

Arbors Angles

The Arbors Improvement Association Newsletter

Bits From the Board

by AIA Board

Another Annual Meeting of the Arbors Improvement Association has come and gone. On August 23rd, 2008, we gathered at the First United Methodist Church in Elgin. In addition to the visiting with our neighbors, listening to committee reports and conducting the business of the community, which included the re-election of Dan Mowrey and Tom Henderson to the AIA Board, two presenters provided interesting information regarding the feral hog issues facing central Texas in general and the Bastrop country in particular. The unofficial minutes

meeting (since they will not be approved until next year's meeting) are posted on the Arbor's website (arborsia.org) for your review and information. Please take a moment to visit the site and read through them. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

As the overall US housing economy reflects a slight downturn, central Texas, including Travis and Bastrop counties, seem to be fairing slightly better than other areas of the country. The new construction of custom homes in the Arbors, along with

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AIA Board of Directors 2008-2009



Tom Henderson

Karen Wilkerson

Dan Mowrey

National Night Out and Chili Cook-Off

by Kathy Mowrey

For the first time, National Night Out in Texas will be observed the first Tuesday in October instead of in August like the other 49 states. Here in The Arbors, we will observe this annual event on Tuesday, October 7, at 6 p.m. in our park pavilion. We will again have representatives from the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office visit with us.

We are holding our annual Doc Cardwell Memorial Chili Cook-Off that same evening. Flyers were delivered to every home in The Arbors a few weeks ago inviting chili cook-off contestants to contact Connie Vestal for more information. She will take entries almost up until the night of the cook-off so if you're interested in entering the competition, contact her at **285-4336** or connieves@austin.rr.com and you will be given a spot. As in the past, chili samples will be sold for \$.50 for one vote or 5 votes for \$2. First, Second and Third place awards will be presented about 8 p.m.

Pizza, soda and bottled water will also be provided that evening so

see **National Night Out** page 7

ACC Fall Report

by Randal Wilkerson

Our community continues to grow with new homes and projects both big and small. Some owners have tamed the forest and made garden spots for their homes in the wilderness, while others enjoy a more natural, undisturbed setting. The beauty is that the Arbors allows for both. We enjoy seeing nature coexist in both settings, the exception being the hogs of course.

As the leaves began to fall, we lose some of the natural screening they provide. That allows for more visibility on most lots. Please be aware that with more lots being developed, there are views of our properties that may not have been there in the past. What was once a well concealed storage area now maybe in view of your neighbors from a place that previously it was not. Please be diligent in checking your property to be sure that all areas are as neat as possible. Walk around your property, along your property lines and nearby streets and look at your property, both your home and the lot, with fresh eyes.

Do you see anything that you, as a neighbor, would not want to see if you were the neighbor viewing your property from their vantage point? Check for trash cans, garden pots, stacked building materials, dead brush and similar items. Can they be concealed from view? Consider a trellis with an evergreen vine or other evergreen plants to do the job. Or maybe it is time to dispose of the material. Please strive to be a good neighbor to those that live next door or just drive by on their way to their little spot in paradise.

As we move into autumn many of you spend time outdoors enjoying the cooler weather. Remember to submit projects well in advance of your planned start date to allow the ACC to review the project so that you are not delayed in getting underway. Many owners will start plans for spring projects and those too can be approved during this time. If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail at RSWAUSTX@AOL.com or by phone at 512-281-4287.

Men's Coffee

by Diana Reading & Sharon Lakings

Men of the Arbors--you asked for it! There will be another Men's Coffee in our community park pavilion on Saturday, November 1st, 8:30 am. More information will be provided at a later date.

Remember, mark this event on your busy calendars NOW!



Christmas in the Arbors Contest

by Diana Reading & Sharon Lakings

Once again the Arbors will celebrate the magic of the Christmas season with a Christmas lighting and decorating contest. All those interested in participating please have your yard decorated and ready for judging by 7 P.M. Saturday, December 13th. This year we will award a prize and certificate in each of the following categories: Best Decorated Mailbox, Spirit of Christmas, Holiday Wonderland, and Magic of Lights. As always, our judges will be from outside our neighborhood in order to insure total impartiality. Winners will be notified; prizes and certificates will be presented on Sunday, December 14th. Be creative!

Welcome Neighbors

by Connie Vestal

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

Ray & Debbie Crites
Nita Vick
124 Arbors Circle

Tilghman & Tonya Nalle
499 Arbors Circle

John & Maureen Tobin
143 Spanish Oak Trail

Welcome Neighbors!

