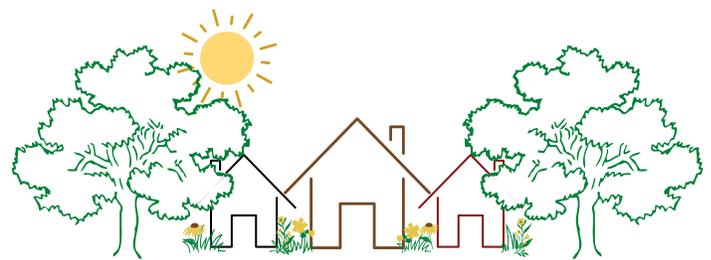


NCTONA NOTES

Published by Neighborhood News, Inc.

WWW.NCTONA.COM

April / May 2024



North Central Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our Spring General Membership meeting will be
Thursday May 2nd

at **Bradley Middle School from 7 - 8:30 PM.** A short business meeting will take place. **One of the items to be discussed and voted on will be a small dues increase from the annual \$25 a year to a \$35 a year.** Our speaker for the evening will be Ronnie Grell from our neighborhood Rainbow Gardens. In 1985 the two current locations (Bandera & 1000 Oaks) of Rainbow Gardens were started. Ronnie is a native Texan, although he moved to San Antonio in 1976 from El Paso. He graduated from UTSA with a degree in Political Science and History with the intention of heading to Law School. His Mom was always an avid gardener and his hobby. But his plans changed and he started working at the Bandera store in 1989. A couple of years later he became manager and is now the Principal owner of the 1000 Oaks location. Please make plans to join us as it will be a most interesting and enjoyable evening.



EXTRA TREAT AT MEETING - YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Our speaker, Ronnie Grell, is bringing 50 \$10 Bonus Bucks, good in August at Rainbow Gardens, to be given to the first 50 attendees of the meeting. He is ALSO bringing a \$25 gift certificate to be given away in a drawing that evening. Come join us and be rewarded!



How's Your Backyard?

Each month we always share the "yards of the month" for each of our 3 areas of NCTONA - BUT..... If your front yard is like mine, I can never have colorful flowers or plants because of our "herd" of deer that LOVE to munch on my delectables. So, like many of you, all my love has to go into my backyard where only my family and friends or next door neighbors can see. Well, one of our NCTONA neighbors said " my backyard is beautiful but will never win yard of the month because no one sees it." So we would like to share some backyard beauties. If you love and are proud of your backyard - take a picture or pictures and send them to Denise Richter - deniseb.richter@gmail.com. We'll make a one time selection OR maybe turn it into a once in each issue tribute. Bring on the beauty!

CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

One of the benefits of your yearly dues is to take care of the surrounding areas with our landscaping service. However, it is very hard for him to mow when there is normally "trash" in the way. The board has requested neighbors to volunteer to meet on the first Saturday of the month to pick up and collect trash. This plan has not been very successful, as it is mostly board members that are doing the cleaning.

We do have those special neighbors that walk daily and pick up often for us. Thank you.

So....we are requesting a new plan. As the neighborhood belongs to all, and maybe the **1st Saturday** of the month doesn't work for you - **we would love for a block/street to choose 1 Saturday a year when they will gather to clean up our NCTONA adopt-a-spots (1000 Oaks & Jones Maltzberger).** Please let Ray Altman know which Saturday you would love. 830-456-4550 or Rayjaltmaan@gmail.com This will take care of "sharing the load" and also only making it one Saturday a year. Talk it up on your street and let us know.



NORTH CENTRAL THOUSAND OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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COMMITTEES

Block Captain Liaison	Ray Altman
Security	Carlos Garcia, Jr.
Web page	Karen O'Brien
Newsletter	Linda Nolder & Lisa Janaky
Special Events	Christine Denney
Garage Sale.....	Linda Nolder
Code Enforcement	Kim Pettit
Facebook.....	Ray Altman & Christine Denney
NextDoor Lead.....	Alex Shapovalov
SAFFE Officer	Jack Bass



