

# BARTON CREEK

September 2008 The Newsletter of Barton Creek North Property Owners Association

## “TORNADO-LIKE” STORM HITS OUR BARTON CREEK COMMUNITY



Not long after midnight on May 15th, a severe thunderstorm hit our Barton Creek Community hard with heavy rain, golf-ball size hail, lightening, funnel clouds and high winds sheers up to 80 miles-per-hour. In its aftermath, trees ripped from their roots, sheared branches, broken glass and other debris littered our neighborhood.

While many who awoke to the fury of this storm and saw the destruction it left in its wake called it a tornado, the National Weather Service classified it as a series of “super cells” based on radar images of the storm. Nevertheless, insurance adjusters and many professional storm trackers declared that since many damaged trees were twisted off as opposed to blown, the storm was like a tornado that probably never touched down, but instead dangled across the treetops for some distance. *(Damaged trees pictured below).*

Our community was not the only part of Austin where the storm inflicted serious damage. In fact, the storm rolled through a wide swath of the city causing more than \$2 million in damage mostly due to debris clean-up, fallen electrical lines, power outages as well as private property and vehicle damage. The worst hit were areas from Tarrytown to the State Capitol where power remained unavailable for almost 3 days.



## OUR COMMUNITY WELCOMES A NEW ON-SITE PROPERTY MANAGER



This past July, Kim Hulse replaced Kaye Bayes (pictured left) as RealManage’s on-site property manager overseeing our entire Barton Creek North community.

While we welcome Kim (pictured bottom right) and are excited she is part of our community, we are also sad to see Kaye leave. Kaye was instrumental for a smooth transition when we changed property management firms 2 years ago. Kaye’s friendly personality and people skills made a lasting impression with the BCN Board, the various committees as well as our entire BCN community. Kaye retired from Real Manage, a firm she had been with for many years, to spend quality time at home with her family and friends.

Kim’s background encompasses a wide range of experience including management of over 14 different properties, ranging from starter home to luxury communities, as well as working closely with both developers and homeowner’s boards. She has been with Real Manage for over 5 years and has lived in Austin for the past 11 years where she graduated from the University of Texas. Kim can be contacted at 512-219-1927 or [kim.hulse@realmanage.com](mailto:kim.hulse@realmanage.com).



## FROM AN ACORN A MIGHTY OAK WILL GROW: ENCOURAGING OUR CHILDREN TO SAVE MONEY

Our new neighbor, Treaty Oak Bank, welcomes the children of our community to open an "Acorn Account." Available to children of all ages, an "Acorn Account" helps children learn about money and financial concepts and encourages them to get into the habit of saving money and appreciating the value of interest. Ideally, all "Acorn Account" holders also gain an understanding and appreciation of how hard parents work to provide for the essentials of a family's well-being. As many of these financial concepts are abstract and a visual can be worth many words, the younger children usually enjoy watching their coins run through the coin counter and seeing their accounts grow.

Specific benefits of an "Acorn Account" include: no balance requirement or monthly fee; three withdrawals available per month; interest earned at tiered levels; quarterly statements; newsletters encouraging sensible financial values (a recent issue discussed creating and operating a lemonade stand); a Treaty Oak Bank piggy bank; and a special birthday treat.

Opening the account requires Social Security numbers of both the parent and the child as well as two forms of identification for the parent, such as a Texas Driver's License and a credit card.

Located at the corner of Barton Creek Boulevard and Wimberly Lane, the bank is open weekdays 8:30 am to 5 pm. "Acorn Account" holders are always welcome to visit. For additional information, please contact the bank's vice president, Marilla King, at 334-5441.



## KEEPING YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLANTS HEALTHY

Indoor plants are a wonderful way to naturally cleanse and detoxify the air in your home. Household items responsible for common airborne toxins include upholstery, curtains, plywood, particleboard, stains, paints, and carpets. While the best way to avoid chemical emissions in the home is to eliminate them, household plants can significantly improve the air quality of the home. For example, English ivies, peace lilies, spider plants and chrysanthemums detoxify benzene and formaldehyde.

