

Arbors Angles

The Arbors Improvement Association Newsletter

Bits From the Board

by John Schnell, AIA President

As we welcome in the New Year, we look forward to seeing our community grow and prosper. This growth is a “good thing”, but also creates some extra concerns for our AIA and community residents.

In 2006 there were many more homes under construction here than in the past. As a result the AIA has had to increase attention on builders in regards to damage to our Right-of-Way and roads, material spills, speeding, and numerous problems with subcontractors. The AIA must be ever vigilant to ensure our community standards are met and assure those that purchase property here that our Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's), which are

part of the property purchase, will be obeyed.

Early last year our Architectural Control Committee (ACC) asked for the Board's guidance on various issues of on-going non-compliances, including fencing, detached garages, unauthorized structures, etc. The Board is in total agreement that the concept of fair and equal compliance dictates **every** property owner adhere to the CC&R's they agreed to with the purchase of their lot(s) and will support the ACC to achieve this goal.

I would like to recap here two major issues before the Board that will need to be resolved within the early
see Board page 4

Valentine's Party

by Kathy Mowrey and Barbara Moffitt

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with your special person on Saturday, February 10, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara and Jim Jochetz, 171 Arbors Circle. Please bring an appetizer to share, your favorite beverage, and your special someone (no children please). RSVP to Barbara & Jim at 281-5881 no later than February 7. Hope to see you there!

2006 was a busy year for activity in the Arbors, with the year closing out with seven new homes in various stages of construction. Additionally, there are several other home improvement or home addition projects in various stages of completion including workshops and fences. One new home scheduled to start construction on Elmwood this month.

Arbors Website

by Anneke Henderson

The Arbors web site can be reached via these two addresses: www.arborsia.org --OR-- www.arborsatdogwoodcreek.com

A new counter, set at zero, was added to the web site in late October last year. YTD, the count is already at 1296! Part of the higher traffic is due to our site starting to be linked on other sites: blogs, developers, and real estate agent sites. All a good incentive to keep our site updated and informative!

The Arbors Forum, a new feature since late October, is starting to catch on!

As expected with any new forum, ours has a lot of “lurkers”; that is,
see Website page 5

ACC Update

by Randal Wilkerson

It will not be very long before spring will be here. This typically means that the ACC will start receiving requests for various types of projects owners would like to complete. It is important that owners submit their requests allowing enough time for the plans to be reviewed and approved before the project begins.

see ACC page 5

Fall Fest Fun

by Kathy Mowrey and Barbara Moffitt

The Fall Fest & Chili Cook-off was a huge success again this year. It was a gorgeous sunny day and everyone enjoyed visiting with their neighbors. The children had fun playing games and jumping in the Moonwalk. The adults enjoyed tasting the chili from our twelve Chili Cook-Off entrants, who did a great job decorating their area in their chosen theme.

Chili Cook-off winners were:

1st Place- Doc Cardwell

2nd Place- Tom Henderson

3rd Place- Dan Mowrey

Best Decorations- Brenda Tolbert

Thanks go to Cedric Plummer for providing the grill and sharing grilling duties with Charlie McGuire; Dorothy Bixler who coordinated the chili cook-off; Lily Wright and her foreign exchange students for doing face painting; and the following

ladies who helped out by selling food and drink items or coordinating the various children's activities: Kristie Chasteen, Becky Garner, Sharon Lakings, Barbara Moffitt, Kathy Mowrey, Gail Newman, Georgie Pyeatt, Diana Reading, Christina Simpson, Denise Thedford and Connie Vestal.

We also honored our neighborhood veterans and those actively serving in the military. Connie Vestal and Georgie Pyeatt gathered the information and put together two display boards including pictures of Arbors veterans. It was interesting to read about their branch of service and where they were stationed, and especially fun to see them in their younger years in uniform. Poppies were provided for all to wear to show our support. Thank you Veterans and thank you Connie and Georgie for all your hard work!

