

October 2020

# Shavano

A publication exclusively for the residents of Shavano Park

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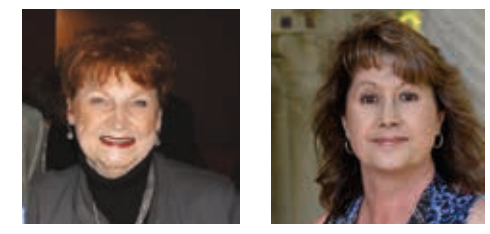
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If you'd like to connect with your Shavano neighbors, **Shavano Living** may be your answer. Contact Terry Kemmy, Publisher, at **210-844-1542** for details. Or email [terry.kemmy@n2pub.com](mailto:terry.kemmy@n2pub.com).



*Dear Friends,*

During these challenging times, many of us have been forced out of our normal routines, out of our comfort zones. It's a stressful time indeed, but I optimistically believe better days are ahead for all of us. Now more than ever, we should be thankful for the blessings we have in our lives ... like our neighbors and friends of this great community of Shavano Park.

We hope that this publication reminds you of the importance of connecting with others, whether through a Zoom call or through the pages of **Shavano Living**. We hope you can relax and enjoy this issue, which includes:

- ... **Nia** and **Cedric Evans**, and their family, who relocated here from the Greater Washington, D.C., area last year
- ... **Jamie Blair** and an update on local youth sports programs
- ... longtime Shavano Park resident **Pat Moore**
- ... a fun social evening at The Stray Grape Urban Winery
- ... hard-working neighbors, **Jesus** and **Elena Calderon**, owners of the awesome Mexican restaurant, Abuela's
- ... and more.

If you have something to share with us, please contact me, or any of the **Shavano Living** staff located in the front of the magazine. We'd love to hear from you. *And if you own a business and want other neighbors to know more about you, let me know as well.*

Best Regards,  
**Terry Kemmy**  
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By Amy Zink



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## financial fitness

By Jennifer Scroggins

# GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE



So, the world ended a few months back, and so did my desire to stay fit. I mean, I've roamed this earth for half a century now, and my "MD" informed me about a year ago that I should just burn more calories than what I take in. He said THAT would keep me in check with my slowing metabolism. Well yeah, duh! I've always done that, but my body isn't responding the same anymore. Yes, the dreaded "Meno" chapter is setting in.

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So, I started working with a trainer. He looked at where I was and what my goals were and developed an exercise plan for me. Soon I was feeling absolutely fab ... and then well, about Valentine's Day, the world stopped turning. The "Virus" began interrupting my daily life. After four months, I finally decided I had to venture out. But not by really going out ...

I invited my trainer to come to the house instead. On the day he was to arrive, I suddenly thought, "Oh, goodness, what have I done?" He'll be in my space. He can see how I live, what I eat. At that moment, I was completely vulnerable. I was actually embarrassed. What will he see? Will he see how I've slacked off? Will he notice the Nutter Butters and Oreos sitting out on the counter? Probably! But I realized if I wanted to accomplish my goals, I had to get out of my comfort zone and let him in. Then I started thinking ...

That's how many people must feel when they meet with me. That same vulnerability. It can be scary or maybe even embarrassing. But it shouldn't be. Yes, you are financially "undressing" in front of me. But how do we really know what to work on until we open up and trust someone with our goals, dreams, and, yes, even our fears?

Seeing people like me might be painful. I get it. But it's been long enough. It's time to venture out! Get out of your comfort zone! Speak to an advisor with the experience to help guide you through these unusual times. Let her see your financial situation and create a plan for you. Let her into your space, as uncomfortable as it may feel. If not for yourself, do it for your loved ones and the legacy you want to leave them some day. And don't feel ashamed to share the fact that secretly ... you love your Oreos!

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# meet the **Evans Family** featured family

By Nia Evans

*Friendly, interesting, and substantive people. Beautiful parks and mature trees. Homes (modest and extravagant alike) that ooze pride of ownership. Great NISD schools and proximity to just about everything in San Antonio. Access to commerce and resources to serve and protect such as the fire and police departments. These are just a few of the things that drew our family to beautiful Shavano Park in 2019. We are the Evans family and it's a blessing to call this place home with all of you.*

Our family relocated to Shavano Park from the Greater Washington, D.C., area in late June 2019 after I accepted a leadership role to serve as Vice President for a large company here in San Antonio. As part of the corporate relocation process, we explored many San Antonio neighborhoods. Shavano Park emerged as the top choice pretty quickly. There is a spirit of excellence and progress that exists without arrogance or pretense. We absolutely love that energy.

Cedric and I both grew up in South Florida. We first met as friends in undergraduate school at the University of Florida (Go Gators!), and we were “coincidentally” reunited at the Atlanta airport a few years after graduation. Several years passed before we started dating. I like to say he was stalking me (he sees it differently), and thank goodness he did! After enjoying a successful college and pro football career, Cedric developed his next career as a web developer who specializes in UI/UX design. He has been working in this field since 1998 when he first joined CNN.com in Atlanta. Since then, he's established an impressive portfolio of digital assets for large and small companies in the government and private sectors. Fortunately, he was willing to leave the Northeast region and

follow his wife to San Antonio to begin anew! He keeps busy with a fulfilling career and staying involved with sports — though it's been a while since he raced Joshua, and won.