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 6** - NE Citizens on Patrol classes - 9 am - 1 pm
13030 Jones Maltsberger
Call or email with name and phone # to confirm attendance.
Officer Cathalina Schneider #1571 - 210-207-5182
Cathalina.schneider@sanantonio.gov
- April 27** - Neighborhood Garage Sale Day
- April 27-28** - Fiesta Weekend
- May 1** - May Day
- May 2** - General Membership Meeting - 7to 8:30 - Bradley Middle School..... Speaker - Ronnie Grell from Rainbow Gardens
- May 2** - National Day of Prayer
- May 5** - Cinco De Mayo
- May 6** - Holocaust Remembrance Day
- May 7** - Block Connector Lunch @ Pepe's Tacos and Sala @ 11:30
- May 12** - Mother's Day
- May 13** - NE Citizens on Patrol classes - 6 pm - 9 pm 13030 Jones Maltsberger
- May 14** - NCTONA Board Meeting - 6:30 PM
- May 18** - Armed Forces Day
- May 27** - Memorial Day
- June 14** - Flag Day
- June 16** - Father's Day



Take Time for Digital 'Spring Cleaning'

Taken from TRS Fresh Picks, April 2024

We often associate the term “spring cleaning” with the time of year when we go through our belongings and organize our house and lives in preparation for the upcoming summer. But this is also the perfect time to review your digital life. Here are a few steps to declutter your desktop and your mind:

- **Accounts:** Use unique passwords, enable MFA, delete unused accounts.
- **Programs:** Keep devices and software updated, delete unused applications.
- **Finances:** Set up alerts for all financial transactions.
- **Backups:** Schedule automatic backups to safeguard important data.
- **Social media:** Review and adjust privacy settings to limit sharing of personal information.

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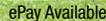
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SAY "HELLO" TO SPRING

By Kim Pettit

It was about this time last year that I wrote an article about oak leaves. About now you may be wondering if the oak leaves will ever stop falling. I asked myself that same question after I raked my yard for two hours a day for three days in a row. At the end of that third day, I stood back and said, "My job is done." Boy, was I wrong! On the fourth day, there were more leaves. They kept coming and coming! I thought about raking, but decided to let the next cold front knock down more leaves. As I wrote this article, a cold front blew in, bringing with it 25–35 m.p.h. winds. I got lucky, not only because the wind removed almost all of the remaining leaves, but it blew them away from my house. My neighbors on the other side of the street woke up with leaves covering their driveways and their side of the street. The oak leaf drop will end soon. No, really it will.

Spring is just a few weeks away. Here are some outdoor things to do.

- 1. Be courteous to your neighbors.** Don't blow your leaves onto the street or into your neighbor's yard or driveway.
- 2. Put leaves in your green bin or use organic leaf bags (purchased at certain stores) or cardboard boxes.** Place the bags or boxes by your curb. You can schedule a pick-up by calling

311, using the 311SA app, or going online at www.sanantonio.gov. You get 2 free pick-ups per fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) with a limit of 50 bags per pick-up. It will take 1-7 days for the pick-up to occur. You also can take them to the Bitters Road brush site.

- 3. Consider aerating** your yard to loosen compacted soil. Aerating creates holes in the ground that let air, moisture, and nutrients reach the roots of your yard, trees, and plants.
- 4. Rake your yard to remove dead grass.** It is amazing how much dead grass there is in a yard.
- 5. Apply pre-emergent** (whether chemical or organic) to your yard to prevent weeds.
- 6. Feed your yard with quality nutrition (fertilizer – either chemical or organic** (preferably organic because it is better long-term for your yard)).
- 7. Give your yard a drink.** Water it well, but remember that we are still in Stage 2, meaning you can only water your yard on a designated day from 7 A.M.–11 A.M. and 7 P.M.–11 P.M.
- 8. If you are putting in new plants,** consider using full-sun drought tolerant plants.
- 9. If your neighbor's yard needs attention, ask them if they need any help.** Sometimes, a neighbor doesn't know how to care for the yard, doesn't have the equipment to do so, or may be physically incapable of taking care of their yard due to age, illness, or injury. Be a good neighbor.

Shannon Miller Hill Country Realtor

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I'm your neighbor. I've lived in this great city for 35 years. If you're looking to buy or sell your home, please feel free to contact me. I'd be happy to provide assistance and answer any questions you may have.



NCTONA Backyard Gardeners

Do you have a backyard vegetable garden? I propose we make a NCTONA Backyard Gardeners group that can:

1. Encourage and celebrate one another's gardening exploits
 2. Share gardening tips and lessons
 3. Share extra produce with one another and our neighbors
- If you're interested in setting up an email or text group to connect us let me (Ray) know!