Santa in the Park

by Kathy Mowrey and Barbara Moffitt

On Saturday, December 16, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the Park in the Elgin Fire Department's 1916 Harlan Fire Truck. Many children and grandchildren from the Arbors came to sit on Santa's lap to have their picture taken and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. The children painted wood Christmas ornaments and played "Santa" bean bag toss, and everyone enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate, spiced cider and water. Thanks go to Tom Henderson and Gail Newman (a.k.a. Santa and Mrs. Claus), David Horton for taking photographs, Keith Newman

for making our "Santa" target, and the Welcome/Social Committee for coordinating this event!

This year in conjunction with Santa in the Park, we had a drive to support Elgin's Blue Santa program and the response was overwhelming. The large box to collect the gifts in was overflowing and packages had to be stacked around it. Several checks were also given and after Santa in the Park, John Schnell, AIA Board President, delivered the donations to the Elgin Police Department. Great job everyone!

Christmas in the Arbors Contest

by Kathy Mowrey and Barbara Moffitt

On the evening of December 16, the judging of the Christmas lights took place. Our judges this year were a family from the Elgin community with no ties to the Arbors and they reported it was a difficult decision to choose just three winners. After touring the entire neighborhood and narrowing it down, they were able to come up with this year's Lighting Contest winners:

1st Place

*Gail & Keith Newman
150 Juniper Trail*

2nd Place

*Robin Cooksey & Bill Silva
363 Arbors Circle*

3rd Place

*Dorothy & Bob Baker
565 Arbors Circle*

Thank you for every one who decorated your homes. It was so much fun touring the neighborhood and looking at all the decorations. They were just spectacular!





Photos courtesy of Joann Johnson

Fall Fest



Santa

in the Park



Photos courtesy of David Horton

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part of this new year.

The first is fairly simple: a Ballot was mailed last year concerning the opportunity to save the AIA precious funds by agreeing to use regular mail instead of Certified mail for the Annual Meeting Notice. I am asking for your help in returning that Ballot so that we may create those savings in the operations of this community.

The second is a major issue that surfaced last year concerned damage to the community Right-Of-Way (ROW). As a result the Board has considered a formal ROW policy to be published in the next couple of months. This policy is being formed as a result of information gathered via a survey mailed to all our property owners last year and includes facts about parking on the ROW, possible damage that results and the costs of that damage to the Association. This policy has been the topic of discussion in several past AIA meetings. The Board would like everyone's input on this policy; it is thus important that each property owner take the time to review, fill out, and return the form. As a private road community, we are all responsible for the repair and maintenance of our roads and need to consider how best to manage them.

In closing, I would like to thank to all the volunteers and Committee members who contributed their time and efforts last year and those who have signed up for this year. If you would like to help continue making the Arbors the best place to live, please consider volunteering your time on one of the committees.

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New Four-way Stop at Park

by Tom Henderson, AIA Board

Some months ago, the AIA Board voted to make the intersection at the Arbors Park, which is now a **two way stop**, into a **four way stop** intersection.

Due to other pressing issues the Maintenance Committee was not able to get the new signs installed as quickly as they would have liked. Before the end of January, 2007 the new signs will be posted.

The intersection at Maple Leaf and Arbors Circle by the Park will become a 4 way stop.

Welcome Neighbors

by Kathy Mowrey & Barbara Moffitt

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

Pat & Janice Anderson
110 Spanish Oak Trail

Michael & Judy Bobrowski
247 Maple Leaf

Don & Laura Burkley
109 Whispering Oaks

Randal O'Brian
170 Elm Wood Drive

Ervan & Brenda Tolbert
147 Spanish Oak Trail

Greg & Brandi Wilburn
194 Elm Wood Drive

*Welcome
Neighbors!*

Please observe these new signs and all the other ones here in the Arbors, for your own safety and that of other residents. The posted speed limit on all Arbors streets is thirty miles per hour.

During the upcoming Spring and Summer months more outdoor activity will be taking place such as jogging and walking along the roads here in the Arbors. Please drive safely and observe the speed limit.

