown children, 2 grandchildren, & a step-son. She and her husband moved to Whispering Hills, in September, 2020 from the Copperfield Townhomes addition. She served on its board for 3-years as Secretary and as a member of the VIP. Has worked at Fletcher-Farley law firm as the receptionist / secretary for 20 years. Has a pilot's license and enjoys flying a Cessna 172. Is a dog mom to 2 Chihuahua mixes and a miniature Australian Shepherd. Likes to travel.



### **Cynthia Houck, Treasurer---Year 5**

Grew up in Northern Kentucky. Worked as an administrative assistant at Procter and Gamble for 30 years--13 of those in Dallas after her husband was transferred to DFW with American Airlines. Has lived in Whispering Hills since 2001. Performs with the Shufflin' Shoes Cloggers, and is Founding Queen Mother of the Big D Re-Gals Chapter of the Red Hat Society. Joined the Board to use her skills for the benefit of the neighborhood and feels that she can best contribute as Board Treasurer.



### **Wendy Kelly, Member-at-Large---Year 2**

Grew up in Traverse City, Michigan. Attended San Diego State in Southern California. She married Michael in 2008 and they moved into the neighborhood in 2013. Works for a non-profit, coaching inner city teachers how to effectively teach outdoors, embedding science and math using standard-aligned lessons. She presents at national education conferences, and leads district-level panels and presentations in Texas. Loves to travel, spend time with family and friends, and sailing her sloop, "Selah," on Lake Ray Hubbard.



### **Keli Kincaid, Past President---Year 2 (VP 3 Years)**

Grew up in Palestine, IL. Has an MBA in Project Management. Moved from Falls Church, VA to Whispering Hills in the summer of 2015 to be closer to family. Was WHNA Vice President 2017-2019 and is a VIP member. Recently purchased a business which is keeping her busy. She enjoys the friendly neighbors, walking her dog, Odin, spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren, and probably has too many houseplants.



**Ask a Committee Chair  
How You Can Help**

### **WHNA Board Meetings**

**Are held 2nd Tuesdays  
of the month.**

**Watch for announcements via email  
or go to [whnadallas.com](http://whnadallas.com)  
for info**

### **Whispering Hills Buy Nothing**

Join on Facebook by searching  
"Buy Nothing Far North Dallas (Whispering Hills)"

Learn more about  
Buy Nothing here:

[www.buynothingproject.org/  
about](http://www.buynothingproject.org/about) No charge, no membership fee.

### **Whispering Hills Family Group**

**Search Whispering Hills  
Families on Facebook and  
request to join.  
The group is "private" for  
safety reasons.**

## **D10 Report from Councilman Adam McGough**

What a year 2022 was for our entire city and the District 10 community. In 2022, my colleagues and I voted at the horseshoe in support of an updated redistricting map that'll last for a decade. We authorized the establishment of a new Economic Development Corporation to support business development and serve as a public developer within our city. We reduced the property-tax rate by 2.75 cents, the largest decrease in over 40 years. We passed a new, balanced \$4.75 billion FY 2022-23 Budget, which includes a total investment of over \$1.03 billion to support our Dallas Police and Fire-Rescue Departments' efforts to keep our residents safe and significant investments to reform the city's building-permit process, support housing and homelessness solutions, expand library hours, strengthen code enforcement and improve the city's infrastructure.

In District 10, we celebrated the next major Skillman intersection milestone of the \$1.74 billion 635 East Project: the opening of the temporary bridge at Skillman and 635. I was honored to recognize at my seventh annual Blake Anderson Public Service Award Ceremony nine new award recipients who, like Blake Anderson did, embody the meaning of "love your neighbor." During one of the most significant celebrations I've participated in as a public servant, we commemorated the grand reopening of our Willie B. Johnson Recreation Center in Hamilton Park. And, recently, the Skillman Corridor TIF District Board voted to amend its zone boundary to include Forest-Audelia and dedicate up to \$5,551,590 to support the design and construction of a park and multipurpose center at Forest-Audelia. This funding is critical to the execution of this long-overdue, transformational project.

Our community should feel proud as we reflect on 2022. As we look toward the new year, it's hard to believe I have less than five months remaining in my fourth-and-final term as your councilmember. You have my commitment that I'll sprint to the June 2023 finish line and continue to go ALL in for our neighbors.

As always, if my team or I can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to email. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

Respectfully, from Adam Gough  
District 10 Council man  
district10@dallascityhall.com.