After graduating from UF, I launched a career in public relations and journalism. I still enjoy writing and editing, and I'm grateful to have been recently appointed to the University of Florida ABA Board as Vice President of Communications (back to my first love!). Over the years, I earned my MBA while working for the consumer film company, Kodak. Later, I transitioned into a strategic marketing and product management career at companies like GE Capital and Capital One bank before transitioning to San Antonio. Ironically, my new role was recently eliminated in the midst of the current recession, and it's time to start another new chapter. I plan to continue networking, explore entrepreneurial opportunities, and I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in Leadership Studies. I also look forward to becoming deeply involved in community outreach and helping organizations like Impact San Antonio to support non-profit groups that are truly making a difference. Faith is important to our family and we believe God called us to Texas for a divine purpose. We are working to better understand His perfect plan!

Cedric and I are blessed to have two clever and kind kids who were born in Atlanta and are approximately 18 months apart: Joshua is 15 and Imani is 16.

Imani (whose name means “Faith” and is of Swahili origin) is a senior and excited to be part of the graduating class of 2021 at Clark High School. Despite COVID-19 and the disruption of relocating in

the middle of high school, Imani worked hard to focus and finished with straight A's in all of her AP and Honors classes. She is a member of the National Honor Society, HOSA, NAACP Youth Council, and serves as an officer and student mentor/tutor for San Antonio's NSBE Jr. Chapter. She enjoys volunteering with SAMMinistries as well as singing, reading, and poking fun at Joshua as much as possible. She's excited about the prospect of going to college soon and has a pretty long list of schools to pare down quickly.

Joshua turned 15 in July. He completed the 8th grade while attending Cornerstone Christian School and is excited about getting off to a great start in high school. Joshua is also a great student and athlete — football and basketball are his favorite sports along with track and field. At just 15, Joshua stands tall at 6'4” tall and wears a size 13 sneaker. We're not sure when he's going to stop growing, but we're grateful that he's healthy and committed to ensuring that our pantry is always near-empty. In addition to excelling in academics and sports, Joshua is also an active member of SASO (Scholars & Athletes Serving Others) San Antonio Chapter, NSBE Jr. Chapter, and the NAACP Youth Council.

We also have two pooches in our family: an 18-pound cockapoo named Marley, and a 118-pound bullmastiff named Jax. They are an unlikely pair of best buds that keep us laughing (and cleaning). Most of our family traditions center around traveling home to Florida for the holidays, and some silly ones include wearing matching holiday pajamas (complete with flannel footing and drop seats). The kids will love that I shared that one.

In addition to playing with the dogs or shooting hoops in the yard, we enjoy swimming together and walking the community to stretch and combat cabin fever. We've also gotten used to working out at home to stay active and (relatively) fit. We have

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met several neighbors and eventually look forward to continuing to get to know everyone better.

In terms of other hobbies and interests, Imani has recently taken up calligraphy – she’s a natural and hands-down has the best handwriting in our home. Cedric is constantly learning new skills in his profession since code changes so rapidly. I was inspired by the move to Shavano Park to begin learning tennis (shout out to Coach Mike and Soeurette for introducing the Shavano Park Tennis Club to our community). As for Joshua ... his favorite “do nothing box” pastime is specifically Fortnite. Truthfully, he enjoys anything that resembles gaming with friends, which we don’t mind so much anymore since they don’t get to visit often these days.

Even though we’ve traveled extensively together, some of our family’s most memorable moments lately have included the small “come together” moments. It’s simple activities like making dinner, playing cards, or cleaning the house that we’ve come to genuinely appreciate (the last example may reflect an opinion of one). As painful and difficult as the past several months have been, there is joy in knowing that we are becoming more mindful. Learning to put our devices down to really see each other. We’re slowing down and getting to know each other instead of rushing to the next appointment or event. We’re having difficult conversations about the pandemic and staying healthy and systemic racism and privilege-driven bias, which exists in many forms. We are listening to each other. We’re working hard to push past our own perceptions so that we can be open to other ideas, learning to be contrarian thinkers. We are engaging and educating and enlisting friends, family members, and colleagues to join in on these important conversations. These conversations must lead to the hard work of healing and hope. Action and accountability, compassion and connectedness. This is my prayer for our family, our community, our nation.

In honor of the progress and historic moments we’ve all witnessed this year, I want to share another personal sentiment. For the most part, we have felt welcomed here in this beautiful city. Most neighbors are warm and friendly, but not everyone fits that bill. We worry about our son. We’re grateful for friends who are officers and things like the Shavano Park Roadrunner identifier to, hopefully, indicate that he’s a resident if he were ever pulled over. We received our first communication@i-info.com email from the City of Shavano Park during the height of the social unrest this summer, which reiterated top priorities to increase security awareness and “keep the residents, businesses and government infrastructure of the City of Shavano Park safe.” The note told readers that our Shavano Park Police Department, as part of its ongoing training efforts, planned to undergo joint crowd control training with several other law enforcement agencies and the Bexar County Sheriff’s Department.

This focus on preparedness was useful for us to hear as new residents of Shavano Park, yet we are hoping in the near future our Shavano Park Police, in addition to keeping its citizens safe, will also address not tolerating hate crimes nor racism nor police brutality.

After researching shavanopark.org and reading about the Department’s core values like Integrity and Fairness, I believe this implies that our Shavano Park Police force stands with all of the increasingly diverse citizens and business owners of this great city. Since Courage is also one of those core values, here’s a loving nudge from a new resident: let’s cultivate a safe space and progressive culture to learn something new about each other here at home, in Shavano Park.



**Call to Action: Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue!** Email us at [terry.kemmy@n2pub.com](mailto:terry.kemmy@n2pub.com).



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# CAR CARE CORNER

By Rusty Belden

Hi, Rusty Belden for our family here at Belden's Automotive & Tires. Most drivers are great at remembering to keep up with changing their vehicle's oil, but very few keep other maintenance items in good working order. These items include such services as brake fluid, transmission fluid, engine coolant, and other important items. Most vehicles today will keep running even if a maintenance item is needed, so with everyone's busy schedule, it becomes easily forgotten.

