

HAPPY new year!

# The Connection

*Wylie • Sachse • Murphy Community Magazine*

**Working to Help Others**

~ Candy Arrington

~ Dr. Liz Fagan

**WISD Teachers of the Year**

The Photography of Alicia & Rick White

January/February 2009

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# Depth of Field

Amateur photographers focus on emergency services and community involvement

by Kathleen Noble of Wylie

Rick and Alicia White no longer question the distance between the farthest and nearest points which are in focus.

While taking a photojournalism class as a Mass Communication major at Texas Women's University in January 1998, Alicia was given an assignment to photographically document anything "dynamic."

Alicia chose to photograph Wylie's police and fire department personnel while in action.

One of her first Kodak moments came in December 1998 when two downtown Wylie businesses, the Heirloom Candle Factory and Lady Like Shop, caught fire.

A short time later, Alicia was contacted and encouraged by former Wylie Fire Chief Shan English to pursue a more long term assignment with the department.

When the smoke cleared, Rick was at Alicia's side.

Perhaps it is what the couple saw through the viewfinder of their cameras that prompted them to continue following and photographing Wylie's police and fire personnel whom they have come to look on as extended family.

Capturing the human element and destruction that is frequently the aftermath of emergency service work provides both Rick and Alicia an often daily reminder of just how fragile life can be and the difficulties associated with emergency service work.

According to police and fire department officials, photographs supplied by the White's are educationally instrumental within the departments and provide useful documentation on crime scenes and in other fire and police situations.

The White's Wylie home is equipped with scanners in their master bedroom and garage allowing them quick response to emergency occurrences throughout Wylie, its neighboring cities and the Metroplex.

Rick White, in his second term as a Wylie City Councilman, was raised in the Irving area, attended Texas State Technical College in Waco and holds an Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Richard White, Rick's father, maintained a lifelong career providing technical support and repair for the image trans-

mitting machinery used by newswire service, United Press International, and offered Rick a first hand view of the importance of photography. This laid an impressive foundation for what would later become Rick's career.

Rick established 911 Interactive Media, Inc. in 2000, now recognized as a worldwide leader in breaking incident and property damage information provided by six employees, 40 subcontractors and 2000 dispatchers in real time.

Alicia operates a graphic and web design firm, JDawgDesign, which supplies web design, direct mail, brochures, newsletters, business cards, and other marketing and promotional items benefiting business owners.

Alicia and Rick volunteer with the Box 4 Association, a non-profit organization offering rehabilitation services to the fire and rescue departments of Dallas and its surrounding cities.

Members of the organization respond to all two alarm or greater fires providing firefighters with re-hydrating drinks, food, snacks and misting fans on long duration fire incidents.

To view additional police and fire photos visit their website [www.wyliephotos.com](http://www.wyliephotos.com).

All photos courtesy of Alicia & Rick White, Copyright 1998-2008.

