

Arbors Angles

Fall 2007
Volume 6 Issue 2

The Arbors Improvement Association Newsletter

Bits From the Board

by AIA Board

Austin area metro expansion has traditionally moved west. The concentration on moving to the west spared the counties to the east, such as Bastrop County, the issues that follow development of previously undeveloped land. Anyone who has driven west of Austin on Highway 71 or 290 recently has experienced first hand how growth impacts traffic and has witnessed how the landscape has changed. Those of us located east of Austin were grateful,

for the most part, that we had been spared those headaches. It was inevitable that those looking for a peaceful location outside of Austin would finally look east and discover Bastrop County. Statistics reflect that from 1950 to 2000, Texas population grew at a faster rate than Bastrop County population growth. That trend has changed and beginning in 2005, Bastrop County growth has outpaced Texas. This information is not surprising, when
see Board page 5

Fall Fest Coming Soon

by Kathy Mowrey

Flyers are being delivered throughout the neighborhood announcing The Fifth Annual Arbors of Dogwood Creek Fall Fest. We are renaming our chili cook-off, the Doc Cardwell Memorial Chili Cook-off to honor Doc Cardwell who passed away this past year. He was a big supporter our annual chili cook-off and he was awarded First Place honors for his chili just last November. The festivities will be held on Saturday, October 20th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Arbors Community Park. There will be activities for everyone – adults, children and grandchildren.

Activities include: Moon Walk, face painting, story time, as well as various Fall crafts and several fun games including bean bag toss. Everyone can enjoy a Hay Ride through the neighborhood which will run from 1:30-2:30. Each child will leave the Fall Fest with a goodie bag. All ages will enjoy a fall hayride through the Arbors. For refreshments we will have hotdogs grilled in the park, assorted bags of chips, canned sodas and small water bottles, all available for \$.50 each. If you have questions about the Fall Fest or would like to volunteer to assist with this event, please contact, Kathy Mowrey at 281-4601.

Chili Chefs Needed

by Kathy Mowrey

We are once again looking for about 12 brave cooks willing to compete in our annual chili cook-off at the Fall Fest, coming up on Saturday, October 20. If you are willing to accept this challenge, simply prepare 4 quarts of your favorite chili recipe and bring it in something to keep it warm (like a crock pot). Last year there were some that cleared the sinus passages as well as what might be dubbed by some as “sissy” chili! Any variety would be welcomed. If you wish, you may also participate in the cook-off decorating contest. Simply choose a theme and dress yourself and decorate your three foot table area accordingly. Entries can be as an individual or group effort. Prizes will be awarded at 2:30 p.m. Please call Diana Reading at 285-3168, if you are up to the challenge of competing for the title of “Best Chili in The Arbors” and “Best Theme.” If you can’t cook, come join in the fun of judging your favorite chili. Cook-off coupons will be available at a cost of \$.50 for one vote or \$2 for five votes.



ACC Fall Report

by Randal Wilkerson

Thank you to all the ACC members that decided to continue to volunteer for the upcoming year and thank you to the new volunteers that have offered to serve this year. We are anticipating a busy year for new home construction and other projects within the Arbors.

Currently there are five homes under construction, one on Sycamore Cove, one on Juniper Trail and three on Arbors Circle. All these homes are in the beginning stages of each project. One additional home is under consideration on Pin Oak Crossing. With this level of construction, it is important that residents keep a watchful eye on the contractors coming and going from the Arbors. Contractors are required by the signed builder's agreement to obey posted road signs for the safety of our children, animals and other drivers. Violations of posted signs, along with other unsafe activity can be enforced. So feel free to report

unsafe activity or failure to obey posted signs to the ACC or the Board. In many cases, if notice is provided quickly, the issue can be addressed immediately, while the offending contractor is on the job site. Safety on our roads is paramount and compliance is required.

As fall approaches, leaves will be falling from our trees. Each year when this occurs, items that have been hidden from view in the yards of residents all summer, suddenly become visible. Items that are not appropriate to be visible from the street, such as trailers of all kinds, chain link fences and unscreened utility tanks, will cause a notice to the owner regarding the need to fix the issue. So be aware of what becomes visible on your lot once autumn arrives.

Thank you to all residents for your support.