## **Three Candidates Have Announced Their Intention to Run for the D10 Council Seat**

Our current Council Representative, Adam McGough, is term limited after being elected to 4 terms. City council members serve two-year terms, and elections are held on odd-numbered years. All City Council members are up for election or re-election.

Three people have put their name in the hat to run for the District 10 seat in the Saturday, May 6th election: Kathy Stewart, Brian Hasenbauer, and Sirrano Keith Baldeo. Kathy Stewart announced she has officially filed to represent D10

WHNA does not back political candidates. You are encouraged to read up on the individuals. Websites containing details of their experiences are:

KathyStewartD10.com and brian4dallas.org. Baldeo does not have a current site. You can also google their names for more information..

Whoever gets elected, our neighborhood needs to make sure the person is aware that we are here and what our needs are. The tendency is for emphasis to be on the Lake Highlands neighborhoods since that is where most of the D10 Council reps reside. Our area is called North Lake Highlands.

## **Other Reports of Activity in D10**

The Skillman Corridor TIF District Board voted to amend its zone boundary to include Forest-Audelia and dedicate up to \$5,551,590 to support the transformational project of the design and construction of a park and multipurpose center at Forest-Audelia.

The 635 East Project construction project is progressing on schedule. Skillman Bridge steel erection should begin in early 2023. Construction of walls along eastbound I-635 and westbound I-635 on the north and south sides of the intersection are nearly complete.

Phyllis Nobles was promoted to the rank of major on January 3 and began her tenure at Northeast on January 4. She comes to Northeast with over three decades of experience working in the Dallas Police Department and looks forward to getting to know and partnering with neighbors to promote safety across District 10.



## Crime/Safety Incident and Summary Report Comparisons 2020-2022

Recaps from Mike Gorman, Crime Watch Coordinator

Period	2020	2021	2022
WH Incident Reports Filed DPD	48	31	45
WH Crime Reported to Coordinator - No DPD Report	254	212	105
<b>Total Criminal Activity</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Some of WHNA Criminal Reports Highlight Issues</b>			
Violent Crimes - Murder, Rape, Robbery, Agg. Assault	1	1	2
Property Theft From Home or Auto	25	30	9
Residential Burglary	9	11	0
Random Gunfire/Fireworks	67	41	35
Suspicious Persons/Persons	44	21	31
Suspicious Vehicles	18	18	5
Prowler Alert	15	14	8
Criminal Mischief / Vandalism	17	7	4
Graffiti Activity	9	2	1
Surrounding Apts. / Businesses DPD Incident Reports	530	467	439

Period	2020	2021	2022
VIP Members	48	45	42
VIPS Reporting Hours	5410.75	4861.00	4208.00

**If you see something suspicious,  
in addition to reporting to 911 or through the DPD online  
reporting system, please send Mike Gorman an email at  
WHNAvipcoordinator@whnadallas.com  
In your report, include what aroused your suspicion  
along with date, time, and location where the incident occurred.**

### New Kind of Crime--Plate Swapping

Criminals are now committing a new kind of crime against law-abiding citizens called "License Plate Swapping". They are banking on vehicle owners not knowing their license plate numbers and never really paying attention to them on their own vehicles.

The criminals go out and search for vehicles similar to the ones they plan to use in a crime and swap the good plates with the ones they plan to put on the vehicle used in the crime. After the crime is reported, some security camera may capture a picture of the vehicle and it's license plate. The next thing the good citizen knows, is that they are getting pulled over by law en-

forcement as suspects in the crime. In addition, the criminal's vehicle is not insured, driver may have a suspended license, and the crime vehicle may be stolen.

Things to do to protect yourself:

- Take a picture on your phone of your license plates.
- Look at your license plates occasionally when going to your vehicle.
- Don't frame your plates; it makes them easier to remove with a crowbar.
- Special Security License Plate screws and caps are available.



**Let's Make Sure the  
City Knows What We  
Need Done to Make  
Our Streets Safe**

Requests for street, curb, and gutter repairs should be submitted through 311. The request should include block numbers and between which streets. The reason for calling 311 is that there is a record of the request and a person with the required department must reply to you by email or call by a certain time. Always ask for an email from whoever replies to you so that you have a record that you can save.

### Mental Health Hotline

**Call 988**

People experiencing a mental health crisis can now simply call or text 988.

The new number is modeled after 911 to quickly connect people in a mental crisis with a mental health professional at a crisis center closest to them. If that center is busy, the call gets sent to a back-up center.

## Dominos, Anyone?

By George Bentley

I like to play all kinds of domino games, but especially a domino game called Texas 42. Four players are needed.