Luckily, with oil change services, drivers are reminded about their air filter, and with annual state-required inspections, driv-

ers also get reminded about their windshield wipers. If a vehicle is not brought in for a service, little else can be maintained until it becomes too late. Here are a few maintenance items that are most likely to be overlooked:

- **Brake fluid:** Fluid in your brakes can absorb moisture over time, making the level look fine but rusting out the system. The owner's manual can guide you when to have the fluid replaced but if it is not specified, we recommend every two years or 30,000 miles.
- **Battery:** Most often "maintenance-free," but drivers should still periodically have technicians remove any corrosion that builds upon the terminals.
- **Transmission Fluid:** Fluid for your transmission should generally be bright red; any other color is an indication that there may be a problem. Generally, transmission fluid should be serviced every two years or 30,000 miles.
- **Engine Coolant:** Fluid for your engine's coolant is usually red, green, blue, or yellow. If it looks colorless, rusty, or has things floating around, it is an indication that your fluid must be serviced. Generally, engine coolant should also be serviced every two years or 30,000 miles.
- **Timing Belt:** Should be changed per the driver's owner's manual. If this is overlooked, it may cause the belt to break or snap, leaving the car stranded and could even cause catastrophic failure of the vehicle's engine.

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# YOUTH SPORTS COMING BACK

## Bigger and Better than Before



**athlete** By **Jamie Blair**, Shavano Park Resident, Owner of Force Sports Center

Some might say the world stopped on Wednesday, March 18. Others may say their world came to an end. The youth sports industry would tell you both. In a matter of a couple of days, **everyone's** world came to a stop and there was nothing anyone could do about it.

In an industry that has historically been recession-proof and where "keeping up with the Joneses" is status quo, youth sports saw just that.

Until May 18, when most indoor sport "workouts" were allowed to resume, life was simple ... too simple. My wife and I run an indoor sports and recreation center here in San Antonio, based around USAV club volleyball and AAU basketball practices and tournaments. We keep very close contact with some local volleyball, basketball, soccer and baseball clubs around town as well and all have had the same quandary: how do you pick up the pieces from a lost club season and salvage your reputation, your finances, and your service, yet still move forward and restore your customer base's faith in you?

Many restrictions have changed the outlook of the youth sports industry. Since May 18 when phase two of re-opening took place, most places you go for any of these activities will have safety

precautions in place like public restrooms and concession stands being closed, individual waters required for athletes, temperature checks on the way in, masks upon entry and exit (masks optional ONLY during participation/working out), social distancing, equipment cleaned regularly throughout each day, and hand sanitizer on the way in and out.

The reality is that our world thrives on competition and sports (not always at the same time). During the shutdown, the lack of both of these in everyone's lives affected everyone differently. We have seen a drastic increase in depression in youth since March 18 and there has been an indirect increase in childhood obesity over the last five months as well. Once competition and sports were taken away from society indefinitely, no one knew what to do.

I genuinely believe we are past the worst of this pandemic as it relates to business and the shutdown fears. Surely we will feel the effects of this for years to come, and there are still plenty who are uncomfortable going out in public, but it seems our world has been able to find a counterbalance to mitigating health risks and mitigating the need for social/physical interaction and competition. Sports are starting up again and places like our sports and recreation center are busier than we were at this time last year. We expect this might revert as school starts up again, but there is one

thing we have learned: private sports (aka, Youth Sports Industry) have thrived since the re-opening due to government regulation and power over the extracurricular activities within schools.

The private youth sports industry has seen a drastic increase in registrations and participation in the last three months, simply because middle school and high school sports may offer limited options in the short-term future. We could potentially see an industry shift of sports participation into the private sector in the coming years because of these restrictions and I think the sole benefactor is the youth of society. While education is always the number one

priority, private sports, I believe, will become a close number two priority over school sports.

As this new world learns to coexist with this pandemic, I believe we will see these youth sports competitions come back in the same form, but with new looks.

Precautions as listed above will be implemented and it wouldn't surprise me if we saw this as our new normal for years to come. As we continue to

navigate these uncharted waters together, please be more respectful of others for potentially putting themselves in harm's way by participating in these sports again and reappearing in public. For many, the risk of sickness is much lower than the risk of mental and/or physical well-being and it's a no brainer. Social interaction is key for not just youth, but adults as well.

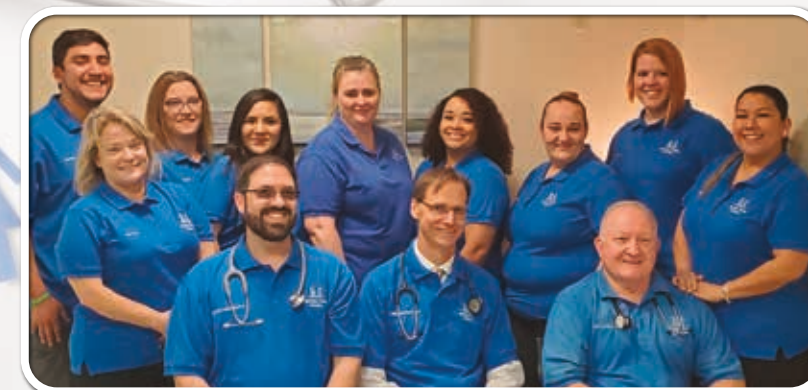


**Call to Action: Hey kids – do you want to be the superstar of the neighborhood?** All you have to do is ask your parents to email [terry.kemmy@n2pub.com](mailto:terry.kemmy@n2pub.com) and answer some questions in order to be featured in the next available issue!

