



Barton Hills News

A newsletter of what's going on in our neighborhood
Austin, TX 78704 April 2002

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Message from the BHNA President

Many thanks go to Glenn Chase for countless hours designing the new BHNA web site. The change had to happen and Glenn's expertise is a real gift. Sharon Slagle's assistance was crucial also... The *May 4th City election* ballot has high priority propositions: single member districts and campaign finance. Also, three City Council seats and a school board race make this an important election. Do your part and vote!... We have many volunteer opportunities for the great *4th of July Parade*. Come join the fun... Thanks to all who took the time to return the membership survey in January... Our spotlight on Bill Brands reminds us of what a special 'hood we have. Many talented folks in our midst... Mark your calendars for the *April 16th meeting*. The

SOS presentation on the Creek will be informative. The Terrace and Brodie Tract issues will be updated then too. In response to a member request, Tom Davis will be serving turkey in addition to his usual delicious Green Mesquite fare. See you there!

Special Note of Thanks: Noel Holmes and her family must move to Dallas in May. We're sad. Her innovation will be missed. As Corresponding Secretary, Editor, and Ad Manager, her efforts have distinguished our *Barton Hills News*. Her coordination of the July 4th Parade was a major boost for a neighborhood event. And she's so darn much fun! We wish her the best and hope they'll return soon.

**Barton Hills Neighborhood
Association General Meeting
Tuesday, April 16th - St.
Mark's Episcopal Church**

General Meeting Agenda

6:00 – 7:00 Meet & Greet Social

BBQ Dinner catered by Green Mesquite. \$5 per plate: two meats, 2 sides, \$1 cobbler

7:00 – 9:00 Meeting Agenda

- H. E. Brodie Tract Update
- July 4th Parade Plan
- Guests: Bill Bunch & Colin Clark
- SOS on Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
- Membership Survey Results



Reported Crime Stats

The Austin Police Department maintains a database for "Neighborhood Association Reported Crime Information." During the month of February, 21 crimes were reported in or near the BHNA area, compared to 32 reported crimes in January. Seventeen of the crimes reported in January occurred on South Lamar at various locations from the 2500 block to the 3200 block. The reported crimes for both months included DWI, shoplifting, family disturbances, criminal mischief, theft, assault, and burglary. Two of the most recent reports posted were for a theft on 2-27-2002 at 3:00 p.m. in the 3000 block of Oak Haven and a residential burglary on 2-20-2002 at 10:15 a.m. in the 2900 block

of Kassarine Pass.

APD updates the statistics on a monthly basis. For privacy and safety, the reported offenses are listed only by block number rather than by exact location. The data reflect written reports, including "unfounded offenses" that were found not to have occurred after an investigation (about 3% - 5% of all reported offenses). According to APD, totals in the database may vary considerably from official totals following investigation and final categorization.

You can visit the electronic database at the City's web site for *Crime Listed by Neighborhood Association*: www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/neighbor_crime.htm. BHNA

stats are listed under Barton Hills/Horseshoe Bend.

Calendar

BHNA 2002 Events

Regular quarterly meetings of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association during calendar year 2002 are scheduled on Tuesdays:

April 16th
June 25th
October 22nd

The BHNA Fourth of July Parade is also scheduled as a big deal again this year! Other potential special events to be scheduled later include a candidate forum in a significant election year and a coordinated event with the Austin Police Department for National Night Out in early August.

Barton Hills Elementary

Spring is in full swing at Barton Hills Elementary.

- This month we will celebrate Earth Day during the week of April 22 – 26th. We have lots of fun activities planned as well as a concert by Tish Hinojosa.
- Our 3rd – 6th graders will be taking the TAAS test on April 16th and 17th.
- We have formed a landscaping committee to focus on improving the landscaping around our school. We want Barton Hills Elementary to really shine! An area landscape architect has submitted a proposal for improving the front entry area. We would love if the Neighborhood Association, or any of our neighbors would like to help with this project!
- Kindergarten Roundup is just around the

corner. If you have an incoming kindergarten student for the 2002-2003 school year, we want to hear from you! Please call our office at 414-2013 and let us know that you will be coming! Also, please join us on May 7th at 9:00 - at that time we will have the necessary materials for registration.

- May 10th we will be celebrating the launch of our Literary Magazine with a pizza dinner and concert featuring Joe McDermott. Please join us for a fun filled evening. Proceeds from the event will go towards our teacher staff development fund. Thanks for your ongoing support.





New Web Site for BHNA

<http://www.bhna.net>

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) has a new presence on the world wide web! Check out <http://www.bhna.net>.

As of March 30th, you can read more about neighborhood events and view photos as well as catch up on the latest information from your neighborhood association. You can read our current newsletter (or past ones). You can check out active committees and learn how to join them. You can get contact information for your association officers and review minutes of past general and executive committee meetings. You can even check out the association's bylaws. You can find out when the next meeting is, and you can find links to such useful neighborhood tools as the BHNA list serve, the neighborhood schools and recreation sites, useful local government contacts, and

much more. And if you haven't sent your dues in this year, you can find information on renewing your membership.