In Memoriam: Ariel Due

Production Manager, Neighborhood News

By Linda Nolder

Although I am the editor of the NCTONA Notes, the newsletter that you receive every other month always gets its beauty and glamor and precision from the marketing editor that I work with at Neighborhood News. I just send in the articles to her and then she does her magic to make it entice you and lure you into our articles. I had the privilege of working with Ariel Dune from the very beginning of all my years as editor. When I would send in my requests and she would send back the "proof" for me, I always included compliments to her skills and her dedication to creating an excellent product. She was the best! Ariel passed away very unexpectedly in February only a couple of days after sending me the February proof. Although I never had the privilege of meeting her, I can totally picture her staff's description: "She was a bright light at our company and always sweet, cheerful, and a hard worker!" Ariel left behind her husband and children and her loving team at Neighborhood News. She will be missed by many. Our condolences go to her team and her family.



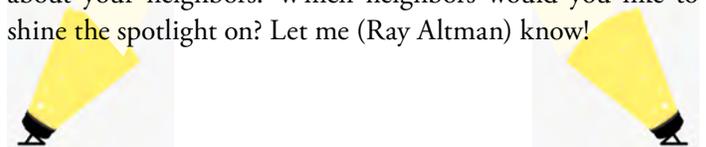
Tell us a story from your street or block so we can share the good that is happening in our hood!

Neighborhood Spotlight: Dolores and Fernando Arellano

The NCTONA neighborhood is full of wonderful people. This month we highlight a couple who has lived in their home since it was built. Dolores and Fernando Arellano moved onto Oakline Drive in July of 1995. "There weren't many homes in this area then. Some of the original land owner families were still here. And Thousand Oaks didn't have many businesses. It was an undeveloped area north of here." Dolores enjoyed almost 30 years ago how quiet and calm the neighborhood was, this made it a nice place to live. "This neighborhood hasn't changed too much. It is still quiet. People are friendly. There are more walkers than ever before." Dolores and Fernando are part of that friendly neighborhood spirit. They say "hello", like to catch up about life and are always finding ways to help fellow neighbors. Attending block gatherings, sharing extra food, and keeping their corner of the neighborhood cared for and kept.

They particularly enjoy watching the neighborhood children. In those early years Dolores remembers that "kids were always playing outside and it was enjoyable to see that. I've watched children grow."

A few things have changed since 1995 and noticing those things offers an opportunity to strengthen our community. "I don't see as many children now as I did then". As a parent of 3 kids I think I know why. Screens. All of us with kids can do more to enjoy our safe streets and our neighbors. Go outside! But also socialization between neighbors in general. "There isn't as much socializing between neighbors as there was in the past." We all can improve this by committing to gathering with one another every now and then. When asked why she cares about her neighbors the answer is simple "When we get to know each other we can look out for each other. Socialization and helping one another is a part of our humanity." Thank you Dolores and Fernando for continuing to know and care about your neighbors! Which neighbors would you like to shine the spotlight on? Let me (Ray Altman) know!



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SCAN ME

Wine Down Wednesday

Our “wine” group that meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month did not meet in January. But we were back on track in February and March. On February 7th, 13 of us met again and visited Fish City Grill. On March 6th, we had 10 joining us at La Madeline’s. We almost always have at least one new neighbor and we love meeting you. Please consider joining us - and you don’t even have to drink any alcohol to be a part of our group. Hope to see you soon. All you have to do is go to the NCTONA website - Events -Wine Down Wednesday and sign up.



COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 27

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Nelda Raaca
Elisa Robelo
Cynthia Vasquez

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Porches and Yards OF THE MONTH



During the months of January and February NCTONA awards our yard signs to the houses in our 3 areas, (North, Central, and South) that have what we consider outstandingly decorated PORCHES. Obviously the reason being that our yards and plants have died out from the winter freezes. Congratulations to our Porches of the Month for the month of January.

February 2024



2323 Quail Hollow NORTH



14930 Moss View CENTRAL



2110 Mollys Way SOUTH

MARCH YARDS



15311 Henderson Pass - North



2618 Chestnut Bend - Central



2024 Oak Sound - South

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 Questions: Feel free to contact us at (210) 558-3160 or info@neighborhoodnews.com





No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number — Dial 988 then Press 1 — on your phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.