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Client: Shavano Park Business Page  
Size: Full  
Location: Standard

## meet your neighbors

By Ann Gonsalves

# Pat Moore



Residents of Shavano Park since 1966, the Moores moved here with their three sons and wanted more space. “We noticed Mr. Rodgers and Sons had cut (two) new streets west of Northwest Military. We soon started narrowing the choice of lots. Elm Spring and Broken Bough were both to be cul-de-sac streets with an easement to which a street was planned to connect them ... (We) paid off the lot and could then start to build the home of our dreams,” states Pat.

Finding a good location to raise a family was important, too. Pat continues, “Shavano Park was the ideal place for (three) sons.” She was a member of PTA and PALS, always supporting them in school. She was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, and moved to San Antonio where she attended several different schools while growing up: Ursuline Academy, St. Anthony, Mark Twain Middle school, and then graduated from Jefferson High School. Pat says, “Going to so many schools opened a multitude of different friends. Many are good friends today. I have many happy memories from each of the schools.” Moore married a year after graduation and attended San Antonio College for two years. She began work at USAA, when it was located next to Ft. Sam.

After working in a CPA office, she realized she rarely saw people and wanted more social contact, so Pat became a real estate agent in 1979 and joined Bradfield Properties. She worked with ReMax 12 years and then rejoined Bradfield and worked until retirement in 2013.

Pat admits she didn’t inherit the “athletic” gene like her sons and husband but has found several other interests and hobbies to enjoy along the way. She has belonged to multiple clubs through the years: The Conservation Society, church groups, Shavano Park Bunco Club (still meeting after 52 years), and the Shavano Park Women’s Club.

Moore loves collecting antiques and traveling. “I traveled to London, England, in 2005 to participate in the New Year’s Day Parade. Queen Elizabeth is a Red Hatter Member and over 2,000 Red Hatters in the USA were invited.” Pat actually started the first Red Hatters Club in San Antonio! She has cruised to Canada and traveled to Portugal, Spain, France, many places in the U.S. and is still hoping to travel more when the virus goes away.

She still doesn’t find it hard to remain active. “Staying active is not hard to do, if you are digging around in closets finding all these things you planned and were ‘gonna’ do some day ... now is the time for me!”

Pat shares her advice regarding retirement. **“For your retirement, you cannot start your plan too early. Sacrifice puts you in a position to carry out your ‘Bucket List.’”**

She mentioned that her birthday is October 21 so if you see Pat in the neighborhood, wish her a Happy Birthday!



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# Pinspiration

## WHERE COMMUNITY MEETS CREATIVITY

### artfully living

By Ann Gonsalves

“There is a story behind every craft that you create, whether it is to match home décor, show support for your children and their activities, or memorialize events in your life,” states Christine Mahr, owner of the Pinspiration studio. The new Pinspiration studio is located at 4000 Pond Hill, Suite 207, in Shavano Park. Pinspiration is more than crafts, it’s a place of expression.

Owners Christine and her husband, Andy, have been in the marketing, advertising, and design business for over 25 years. Christine has a creative side and has been making crafts for decades. She has a BBA in marketing from SMU. She and her husband moved from Dallas, where she was at The Richards Group advertising agency, to San Antonio, where she was at H-E-B as a Director of Advertising and Production for over a decade. “I wanted to own my own business and wanted to do something else that was creative,” states Christine. A friend saw an ad on Facebook for a Pinspiration franchise and told her about it. So, she gave it a try!

Pinspiration is an open studio, allowing customers to create craft projects. String art, wood cutouts to paint and decorate, paintings, acrylic pours, wood signage, soy-scented candles, and pillowcases are all part of the offerings. There is a whole wall of shelving containing beads, sequins, glitter, corks, acrylic paints, buttons, flowers, butterflies, acorns, shells, colored gravel, leaves, sand, and even coffee beans you can use on whatever craft you choose. The walls are filled with completed project samples on display to inspire guests. Best of all, whether you’re young or old, skilled at crafting or a beginner, there’s something for everyone, and everyone who comes to the studio can make what they want. Guests don’t have to do the same craft as others. There are no classes, so you can come when it’s convenient for you.

Staffed by Muses, they are there to help show examples, help with instruction, and check with guests giving them tips and techniques to create their piece of art. There are endless craft options and the

studio has an electric atmosphere that unleashes creativity so guests can have an experience like no other place in San Antonio. It inspires people to feel comfortable and confident, making things they see online at Pinterest that they just haven’t worked up the courage to try (or to buy all the materials for). In addition, there is a Jackson Pollock inspired Splatter Room™ and new crafts are introduced each season.

You can participate on your own, with a friend, or in a group. It’s great for birthday parties, playdates, date nights, baby or bridal showers, gender reveals, bachelorette parties, team events, and corporate team building. For those wanting to craft at home, Christine can provide some DIY (Do It Yourself) kits that can be ordered and picked up. For a take-home kit, email [sanantonio@pinspiration.com](mailto:sanantonio@pinspiration.com). You can visit the website [www.pinspiration.com/sanantonio](http://www.pinspiration.com/sanantonio) to book a craft or the Splatter Room or feel free to call 210-474-0844. There are also gift cards available for purchase so you can give the crafting experience to someone else.

In addition, beverages and snacks are served from the kitchen for customers to enjoy while creating. “Ages 5 to 105 will enjoy the experience,” adds Christine. Pinspiration has something that everyone can do. “I’m really not kidding when I say, EVERYONE!”

So, whether you’re a beginner or a crafting expert, young or old, male or female, there is a craft and experience waiting for you!



**Call to Action: Is there a budding artist in your family, young or old?** A musician, dancer, actor, performer? We’d love to hear from you. Contact Terry Kemmy at [terry.kemmy@n2pub.com](mailto:terry.kemmy@n2pub.com), or call 210-844-1542.