While Texas 42 is my preference, I also like to play Mexican Train, Chicken Foot, and regular dominoes [dominoes that add up to multiples of five and ten].

I'm willing to host a gathering in our home, afternoons or evenings. I have card tables and dominoes available.

My contact information: 972-690-5011, or preferably email: 1943gb@gmail.com

**This is a response to requests for Ideas on building a sense of community in the neighborhood. Any more ideas?**

**Send them to:**

**WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com**

## Friendship Park Project

Work on a loop trail, security lights, exercise stations and a picnic pavilion at Friendship Park is scheduled to begin in March. However, it is still under design and start of construction is yet to be determined. It was part of the 2017 Bond Program. At a community meeting two years ago, there was discussion about converting BB courts to pickleball.

David Mills, Project Manager 214-670-1805  
david.mills@dallas.gov

dallascityhall.com/departments/public-works/  
dallasbondprogram

## Check Out the WHNA Website at [www.whnadallas.com](http://www.whnadallas.com) (You don't need to sign in)

**You Can Find:**

- ⇒ **Bulk Trash Pick-up Dates**
- ⇒ **How to Receive Community Corner Emails**
- ⇒ **How to Become a WHNA Member**
- ⇒ **Copies of Previous Newsletters**
- ⇒ **Whispering Hills Street Map**
- ⇒ **Crime Watch Stats and Info**
- ⇒ **City Staff and Services Contacts**

## Don't Pollute. Bag the Trash.

Yard waste finds its way  
to area creeks, lakes and  
the Trinity River.

For the same reason, it behooves all of us to keep the gutters in the streets around our homes free of debris. Much of the run-off in our neighborhood ends up at White Rock Lake via the creek flowing at our west end.

**WhereDoesItGo.com**

Tossing, sweeping or blowing yard waste and trash into the street or down storm drains can result in a fine of up to \$2,000.



## Did You Know...

...that you can get text reminders for Weekly and Bulky Trash pick-up?

Go to: [dallascityhall.com](http://dallascityhall.com) and click on the "Departments" tab at the top. Click on "Get a Reminder" midway down the page.

## Check QR Code or Website for Garage/Yard Sale Requirements

[dallascityhall.com/departments/codecompliance/Pages/garage-sales.aspx](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/codecompliance/Pages/garage-sales.aspx)

### Basics

- Permit from City is required
- There is a limit of two (2) garage sales at a premise during any twelve (12) month period (**NOT by calendar year**) and each sale may not exceed more than three (3) consecutive calendar days in length.
- Signs must be placed on private property; Signs placed on medians, public property or utility poles are illegal
- Signs must be removed within 24 hours of sale.
- 1st Garage Sale -No Fee
- 2nd Garage Sale -\$25.00 (No Cash)





# Fun Stuff

## Where to See Bald Eagles

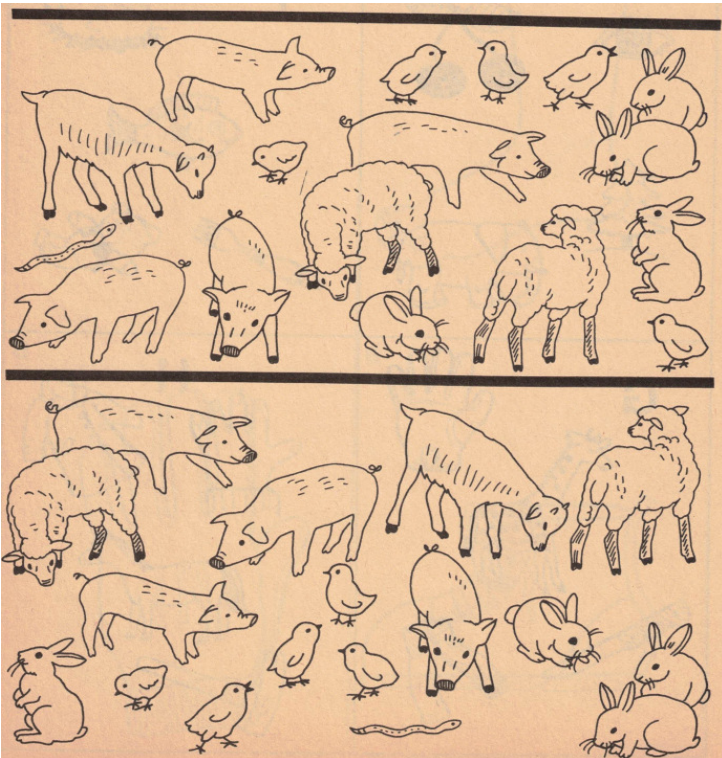
January through March is the perfect time to look for the iconic bald eagle. It's their nesting season, which means there's a lot of activity. Bald eagles reuse the same giant nest year after year, which makes it easier for you to find them.