Safety in the Arbors

by Tom Henderson

We in the Arbors enjoy the peace and tranquility of country living; however, there is always the possibility of an intrusion of a criminal nature.

While there have been no criminal incidents reported to the AIA, it is important that all residents remain vigilant for any strange activities in the neighborhood.

For example, one particular incident occurred recently as a female resident was jogging by a home under construction with her two children. The workmen at the construction site started whistling, yelling and making inappropriate gestures as she jogged by. The incident was observed by another resident who reported it to the Board.

The AIA Board contacted the builder who, after verifying the incident with other personnel on the job at the time, took immediate action
see Safety page 5

Gift of Toys

by Bob Reading

The Arbors Woodworkers built one hundred toys that consisted of wooden cars and trucks. Half were given to the Blue Santa program of the Elgin Police Department and the other half were given to the Toys for Tots program that is sponsored by the Marine Corps. Thanks to the hard work of this neighborhood group many children got wonderful toys for Christmas.



Fifty wood toys were donated to the Elgin Blue Santa Program.

The participants in the program were, Tom Henderson, Jim Jochetz, Dale Pyeatt, Bob Reading, John Redman, Paul Shively, and Ovis Vestal. We would like to thank Steven and Monica Gould for their financial support of this project. We also had support from other Arbors residents that helped financially by buying some of the toys and donating to the project.



Fifty wood toys were given to the Marine Corp Toys For Tots Program.

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Project plans and questions about projects can be submitted by email, if desired at rswaustx@aol.com or by phone at 281-4287.

The ACC continues to strive to be efficient in our review of submitted projects. We work with owners and builders to be sure that there is as little disruption to the community as possible while allowing construction to move forward. We appreciate the residents being alert to concerns that may arise and informing the ACC or the Board so that these concerns can be addressed and corrective measures can be taken timely. Remember, we all have a vested interest in our community.

Thanks for your continued support.

Safety

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and discharged the crew from the job. The builder apologized for any misbehavior on the part of the subcontractors assuring that this crew would not be working on any of his future projects in the Arbors.

The point here is that there is no excuse for this type of behavior and if any resident experiences any type of harassment or intrusion from subcontractors or builders in the Arbors, they should report it immediately to any Board member or ACC member so appropriate action can be taken.

If the activity is of a criminal nature then of course the first call is always 911.

folks that prefer to read messages for a time and not post their own until they feel comfortable with the medium. Now, after having been available for about 3 months, there are 23 registered users, with a total of 100 articles! Some of the more popular areas of discussion are the "Good Eats" reports, "Builder & Construction Issues", and of course the "General" catch-all forum where topics range from cable & phone service to scorpions!

Another helpful feature of this forum is the ability to send a "private message" or PM to another user should you rather keep your reply/discussion private. A PM written on the forum will automatically

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generate a note to the email address the user supplied upon registering. This note will advise the user there is an email awaiting in his/her password protected "Profile" section for retrieval. (Note: these PM's are not accessible to any other user than the specified recipient...not even to the forum Admin).

Users may browse the Forum without registering, but will have to register in order to post messages or use any of the forum's features.

The Arbors Forum can be accessed from the main menu on the Arbors web site or by going directly to: http://www.arborsia.org/arbors_forum/index.php

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

The Arbors Improvement Association
 Newsletter
 110 Pioneer Property Management
 611 S. Congress #510
 Austin, TX 78704



AIA Meetings

Meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at the First National Bank Community Room located on Hwy. 290 at 7pm. Meetings are open to the membership. Please attend!

AIA Social Events Calendar

Valentine Party (Adults Only)	Sat. Feb. 10	7 p.m.	171 Arbors Circle
Spring Garage Sale	Sat. May 5	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Neighborhood
Spring Potluck Dinner	Sat. May 19	5 p.m.	The Park
4th of July Ice Cream Social	Sat. June 30	4 p.m.	The Park
Neighborhood Night Out	Tues., Aug. 7	5 p.m.	The Park