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# THE *wine cellar*

By **Jamie Blair**,  
Shavano Park Resident

Thanksgiving usually conjures up visions of a feast! If you are planning to host the family or friends for a dinner party OR going to join family and want to provide great wines to enjoy, we have lots of recommendations! Remember that this meal can work with many different wines, so bringing a variety is a good plan to please the many palates that might be joining you.

When considering what type of wine to serve with different menus for Thanksgiving, consider the concepts below:

**Chardonnay** is a great, everyday wine. But it can be too buttery/oaky and intense to be among our best Thanksgiving wine picks (unless you opt for unoaked Naked Chardonnay). Instead, you might want to try white wines that are refreshing, tangy, and fruity, to pair with the lighter Thanksgiving salads and sides. Suggestions include:

- **Washington Riesling.** This off dry Riesling is fruity but it's lower in sugars so it has the tang that will work with salads as well as a great pairing with turkey or ham.

- **German Gewurztraminer.** For a sweeter choice, our German Gewurztraminer will delight those who tend toward sweet wines as their favorites.
- **Rosé** is the "Bomb." Hop on the trend for a Thanksgiving wine that will rack up those likes. Crisp, light, and fruity, this lovely light pink wine might be the ideal Thanksgiving wine to accompany a heavy holiday meal. Serve it chilled. We have a **Chilean Rose** that is crisp and tart, and a **French Rose** with light sweetness like Viognier or Riesling. The blush in the rose brings with it a slightly higher flavor profile that our whites, so for those who can't taste much in a white wine, Rose may be just what the doctor ordered.

Yes, you can serve red wine with turkey. BUT you may not want to serve Cabernet because it is generally too tart and high in tannins to match well with turkey. But you can serve a lighter red with moderate acidity to cut through the richness. The light berry brightness of red wine for Thanksgiving contrasts well with the heartiness of the classic menu.

- **Pinot Noir:** Younger wines are fruity with the essence of plums, strawberries, cherries, and raspberries. Our **Sonoma Pinot Noir** is more intense and dryer than the **Chilean Pinot Noir**, which brings more fruit flavors with it, so pick the Pinot that fits your taste best.
- **Zinfandel:** Lots of intense, plummy, jammy flavors with spicy or peppery notes bring good contrast to turkey but compliment the spiciness of pork dishes we might see at Thanksgiving.

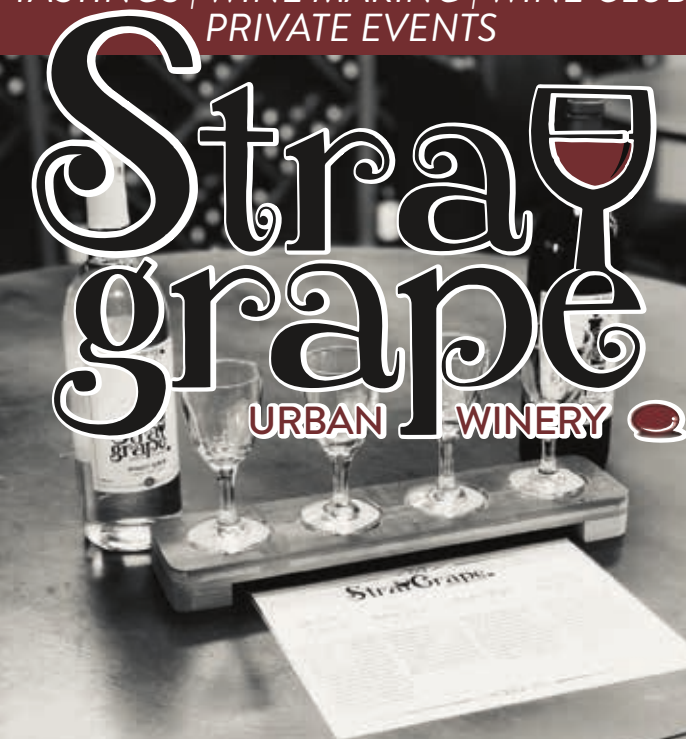
Of course, if you are serving up some big red meats like prime rib, or brisket, then bring out the Cabernets with their wonderful tannins.

- **Super Tuscan Rosso** pairs great with any meat seasoned and cooked outside on the grill for those looking for an alternative to the normal "Thanksgiving Fare."
- **Rattlesnake Cab/Shiraz** will also be wonderful pairings for your red meats, consisting of bold flavors and the ability to bring out the smoky flavor of the meal!

As you can see, there are a ton of options for you to become a "Wine Connoisseur" over Thanksgiving! We would love to see you stop by and see us in October/November here at the Stray Grape! Any of us can give you suggestions on what to pair with food if you need some additional options (especially for those needing a wider selection of wines for guests). We have all of the above wine suggestions available for purchase and would love to see you SHOP LOCAL!

Happy Thanksgiving and CHEERS!

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# Tax-Free Education: *A Study Guide*

Online options for schools have exploded in the wake of the pandemic. If you're looking to expand your mind as you finish out your quarantine year, consider heading back to the virtual classroom. Or perhaps you've been hoping to help a family member with their education expenses. Each one of these non-traditional learning routes can come with tax benefits.

**For Your Career:** Ready to hit the books again? It's a great way to upskill or refresh your expertise. There are several ways to fund these pursuits: You may be able to pull tax-free dollars from an IRA or a state 529 plan, and there are tax credits available through the American opportunity tax credit (AOTC) and the lifetime learning credit (LLC). But you might need to jump through some hoops to qualify for each. For example, the educational expenses must be paid to a qualified educational institution 1) for the purpose of getting a degree or other recognized education credential, or 2) to get or improve job skills. You also need to choose which credit to take — AOTC or LLC — because double benefits aren't allowed.