To locate eagles nearby, use **iNaturalist bald eagle observations**, where you can also report your own sighting. Help biologists keep track of active nests with **Texas Nature Trackers** project **Texas Eagle Nests**.

Bald eagles were on the endangered species list from 1966-2006 due to pesticide poisoning. A conservation success story, they're now thriving. Take the time to see these magnificent birds in the wild, and share your observations.

## For Our Younger Friends:

### Match the Top Animals to the Bottom Ones



## The Smart Spider

*Adapted from a fable by Leonardo Da Vinci*

One day, while scampering up a door, a spider discovered a keyhole and climbed inside.

"How clever I am to find this keyhole," said the spider. "I am such a smart spider."

From the keyhole, the spider could see some stairs and a window. "I will build a web on those stairs, then hide in my keyhole and watch until my web traps a fly. I will build a web on the window, then hide in my keyhole and watch until my web traps a moth."

"I am such a smart spider."

The spider forgot one thing. A keyhole is not meant for a spider. It is meant for a key. Before long, someone put a key into the keyhole. The surprised spider tumbled to the floor. He scrambled up on his legs, shook his head, and said, "I guess even a smart spider can make mistakes."

## Word Fun

Say these words aloud, then spell them backward and see what happens.

ten	ton	top	now
tub	gum	bag	bat
tar	pal	nip	tap
tip	was	gas	

## Riddles

What is the difference between an oak tree and a tight shoe?

One makes acorns, the other makes corns ache.

What did Barbie, the school play director, do when Chicken Little forgot his lines?

Barbie cued the chicken.



## BRUSH & BULK



**To avoid a Code citation, watch for signs posted on Whispering Hills on Thursday before pick-up week.**

### NEXT PICK-UP WEEKS BEGIN:

**February 27 and March 27**

Set out on curb beginning Thursday,  
February 23 and March 23  
**before 7am on the Monday of pick-up week.**

**Separate bulky trash from brush.**  
**No glass or electronics**

**Get the 2023 schedule and reminder texts at:**

**dallascityhall.com/sanitation**

**Take These Items to the Chemical Collection Center at 11234 Plano Rd, Dallas 75243:**

Chemical products	Cleaners & polishes
Aerosol sprays	Computers & cell phones
Batteries of <u>all</u> kinds	Fluorescent light tubes
Paint & home repair products	
Automotive fluids & oil filters	

**Call 214-553-1765 for hours of operation.**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Tamales by Blanca

Chicken in green sauce or pork in red sauce;  
homemade with quality ingredients.

\$16 a dozen with hot sauce.

Please text Blanca at 409-392-8416

### Wendy Phynes-Jennings

### Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant Star Team Builder

Inspiring Women's Lives--I bring beauty to you.

Website: marykay.com/wendyphynesjennings

Email: wendyphynes12@gmail.com

972-679-0570

### Need pet care?

Neighborhood dogs & kitties give great reviews  
on the loving & watchful care!

References Available

Helen Meyer, 469-387-6094

(feature writer for newsletter).

### About Classified Ads

This is a service for WHNA members.

Send name, address, phone, and email, along with  
ad copy to: **WHNAnewsletter@whnadallas.com**

Please limit ad copy to 25 words or less. No graphics.



## 2023 WHNA Membership Form

2023.JF.NL



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**<Person 1**

**Person 2>**

Home/Cell

Phone

Home/Cell

*Please indicate if number is home or cell number.*

**eMail**

*eMail address will be added to the email blast system for community meetings and events.*

Dues: **\$50**  
(tax deductible)

Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(tax deductible)

**I would like my information to be included in the 2023 membership directory (circle one):**  
**YES NO**

**Please indicate your interest in helping in one or more of the following ways:**

- ☐ Volunteer Crime Patroller   ☐ Making phone calls   ☐ Attending Dallas civic and government meetings  
☐ Distributing newsletters or directories   ☐ Pet Registry   ☐ Helping at neighborhood social events  
☐ Judging Yard of the Month/Christmas Lights   ☐ Working your street/block for the membership drive  
☐ Serving on the Board or committee   ☐ Other

**Send check (made payable to WHNA) to WHNA at 10323 Cimmaron Trail, Dallas, TX 75243.**

**For PayPal/Venmo, go to [www.whnadallas.com](http://www.whnadallas.com)**

**2023 Membership Period—January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023**