

Bardmoor History

Back in the late 1940s, Oliver Bardes, a wealthy Ohio industrialist and partners purchased a 900–1000-acre wooded cow pasture. He later bought out his partners and started the development of the land in the late 1960s. Being in mid county, it was an idea location. In 1971, Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club was founded by Mr. Bardes. There were three courses, the north, east and south course. Being an avid golfer, Mr. Bardes would use the north course as his private course. I'm told Mr. Bardes would call and have the course closed about a half hour before he wanted to play.

In the '70s and '80s, golfing and tennis became quite popular here... for the golfers the J.C. Penney Classic was held several times also the Pepsi Tournament. For tennis people there was the Eckert Tennis Open. Australian and world acclaimed tennis player, Harry Hopman had opened the International Tennis Academy here at the club in 1977. Celebrities and top players, both golf and tennis, were always in the Bardmoor area. Beautiful homes were being built... what a place to live!!!

Around 1986 things began to change. As for the tennis, Mr. Hopman had died December 1985, and the academy later moved away. The developers, Bardmoor Properties, were asking for zoning revisions. Residents weren't sure what the zoning changes would mean, and many homeowners were up in arms. Things were finally worked out...the north course would remain basically the same; the east course would become 9 holes of the Bayou Golf Club with the remaining course layout and residential area to be developed later (this was the old south course). The Bayou Club would be separate: from the Bardmoor Club and eventually would become private. At the end of February 1987, it was announced the Bayou nine-hole course would be open to the public until the remainder of the course was completed, which would probably be the fall of 1987.

Sometime in 1988 Bardmoor Properties, whose properties included Bardmoor Country Club, the Bayou Golf Club, and the Stearns Tennis Centre had decided to put these on the market. Negotiations began in August 1989, but the actual sale took place on March 30th 1990...sale price \$14 million.

Then came the announcements...the Bardmoor north course which had been a private club would become public right away... no more Bardmoor memberships. The new Bayou Club will be private with an initiation fee of \$15,000. Bardmoor members can join Bayou and get a discount based on their Bardmoor fee but there were no refunds. Plans call for a new club house, a driving range which will be shared by both clubs, the completion of the additional holes that were planned for the Bayou Club and the remaining land would be residential. Bardmoor Boulevard was also affected by the changeover, see article regarding what happened on the Boulevard elsewhere in this newsletter.

Just 2 years after the sale to the limited partnership, developer and general partner Randell Gentry had things looking up. Both the Bardmoor (north) course, now public, was making a profit and the tennis club which was renovated had grown in membership. The Bayou Club had

a new clubhouse under construction and now has 18 holes.

Again, things were about to change for Bardmoor Golf Club. . .in 1996 a new club house was in the works, the course was closed for renovations. Come zoning was proposed which would take away some of the tennis courts and town homes would be built there but the county rejected that proposal. The developer decided to take away the tennis courts anyway...the pool had to go also. That area was then rezoned, and 20 homes could be built there. In 1998 Bardmoor Golf and Tennis Club opened their new clubhouse overlooking the new tennis courts and pool. In 2000, 209 homes called the Courtyards of Bardmoor were built in the rezoned area. I've been told that the Courtyard part of the name was chosen because of the tennis courts that had originally been there.

Not a great deal of change has taken place since 2001.... a reduction in speed to 15mph and speed bumps on Bardmoor Place was popular with those living along there but not so popular with those driving that way. The speed reduction, the speed bumps, and the no truck sign at the Bardmoor Place entrance have created more traffic for Bardmoor Blvd. and the necessity for a stop sign at Bardmoor Blvd. and Starkey Rd. became more apparent. The project costing \$2 million for redesigning the Bardmoor Golf course was completed in late 2001. Both Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club and the Bayou Club seem to be quite popular as is the residential area. I know I enjoy it here...I hope you do also!

I wish to thank Ann Killian Coyle, Vera Jones, Jean & Mort Goldberger, Shirley & Charles Starbuck for answering my many questions.