**For Yourself:** An increasing number of adults and retirees are heading back to school to learn about subjects that interest them or to immerse themselves in hobbies and interests. These types of endeavors don't usually qualify for the IRS allowances and credits listed above. However, colleges and universities often offer reduced-price or even free classes for those of retirement age. And remember that if your hobby or interest makes money — you're selling baked goods regularly or have backorders for homemade furniture, for instance — you may want to consider turning it into a tax-advantaged business, which can help convert those casual education expenses back into tax deductions.

**For Your Family:** Education is a huge expense for many young families, which means some grandparents want to help out however they can. The IRS is on board with many of the same allowances we list above. AOTC or LLC credits usually aren't given unless the child is your dependent, but you may still be able to take tax-free distributions of retirement funds or contribute to and/or distribute from 529 education funds for child and grandchild education expenses. And you might not even want to wait until college to start helping out. Right now, the federal government and the State of Texas allow 529 savings plan funds to be used for private K-12 tuition as well (but beware: some states outside of Texas will penalize you).



The IRS offers a resource center with more information about education credits. Search "IRS Benefits for Education" online to find it. You can also complete a quick online questionnaire through the IRS Interactive Tax Assistant to help determine tax credit eligibility, which is available at [irs.gov/help/ita](https://irs.gov/help/ita).

A lifelong pursuit of knowledge is a beautiful thing. Make those dollars you spend on education go as far as possible.

*Steven Bankler has more than 43 years of experience in the accounting industry. Steven's expertise lies in consulting, planning, tax, and asset protection as well as exit strategy services for closely-held businesses. He also provides litigation support (both as a testifying expert witness and a consulting expert), business negotiations, and estate planning. Visit [www.bankler.com](http://www.bankler.com) for additional tax strategy tips and to learn more about Steven Bankler, CPA, Ltd.*

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# Stray Grape social wine social



Shavano Park neighbors and friends were treated to a new wine experience recently at The Stray Grape Urban Winery, located in the shopping center at San Pedro and Thousand Oaks.

The Stray Grape was started in 2008 as a Water 2 Wine Franchise by the three Burke sisters. In 2012, they bought the naming rights and the business, and made what the Stray Grape is today! With new ownership taking over on January 1, 2019, the longtime urban winery will continue to uphold the legacy the sisters began:

***Good wine, good times, and good friends.***

Autumn Kane and Karen Cahill, along with Shavano Park neighbors Ashley and Jamie Blair are striving to continue to grow the business in innovative ways while keeping the same character and local charm that has made “The Grape” so popular! All four are self-proclaimed wine connoisseurs and enjoy the opportunity to see what their customers are looking for.

The urban winery concept means that you don’t need to travel to visit wineries and taste wines from around the world; The Stray Grape Urban Winery brings international wines and the winemaking experience to you, right here in San Antonio. They make over 50 different wines with grapes sourced from ten different countries, here on-premise and they are all open and available for tasting.

Breakaway from your routine of searching the grocery store shelves for a good looking label and instead come join in the fun and unique experience of tasting for yourself with the opportunity of making your own superb wine with your very own personal label.

Thanks, Jamie, Ashley, Autumn, and Karen for being such gracious hosts!

DISCLAIMER: The business reviewed in this section provided products and/or services free of charge in exchange for this review.

 **Call to Action: If you'd like to receive an invite to future Shavano Park social events, please contact Terry Kemmy at [terry.kemmy@n2pub.com](mailto:terry.kemmy@n2pub.com).**



Ashley and Jamie Blair



Client: Younique Designs  
Size: 1/2  
Location: Standard



# Abuela's Mexican Restaurant

## JESUS AND ELENA CALDERON



### resident business spotlight

By Christa Trippy

Abuela's Mexican Restaurant, located at 2313 NW Military Hwy. in the Hunter's Hill Shopping Plaza, is owned by Shavano Park neighbors Jesus and Elena Calderon. They have been residents of Shavano Park for the past three years, having moved here to be closer to their family business. They love the neighborhood and the people in it, stating, "The rural setting is very tranquil, and the neighbors are wonderful."

Jesus and Elena were born in Mexico, where each learned to cook from their grandparents. Jesus is originally from the state of Coahuila and Elena from the state of Jalisco. They met in San Antonio in 1989 and were married the same year. Jesus and Elena have three sons: Jesus, Daniel, and Edgar, who are all involved in the family's restaurant. The oldest son, Jesus, is married and has recently added a new member to the Calderon family – the first grandson, Luca! Along with his own career, their son, Jesus, is also responsible for transporting supplies and filling in whenever necessary. The second son, Daniel, manages the day-to-day operations of Abuela's Mexican Restaurant. The youngest son, Edgar, is currently attending UTSA and majoring in civil engineering. He helps out by working at Abuela's on the weekends.

Jesus and Elena always dreamed of owning their own family restaurant, which they opened in 2014. Both gained experience for their restaurant



through their prior job experiences. Before opening Abuela's, Jesus worked at HEB in the produce department for 10-plus years and Elena worked as a waitress at another Mexican restaurant.

When asked what sets Abuela's apart from other restaurants, the family says that it is a true family business. Daniel adds, "We view each of our customers as a part of the family." The food served is made from recipes that Jesus' and Elena's grandparents would use back in Mexico. Their most popular dishes are the Carne con chili plate and the Carne guisada plate. Shavano Park resident Lee Matecko tells us, "I highly recommend the Carne guisada tacos. Jesus trims the meat himself – it is quality stuff." Another popular dish is their chile Relleno plate that is served fresh every Tuesday. The handmade corn and flour tortillas make a visit to their restaurant a must. Their Barbacoa is some of the best in San Antonio and, although it is only served on Saturdays and Sundays, it is worth the wait.