This terrific new site with its distinctive and easy-to-remember address is the result of hours of hard work



and talent volunteered by our neighborhood association web master, Glenn Chase. Glenn has completely redesigned the site, enhancing its looks and updating its information. He's also added new functions: try out the nifty new search feature!

The new site is hosted by

www.bhna.net main.org, which is home to a number of other Austin neighborhood associations and non-profit organizations. Although its snappy new URL-same name as our neighborhood association-is easy to remember, bookmark the site and include it on your list of regularly visited sites. Particularly be watching the Announcements page for the meeting reminders and posting of agendas.

The new web site is an important communication tool for the neighborhood, and the executive committee is committed to sharing information as effectively as possible. If you have suggestions for making the site even better, send them to one of your association officers. And if you see Glenn around the neighborhood, thank him for a great job and for his continuing efforts on our behalf.

The Fourth of July Parade Needs YOU!

Volunteers are needed for one of the most fun-filled family events in Barton Hills -- the annual Independence Day Parade and Party. The parade will take place on Thursday, July 4th. This parade would not be possible were it not for neighborhood volunteers. We need several individuals to head up committees. We promise you that there is not a lot of advance work, but we do hold several planning meetings and need all hands on deck the day of the event. Committees include Games, Publicity, Refreshments, Decorations, Judges, Sound, Set-Up and Clean-Up. The whole point of the Parade is FUN, FUN and more FUN.

And, we promise that as a volunteer you will have a great time being part of such a big event for our neighborhood.

We are also looking for sponsors. Last year we had a fantastic show of neighborhood support by local businesses. The Austin American Statesman, KVUE-TV and KEYE-TV showcased our event in their local news coverage of Parade highlights.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring, please call Noel Holmes, 441-8810 or come sign up at the meeting on April 16th.



Membership Survey Results

The BHNA Opinion Survey results are tabulated! We included the survey in the January newsletter to ask members to rate the importance of 14 separate items. BHNA has a total of 600 members and *one hundred sixty neighbors responded* to the survey. Half of the items were rated as high priorities in the following order:

1. Crime prevention
2. Law enforcement in the Greenbelt
3. Info on commercial development near BHNA
4. BH Drive sidewalk completion
5. Oak will education
6. Traffic enforcement
7. Greenbelt Cleanup

This lineup will guide the BHNA Executive Committee during 2002. Incidence of crime in the BHNA area is low compared to some other neighborhoods, probably due to the vigilance of residents. The BHNA email Message Service was established

for instantaneous communication throughout the neighborhood that assists crime prevention. Every BHNA member with an email address automatically receives these messages and can send messages. Also, the quarterly newsletter will now include crime incidence information from the Austin Police Department.

What about traffic calming? The survey included two items relating to traffic calming on either Barton Hills Drive or Barton Skyway. A clear majority (69 and 70) of the respondents would take steps to develop traffic calming on both of these neighborhood arteries. However, these two items also received the highest numbers (47 and 44) of "not important" responses. Almost everyone who responded on either side of the traffic calming issue made the effort to comment on **speed humps**: *make no mistake—we all hate 'em! Down with speed humps!*

Officers

The new BHNA Executive Committee became effective on January 1st for the 2002 calendar year. The new line-up:

Robin McKeever, President
442-7446 (h)
rmckeever@sbcglobal.net

Mark Gentle, Vice President
462-9488 (h)
mgentle@aol.com

Rafael Quintanilla, Treasurer
443-2234 (h)
rafa2@texas.net

Sharon Slagle
Recording Secretary
441-3679 (h)
sslagle@austin.rr.com

Noel Holmes
Corresponding Secretary
441-8810 (h)
noelh@prodigy.net

Peter Hess
Austin Neighborhood Council
Representative
445-7289 (h)
phess@mail.utexas.edu

Home Sales

Have you noticed more homes for sale in the area since the economic downturn?

Currently 10 active homes are listed at about \$163.09 per square foot. Four homes had pending contracts at approximately \$153.93 per square foot. The average selling price between 11-1-2001 and 3-31-2002 was \$129.65 per square foot. The average selling price for the same period a year ago was \$152.09. Cindy Wendling of Keller Williams Realty provided these statistics.



American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society invites cancer survivors and their supporters to walk, run, or wheelchair the first lap of the Relay For Life to celebrate their victory over the disease. Along with receiving a t-shirt and special gift, survivor participants are invited to a special reception after the lap. Call the American Cancer Society at 919-1800 to register for the Victory Lap.

May 3 and 4: Austin at the Toney Burger Center

All proceeds from the Relay for Life benefit local patient services, prevention and early detection education, and cancer research programs.

Families can participate in a Relay For Life team by raising money for the American Cancer Society. Teams of up to sixteen people participate by raising \$100 per team member and have at least one person running or walking on the track at all times. Contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 or www.cancer.org for more information.



