



Arbor Creek Community Newsletter

Great Neighbors Make A Great Neighborhood

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Volume II / Issue 5

Email us at ArborCreekCommunity@EV1.net

May 2003

Hello Neighbors!

By: Michael Lederman



Ahhhh... Spring is truly here, minutes before coming into the office to write this article I saw what to my NYC eyes was an amazing sight. As I sat upon my new garden bench watching the sunset and perhaps daydreaming a bit, I spotted

a twinkling light that seemed to be coming closer with each pulse. At first not knowing what it was I had a closer look and was witness to the miracle known as the Lighting Bug.

I'm sure those of you who've lived in the country setting would pass this off as another common occurrence but to one such as myself never seeing this aspect of nature I was truly amazed. I had heard of them of course, they riddle the pages of many a children's storybook, but never had I seen one up close and personal.

Having lived here in Arbor Creek just weeks shy of one full year I've witness much in the way of nature I had never before seen, no less shared a community with. I survived the swarms of fly's, the hives of wasps and bees, the plague of locusts, the herds of praying mantis and all other manner of the insect population. I've found tadpoles on my water meter and coyote footprints in the driveway.

I watched as a pair of cardinals commandeered the bird feeder my wife put in our backyard and laughed (while rapidly leaving) as they chased me out of my own backyard so they could feast.

Yes, Spring is here and to all my neighbors sharing it with me I hope it brings each and every one of you as much joy and happiness as it's bringing to me.

Meet the Barter's



Wayne and Danielle are the newest additions to Arbor Creek. The long empty house at 1638 Myrtle Drive was customized to suit this lovely couple and they took possession of it on April 30th.

Having lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Boca Raton, Florida the Barter's decided to set down roots here in Texas.

Wayne is an Assistant Vice President with JPMorgan Chase Bank and Danielle is a Middle School Math Teacher right here in Little Elm Middle School.

They enjoy radio-controlled hobbies as in boats, cars, etc. and are avid softball players hoping to join a local co-ed team. They love billiards and are computer enthusiasts.

Wayne and Danielle hope that Arbor Creek stays a clean well kept community with complete neighborly synergy (their words not mine). (I think we can accommodate them by showing them the kind of community I've seen us evolve into and rapidly accepting them into our hearts as well as our neighborhood.)

Wayne would like to see useful neighborly projects covered in the newsletter. In his own words, "As in going in together on expense of the project to low individual impact!" (He's a banker what did you expect?)

He also thinks our community would benefit from an HOA (Home Owner's Association) for the help they can offer a community. While Wayne doesn't want an association telling him what he can do with his home he believes that properly run it would work in a homeowners best interest to protect our community's mutual investment.

The couple would like to participate in local block parties, holiday decorating contests, game nights, community bbq's, local involvement in politics, neighborhood watch programs, movie nights and community garage sales.

You can reach the couple at 214-325-3172 or by email at wbarter@attbi.com. July is an important month for this couple both of these nice people were born in that summer month Wayne on the 29th and Danielle on the 15th. In addition the pair will be traveling to Florida this summer for their July 19th wedding. I'm sure all of our community wishes the happiest and best for Wayne and Danielle's wedding and hopes they enjoy their new life here in Arbor Creek.

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May Events



May is **National Hamburger Month**, and the weather is perfect for that Hamburger BBQ. We also celebrate **Better Sleep Month** in May we spend a good part of each day engaged in this activity and it deserves a time to honor it. May is also **National Physical**

Fitness and Sports Month, American Bike Month, all of which are great ways to enjoy the great May weather. May is **National Strawberry Month** a great treat to enjoy on these warm weather days.



May 8: Wildfire Nights Begins

May 10: Little Elm Fire Department Fest

May 11: Mother's Day

May 14: Bulk Trash Pickup

May 15: CoServ Meter Read Day



May 15: Arbor Creek wishes Tee Guy A Very HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 17: Armed Forces Day

May 20: Little Elm Town Council Meeting 7pm



May 25: Lederman's House 1-year anniversary



May 26: Memorial Day

May 28: Bulk Trash Pickup

Newsletter News

Letter to the Editor

I would like to add in our next newsletter that Ms. Laura Coomer, editor of Lakeside Times newspaper was very helpful in getting information to me by email. She emailed me several times giving me information about the mayor's race.

Editors note: I've met Ms. Coomer and found her to be a wonderfully sweet and locally knowledgeable person. Her paper the Lakeside Times is a great source of local news.

Did You Know?

Wildfire Nights

The largest and most highly profiled ticketed arts & music festival in the North Texas area! Wildflower! is the place to be for live performances from the country's biggest stars to daily exhibits, art and craft vendors, activities and fun for the entire family!

Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival kicks off its 10th anniversary with a special concert featuring GRAMMY-award winning jazz icon, Chuck Mangione, on Thursday, May 8th in the Charles W. Eisemann Center located at Galatyn Park in Richardson.

Show time is 8:00 p.m. in the Hill Performance Hall. There is no opening act. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$10, \$17.50 or \$22.50, on sale now at the Eisemann Center Ticket Office, 2351 Performance Drive, Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets can also be ordered by phone at 972.744.4650. Convenience charges will apply for phone orders.