Hot Guts and Hot Rods

by John Schnell

Elgin's annual Hogeye Festival on Saturday, October 25, in historic downtown Elgin, usually sports the slogan, "A time for warm hearts and hot guts."

Change those last two words to "Hot Rods" and in addition to the vendor booths, bands, food (Elgin Sausage) and games (Cow Patty Bingo, etc) the Road Hog Car Show will be a good time for all.

Coordinators Bob Lindsey and John Schnell say, "Having been in many car shows, we plan on having a popular vote (for anyone wanting to vote) for the trophy awards. This year we've changed and enlarged the categories to 12.

Best Paint

Best Big Hog Engine

Best 1900 – 1939

Best 1940 – 1949

Best 1950 – 1959

Best 1960 – 1970

Best Pig-Haulin' Truck

Best of the Best

Best Vintage "Dig Your Pig" Tractor

Best Road Hog (Vintage or Custom Motorcycle)

Piglets Peddler (kids under 12)

Sowpremes Supreme choice

"As you can see, we don't intend to get too serious and yet we want vehicles that show pride of ownership." We have a large area

that allows for 150 plus vehicles. There will be various Demo Booths from our Sponsors to show and teach their specialties. We expect a mix of Hot Rods, Specialty Cars, Car Clubs and NEW for 2008 will be the "Tractor Sty" for your Vintage Tractors.

Vehicle check-in starts at 8:30AM at Main and Lexington (just North of the Library), popular voting is from 10:00am to 1:00pm, with the trophy winners announced from the City Hall Porch at approx. 1:30PM.

We have (for the past 5 years) said that the Car Show is the Arbor's contribution to the Hogeye Festival, and as such, we supply our own volunteers, and sponsor one of the trophies. If you have a couple of hours to spare on the morning of October 25, we could use your help. Please call one of us to sign-up. We will have a pre-meeting approx. a week before the 25th to discuss the show layout, duties and responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the co-chairmen below:

Bob Lindsey 512-388-8334 (work), 512-281-0367 (home), or bob.lindsey@dresser.com

John Schnell 512-281-0900 (home), 512-626-3227 (cell), or ja_schnell@yahoo.com



Yard of the Month

by Welcome Committee

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:

Rufus Vasquez
261 Maple Leaf Trail

September:

Connie & Ovis Vestal
111 Spanish Oak Trail

Santa in the Park

by Diana Reading & Sharon Lakings

On Saturday, December 13th between 2 and 4 P.M. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the Arbors Community Park, arriving by fire truck. Each child and grandchild of Arbors residents is welcome to visit with Santa. Moms, dads and grandparents remember to bring your cameras to record this special holiday event. As they arrive, each child will be given a Christmas ornament to decorate with their family's assistance. Decorating supplies will be available.

We will again participate in the Elgin Blue Santa program. If you wish to donate, a box will be provided to collect your wrapped gifts. Attach a tag to each gift stating gender and age appropriate. Monetary donations will also be welcome.

Refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment. Come and enjoy some Christmas cheer and visit with your neighbors.

Format Change for Newsletter Proposed

by AIA Board

The subject of the Arbors newsletter moving from hardcopy print to online viewing has been raised several times over the last few years and was raised again at the 2008 annual meeting. The Board wants to provide as much information as possible to Arbors owners through use of all available mediums and is considering converting the newsletter from a printed format to an online format. We are asking for the input of the community. The goal is to reduce or eliminate the newsletter expense. We budgeted a total of \$3,500 for postage and mailing for 2008, of which a good portion goes for printing and mailing the newsletter.

Creating and producing a hardcopy newsletter has its limitations. We are careful to keep the newsletter to a certain number of pages due to cost considerations and only allow color photos of events from time to time, once again due to cost. Printing and mailing the newsletter three or four times each year creates an expense to the AIA.

Researching alternatives opened the possibility of placing the newsletter online. Removing the printing from the newsletter process reduces the amount of time required to produce the newsletter, and removes the

management company from the process, as they handle printing and mailing the newsletter for the Arbors. Moving the newsletter online also allows different software to be used which is easy to post to the website and expands the items that can be included in the newsletter without adding any additional costs. Anyone with internet access can view the newsletter once posted on (no need for an email address) although we may elect to send an email notice that the newsletter is ready for viewing, if we move toward an online newsletter.

