



## Summer 2023



### Meet Your Neighbor Marnie Cervenka

Marnie Cervenka is a survivor! She has survived, and is thriving after, FOUR different, primary, cancers. In the middle of it all, she was serving her/our community by being Treasurer and President of Wimberly Lane sub-association HOA!

Marnie was drawn to Barton Creek because her daughters attended St. Gabriel's Catholic School and St. Michael's Catholic Academy. She has lived in Wimberly Lane with her husband Greg for 10 years and loved knowing her children could walk to school. She knew they were in a safe and supportive neighborhood.

Marnie shared some of her thoughts on what she thinks are the most important things about Barton Creek and how we, as property owners, could contribute to enhancing Barton Creek North.

#### **1. What do you enjoy most about Wimberly Lane and Barton Creek North?**

Marnie said she appreciated the proximity to schools, treasured friends and social connections she made. Wimberly Lane was very welcoming and several other St. Gabe's and St. Michael's families were already living in Wimberly Lane, making it easy to connect with a common interest.

We have been blessed to have a good group of friends who enjoy monthly dinner club outings to try new local restaurants. We join in on neighborhood block parties and backyard get-togethers that have built deep friendships with our neighbors. There is never an easy time to go through health-related crises. However, for Marnie, her neighborhood and dinner club friends offered continued support and immense kindness during her chemo treatments, which were in the middle of the pandemic. She felt so "blessed and lucky" to be living in Wimberly Lane then and now.

## **2. What positions have you held in HOAs?**

Marnie served on the Wimberly Lane Sub-Association Board for seven years. She was Treasurer and then President, which shows her commitment to giving back to her neighborhood in such a meaningful way.

## **3. What was your biggest accomplishment while you were on the board?**

Marnie was excited about all the “refresher” projects such as cleaning up the mailboxes, resealing the roads, painting the bridge and contributing to the ongoing beautification of Wimberly Lane. However, she was most proud that, while bidding out for fair prices and looking for ways to “ratchet down expenses,” they were able to maintain HOA dues structure for the seven years (without any increases) while she served on the board. She said she had a great board the entire time she served. They collaborated well together to build on each other’s strengths.

Some of the other fun things they did included decorating with Christmas lights and they awarded prizes for the best decorations. They enjoyed their annual Halloween party, block parties, and group texts on what kinds of activities they could plan together.

She was delighted that with 123 homes, one of their goals was to engage as many neighbors as possible. While sometimes she misses the camaraderie of being on the board, she is very pleased other neighbors stepped up to volunteer and thinks the new board is doing a great job!

## **4. What were the biggest challenges of serving on the board?**

Most of the complaints were about the entrance gate, speeding drivers, garbage cans not being put up timely and dog poop! Other important issues like communication and safety were always present. She engaged through Barton Creek North POA to connect with other sub-association presidents to see how they were helping overcome these neighborhood issues.

## **5. What do you think the most important role of BCNPOA is?**

She says it’s critical to keep the lines of communication open. She maintains neighbors want to know what’s happening, good or bad, and they need timely communication.

She emphasized “gated communities sometimes lull us into a false sense of security” so she urges the BCNPOA to send out more frequent emails regarding break ins and scams and other safety concerns from our management company. Especially when important incidents occur in any of the sub associations. It helps us all stay vigilant and watch out for each other.

## **6. What can property owners do to help BCNPOA?**

Marnie noted it is very hard to convince neighbors to serve on committees or on the board. There is no 'waiting list' of volunteers. She personally knows the challenge of finding committed volunteers to work on a project or take on a larger contribution such as serving on the board. However, she's found that when neighbors help neighbors, friendships are created and will definitely enhance the welfare of the entire community.

She urges members to attend board meetings and to fill out their proxies if they are unable to attend. She hopes the BCNPOA management company will keep up with the changes in addresses and email addresses so everyone will receive the information sent on behalf of the board.

## **7. What do you think is the most important thing a homeowner needs to know when living/working with an HOA?**

She says homeowners need to be responsive. If a homeowner is notified of a violation, please deal with it timely, when calls for volunteers go out, consider volunteering and for goodness sakes, please provide updated contact information to your management company so you can stay informed when important information needs to be shared right away.

None of the HOAs sell or share your personal contact information and if you don't want it published in a directory, just say so. But the management companies need to be able to get a hold of all homeowners as needed so please give your email addresses. It takes devoted volunteers to make BCNPOA a better community.

Even if members are too busy to volunteer, she hopes they will cooperate by providing their information in a timely manner. It helps them remain up-to-date on all the issues going on that will affect them, as homeowners.

Marnie is currently in NED (No Evidence of Disease) status which is such a blessing for us all. As retired Chief of Staff of Austin Energy, instead of planning executive meetings, she's planning trips with her family. As of July, Marnie has traveled to 58 countries and all seven continents!

The Barton Creek North Property Owners Association would like to thank Marnie and her family for the long and continuing commitment to make our community better!



# Eye on Water!

*by Martin Rochelle, Chairman of the MACC*

With the heat we've experienced in Central Texas this summer, Barton Creek Owners and residents should be aware of the challenges we all face in conserving our area's precious water resources. All of the retail water utilities serving Owners and residents in Barton Creek with potable water services secure those supplies from Travis County MUD 4 via contracts. The water that is wheeled to all of these retail utilities is supplied to MUD 4 as raw water by LCRA, sourced from LCRA's Highland Lakes supplies, and all such sales and uses are subject to LCRA's Drought Management Plan (DMP) as well as the corresponding DMPs of the retail water utilities serving Barton Creek Owners and residents.