MEMBERSHIP / FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Fred Witta, Treasurer

NCTONA MEMBERS – WHERE ARE YOU?

It has been a very slow process for paying membership dues for calendar year 2024. So far, there have been approximately 110 members who renewed their membership and only five new members have joined. We desperately need ALL area residents (1800+ homes) to consider joining our association as costs to maintain our neighborhood have risen over the past two years. Currently our Profit and Loss Statement through April shows a deficit of \$1200.00+. Please send your \$25 annual dues payment immediately, either by check or PayPal, so you won't receive a reminder card in the mail - which also costs the association money that could be spent on area beautification projects. You who join are truly appreciated as you help in our efforts to maintain our neighborhood appearance and home values for all those who live here.



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McAllister Park News

By Gerry Schwab

gschwab@satx.rr.com



The March meeting of the Friends of McAllister Park was held Thursday, the 21s, at the Lou Hamilton Community Center in LBJ Park. Approximately two dozen people attended. The agenda included lots of good information and two by-law action update votes. Sadly, not all the information items were positive. Let's start and finish this newsletter with the good news and sandwich the bad in between.

One action item involved changing the official name of the organization to Friends of McAllister Park San Antonio, Inc. This change acknowledges the reality of our 501 (C) 3

non-profit status, meaning that we control the club's finances directly. The money and spending decisions stay at the local level. This ensures that specific donations or memorials will comply with the individual's wishes. This was not always the case in the past. The second action item involved raising annual dues from \$5 to \$15.

Crime and vandalism have once again reared their ugly heads in our beautiful park. By now you have undoubtedly heard of the pit bull theft at gunpoint from the dog park. This is a felony and allows for society's most serious punishment after appropriate adjudication. Car break-ins are also on the rise. The animal water trough was destroyed. Currently FOMP members are manually filling water in the trough from a nearby faucet, although with the summer coming some other method may be necessary. Trail camera and welding donations have been offered. Though not against the law, homelessness is a constant concern in this park and other public spaces. During the past sixty days, Park police have received over 250 calls. Another reminder: if you see something that doesn't look right, it probably isn't. A quick call to 911 (emergencies) or 207-SAPD (7273) (non-emergencies) may be the answer. We all want the park experience to be fun, enjoyable, and safe. Together we can make this happen.

To close now on a happier note. The Prickly Pear race was a huge success. Funds are available for monarch habitats. Donations for bluebonnet seeds have been given. Donated signage is being realized. The Fest of Tails has not been cancelled, only postponed, probably to late October, when, we hope, the blazing heat of summer will be a distant memory. The website www.mcallisterpark.org should be public soon. The membership and volunteer appreciation hot dog picnic will be Saturday, May 18th. Be sure to save the date and check your inbox, Facebook, and the website for other ongoing events.

FEELING BLUE, BUT IT IN A GOOD WAY

From SATX Today



One look outside on a short drive around San Antonio is proof enough that spring has sprung, and the bluebonnets are in full bloom.

There's nothing that fills us more with Lone Star pride quite like looking out at the fields + highways lined with our gorgeous state flower, but at one point you may have wondered what makes this flower special?

On March 7, 1901, the Texas Legislature **adopted the bluebonnet** as the state flower. The flower is found in at least five different Lupinus species variations, however, only one bears the official name **Lupinus texensis** (amended on March 8, 1971). The flower's common name derived from its resemblance to a **sunbonnet**, which pioneer women wore to protect themselves from the sun.

Texas lawmakers (all men at that time) originally wanted the cactus (for hardiness and orchid-like beauty) or cotton to represent the state. However, the **National Society of Colonial Dames of America** successfully petitioned their case for the Lupinus Subcarnosus. In 1933, "Bluebonnets," written by Julia D. Booth and Lora C. Crockett, was adopted as the state flower song.

Peak bluebonnet season extends from late-March to mid-April. Lucky for you, we're just a short drive away from the Texas Hill Country which often offers the best climate for the native Texan wildflower. Here are a few places to stop at:

- Check out the **Willow City Loop** and Highway 16 between Fredericksburg and Llano.
- The **Highland Lakes Bluebonnet Trail** is not to disappoint with a 'drive-yourself' tour. Don't miss: Pick up a map at the Lake Buchanan Chamber of Commerce or the Marble Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau offices.
- Take a tour through the **Western Kerr, Bandera & Real County Scenic Drive**.



