

BARTON CREEK

BARTON CREEK NORTH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
JUNE 2004

Message from the Board President

Rick Kilmer 06/21/2004

Howdy!

Yes, I'm the proud father of twin boys who will both graduate from Texas A&M this summer! Nick walked in May, Chris will cross the stage in August, and I will get a pay raise in September. Hallelujah!

Like most summers for most people, we are busy with family things; graduations, vacations, 4th of July celebrations and camping on the Frio. But your Board is still working hard for you. Committees are still meeting and individual members are still working on various Board objectives.

The Traffic and Safety Committee under Rebecca Jones is working hard to determine where we have traffic and safety issues, to determine what we can do about those issues, and to garner the resources available to solve those issues. She met recently with members of the sheriff's department to create a closer relationship with them. She will work with other government officials as needed. Her message is that our community cares and that we want to work with them to reduce crime, to reduce accidents, and to make Barton Creek a better place to live. We also want their attention to our roads and our bridge.

By the way, the best way for us to get and hold their attention is for every eligible voter in Barton Creek to vote in every election. If we don't care enough to vote they will direct their attention to communities that do. Please vote!

Dennis Dautel and his Landscape Committee have also been very busy. They have met with two landscape designers and, though both were very qualified, selected Paul Lineham. Paul will help us create a Master Landscape Plan for beautification of the boulevard that has both long term goals and short term objectives. I am confident that the end result will achieve our stated mission of enhancing the value of our properties through the beautification of the boulevard.

Our Presidents Committee with Ed New at its head has also been meeting, fostering community relations, opening channels of communications between the Master Board, the sub-associations, and other affected entities such as the Club and the schools. I think his committee is dramatically improving relations within the community and I thank him for his efforts.

One of the hardest working committees is our MAC. There is a constant stream of work for them reviewing new construction, improvements, lighting guidelines, etc. They handle a very difficult task with a delicate touch and, generally, leave each homeowner feeling benefited by their oversight. We thank Dick Walker and his members for all their hard work.

There has been much individual effort as well. John Bryan has been working with the Nature Conservancy, the Forest Service and several affected fire departments to develop a shaded firebreak on the Conservancy property. On a hot, dry summer day with an errant match and a strong wind, we could have a wildfire like we've seen in the San Diego area endanger all of our homes. A firebreak would reduce the fuel needed to carry the fire and make it possible to stop it

before it gets to us. I personally applaud John's effort and hope that we can complete this project as quickly as possible.

Also working hard for you is Lynda Crawford, our on site manager for BCNPOA. If you haven't met Lynda, drop by the office and say hello. We are fortunate to have her.

I freely admit that I've attended more meetings than I wanted to, but I also admit that I've learned something at each. Listening to the deputies from the sheriff's office, the representatives from the Nature Conservancy, the fire departments, and the Forest Service, the lighting experts, the landscape planners, and representatives from the sub-associations, the apartments, and both schools has been enlightening. These people bring us together as a community. I applaud the efforts of the Board and appreciate their hard work. I hope that you do, too.

In closing, I would like to pay my respects to truly great man that I think worked hard for our entire country and, indeed, for our whole world. Ronald Reagan passed away recently and though we knew it was coming, it was hard to lose him.

God bless Ronald Reagan, God bless America, and God bless Texas!

Rick Kilmer

Message from the Director of Golf Course Maintenance
Kenneth A. Gorzycki, CGCS

Hello Barton Creek Neighbors,

In case you were not already aware, Barton Creek Resort & Club (the Club) has a permanent representative on the Barton Creek North POA board. I have been assigned to represent the Club on the board since the association became resident controlled over two years ago.

The primary reason the Club has a seat on the board is because the Club has more neighbors than anyone else, therefore the most exposure in the community. My objective is to ensure the interests of the Club are adequately and fairly represented in the community and to contribute to protecting and enhancing the integrity, quality and reputation of Barton Creek.

With that in mind, the following are a few topics that are worth reviewing at this time.