The advice Jesus and Elena would share with others is to believe in yourself, and with hard work and a positive outlook, you can achieve your dreams. The Calderon family is a wonderful example of an American dream come true!



Jesus and Elena Calderon

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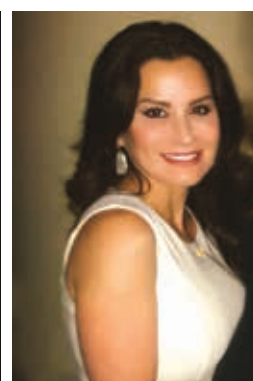
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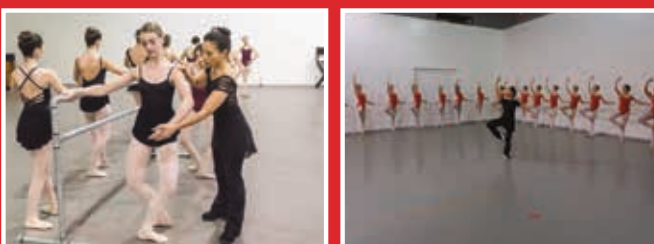


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making a difference

By Ann Gonsalves

# Amanda Mitchell, R.N. SACRIFICING TO HELP OTHERS



"I became a nurse to equip myself with the skills and knowledge to help others, which has served me well throughout my career. When the COVID-19 outbreak slammed the United States, I knew immediately that I had to help. The devastation this virus brings is something I have not

seen in my career," states Amanda Mitchell, registered nurse. She is a travel nurse, who was sent to Jersey City, NJ, to help medical staff there.

She continues, "I have multiple friends that were already working in 'hot zones' when the coronavirus hit. To say they were overwhelmed is a massive understatement. At that point, all I had heard were stories from fellow RNs and MDs of how bad the situations in ICUs really are."

Mitchell relates that normally ICU nurses have two patients assigned. With the COVID-19 outbreak, the patients are sick enough to qualify for a 1:1 ratio, but due to the overwhelming number of patients, the units are running with three to four patients to one nurse.

"The weekend before I got up to Jersey City, my preceptor had four patients, and three of those patients 'expired' and were quickly replaced with even sicker patients. These nurses are truly superheroes. There is absolutely no way you can prepare yourself for what they have been dealing with and, thankfully, it's slowing down a bit."

Amanda graduated from Clark High School and attended Texas Tech University. She is the daughter of Jackie and Wiley Mitchell, residents of Shavano Park. After changing majors multiple times, she came back to Shavano Park.

"One of my friends had recently enrolled in nursing school and told me all about it and how she was really enjoying it and how challenging it was." Mitchell was able to shadow a nurse at the University Hospital Emergency Room and enjoyed it. "I knew I had found my calling and enrolled at the local Baptist School of Health Professions."

Amanda has had her own experience with receiving medical care as a patient, surviving a battle with colon cancer, even spending some time in the ICU. This experience motivated her to become an ICU RN, to "help others when they are at their most vulnerable." She ended up being hired in the Methodist Specialty and Transplant ICU, where she continued to learn every day. At that point, "(she) knew that (she) was ready to spread (her) wings and start (her) traveling nurse career," which just so happened to coincide with the start of the pandemic.

Mitchell states that she has never felt so fulfilled in her career. "This is WHY I got into nursing. My heart is filled with pride when I hear the clapping and cheering from the community for the medical staff daily at shift change." The staff was provided with meals, skincare products, gift cards to local coffee shops, etc.

Amanda finishes with this thought, "In the midst of all of this death and devastation, there is also such beauty in this community. I am amazed by the beauty of blooming cherry trees abundantly lining all of the streets here. People are out and about with their children and dogs while staying safe by maintaining distance and wearing face coverings. The chilly early morning sunrises over-looking the Hudson River and lower Manhattan remind me that we, as a country, have been knocked down before but with grit and determination were able to get up and rebuild. I am so very grateful that I am able to help in any way to defeat this awful virus and support the amazing nurses that are putting their lives on the line every day."