Christmas in the Arbors Contest

by Kathy Mowrey

All the lights, all the decorations, all the magical beauty of this special time of year! The Christmas Decorating and Lighting Contest judging will be held on Saturday, December 15 from 7-10 p.m. This is your opportunity to really show off your creative talents! The Welcome/Social Committee is pleased to announce that this year we will award a certificate and prize in five categories: Children's Favorite, Best Decorated Mailbox, Best Use of Lights, Religious Theme, and the all round "Spirit of Christmas" Award. Please keep these categories in mind when planning your decorations this year or when shopping for additional decorating supplies. Our judges will again be a family from outside the neighborhood so that it is totally impartial. Notification of the winners and presentation of certificates and prizes will be on December 16th. Have fun decorating!

Welcome Neighbors

by Kathy Mowrey

The Arbors Improvement Association would like to welcome our new neighbors:

Rebecca Boon

146 Spanish Oak Trail

Yen-Wei Chen

110 Pine Point Cove

Welcome Neighbors!

Car Show at Hogeeye Festival

by Bob Lindsey

John Schnell and I are co-chairmen of the Elgin Hogeeye Festival Car Show. Having done this for several years, I can say that this year we expect to triple in size regarding the number of cars participating, and we expect 8 to 10 cars from the Arbors alone. John and I have promoted the car show as an Arbors project, and as such, the Arbors has agreed to sponsor one of our trophies for which we would like to thank the board. Additionally, we are asking for volunteers to help direct the cars, count votes and in general, just be a

presence. We need 6 to 8 people for a few hours on 10/27, and could use some help putting together voting packets and such. If anyone has an interest, please contact John or myself at as noted below:

John Schnell at jsmcss@aol.com
Bob Lindsey at lindzees@austin.rr.com or 281-0367

Thanks again for being such good neighbors.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



AT WORK



MEN



Road Sign Compliance

by AIA Board

Saturday, October 20th
12:30 - 2:30 pm



Yard of the Month

by Kathy Mowrey

This award is now being given every month except December, so be sure to watch for the sign as you are driving through the neighborhood.

August:

Tom & Frances Calvert
209 Juniper Trail

September:

Eddie & Genny Gowens
114 Juniper Trail

October:

Mrs. Ardeth Cardwell
490 Arbors Circle

Use of the Arbors roads and compliance with posted speed and stop signs has been a discussion topic by Arbors residents over the past few years. Originally, concern focused on contractors that were speeding and failing to stop as posted while working on the construction of new homes. Based on this concern by residents, the ACC implemented with Board support, the Builders Compliance Agreement which details full enforcement rights and penalties for failure to obey posted road signs. This agreement, signed by the builder and the owner for each project, has been used, in conjunction with visual monitoring, to force compliance with posted signs by contractors.

As our community has grown, the level of concern for how residents and visitors are following the posted road signs has increased. Reports of speeding and failure to stop (especially at the park intersection) have begun to accumulate. In addition to the individual complaints being received, owners voiced in the open forum portion of the September monthly AIA Board meeting their concern regarding residents speeding, failing to stop and passing. As part of the discussion, residents provided examples of violations and included suggestions regarding what type of remedies and enforcement might be appropriate. Remedy discussion topics included:

- Painting white lines at each stop sign location to drawn

attention to the need to stop at the intersection

- Posting a red flashing light along with each stop sign to drawn attention to the required stop as posted
- Renting 'how fast are you driving' signs to be posted in different spots on Arbors roads as a method of reminding drivers of their obligation to obey the posted 30 MPH speed signs
- Posting 'no passing' signs to remind drivers that passing is not allowed
- Creating a system like those utilized in other communities that allows residents to report vehicles violating the posted signs to the management company which would trigger a letter and/or fine system.

The board is continuing to review suggestions received before, during and after the meeting to address these concerns. Owner input (and compliance) is welcome and encouraged. The speed limit for Arbors streets is 30 MPH. Stop signs are posted at most intersections, including a 4-way stop at the park (Arbors Circle and Maple Leaf Trail). This is our community. The value of our community and quality of life associated with it is not just dependant on property values and attractive yards. Everyone has a responsibility to honor the community by following posted road signs and should operate any vehicle in a responsible manner.



Board

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Santa in the Park

Saturday, December 15

2-4 pm, Arbors Park



Santa in the Park

by Kathy Mowrey

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving at the Arbors Community Park on Saturday, December 15 at 2 p.m. Cookies and beverages will be available for your enjoyment and each child and grandchild of Arbors' residents are welcome to visit with Santa and have pictures taken. Moms, Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, dress in your Christmas casual, bring your camera, and come enjoy some Christmas cheer with your neighbors.