Converting the newsletter to online viewing versus hardcopy print seems to be an all or nothing situation. We've discussed offering both methods and asking owners which method of delivery they prefer, but when we reduce the number of printed copies we produce, the price increases, as well as the hassle factor of keeping up with which owners prefer which method.

So, please provide your input. We are asking owners to email your thoughts on moving the newsletter to an online format. The email address is nl_response@arborsia.org. This address is just for newsletter input and will not produce a response. We thank you for your time.



North Gate Closure

by AIA Board

At the annual meeting we discussed the permanent closing of the north gate. A straw vote was conducted and an overwhelming majority of property owners agreed that it was time that this gate remains closed to construction and non-owner related traffic.

As a result, a sign was placed at the north entrance to direct construction traffic to the wider south gate. We have also placed a sign designating the south gate as the construction gate. We also posted "no trespassing" wording in order to be able to have the Bastrop County Sheriff remove any unwanted solicitors that may refuse to leave the neighborhood as happened last year. Bastrop County does not have a solicitor ordinance but does have a trespassing ordinance that can be enforced if necessary.

The north gate exit opener will be timed to open early morning to allow those going to work to pass through without any delay. Likewise, the north gate entrance opener will be timed to allow those returning from work to pass into the subdivision and not block traffic from turning off Route 95.

The changes to the gates were made the week of September 8th; however during the hurricane both the north and south gates were left opened to allow possible visitors from those effected by the storm to have access.

Should you have any questions regarding the gates, please contact any of the three board members.

Fall Garage Sale

by Kathy Mowrey

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 would be of use to someone else. The Fall Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, November 8, 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 that day, please call Kathy Mowrey at 281-0225 or e-mail her at kmowrey@austin.rr.com and she will put your address on our special garage sale map that will be available to potential customers. Everyone holding a garage sale should remember to put balloons on your 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.

The property owners on whose land

Feral Hog Update

by Tom Henderson

Fall has made its presence known here in the Arbors and the weather is great, for the time being. Usually this is the prime time for hog hunting and I notice quite a few ads in the newspapers for organized hog hunts in and around the State.

Here in the Arbors, the hogs seem to have moved to a different area. There have been a few sightings of hogs since the last AIA's Annual Meeting but no reports of damage.

Camp Swift has been helping in this endeavor by locating several traps on the North side of the Camp Swift property. There are reports from the Wildlife Biologist that they have met with some success in trapping the hogs.

I won't go into the mechanics or the statistics involved in what our efforts here in the Arbors have produced; these are available in the "unapproved" minutes of the AIA Annual Meeting as posted on the Arbors website.

We continue to bait, monitor, move, and check the traps on a daily basis

here in the Arbors.

Most of the owners of the land that surround the Arbors still allow their property to be used for hunting hogs with weapons and traps. The hog hunter killed 3 hogs (two sows and 1 boar) this weekend on Scott Falls road. The area in which these hogs were killed indicates the hogs have changed their route and are no longer trailing into the Arbors right now. This can change and probably will.

The expectation of the Wildlife Biologists, both from the State of Texas and from Camp Swift is that if Bastrop County receives adequate rainfall, the hogs will stay in their home area, which by all indications is Camp Swift. If there is not adequate rainfall, then the hogs start foraging far and wide to meet their feeding needs. That, unfortunately, means that they could come back to our community as an alternative diner.

However, with vigilance and Camp Swift cooperation, we should be able to stay on top of the game.

LCRA Installs Gates

by Tom Henderson

The LCRA has installed two gates on the LCRA ROW which is located at the rear of lots on the East side of Maple Leaf Trail. These gates were installed in order to restrict unauthorized passage on the ROW. The gates are located on each end of the ROW, sandwiched by Arbors Circle.

the gates have been installed have a key to the gate. Any interior lot owner will need permission from those owners if they wish to cross the ROW to gain access to their own lot.

For general information: this Power Line Transmission ROW land is

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Fall Garage Sale
Saturday
November 8th
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers Needed

by Kathy Mowrey

Since I spoke at the Annual Meeting a month ago, two members of the Welcome/Social Committee needed to drop out due to other commitments and we had only one new person volunteer. The hard-working ladies who've been on the committee for the past two years met and paired up to coordinate the events through the end of 2008. Because it's so hard to get anyone new to volunteer, we may eventually have to go to only one event per quarter. Because only 38 survey forms were turned in at the Annual Meeting, it's hard to know what events are truly important to Arbors residents. The ladies on the committee all enjoy the fact that we have these neighborhood events throughout the year – that's why they volunteered in the first place but they don't like having to work at each and every one of them. If you would like to have a say in what events continue here in The Arbors and you have a little time to help with the committee, please call Kathy Mowrey at 281-4601 or e-mail her at kmowrey@austin.rr.com to get involved.