Little Elm Fire Department Fireman's Fest

On Saturday, May 10th the Little Elm Fire Department hosts its annual Fireman's Fest. There will be music, food, arts & crafts and fun for the whole family.

The fest will be held at Little Elm Park and gates open at noon. The music begins at 2:00 pm. and features Vince Vance and the Valiants, Tim Shewamake, Standing Alone, The Hog Wallow Boys, Bryan Raiders and the Texas Rebels, Zen Bubba Band and others.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and higher at the gate. Kids under 12 enter for free. They are available at Johnny Joes, Little Elm City Hall and the Little Elm Fire Department. For more information call 972-529-6462 or 972-294-2581

Election Results are in:

Cravey – 351 Fotre – 198.

In what was the largest voter turnout in Little Elm History Incumbent Mayor Doug Cravey won with an almost 2 to 1 victory over local businessman François Fotre. Both candidates put a lot of effort into their respective campaigns and their efforts paid off in the voter turnout.

Houses are built to live in, not to look on; therefore, let use be preferred before uniformity, except where both may be had.

**Sir Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626),
Essays: Of Building, 1623**

Little Elm Population 2003

By: Town Manager J.C. Hughes



The North Central Texas Council of Governments recently provided the latest population estimate for the Town of Little Elm, Texas, as of January 1, 2003. Based on housing starts during the latest base year of 2002, the current estimated population for Little Elm stands at 11,200, up substantially from the January 1, 2002 estimate of 7,450.

The updated population estimate represents an increase of 50.3% - the highest percentage increase in the North Texas COG region for the fourth consecutive year. Mayor Doug Cravey responded to the positive news by noting, "Little Elm is fast becoming the destination for families who desire a high quality of life and our location on beautiful Lake Lewisville is a perfect setting." The Mayor went on to say "the tremendous growth we have experienced over the last few years is a testament to what most of us have already known, that Little Elm is a great place to call home because of our close proximity to shopping and sporting events, due to our surrounding rural setting, and due in large part to the friendliest residents in North Texas."

Growth has brought challenges to Little Elm in the form of ongoing efforts to improve both its local infrastructure and the State of Texas highway system inside the Town. Two Texas Department of Transportation improvement projects are set to kickoff construction this fall, one on FM-423, which serves as the main north-south artery, and the other on FM-720, which is the main east-west artery, and will assist in moving commuters to and from their jobs in surrounding communities. A major improvement in highway transportation network will also soon be addressed with the reconstruction of FM-720 into a four-lane highway and connecting toll bridge, which will span a portion of Lake Lewisville and provide a direct connection to Interstate 35. Little Elm Economic Development Chairman Jeff Jones is pleased with the latest population estimate and the future TxDOT roadway projects, stating, "It's amazing how much Little Elm has to offer families and business alike. Our organization is working with the Town and the Chamber of Commerce to attract the correct mix of retail and commercial service businesses through our incentive programs and assistance through State of Texas economic development programs. We stand ready to work with any existing businesses, new businesses, housing developments, or multifamily projects in order to help them prosper in Little Elm."

Town Manager, J. C. Hughes noted "that Little Elm has finally broken through the 10,000 population benchmark and now places the Town in a different demographic level, which will be beneficial in attracting retail establishments, commercial businesses, and a full range of developments for housing and apartment needs. The ultimate goal of the Town Council, Little Elm Economic Development Corporation, and the Chamber of Commerce is to experience planned growth, instead of growth for growth sake, and to insure that the strain placed on town services is matched by a higher level of customer service by our staff."

Chuckle Corner

By: Talisha Guy

Driving in Dallas



First you must learn to pronounce the city's name. Its pronounced DAL-LUS, or DAA-LIS depending on if you live inside or outside LBJ Freeway. Next, if your Mapsco is more than a few weeks old, throw it out and buy anew one. If in Denton County and your Mapsco is one-day-old, then it is already obsolete. Forget the traffic rules you learned elsewhere. Dallas has its own version of traffic rules..."Hold on and pray". There is no such thing as a dangerous high-speed chase in Dallas. We all drive like that. All directions start with; "Get on Beltline"... which has no beginning and no end. (It REALLY DOESN'T!!!)

The morning rush hour is from 6 to 10. The evening rush hour is from 3 to 7. Friday's rush hour starts Thursday morning. If you actually stop at a yellow light, you will be rear-ended, cussed out and possibly shot. When you are the first one on the starting line, count to five when the light turns green before going to avoid crashing with all the drivers running the red light in cross-traffic.

Construction on Central Expressway is a way of life and a permanent form of entertainment. We had sooo much fun with that we have added George Bush Freeway and the High Five to the mix. All unexplained sights are explained by the phrase, "Oh, we're in Fort Worth!" If someone actually has his or her turn signal on, it is probably a factory defect. Car horns are actually "Road Rage" indicators, and remember, its legal to be armed in Texas.