While indoor plants bring health and beauty to your home, they can also be prone to pest problems that can rapidly increase as no natural predators exist as they do outside. The best approach is to be very diligent about inspecting your plants. Indications of problems include curled, discolored or limp leaves despite watering. Specific pests and their specific tell-tale signs include:

Spider mites often leave webbing on the inner joints of plants and cause yellow stippling on attacked leaves. As the infestation worsens, the leaves turn completely yellow and brittle. They are best controlled by spraying the entire plant with insecticidal soap.

Scales are tiny insects that attach themselves to a plant's stem and then cover themselves with a hard, oval-shaped shell. Since once their shell develops it is difficult for pesticides to penetrate, the best option is to physically rub them off the plant. However, if one sprays the plant stem with insecticide soap consistently, the scales should be avoided as young scales have to crawl unprotected to the part of the stem where it sets up its home.

Aphids are soft-bodied insects that will appear on a plant as a small white, yellow, green or black spot. They reproduce so fast that an infestation can cover an entire plant within days. The best method to control aphids is with a strong spray blast of insecticide soap repeated often since aphids are persistent.

## NEW NEIGHBORS: AMD OPENS OAK HILL CAMPUS

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) recently officially christened its 870,000 square foot, 58-acre Lone Star campus. Located at Southwest Parkway and William Cannon, the open house featured tours and speeches by dignitaries including Gov. Rick Perry and Mayor Will Wynn.

The new campus boasts 4 four-story office buildings and three recessed parking garages. Its crown jewel is the Lone Star building, featuring an employee fitness center, a cafeteria, a gourmet coffee bar, outdoor decks and a game center with table tennis, billiards and video games.

In addition to making the buildings environmentally friendly, AMD made a \$3 million commitment to preserve critical open space. In the first phase, AMD awarded \$800,000 to the Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) to conserve large tracts of land with ecological and historical significance. A system of regional trails would also be built. An additional \$700,000 was contributed to the Trust for Public Land's Texas Heritage Land Fund to preserve environmentally sensitive land in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone.

AMD was founded in Sunnyvale, California, in 1969 and has been in Austin for more than 25 years. The company announced its selection of the new site in 2005, and construction began a year later. Today, Austin is home to AMD's largest non-manufacturing campus and employs more than 2,500 people.

# WILDFIRE DANGER AROUND OUR BARTON CREEK COMMUNITY

By Jerry Tallinger, Oak Hill Fire Department Volunteer

Most of the spring rains were falling in every state but Texas leaving us with less than two-thirds of normal rainfall over much of the area. This drought combined with the heavy undergrowth from last years rain is increasing the wildfire danger in Austin to a 'high' to 'extremely high' risk level according to the Texas Fire Service Fire Danger Map. The risk to property and lives in the west hills area of Austin is compounded by the proximity of woodland to housing. Wildfires are occasionally started by natural events such as lightning but most are caused by careless individuals. It is extremely important to become prudent during this period of drought to prevent loss of property and lives due to wildfires.



## Here are a number of things you can do to prepare for wildfires and protect your property, family and self.

- Do not throw cigarettes or burning material out a car window since this is the number one cause of wildfires.
- Keep a 50 foot wide defensible space around your home. This means keep trees and shrubs well watered and pruned so dry vegetation is not close to your home. Trim any vegetation near power lines. Remove dead branches and combustible debris. Mow your grass and weedy areas regularly. Stack firewood well away from your home.
- Make sure your chimney and gutters are clean and install a fireplace spark screen.
- Leave a long garden hose with a sprinkler within easy reach.
- Leave a path for fire trucks to get to your house to defend it.
- Install smoke detectors in every level of your home and near sleeping areas and test them regularly.
- Prepare to evacuate if told to do so and know at least two escape routes from your home even if one is on foot. Close all doors and windows to reduce draft, turn on a light in every room, and turn off your main gas valve. Five minutes should be all it should take, practice it. Do not return unless told to do so.
- Make up a 'Grab-and-Go' box or backpack with essentials. Take the PEP class referenced below to know what it should contain.
- Observe burning bans and red flag warnings announced locally by not burning debris outdoors.
- Do not pull off the road onto dry grasses. Today's catalytic converters get hot enough to set the grass on fire.

