

Arbors Angles

July 2005
Volume 3 Issue 4

The Arbors Improvement Association Newsletter

Volunteers Acknowledged

by Tom Henderson, AIA President

On Saturday, August 3, 2002, a newly elected Board of Directors for the Arbors Improvement Association took on the responsibility for managing this subdivision. At that time there were less than 100 homes on the available 260 lots and the developer still owned 65 of those lots.

Since that time, we have seen a steady increase in the number residents calling this community home. And a community it has become...no longer just a subdivision with a collection of houses connected by no more than

streets: the Arbors has truly become a community in the full sense of everyone pulling together for the common good!

Many of you have volunteered to work on various committees: the Welcome/Social/Communications, the Maintenance, the ACC, the Community Awareness, and Newsletter Committees. Many more offer help for special projects, such as Park Cleanup Day or the recent Erosion Control project. Residents who have an expertise or business that can offer the Arbors savings have stepped up to the plate

in time of need, helping repair gates or offering free special services.

If you go to the Arbors Web site, you will see a photo album featuring the many residents who helped the Maintenance Committee fix several easement erosion spots this past spring. These are exceptional individuals who put in their time and labor so that all of us can benefit. The cost savings to our community was enormous!

I also want to shine a spotlight on those whose community efforts are
see Board page 4

Burn Ban in the Arbors

by Tom Henderson

During the hot, dry summer and fall months the County of Bastrop will, from time to time, issue a Burn Ban. This ban is county-wide, including the Arbors.

Because of the recent storm(s) in March and April, there are numerous undeveloped lots with downed limbs and trees creating a very dry combination of leaves and
see Burn Ban page 5

AIA Annual Meeting August 20

by Joann Johnson

The Annual Meeting of the Arbors Improvement Association is on the horizon. One new board member will be elected this year. The Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2005 at 10:00 am at the Coon Neck Community Church.

To get to the Annual Meeting from the Arbors go north on Hwy. 95; turn left on Old Sayers Rd, go past the VWF facility; at the "Y" in the road, go right on VFW Rd and over the

RR tracks (slow down as they are rough) to FM 1704; go left on FM 1704 and follow it approximately 6 miles to Coon-Neck Rd. One block beyond the Coon-Neck Rd. intersection you will see a large brick & yellow metal building, turn left into the large parking lot off 1704. (There is no sign on this larger building, but it is across the street from the smaller Coon-Neck Community Church building.)

Board Election

by Joann Johnson and John Schnell

This year at the AIA Annual Meeting we will elect one board position. The following is a bio for the one current nomination. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

John Schnell

My wife, Anita, and I bought our two lots in the Arbors shortly after it was opened in 1997. We started building our home in April, 2000 and moved in November of 2000. We have two daughters, Jenice, who will graduate from the San Francisco Academy of Arts, with a degree in Graphic Design in December, 2005;

and Alison, who graduated from Texas State University-San Marcos, with a degree in Communications Studies and is currently working for the American Cancer Society in Austin.

We both enjoy our home in the Arbors and feel very fortunate to have made some great friends here. Anita is the co-chair of the Welcome, Communication and Social Committee. My hobbies are woodworking and restoring and painting cars. Anita likes working on her craft projects and gardening. We both love to cook, especially hot and spicy food recipes.

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National Night Out

by Anita Schnell

All the Arbor families are invited to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2 at 7 p.m. in the Arbors park. This community event is celebrated in 10,000 communities across the United States to promote police-community partnerships; crime, drug, and violence prevention; safety; and to encourage neighborhood unity. At the Arbors, it is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the evening with your neighbors. Bring your lawn chairs. This event is sponsored by the Bastrop County Sheriff's department. Light refreshments will be provided by the Welcome/Social/Communication committee.

Sanitation Regulations

by Joann Johnson

All homes in the Arbors have septic systems that require permits from Bastrop County prior to installation. There are two types of systems that may be used based on the composition of the soil on a particular lot. A standard system, or leach field, needs sandy soil for proper drainage. Many homes cannot have this type of system due to the amount of clay beneath the top layer of sand. In these locations, an aerobic system, which pumps the treated water out through sprinklers each night, is used.

Bastrop County has regulations in place for the proper maintenance of septic systems. Any expansion of a system will require new permits, regardless of system type. Owners of aerobic systems are further

see **Sanitation** page 4

Maintenance Updates

by Ken Nelson

Several residents of The Arbors have asked about the new work at the South Gate. The two new columns that have sprouted are the foundation of the two new gates. Along with the new gates, will be new gate opening equipment, fences linking the existing gate columns to the new columns, lights, and a new keypad at the entry. The keypad will use lot numbers as the code, just like the North Gate. Mr. Steve Barnes, contractor, says the new gates should be functioning very soon, maybe by July 8th. After the work is completed, construction vehicles will be routed through the South Gate. This new gate system is "state of the art" and may be expanded to include card key entry.

The erosion control effort was completed by a host of volunteers,

donated equipment, discount water to make the new grass seed sprout and grow, and about \$9,000 for new matting material, seed, fertilizer, and equipment rental. It should be noted that almost everyone who donated their time and sore muscles was out every evening working together to save our association money and help curb the soil erosion around our streets. The watering activity is ongoing. A local farmer loaned the association the water tank which Tom Henderson and John Redmon pull with their tractors to water these areas. The Maintenance Committee acknowledges there are a few locations which we will address in the future.