Facebook

If you were not aware of it before now, NCTONA has a Facebook page. We are trying to keep information up to date and get more neighbors involved. We would like for you to "Like" and "Follow" the page. Please post, comment, and interact so we can strengthen this important means of communication as a neighborhood.



Recipe Corner

BOTH RECIPES THIS MONTH ARE TAKEN FROM
 "The Grace Filled Homestead" book
 By Lana Stenner

STRAWBERRY POUND CAKE TOWER

(A pound cake is named after the measurement needed for each of the first 4 ingredients)

For Cake:

- 1 lb. (4 sticks) butter
- 1 lb. (2 cups) sugar
- 1 lb. (9 large) eggs
- 1 lb. (4 cups) flour
- 2 Tbsp. vanilla
- 3/4 cup sour cream



This cake makes a large amount - feel free to cut in half if only making for your family

For Topping:

- 3 pints (6 cups) strawberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 16 oz. whipped cream

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour 2 8-inch round pans. Beat the softened butter on medium until creamy and then add sugar and sour cream. Mix for 2 minutes. Add eggs to mixture. Add vanilla and then flour gradually, 1/2 cup at a time beating after each. At end - beat for additional 2 minutes. Spread batter evenly in prepared pans. Bake for 45 minutes. Cool for 20 minutes, then invert cakes onto cooling rack. Let them cool in the refrigerator for 1 hour. Using a long, serrated knife - barely cut off the tops of the cakes to make them flat. Then create 2 layers from each cake by slicing them in half horizontally. Wash strawberries, remove stems, and cut berries in half. Mix with sugar and refrigerate for at least 1 hour while juices develop. Assemble the tower in layers, starting with cake, strawberry mixture, and whipped cream. Repeat layers. Top with a couple of whole strawberries as a garnish.

CINNAMON ROLL COFFEE CAKE

FOR COFFEE CAKE:

(boxed yellow cake mix can be substituted For the first 4 ingredients)

- 2 1/4 c. unbleached all purpose flour
- 1 lb. (2 cups) sugar
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 c. vegetable oil
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon



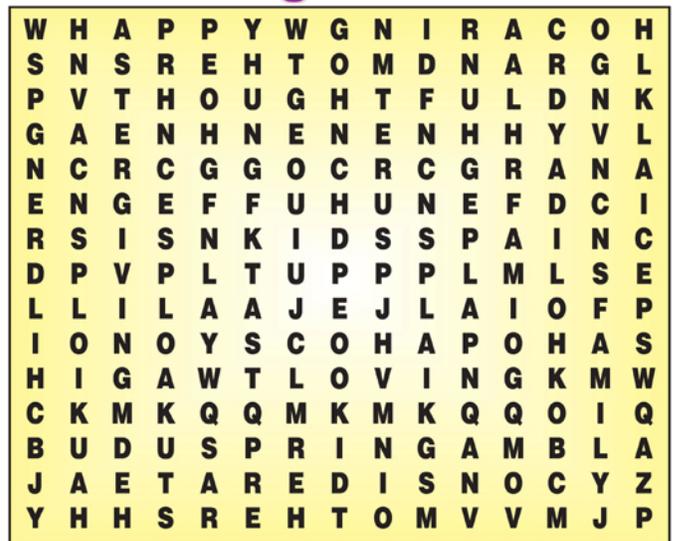
For Icing:

- 1/4 c. milk
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 2 Tbsp. butter

Directions:

Mix first 4 ingredients. Then add eggs, oil, and sour cream. Pour the batter into a 9X13 inch greased pan. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon. Spread mixture on top with a butter knife, swirling it into the top of the batter. Bake at 325 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes and then let cool. Mix the icing ingredients in a separate bowl and add it to the top of the cake. Served well with strong black coffee. Enjoy! Create 2 layers from each cake by slicing them in half horizontally. Wash strawberries, remove stems, and cut berries in half. Mix with sugar and refrigerate for at least 1 hour while juices develop. Assemble the tower in layers, starting with cake, strawberry mixture, and whipped cream. Repeat layers. Top with a couple of whole strawberries as a garnish.