Golf Course Landscape Buffers:

All residents that border the golf courses should be aware and inform your landscape contractors that it is a violation of the deed restrictions to maintain the native vegetation in the protected 35' landscape buffer at the rear of each golf course lot (except in Watersmark). Unless you have a recorded variance, the landscape buffer not only must remain undisturbed throughout construction but also in perpetuity. This means no clearing, no underbrushing, no sodding, no mowing, no weedeating, no irrigation, no fencing, etc.

The landscape buffer is a valuable area that provides an environmental and aesthetic buffer between the golf course rough and the formal residential landscapes. It also provides food, forage and habitat for many wildlife species. Once this fragile native ecosystem is disturbed, it opens the door for invasive weeds to establish, soil erosion to occur and a loss of valuable wildlife species.

Personal Golf or Passenger Carts:

Personal carts are only allowed in The Ridge and Fairways neighborhoods since these are the only neighborhoods that can access the Club without using either Barton Creek Blvd or the golf courses (either of which would create safety issues). Personal carts used on Club property must 1) be owned by Club Members that reside in one of the two authorized neighborhoods, 2) conform to the Club's specifications, 3) be registered and inspected annually by the Club and 4) pay a personal cart fee to the Club. Non-authorized personal carts cannot be used to access Club property and are not allowed on Club property at any time.

Vandalism:

All too frequently vandals steal club carts and joy ride around the area, on and off the golf course, causing damage to the carts and private property. We also have incidents with personal carts, vehicles, ATVs, bicycles, scooters, etc. using the golf course for unauthorized recreational purposes. Traffic on and use of the golf courses should be restricted to golf course maintenance activities, registered golfers, golf operations staff and beverage vehicles only. If you observe any unauthorized or suspicious activity on the golf courses, please immediately call the BC Golf Shop during business hours at 329-4610 or BC Special Services after hours at 329-4640. A photograph would also be extremely helpful.

The Club aspires to be good neighbors with all Barton Creek residents and appreciates your support and assistance.

Kenneth A. Gorzycki, CGCS
Director of Golf Course Maintenance Barton Creek Resort & Club
P – 512/329-4670 F – 512/329-4649
Ken.Gorzycki@bartoncreek.com

2004 Barton Creek North Board of Directors		
<i>Rick Kilmer</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>329.6100</i>
<i>John Bryan</i>	<i>V.President</i>	<i>328.7341</i>
<i>Dennis Dautel</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>329.3268</i>
<i>Deanna Arnold</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>306.0978</i>
<i>Jenny Morris</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>892.2644</i>
<i>Ken Gorzycki</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>329.4639</i>
<i>Rebecca Jones</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>479-3434</i>
Master Architectural Committee		
<i>Dick Walker, Chairman</i>		<i>663.4709</i>
<i>Jack Edrington</i>		<i>328.2337</i>
<i>Dick Urbanowski</i>		<i>347.1553</i>
<i>On-Site Manager:</i>	<i>Lynda Crawford</i>	<i>732.1230</i>

**Traffic & Safety Committee (T&S C) Report
Committee member Ken Wilson,
The Estates of Barton Creek**

The issues associated with increased traffic and safety have been designated priority objectives by various groups within the greater Barton Creek area. Those that have direct concerns are BCNPOA, The Estates POA, our two schools, the church, Stratus, and, of course, all of us that live and work in the area.

In March, an initial organizational T&S C meeting was held. The traffic on our two primary roads-Barton Creek and Lost Creek Blvd.- was discussed in some detail. Topics included who uses the roads, their physical conditions, sight distance/guardrail/signage/painting issues, school zones and associated needs, parking problems, and the need for gathering input from those that live in and around Barton Creek. Additionally, it was noted that there is the need to get information on accidents/traffic stops/crime and on State and County street/road regulations. Since future development plans both within and adjacent to the immediate area will increase traffic loads, it was noted that a 3 to 5 year plan should be brought together from all concerned.

We've tried arranging a meeting with county managers but to date nothing has happened.

