



Barton Hills News

A newsletter of what's going on in our neighborhood

Austin, TX 78704

January 2002

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Message from the BHNA President

By Robin McKeever

As the BHNA executive committee plans for the new year, we are mindful of the importance of volunteer efforts for an effective association and a strong community. We're excited about BHNA opportunities this year or getting to know our neighbors and working together to improve things that need improving. Like many neighborhoods in Austin, Barton Hills is changing with the economy. As valued friends move away from these beautiful hills, newcomers revitalize our area. This year, BHNA hopes to entice both new and longtime residents to renew their community service efforts in a really terrific neighborhood. BHNA is blessed with many folks who serve the neighborhood in myriad ways, year in and year out. Here are a few who deserve our applause...

Joe Gieselman...for two years as an excellent president (and the sidewalk on

Robert E. Leel). **Emily Mazac**...for her dedication in producing the BHNA newsletter for two years. **Carl Newsome** and **John Bell** and **Nan Clayton**...for their reliability in answering calls for help regardless of the project. They set a high standard for community service. **Peter Hess**...for his versatility and creativity in serving BHNA. **Betty Brown**...for her sage advice and unstinting assistance in setting up for the general meetings. **Ann Kitchen**...for her good work in the State House of Representatives. We wish her the best! **Art Stone**...for taking care of the BHNA sound system with several bulky, heavy units. He makes it look easy! **Glenn Chase**...for the difficult tasks of managing the BHNA web site. **Rick Ramke**...for the labor intensive process of setting up the new BHNA list serve messaging tool. **Tom and Liz Davis** of Green Mesquite...for the yummy BBQ and to-die-for cobbler.

Calendar

BHNA 2002 Events

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

January 29th
April 9th
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 Neighborhood Association General Meeting Tuesday, January 29th - St. Mark's Episcopal Church

6:00-7:00 Meet & Greet Social

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

7:00-9:00 Meeting Agenda

- Business Meeting Called to Order
 - Introduction of new officers and guests
 - Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Guest: Peter Rieck, Director, City of Austin Public Works Department will discuss Barton Springs Road Capital Improvement Project
 - Guest: State Representatives Ann Kitchen and Elliott Naishtat to discuss electoral redistricting results
 - New Business: membership survey; annual BHNA goals; potential Barton Hills School project
 - Special Report: Update on the Terrace Development Project
 - Other Business
- Adjourn



When Will It End? Peter Rieck speaks on Barton Springs Construction



TERRACE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

BHNA members met with The Terrace manager Rod Arend and attorney Richard Suttle in early January to discuss construction plans for the site. The Terrace is located north of Hwy. 360 and east of MoPac, immediately southwest of the BHNA area. Recent rapid changes in the project have reignited residential concerns about potential light pollution at night and significant window glare from sunlight reflection during the day.

The Terrace, authorized by the City in the late 1980s, also has the potential for increasing traffic noise from multiple parking lots and garages. Mr. Arend has been responsible for the project from the beginning and has consistently expressed willingness to be responsive to

BHNA needs. The land for the project was acquired in 1984 and development plans were approved in 1987 prior to the City's adoption of the strict Barton Creek Ordinance. The newest building is set for completion in May, and two additional buildings should be completed in September.

BHNA has requested detailed information about the development, including lighting fixture specifications and window system glass. Members who participated in the meeting: **Mark Gentle, Joe Gieselman, Robin McKeever, Juanita Tijeina, and Jim Sondgeroth.** Mark will chair a BHNA special committee to review information from The Terrace and propose solutions to potential problems prior to project completion. BHNA



Glaring Problem?

members with architectural and engineering expertise are encouraged to participate by contacting Mark at 462-9488. If you have questions and concerns about this project, please attend the meeting on January 29th.

BHNA Membership Drive

The heart and soul of any volunteer organization is the enthusiasm and creativity of its active members. BHNA is no different. The neighborhood association depends upon the spirit of our volunteers. Among our top priorities this year is to recruit new members to expand the scope of what our association can accomplish.

Making a positive difference in your immediate surroundings is the opportunity the neighborhood association offers. All we ask is some of your time, energy and creative spark. This is an offer you can't refuse.