Happy Mother's Day Word Search



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Mothers | 6. Holiday | 11. Respect | 16. Giving |
| 2. Day | 7. Loving | 12. Thoughtful | 17. Special |
| 3. Moms | 8. Caring | 13. Family | 18. Happy |
| 4. Kids | 9. Children | 14. Considerate | 19. May |
| 5. Parent | 10. Grandmother | 15. Honor | 20. Spring |



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DO PEOPLE LOOK LIKE THEIR DOGS?

By Kim Pettit

As many of you know, I spend a lot of time working in my front yard. I get to see and talk with neighbors while I do my work. I know some of my neighbors by knowing their dogs. For example, if I see Zeva I know her entourage will be close behind - one on foot; the other on his bike. Sometimes, I see Allison with her gang (Cinco, Zoe, Harley). Watching her holding their leashes and getting pulled by them reminds me of the chariot race scene in the movie "Ben Hur."



I am not saying that the folks mentioned above look like their dogs, but seeing people with their dogs made me recall a commercial from years ago about people resembling their dogs. I remember one - I think it was a hair commercial that had a lovely tall blond woman with her long silky hair blowing in the wind and her long-haired dog - I think it was an Afghan hound, maybe a collie - with its fur doing the same. Well having an inquiring mind as I do, I had to research if people really do look like their dogs. Believe it or not, there have been studies about this.

Although similar studies were done in the early 2000s in the United States and Venezuela, the most notable one was done in 2009 by psychologist Sadahiko Nakajima at Japan's Kwansai Gakuin University. His study showed there is empirical evidence to support not just the notion that humans and their pet dogs look alike, but also why. The results of the study, done in two parts with 502 undergraduate students, showed that people can correctly match owners and their dogs at statistically significant levels.

In the first experiment using only two sheets of photographs of Japanese men and women ages 20-60 and dogs, with one sheet showing pictures of true dog-human pairs and the other sheet containing pictures of random people and dogs, the students correctly identified the dog and its owner with an 80% accuracy rate.

In the second experiment conducted in 2013, Nakajima wanted to find out why people looked like their dogs. Was there a specific facial feature that was the basis for the dog-human resemblance? He used one sheet that contained actual dog-owner pairs. He modified other sheets of photographs by masking them in four ways: blacking out the owner's mouth on one sheet, covering the human eyes on another sheet, covering the dog eyes on the third sheet, and one showing

only the eyes of both the humans and their dog pair on the fourth sheet. The students were asked to select the dog-owner pairs that physically resembled each other.

Just as in the first experiment, the correct identification rate was 80% when the participants were shown complete pictures of the dog-owner pairs. However, that rate dropped to 72% when the owner's mouths were covered and dropped even lower - to 50% - when either the humans' eyes or the dogs' eyes were masked. When they were shown only the eyes of the humans and the dogs, the rate jumped to 74%. Nakajima concluded that the eyes establish the resemblance between humans and their dogs. The results of his second experiment were published in 2015 in the journal *Anthrozoos*.

Nakajima told The Huffington Post that "a major reason of the dog-owner facial resemblance is the so-called 'mere exposure effect,' or the idea that a person would pick a dog because of a preference for the familiar.

Gerrard Gethings is a famous photographer of animals. You can find pictures of people and dogs who look alike at <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/similarities-of-dogs-humans-gerrard-gethings>.

By the way, April 20th was National Look-Alike Day which honors those who have a striking resemblance to another person. I guess it applies to dogs, too.

I wonder what cats think about all this.

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North Central Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Association (NCTONA)

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Dues: \$25

Calendar year January 1 to December 31

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Cell: _____

(The above information will ONLY be used for NCTONA business and will not be shared.)

- I am a New Member
- I am renewing my membership

Other ways to renew:

Mail: P.O. Box 701321, San Antonio, TX 78270

Give payments to Block Captain

*Checks payable to NCTONA

Please Check any areas of NCTONA operations that you would be interested in helping with.

- Block Connector
- Neighborhood Appearance
- Communication
- Newsletter
- Welcoming and Membership
- Zoning
- Neighborhood Safety
- Special Events
- Preschool Play Groups
- Lunch Bunch
- Community Gardening
- Yard Sale
- Book Club
- Yard of the month
- Star Watching
- Quilting/Knitting
- Music
- Walking
- Other: _____