Attend the Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) classes held monthly and sponsored by the Oak Hill and Westlake Fire Department for more tips on personal and home safety. Email [HYPERLINK "mailto:pep@oakhillfire.org"](mailto:pep@oakhillfire.org) [pep@oakhillfire.org](mailto:pep@oakhillfire.org) or call 288-5534 X100 for more information.

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Road Improvements in Our Neighborhood

Improvements to the intersection at Southwest Parkway and Barton Creek Boulevard are in progress and completion is anticipated by the beginning of October. Until then, work will occur during 8:30 AM to 4:30 AM on weekdays. Upon completion, an exclusive left turn lane into Southwest Parkway from southbound Barton Creek Boulevard and an exclusive right turn lane from northbound Travis Cook road onto Southwest Parkway will exist.

### The Barton Creek Boulevard Water Feature

As many of you may be aware, the Water Feature along Barton Creek Blvd. near the entrance to The Ridge is currently shut down. The pump system for this water feature failed during the month of June and we are now performing an evaluation of the overall system to determine the cause. We expect for this feature to be shut down indefinitely until the evaluation is completed and we can determine the necessary improvements and estimated cost to properly address this issue.

The pump system for this feature was replaced approximately a year and a half ago with new equipment that was expected to last at least 8 to 10 years. The early failure of the system and our evaluation to date tell us that we need to evaluate more than just the pumps and instead look at the overall system. A committee from the Barton Creek North Property Owner's Association is working diligently to address this issue and will be working closely with the Board Members of Barton Creek North and The Ridge to properly address this issue.

Board Members of Barton Creek North and The Ridge also reached a cost sharing agreement last year for the cost of operation and maintenance of this Water Feature. The cost is currently split on a 2/3 to 1/3 basis respectively between Barton Creek North and The Ridge. This agreement will also need to be updated to reflect to outcome and recommendations of the evaluation.

## Kim Hulse, Barton Creek North Property Owners Association Manager

Kim Hulse can be reached at:  
7035 Bee Caves Road, Suite 108  
Phone: (512) 219-1927  
kim.hulse@realmanage.com

Please note the new BCNPOA assessment payment address:  
2633 McKinney Avenue #130-502  
Dallas, Texas 75204-2581  
Be sure to change the address with your online payment companies.  
Residents can also pay via the Resident Portal @ the Barton Creek North  
Property Owner's Association website.

### Barton Creek North Property Owners Association

## Board of Directors

**Travis White**  
President  
732-0180

**Steve Paulson**  
Director  
328-8998

**Dale Mischynski**  
Vice President  
329-5125

**Karl Stewart**  
Director  
306-1024

**Norman Schumaker**  
Secretary  
899-8539

**Matt Moore**  
Director  
899-1376

**Greg Strmiska**  
Treasurer  
328-2337

**Marysa Kimball**  
Director  
328-0083

**Ken Gorzycki**  
Director  
329-4670

More information on  
BCNPOA at  
[www.bartoncreeknorth.com](http://www.bartoncreeknorth.com).

## Be The First



## To Be In The Know

The Barton Creek North Property Owners Association is working toward circulating our quarterly newsletter online to residents. Currently, our intent is to continue mailing the quarterly newsletter to residents, but we are requesting your e-mail addresses for use in circulating the newsletter to all residents in the future, as well as for security updates. Residents will receive e-mail "blasts" covering time sensitive and emergency news. The recipients' list will not be disclosed to any other third parties.

To receive your newsletter online, please send your e-mail address to the BCNPOA association manager at:  
[kim.hulse@realmanage.com](mailto:kim.hulse@realmanage.com).

## CONTACTS:

This newsletter is published by the Barton Creek North  
Property Owners Association.  
For submissions please contact:

**Brittany Johnson, RealNews Editor**  
[newsletters@realmanage.com](mailto:newsletters@realmanage.com)  
**Marysa Kimball, Newsletter Advisor**  
[kimballym@yahoo.com](mailto:kimballym@yahoo.com)

Barton Creek North Property Owners Association  
c/o RealManage  
PO Box 803555  
Dallas, Texas 75380-3555