All old ladies with blue hair in Mercedes have the right of way. Period. (And remember, its legal to be armed in Texas) Inwood Road, Plano Road, NW Highway, East Grand, Garland Road, Marsh Lane, Josey Lane, 15th Street, Preston Road... all mysteriously change names as you cross intersections (these are only a FEW examples). The perfect example is what is MOSTLY known as Plano Road. On the south end it is known as Lake Highlands Drive, cross Northwest Highway and it becomes Plano Road, go about 8 miles and it is briefly Greenville Ave, Ave K, and Highway 5. It ends in Sherman.

A trip across town (east to west) will take a minimum of four hours, although many north/south freeways have unposted minimum speeds of 75. The minimum acceptable speed on the Dallas North Toll Road is 85. Anything less is considered downright sissy. It is possible to be driving WEST in the NORTH-bound lane of EAST NORTHWEST Highway. Don't let this confuse you. The North Dallas Tollway is our daily version of NASCAR. It also ends in Sherman. LBJ is called "The Death Trap" for two reasons: "death" and "trap."

Any amusement parks, stadiums, arenas, race tracks, airports, etc. are conveniently located as far away from EVERYTHING as possible so as to allow for ample parking on grassy areas. Final Warning: Don't Mess With Texas Drivers, remember, its legal to be armed in Texas.



Easy Lawn Care

Source: Various Internet Sites

Quick Tips:

- ⊖ Set your mower as high as it will go (3 to 4 inches).
- ⊖ Water only when your grass shows signs of drought stress and then water deeply (put a cup in your sprinkler zone and make sure it gets at least an inch of water).
- ⊖ Fertilize in both fall and spring for best results.
- ⊖ Have the pH of your soil tested and amend as needed.
- ⊖ Check for adequate amounts of topsoil.
- ⊖ Aerate and de-thatch lawns as needed.

Your lawn is in a fight for sunlight. If the grass doesn't shade the weed, the weed will shade the grass. Sun is food. Food is life. Shade is weakness, disease and death. Grass will shade the weeds only if it is allowed to grow tall enough. The shade of tall, dense grass turf will prevent the necessary light from reaching most weeds and will assist in the destruction of new baby weed seedlings

The Lawn Myth: "If I mow short, it will be longer until I have to mow again." The Lawn Truth: False! Your grass needs grass blades to do photosynthesis (convert sunshine into sugar) to feed the roots. When you cut the blades off, the grass has to hurry to make more blades to create sugar. It then grows much faster. This fast growth uses up a lot of the grass' s stored sugar, which weakens the plant making it now more vulnerable to disease and pests.

Tall grass is healthier and can use the extra sugar to make rhizomes (more grass plants) thus thickening the turf. Have you ever noticed that short grass in the summer is always riddled with dead brown patches?



For serious weed infestation, consider mowing twice as frequently as you normally do. The sensitive growing point for grass is near the soil. The sensitive growing point for most weeds is near the top of the plant. When you mow, it' s as if you are giving your grass

a haircut and cutting the heads off of the weeds.

This will force your grass roots to go deep into the soil. Deeper than where most weeds set their roots. As the top few inches of soil become bone dry, the weeds and weed seedlings on the surface will die while the grass still enjoys water from a little deeper.

Shallow, frequent watering encourages "thatch" (the grass propagating with above-soil runners rather than then the preferred rhizomes (under the soil runners). Eventually there gets to be so many runners that they weave a mat that chokes out water and air. Surface roots, in the top inch or two of soil, will, on a hot day, quickly dry and much of the grass will brown. Weeds and weed seedlings love a daily watering. It' s just what they need for a good start and just what you need to avoid.

The easiest ways to tell when it's time to water your lawn:

- ⊖ The grass will start to curl before it turns brown. When it starts to curl, that is the best time to water. Anything after that is time for "intensive care watering" (water half an inch, wait three hours and water an inch).
- ⊖ Stick a shovel into the soil about six inches. Keeping the sun to your side when you do this, push the handle forward. If you see any moisture, wait. If it' s dry you need to water. .



Air Conditioner Maintenance

Source: www.trane.com Website



The best time to get familiar with your new air conditioner system is when it's still new. Knowing how it sounds and looks when new will help you to quickly recognize the difference when things, as they tend to do, change. With this knowledge you'll be able to explain with detail what problems crop up to a serviceman when your system needs service.

Pre-season maintenance is the best way to ensure trouble free operation and peak performance and help avoid a system failure on the hottest day of the year. It will also keep your system working at its most efficient ability.

Some things you can do to make sure your getting the most from your new air conditioner:

- Make sure your outside unit and its pad to ensure it's level and intact.
- Clean out dirt, debris and leaves from inside your unit with a blower.
- Ensure your base pan and drain are free from obstruction.
- Clean the coil and cabinet.
- Visually check the fan blades for damage.
- Check all wires and tubes leading from unit to wall for wear or damage.
- Listen to motor while running to familiarize yourself with it's sound.
- Sniff for unusual odors coming from your unit.
- Check vents in house for proper operation. Temp should be 20 degrees less than ambient room temps.
- And perhaps the most important, change your air filter(s) monthly.