We had such a great response to our drive for gifts for Elgin's Blue Santa program last year that we will again have a box to collect your wrapped gifts at our Santa in the Park event. Because they usually begin delivering the donated gifts the day after our SIP, the gifts do need to be wrapped and tagged with an age range the gift is appropriate for and whether it is for a boy or girl. Last year the box was overflowing! For those who would rather make a monetary donation, an envelope will be attached to the box in which you can place your check. The Elgin Police Department usually has a few additional families added to their list after their initial gift delivery and they use this money to purchase additional gifts. Please keep this in mind when doing your holiday shopping.

statistics reflect that since 2000, the population of Bastrop County has grown 19.5% while population of Elgin has grown 62.9%.

Some of the aches and pains of fast population growth is showing in Elgin. Along with increased business opportunities larger populations bring [like that rumored Walgreens] traffic on Highway 290 and 95 has steadily increased and some local restaurants have a waiting list on Friday nights. But, for the most part, living where we chose to live is a wonderful experience.

The Arbors reflects the growth patterns of Bastrop County and Elgin. Our small community has reached the 55% (143 homes on 261 lots) build out level, with more homes under construction (5) and more homes planned for construction. Homes in the Arbors are considered on the high end of the county tax base, especially considering the median home value for Bastrop County is \$127,254 and for Elgin is \$86,100.

The value we place on our homes in the Arbors is more than what the county says our property is worth and more than a sales price. We value the look of our community, the condition of the private park and roads, the control we have over our community through its volunteers and the fellowship of our neighbors while doing our best to minimize the aches and pains of inevitable growth.

We govern ourselves, we embrace change and we encourage participation. As we

grow, communication becomes increasingly important. Committees often contribute information to the quarterly newsletter to keep you in touch with ongoing activities and community concerns. In addition to the existing volunteer committees operating within the Arbors for several years now (Newsletter, Welcome/Social, and Community Awareness, Maintenance and ACC) a new exploratory building committee is in action. All these committees have a specific purpose and are working for the enjoyment and betterment of the Arbors. For those of you able to attend, communication and information exchange is also a part the regular monthly Board meeting which provides an avenue for owner input and discussion. A draft of the meeting notes are posted on the web site soon after the meeting, so that all owners have access to the information at their fingertips. The newest form of communication available to Arbors owners is the online Forum, which since it was discussed at the annual meeting, has grown in usage both with number of times items are viewed and the number of active contributors. Visit www.arborsia.org to join.

Bottom line is that the Arbors is a great, valued place to live and be a part of a community. The area around us is growing and changing, as is the Arbors itself. We have the structure in place to adjust to and embrace our changing environment and accomplish our goals. We look forward to the upcoming months with great expectations for our community.

Arbors Day Camp Proposed

by Kathy Mowrey

The Welcome/Social Committee has begun canvassing the neighborhood with the Fall Fest flyers and talking to you about volunteering to make chili for our cook-off. At that same time they will ask for information which will be used to plan one or several "day camp" days in our park for next summer. The response we get will determine the number of days and the types of programs we will have. This is all still in the planning stages so your input is important to us. If we have numerous children between 3-5 years of age, we'll plan some half-days where the activities and crafts and story time are geared to their age and if parents would like to stay with the littler ones, they would be welcome to do that. Each child would come with a snack and a water bottle. If there are enough older children, we would divide First Grade through Fourth, and Fifth Grade through Seventh, and the craft difficulty level and the activities would be age appropriate. The day for the older children might be from 9-2 with them arriving with a snack, sack lunch and water bottles in a personal cooler.

The proposed Arbors Day Camp would be open to the children residing in The Arbors, and grandchildren if they are available. We think this will be a lot of fun and give your children and grandchildren a few structured days during their summer off from school. We would

plan each Day Camp day around a particular theme, i.e. bike safety and the children would ride/bring their bike with them. We could have a speaker on bike safety and personal safety when out on a bike. Our activity might be to take a ride through the neighborhood. We also would like to do an old fashioned game day where the children would play games that don't require electricity or much equipment, i.e. jump rope, jacks, Spud, the basketball game Horse, 7-up, Hopscotch, etc. Another theme could be "Who lives in The Arbors with us?" and we would have speakers on the various bugs, snakes, deer, birds, plants and flowers found in The Arbors and we could go on a nature hike. Each day camp day would involve a physical activity of some kind, a craft, singing songs, listening to a story, eating together and interacting with other children.

