



**Jim Buerkle**

**Briefly introduce yourself. Include your background (business, volunteer or other experience), the number of years you've been a Stonebridge Ranch resident, etc.**

My wife Judy and I have been married for 48 years, have two grown children and have lived in 7 different cities during our life together. We are 20-year residents of the DFW area, 14 of them in Highland Village and 10 in Stonebridge Ranch. We took a six year sabbatical in the Redmond WA area, in 2009, returning to Texas in the spring of 2014 in a work related assignment. I have spent four years serving as a member of the Board and liaison to two Committees: Social and the Landscape and Grounds Committee working closely with three different Landscape and Grounds Directors employed by our Management Company. In that time, the Landscape and Grounds Committee on two primary objectives: Identify and Correct the issues caused by previous management, and cost reduction. We have changed from Irrigation Consultants and Landscape Inspector consultants and significantly changed our method of operation. Rather than generically describe the responsibilities of the Landscape Management Companies, we are prescriptively in the contract calling out key activities, periodicity of those activities, specifying in detail down to the content of the fertilizer and pre-emergent applied. In the process we not only are insuring we get what we pay for, we are also repairing the damage to the plant material caused by years of mismanagement. We also have completed a project to conserve water reducing total gallons consumed over the last 3 years. This is a major achievement given that water is 20% of our annual budget.

The Committee and the Landscape Director have not stopped. We have begun to implement a program to reduce the amount of mulch we consume annually by retrofitting mulch areas with woody stemmed plant material which will provide color and not require annual reapplication. We made the decision to replace annual color cost in the same manner. Annual Color requires constant water in the hot dry time of year, the plants we are replanting will provide color and less water. The net effect of these efforts are saving an estimated \$400,000 this fiscal year.

I look forward to serving the Community on the Board focused on reducing the amount of money we spend to keep Stonebridge Ranch the Premier Community it is.