Volunteer

It's what makes our community great! For information on volunteering opportunities in our community contact any Board member!

Cards for the Community

by Diana Reading

I would like to be informed of:

What: The Arbors folks' birthdays, special anniversaries, births, those having serious health problems.

Why: To remember them with a greeting card on their special day from "The Arbors Neighbors."

How: When you know of someone's event coming up call: Diana Reading @285-3168 or email bobjr8@austin.rr.com.

We are a community of caring people --- this is a way to show it.



Flag Protocol

by Tom Henderson

Flying the flag in your yard is a great show of your American spirit and pride in your Country. But whatever the reason you choose to display the flag, there is a "Flag Code" that should be observed.

The American flag is not a "raise and forget" type of gesture.

For instance:

The American flag, if flown at night, is to be taken down or illuminated.

The American flag(s) should be flown at half staff on designated days.

Also, in certain situations, such as during inclement weather and/or

high winds, the flag code dictates the flag be taken down and not subjected to ravages of the wind and weather.

Any flag, especially the American Flag, should be replaced or disposed of properly when it has become damaged or worn and faded. The VFW and Boy Scouts perform this disposal task free of charge.

There are many military veterans here in the Arbors who served their Country and who expect to see the flag that they served under be respected and honored. So for more information on the "Flag Code" please visit this website: <http://www.usflag.org/uscode36.html>



Board

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addition of workshops and pools, seems to support the assumption that Bastrop County is well positioned, and that home values are remaining stable. The AIA continues to focus on keeping the community well kept, keeping the roads in good condition, working with builders to minimize impact during construction and keeping the expenses of community maintenance as low as possible while accomplishing needed upkeep. Home values are not the only reason owners find the Arbors a desirable place to live. We take pride in being a community, not just a subdivision.

The Board would like to thank all the volunteers that have assisted with Arbors projects, big and small, during the last year. We understand that your time is a commodity that is precious and we appreciate your willingness to give some of it to your community. As the Arbors grows, we'd like to expand rather than reduce activities. And, as always, we ask that you consider giving of yourself again this year.



National Night Out

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in order to have an accurate count and sufficient supply of pizza and beverages, **please RSVP** to Connie at the above phone number and e-mail address.

At our last National Night Out we had a cook-off with banana pudding and bread pudding and everyone thought having dessert was a great idea. This year we'd like to ask each family attending to **bring a dessert to share**. All paper goods will be provided.

RSVP today, bring a dessert and your lawn chairs, and join us in our park on Tuesday, October 7th.

Pine Seedlings

by Joann Johnson

Pine tree seedlings are coming in December! Unfortunately, the cost of the seedlings has gone up due to the closure of the Texas State Indian Mound Nursery by the state legislature. Advanced Generation Loblolly Seedlings are being obtained from the Louisiana State Nursery and will be available in late December for fifteen cents per tree. Please contact Duane (512-921-1131) or Joann (512-281-0796) Johnson (e-mail: duanejohnson69@earthlink.net) if you would like some of these trees.



R.O.W

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part of the lot to which it is attached. The lot owners own this property and pay taxes on their portion of the ROW, so it is essentially "Private Property". When Sabine developed the Arbors, there was an existing ROW agreement between the former property owner and the LCRA. This agreement transferred to Sabine, who transferred it in turn, to the lot buyers. Thus, the LCRA may access the ROW on an as-needed basis and put some restrictions on it's use: IE, no permanent structures, no fires, and nothing that will present a danger to the transmission lines or it's towers.

AIA Social Events Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Place
National Night Out & Doc Cardwell Memorial Chili Cook Off	Sat. Oct. 7	6 pm	Arbors Park
Fall Garage Sale	Sat. Nov. 8	9 am- 2 pm	Neighborhood
Men's Coffee	Sat. Nov. 1	8:30 am	Arbors Park
Santa in the Park	Sat. Dec. 13	2 pm- 4 pm	Arbors Park
Christmas Lighting Contest	Sat. Dec. 13	7 pm	Neighborhood