On the other hand there have been two quite informative sessions with County Sheriff deputies about crime and traffic issues in the area. We discussed the crime reports in some detail and, interestingly, the most common problem the Sheriff's Department responds to is that false security/burglar alarms (42% of all calls over a 6-month period, November '03 to April '04). It seems that not only do homeowners inadvertently set off the alarms but so will nature- electrical storms and high winds. The Deputies asked us to remind our residents to call their alarm companies immediately in such cases so that they can inform the Sheriff not to respond. The second most common problem is that of accidents on Barton Creek (9) and Lost Creek Boulevards (2) over the 6-month period. Although the accidents represent only 12% of the calls, it is a high number and one that indicates the traffic issues on our main thoroughfares. A notable observation from the data was that fully 77% of all issues that the Sheriff's Department responded to occur between 6 AM and 6 PM.

In the coming months the T&S C will continue collecting information and hold meetings with the appropriate local and County officials on these and other issues. If you have experience and/or interest in these issues, we need help and you can volunteer by contacting the Barton Creek North office.

Message from the Board Vice-President

John Bryan

Dear Neighbors:

We held a “Firewise” meeting on May 6th at the Barton Creek Country Club. In addition to representatives from the Texas Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and Oak Hill & Ce-Bar Fire Departments, a number of our neighboring communities were present (The Estate Above Barton Creek, Rob Roy on The Creek, Barton Creek West, Rob Roy of The Rim, The Uplands, The Preserve at Barton Creek, Stratus Properties, St. Michael's and St. Gabriel's Academies).

The aim of the meeting was to begin addressing the potential impact a wildfire could have on our homes and what we could do to protect ourselves and our property. As you know, all of these communities, the schools, apartments and golf courses sit next to a 4,000 acre wildlife preserve managed by The Nature Conservancy. With the exception of Santa Ana winds, Austin's topography, dense undergrowth and drought conditions are very similar to Southern California. There have been several articles in the Austin American Statesman highlighting the various Fire Departments' concerns over the potential for a major wildfire in our area.

The first part of the meeting focused on what we could do to protect our homes. Enclosed are two brochures that outline some of these actions. One action that the Fire Departments in Southern California have implemented really brought the message home to me. The Fire Departments make an assessment of each home in their area of responsibility to determine if they can safely fight a fire with a reasonable chance of success. There are a number of conditions they assess e.g. Amount and types of brush and trees near a home, safe access and exit, water source location, etc.. The Southern California Fire Departments has two classifications indicated by a colored rock:

- a red rock placed in your yard means don't even stop as it is hopeless or too risky;
- a green rock means firefighters have the potential to safely fight a fire and a chance to save it.

In conjunction with the Texas Forest Service and our local Fire Departments, we would like to conduct a firewise survey of our homes. Many of these surveys can be conducted from our roads without intruding on your privacy. In some cases access to your back yard would be required. We would appreciate your letting us know if you do not want a firewise assessment of your home. (Please contact **Lynda Crawford, 732-1230 or lcrawford@bartoncreeknorth.com**) Also, we are **not advocating** the implementation of the Southern California red/green rock system.

Dan Snodgrass, Land Steward with The Nature Conservancy, has already been working with Rich Gray, Texas Forest Service, and Kevin Dixon, Oak Hill Fire Department, to define where they could create a “shaded fuel break”. Rather than bulldoze a strip removing all vegetation (fire break), they will clear out the brush and trim off lower tree branches to create a partial break. Should a fire start, they would then use a dozer to create a fire break. The proposed “shaded fuel break” would run from Southwest Parkway to Barton Creek west of the Wimberly Lane Sub-Association. The entire group voiced their interest in extending the fuel break all the way to highway 71 providing protection for Rob Roy, Barton Creek West, Uplands and The Preserve at Barton Creek. Dan agreed to work to expand the fuel break. It was a very positive meeting.

I am meeting with Dan and Rich Gray on June 18th to assist in mapping the expanded fuel break. Please keep in mind that no work can start until October because of the nesting of the Golden Cheeked Warbler and Black Capped Vireo. I will keep everyone apprised of the situation.

W. J. Bryan

**Please visit the Barton Creek North website,
at www.bartoncreeknorth.com, for community updates!**



Barton Creek North Property Owners Association
Certified Management of Austin
7000 Bee Caves, Suite 300
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 732-1230 • fax (512) 732-1280