Celebrate



Welcome Committee Happenings

by Anita Schnell

The past few months have been very busy for our committee. In April, we sponsored a Neighborhood Awareness program. Rusty Kohler from the Bastrop County Sheriff's crime prevention unit gave a very informative and interesting talk on how to keep your home safe. Volunteer officers from the Bastrop Sheriff's department, who routinely patrol our neighborhood, stopped by to meet the more than 50 neighbors who attended this event. We are planning another program in September which will cover personal safety. We encourage you to bring your children and grandchildren, since the topics will also include a segment on what children need to do to keep themselves safe.

In May, the committee delivered plants to every home in the Arbors in celebration of May Day. We hope that this brightened your day and added more color to your gardens. The next weekend was the semi-annual garage sale. This year it was a beautiful day, and I heard about some great sales.

In July, we celebrated Independence Day on July 2 in the park. I hope

you all came out to enjoy the parade and see all the kids (young and old) dressed up and having fun. (See photos on page 3.)

As the year winds down, I want to thank Anita McGuire, Dorothy Baker, JoAnn Erickson, Michelle Gregory, Brandi Horton, Lynda Lindsey, Barbara Moffitt, Gail Newman, Cris Pappas, Sherry Potter, and Connie Vestal for all their hard work and dedication. Our committee has accomplished many wonderful events for the Arbor's neighborhood this year and all of you made it happen. We have had a lot of fun together and I know next year will be even better.

Please get involved in our neighborhood community. I would like to encourage more neighbors to get involved in our committee. New members add diversity to our committee along with new ideas and more activities to attract the interest of more neighbors. You can participate in our monthly planning meetings or just help us out at our events. We welcome new members any time. If you have any questions, please call Anita Schnell at 281-0900.

Sanitation

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required to have an inspection contract with a licensed septic company to inspect the system three times a year. Standard systems do not require inspection but may require addition permits if repairs to the system need to be made. Emergency repairs may be

made without a permit by a licensed septic company but the repair must be reported with in two days to the county.

If you have questions about county regulations, you can call the Bastrop County Sanitation Department at 332-7276.

Yard of the Month

by Anita Schnell

Congratulations to the winners for Yard of the Month. It takes a lot of hard work to have a beautiful yard and you are an inspiration to all of your neighbors.

April Winner

Ralph and Connie Glass
291 Arbors Circle

May Winner

Kent and Sunny Ebner
171 Pin Oak Crossing

June Winner

Bob and Dorothy Baker
565 Arbors Circle



Board

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seldom acknowledged or thanked. These are the residents who jog or walk their dogs every evening and take the time to pick up that stray can or paper litter. These are the residents who get their own rakes and groom the playground for all to use, or sweep out the tennis courts. And the residents who keep a watchful eye on their neighbors property, checking out any strange or unusual occurrences. Even the little things like reporting a malfunctioning street light is an important contribution to the smooth running of our community.

As we approach the end of our 3rd year as managers of our own little "town", we can give ourselves a pat on the back to having done a good job! And I personally would like to give each of you a standing ovation!

Burn Ban

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undergrowth.

The AIA Board has decided to put into effect a "No Fireworks" policy to coincide with the County's issuance of the Burn Ban. We encourage all residents to be aware of the issuance of the Burn Ban and observe it.

We have chosen to adopt the No Fireworks policy for the safety of our community. We have grown to a sizeable number of residents and there are very few locations that do not have a residence built within close proximity to dense undergrowth and trees.

The Texas State Forestry Service estimates that a small fire, with a 5-10 MPH wind from the right direction could cover about 300 feet in a matter of minutes.

Since the closest volunteer fire department is the Elgin VFD, it would take about 10 minutes to have men and equipment at the location of the fire. This could put lives and property in danger in a very short amount of time. The pipe stands here in the Arbors provide a means for the VFD to refill the tanker/pumper trucks and do not act as a fire hydrant.

This is not breaking new ground in this area: both the City of Bastrop and the City of Elgin have long standing rules of no fireworks within the city limits. Since we all chose to live in the Arbors because of the surroundings, we all must do our part to preserve nature and all it encompasses.

Community Kids

by Kathy Kuligowski and Joann Johnson

Elgin recently celebrated Western Days, which included many county fair type competitions. We had two notable winners from our neighborhood:



Taylor Olson

Daughter of Olin & Deanna Olson
*1st Place Blue Ribbon
Watergate Cake, Youth Division*



Amanda Glass

Daughter of Kathie & David Glass
Miss Western Days

If your child has a notable accomplishment that you would like published in this column please e-mail the details to Joann Johnson at benttandem@mac.com. Please limit your submissions to children through high school that live in The Arbors. Submissions for the next newsletter must be received no later than September 30, 2005.

Election

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We have been active in the community since we moved here from Austin. I was a member of the Arbors Transition Team, was elected to the Board in our first election and subsequently served two terms as President and now as Secretary/Treasurer. The elected position this year that I am running for is a 2-year position.

We truly believe that the Arbors is one of the most beautiful places to live in Central Texas, and we will continue to do everything that we can to help maintain the beauty and tranquility that we appreciate in the Arbors.

The Arbors Welcomes New Residents

The Arbors community would like to welcome to our neighborhood:

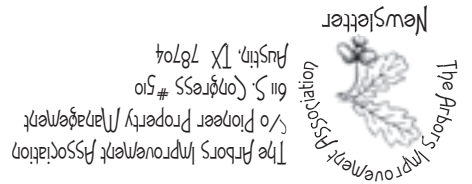
Kevin and Terri McDonald
186 Juniper Trail

Jeffery and Sharon Haller
124 Spanish Oak

Frank and Dolores Johnson
315 Arbors Circle

Barry and Teresa Marshall
168 Juniper Trail

*Welcome
Neighbors!*



Improvement Association 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!

Annual Meeting
 August 20 at 10 am
 Coon Neck
 Community Church
 directions on page 1
 Annual Meeting