If you would be interested in having your children or grandchildren participate in a program of this kind, and didn't already give their age/grade information to the person who visited your home with the Fall Fest flyer, please e-mail Kathy Mowrey at dmowrey@austin.rr.com or call her at 281-4601. An informational meeting will be held in the spring at which time you will have the opportunity to register the children and meet the ladies who will be working the day camp



Garage Sale

by Kathy Mowrey

If you didn't get your spring cleaning done in time, or were out of town at the time of the spring garage sale, here's your second opportunity of the year to clear out all the things around your home that are no longer useful to you but have would be of use to someone else. The Fall Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, November 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Notices will be put in the Elgin and Bastrop Newspapers. If you will be having a garage sale on the 3rd, please call Kathy Mowrey at 281-4601 or e-mail her at dmowrey@austin.rr.com by November 1 and we will put your address on our special garage sale map that will be available to potential customers as they enter the subdivision. Everyone holding a garage sale should remember to put balloons on their mailbox. We will include a notation on the maps telling them to look for the balloons throughout the neighborhood so if you forget to notify Kathy or decide to have a garage sale at the last minute, just put the balloons out and they will find you.



National Night Out Bread Pudding Contest Winner

Submitted by Anneke Henderson

Bread Pudding:

1 loaf french bread cut into 1" cubes
1/2 cup raisins (soak 1/2 hour in warm water and drain)
1 pinch nutmeg
1/4 lb butter, melted

1/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 qt Half & Half
4 eggs, beaten

Method

Fill a 9 x 9 x 2 1/2" baking pan with the bread cubes and sprinkle the raisins on top.

(Use enough bread to come to the top of the pan. You might not use the whole loaf)

Whisk the remaining ingredients together to make a batter, pour over the top of the bread and stir lightly.

Allow the bread to soak 1/2 hour. The pan will be very full. If you have too much batter, discard the excess.

If there's not enough, add a little more milk to the pan.

Bake in a 325° oven for about 40 minutes until the pudding is golden brown and puffed up around the edges.

The center should be "set" but still a little soft.

You can make this ahead of time and heat it in the microwave oven later.

Topping: *Whiskey Sauce*

1/2 lb butter
2 cups sugar
1/4 cup whiskey
4 eggs beaten in a small bowl with the whiskey

Method

Melt butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Add sugar and stir. Remove from heat, let cool slightly, then quickly whisk in the beaten eggs and whiskey. Put the sauce back on the stove over low heat and whisk constantly until the sauce has thickened slightly. (If it's overcooked, the sauce will curdle). Keep the sauce warm until serving. If you like, you can serve the bread pudding with a sprinkle of powdered sugar and a scoop of your favorite ice cream.

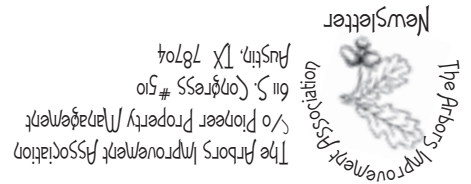
NOTE: This sauce contains egg yolks, which can carry salmonella bacteria if not fully cooked. As with other foods like beef tartar, Caesar salad, or eggs cooked "sunny side up," caution is advised when eating raw or lightly cooked eggs. I personally don't have much luck with this sauce because I am always overcooking it! You can leave out the eggs and just put the butter, sugar, and whiskey together, but you will have to microwave it before eating to make it liquid.

Toppng: *Vanilla Sauce*

1/2 c. sugar
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. whipping cream
1/2 c. butter
1 tsp. vanilla

In small saucepan, combine sugar, 1/2 cup brown sugar, whipping cream and 1/2 cup butter. Cook over medium heat until mixture boils, stirring occasionally. Stir in vanilla. Serve warm over pudding

For property owner information check out our web site at arborsia.org



AIA Meetings

Meetings are held monthly at the First National Bank Community Room in Elgin. Meeting dates and times are :

Saturday, November 10th at 9 am
Wednesday, December 12th at 7 pm



AIA Social Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Place
Fall Fest and Doc Cardwell Memorial Chili Cook Off	Sat. Oct. 20	12:30 pm- 2:30 pm	Arbors Park
Fall Garage Sale	Sat. Nov. 3	9 am- 2 pm	Neighborhood
Men's Coffee	TBA	TBA	Arbors Park
Santa in the Park	Sat. Dec. 15	2 pm- 4 pm	Arbors Park
Christmas Lighting Contest	Sat. Dec. 15	7 pm	Neighborhood