Elections! Elections!

Run-off elections resulting from the March primary elections were held on **Tuesday, April 9**. The BHNA General Meeting was originally scheduled for this date, but the meeting was postponed because St. Mark's Church was also the polling locating for the run-off election. The Democratic ballot for the BHNA area included only one race for the U.S. Senate seat. The Republican ballot included state judicial races.



The next election is set for **Saturday, May 4**. The ballot will include elections for three City Council places and eight propositions on a range of issues. According to the City's web site at www.ci.austin.tx.us/election, voters will consider on the May 4 ballot whether to increase the number of Austin City

Council Members and the way in which they are elected. Currently, the City has an at-large system where everyone votes for all seven members. If approved, Proposition 3 would increase the number of Council Members from seven to eleven, with eight elected through single-member districts, and the Mayor and two members still elected at-large.

Before early voting begins on April 17, the City of Austin will have a map based on community input outlining the eight single member districts. If voters approve Proposition 3 relating to the change in the City's election system, the U.S. Department of Justice must review the way the eight districts are drawn and approve the map before it can be used for Council districts.

Your input is important! Be sure to vote!

Keep Folk Music Alive!

The Barton Hills Elementary Students, K-6th, under the direction of Ms. Dykhuis have produced a CD of popular folk music. The CD which sales for \$8.50 features favorites such as Aunt Rhody, Oats, Peas, Beans & Barley Grow and John Jacob Jingle... The CD makes a great Mother's Day gift and sing-a-long tape for summer vacations.

The CD's will be available beginning April 22nd. Stop by the school office to purchase. All proceeds go to help fund the wonderful music department at Barton Hills.



Concert at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School is holding its second annual Concert on the Deck on **Saturday, April 13th from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Last year's event was a smash success, and we've booked the same great band. Bring your family to enjoy some of the best of the Austin music scene in a family setting. Your child can listen to music while running on the playground. We'll sell cold drinks and Popsicles. This year, St. Mark's music teacher

Sybi Ward will kick off the concert with a children's program from 1:00-1:30, where the kids can sing and play instruments. The main band comes on at 1:30. Donations will be accepted to benefit St. Mark's School.

The band features renowned blues, country and zydeco musicians whose collective

talents read like a who's who of Texas and World music. The band includes, **Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff, George Carver, Lindsay Greene, Mike Gerstman, Nick Connelly and Ponty Bone.**



Where else but Austin could you get six wonderful, professional musicians jamming at a little preschool? Bring your family for a fun, musical afternoon!



Barton Hills News



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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR NEIGHBOR

Bill Brands

A Master Story Teller in Our Midst

Most of the Barton Hills neighbors know him as the man who presents us with an oral history of Independence Day at our July 4th celebration. But, to the literary world, he is historian, prolific author, New York Times bestseller and Pulitzer Prize finalist, H.W. Brands.

Dr. Brands lives on Cresthaven with his wife Ginger Savely. He is the author of 16 books. He writes about history and politics; about events past and present and people dead and living. His most recent paper back, *The First American, The Lives and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, currently debuts as number nine on *The New York Times Best Seller List*. This book is said to bring vividly to life one of the most delightful, bawdy, brilliant, original, and important figures in American history. The back book jacket is covered with praises from *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe* and the *Christian Science Monitor* who calls him a master storyteller.

Brands books include *The Strange Death of American Liberalism*, *The First American, TR (Teddy Roosevelt)*, *What America Owes the World*, *The Reckless Decade*, and *The Devil We Knew*. His articles have appeared in the *New*

York Times, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, the *National Interest*, the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Political Science Quarterly*, *American History* and many other newspapers, magazines and journals.

His writings have received critical and popular acclaim. *The First American* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and *Los Angeles Times* Prize. *What America Owes the World* was a finalist for the Lionel Gelber Prize. *The Wages of Globalism* was a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book winner.

Although Brands resides in Austin, he is currently Distinguished Professor of History and holder of the Melbern G. Glasscock Chair in American History at Texas A&M. He is also coordinator of the History of the Americas Research Program at Texas A&M, editor of the Series in Foreign Relations at Texas A&M Press, and associate editor of *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Brands and his wife have lived in the neighborhood since the early 1980s. They choose Barton Hills because they like the school, the village atmosphere of the neighborhood, and the



proximity to downtown, Barton Springs, Zilker Park and the Town Lake trail.

They have five children Kate, 22, Margie, 21, Hal, 19, Meghan, 18, and Riley, 9. All the children attended Barton Hills Elementary. For more information on Brands visit his website at www.hwbrands.com.

Let Us Know!

We want to hear from you. Do you know of any exciting Barton Hills News? Has your neighbor won the Pulitzer Prize? Did you win the Austin 10K run? Has your son or daughter received a full scholarship to UT? We would love to hear from you.

Send your news to: BHNA News, 2408 Spring Creek Drive, Austin, Texas 78704 or email noelh@prodigy.net.