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sponsor spotlight

## STEVE'S PLUMBING IS UNITING WITH Shafer Services Plus

Eileen and Robi Jalnos

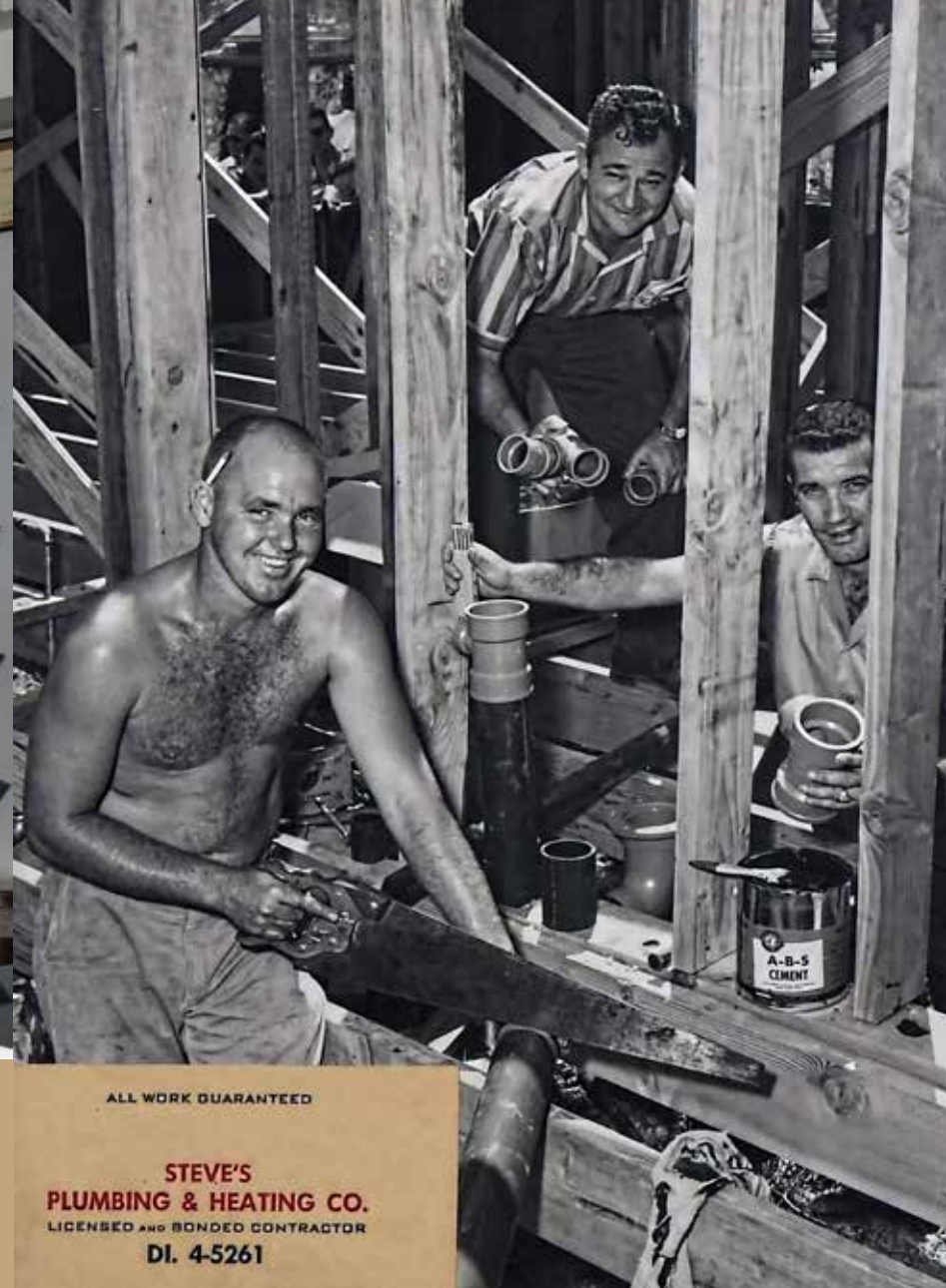
Two of San Antonio's oldest home services companies — Shafer Services Plus and Steve's Plumbing — are joining forces to become one of the area's largest and most experienced plumbing and HVAC businesses. The catalyst for this partnership is the upcoming retirement of Steve's Plumbing founder, Robi Jalnos, who has served San Antonio for more than 40 years. Robi started Steve's Plumbing out of his mother's garage in 1978, naming the business after his father, Stephan Jalnos, a Holocaust survivor and plumber who passed away when Robi was a young man.

Since then, Steve's Plumbing has grown to become one of San Antonio's premier plumbing contractors currently serving some 4,500 customers throughout the area. Robi has become a plumbing leader, not just locally but regionally, serving on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners where he was Chairman of the Examination, Medical Gas, Water Supply Protection Specialists, and Personnel Committees for seven years. Robi also serves as an expert witness on plumbing-related matters across the

country. He's considered a national plumbing expert in all aspects of plumbing installation and products, holding a Green Plumbers Certification and is an expert in solar water heating.

"For decades, our teams have had a mutual respect for one another's history, skills, and dedication to putting customers first — so you can imagine our delight in uniting to become San Antonio's preferred option in plumbing and HVAC services," said Chase Anderson, President, and CEO of Shafer Services Plus.

Shafer Services Plus is San Antonio's oldest plumbing company. They added HVAC services to their offerings upon the invention of air conditioning in the early 1900s. Since then, the Shafer team has built much of San Antonio's residential and commercial infrastructure including installing the first commercial air conditioning in a high-rise office building in the United States at San Antonio's own Milam Building in the heart of downtown. Today, Shafer serves more than 6,000 residential and commer-



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cial customers and is consistently rated among San Antonio's best plumbing and HVAC contractors.

In searching for a compatible plumbing partner, Robi Jalnos selected Shafer Services Plus because of the organization's knowledgeable team and commitment to putting customers first. Robi will be working with the united Steve's Plumbing and Shafer Services Plus teams for the next three years to assist in the transition.

"It has been my honor to serve San Antonio for the past 40 years," said Robi Jalnos, founder of Steve's Plumbing. "This has been more than a job for me. It's my life's work. That's why I wanted to partner with the Shafer Services Plus team to ensure that my employees and customers will continue to be cared for like family for generations to come."

Both Shafer Services Plus and Steve's Plumbing attribute their longevity to top-quality workmanship and a customer-focused business model. Through their union, they will operate under five core values: treat people like family, do the right thing, even when no one is watching; be easy to do business with, exceed expectations, and provide mutual respect for all.

"The Shafer and Steve's Plumbing teams are not satisfied with marginal service," added Chase Anderson. "We are committed to bringing value and world-class service to everything we do because it is an honor to be invited to work in someone's home, an honor that we will continue to earn for generations to come."

### About Shafer Services Plus

*Dating back to 1884 the Shafer Services family is San Antonio's oldest, most trusted name in plumbing and HVAC. The Shafer family has helped build and service San Antonio's public and private heating, cooling and plumbing infrastructure for more than a century. This legacy is built on responding quickly and professionally, providing multiple solutions whenever possible to best-fit goals, treating customers with respect, and keeping people safe. Four generations later, Shafer continues its journey to provide exceptional service to San Antonio and its residents. <http://www.shaferservices.com>*



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