LCRA is currently in Stage 1 of its drought plan, which is a voluntary conservation initiative requesting Barton Creek Owners and residents to limit their outdoor watering to twice weekly (Wednesdays and Saturdays for addresses ending in odd numbers; Thursdays and Sundays for addresses ending in even numbers), and to certain times of those days when evaporation is lowest (midnight to 10 AM and 7 PM to midnight).

Pursuant to LCRA's DMP, enhanced, MANDATORY Stage 2 watering restrictions will be triggered when the combined storage in Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan falls to 900,000 acre-feet. The combined storage of these lakes on August 1 was about 930,000 acre-feet (or about 48% full), so without significant additional rainfall LCRA will be moving to Stage 2 restrictions quite soon. These MANDATORY Stage 2 restrictions limit outdoor watering to the same twice weekly requirements (Wednesdays and Saturdays for addresses ending in odd numbers; Thursdays and Sundays for addresses ending in even numbers), and to the same daily time limits (between midnight and 10 AM and between 7 PM and midnight, on the specified watering days). As noted, compliance with Stage 2 restrictions is MANDATORY, and non-compliance by Owners and residents will subject them to fines and enforcement by the retail utilities directly affording their water services.

If the combined storage in Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan continues to fall below 900,000 acre-feet, additional, more enhanced, more restrictive limitations on outdoor watering will be triggered by LCRA's DMP, making it imperative that Barton Creek Owners and residents **TAKE THESE STEPS NOW to conserve water by limiting outdoor water usage. Owners and residents should: 1) make sure their irrigation system controllers are properly programmed to the authorized days for watering as well as the authorized times of day for watering; 2) ensure that their irrigation systems are working properly and repair any broken sprinkler heads and lines; and, 3) reach out to their retail water utility directly for assistance and for other water-saving tips and strategies.**

Conserving our area's limited water supplies is the right thing to do for all Owners and residents of Barton Creek. Let's start today!



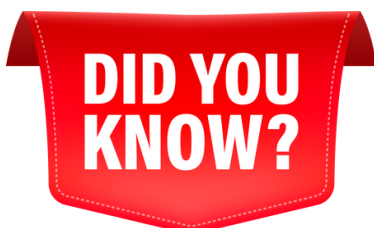
## We're In Stage 1

### Voluntary Water Restrictions

- Limit outdoor watering to twice weekly
- Water between these times: midnight to 10 AM and 7 PM to midnight
- Wednesdays and Saturdays for addresses ending in odd numbers
- Thursdays and Sundays for addresses ending in even numbers



## MACC Approval Required



Any change to the exterior of your home requires MACC approval!!! This includes removal and replacement of trees in front and back yard. You can trim your trees and shrubs without approval, but any removal requires MACC approval.



# Keep Your Home Secure

## **When you go on vacation sign up for the Home Check Request.**

The Travis County Sheriff's Department has Home Check Request (formerly Closed Patrol). When you go out of town, you can sign up on the sheriff's website to have officers check your property for safety.

<https://www.tcsheriff.org/services/public-resources/home-check-request#/>

Lt. Frank Lofton said, in his interview in our April 2022 newsletter, to let neighbors know to keep an eye out for unusual activity. The form allows requesters to list visitors and/or vehicles authorized to be on their property while they are away. Residents can request this free service anytime, though people usually request it when traveling for a week or more.

Lt. Lofton noted "we have NEVER had a house broken into in the Barton Creek area while on Closed Patrol." He also emphasizes the importance of not posting any pictures from a trip on social media while you are gone, saying it's very risky.

Home Check Request can be found on the website using the path View All

[Services/Public Resources/Home Check Request](#) or by [clicking the link above.](#)





# Stop the Spread of Oak Wilt

Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of oak wilt fungal spread when pruning oak trees.

- Regardless of season, immediately paint all pruning cuts and other wounds to oaks. Any kind of wound dressing or paint can be used, and all are equally effective at preventing infections from fungal spores when applied immediately.
- **Avoid pruning or wounding oaks from February 1st through June 30th.** As an exception, pruning can be conducted to:
  - accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance
  - repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
  - remove limbs rubbing on a building or against other branches, or to raise low limbs over a street
  - accommodate required clearance on construction sites where schedules take precedence
  - remove dead branches where live tissue is not exposed
- Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1st or after June 30th.
- Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried.

Source: <https://texasoakwilt.org>





# Planning a Renovation?

Planning a renovation, pool, or new paint job?

Remember to check with Barton Creek North Community Manager, Monique Williams, to see if BCN Master Architectural Control Committee approval is needed!

[monique.williams@fsresidential.com](mailto:monique.williams@fsresidential.com)



## Contact Information

### BARTON CREEK NORTH CONTACT INFORMATION

FirstService Residential

Monique Williams, COMMUNITY MANAGER

[monique.williams@fsresidential.com](mailto:monique.williams@fsresidential.com)

512-620-7082

Need a copy of your Barton Creek North account statement? Sign up for the [Resident Portal at FirstService Residential](#)

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[WWW.BARTONCREEKNORTH.COM](http://WWW.BARTONCREEKNORTH.COM)

Barton Creek North Board of Directors Meetings are typically held the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Oak Hill Fire Department, 4111 Barton Creek Boulevard.

Members are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the Board. Email notifications are sent one week before the meeting