Please come to the next meeting. See old friends, make new ones. It is time to renew your commitment to Barton Hills.

Membership dues are \$5 a year and are renewed every January. If you would like to join, send a check in the amount of \$5, payable to Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, Rafael Quintanilla, 2804 Rock Terrace, Austin, Texas 78704. As part of your membership, you will receive all four issues of the BHNA newsletter.



Electoral Redistricting Results

Major changes are under way to reconfigure the 48th and 49th Districts of the State House of Representatives as a result of a federal court decision in November affirming the Legislative Redistricting Board's proposal to redraw the map.

Redistricting occurs every ten years to adjust for population shifts reflected in Census results. Currently, the BHNA area is entirely within District 48, which is represented by a BHNA member, the Honorable Ann Kitchen. When the new map takes effect January 1, 2003, BHNA will be part of a redrawn District 49.

Representative Elliott Naishtat currently represents District 49. The new plan for District 49 would require Kitchen, Naishtat, and Representative Glenn Maxey to run against each other in 2002. However, Kitchen has indicated she is moving to West Austin in order to remain in District 48, and

Maxey has announced his retirement later this year at the end of the current term.

Redistricting also changes the BHNA Senate District. Senator Gonzalo Barrientos currently represents us in Senate District 14. When the new map takes effect, BHNA will be part of a reconfigured District 25, currently represented by Senator Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio. District 25 will be radically realigned, including a narrow "finger" through the 78704 zip code area to Town Lake and I-35.

The Texas Legislative Council, which supported the Legislature's redistricting efforts, provides detailed information at www.tlc.state.tx.us. The Austin Chronicle (12-7-2001) also provides detailed information at www.austinchronicle.com, and the American-Statesman (11-29-2001) also covered the changes <https://archives.statesman.com>.

2002 Survey

Please take a moment to fill out the attached membership survey. We want to know what is important to you in our neighborhood. There are so many new projects being discussed. Beautification of the Barton Hills Elementary landscape, the possible need for a prevention and fire evacuation plan for the Greenbell area residents, a completion of the sidewalk on Barton Hills Parkway and many more. Be a voice in your neighborhood. Fill out the attached survey, join the BHNA and come to the next meeting.

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)
imgentle@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



2002 BHNA Officers: Peter Hess, Robin McKeever, Rafael Quintanilla, Sharon Slagle, Mark Gentle, Noel Holmes



SCHOOL NOTES

By Principal Kati Achtermann

Barton Hills Elementary is back in full swing after a great Winter Break! We invite you to come by anytime and volunteer your time, or just look around!

During the week of January 14 - 18, the Student Council is sponsoring a Food Drive to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank. We welcome any support from our neighborhood homes. Drop off your donations at the school office.

We will also have a "Hat Day" on January 25th - just in case you see lots of head accessories on that day.

The Campus Advisory Council (CAC) is working to improve the landscaping around the

front and sides of our building and has some preliminary plans and would love your support in helping us achieve those improvements. We are looking into improving the soil, relocating some trees, creating some walkways, and adding some appropriate plantings. If you would like to help time, labor, plants, monetary donations,) please let us know.

In addition, we always have a need for individuals from our community willing to mentor a child. The time commitment is usually one day a week for about an hour. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact our Counselor, David Short, at 841-3850.

From January 23 - 25 and 28-29, Barton Hills Elementary will be an Early Polling Site for

the 2002 AISD Health and Safety Bond Election. The Main Voting Day will be February 2nd.

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship For Seniors

Did you attend Barton Hills Elementary? If you did and are a graduating high school senior, you may be eligible for the \$500 Barton Hills Nick Akery Scholarship sponsored by the Barton Hills PTA. Candidates must have attended Barton Hills Elementary for at least two years, grades Kindergarten through 6th. Deadline for application is March 30th, 2002.

For further information, contact the senior counselor at any AISD high school or W.R. Anderson at 326-9097.

BARTON HILLS ELEMENTARY GROUNDS MAKEOVER

One of the most prized treasures of Barton Hills Elementary School may be getting a beauty makeover. Carl Newsome, BHNA member, has proposed landscape improvements for the elementary grounds. He has made presentations to the Barton Hill's PTA and the Campus Advisory Counsel, where he serves as Community Representative. He will also describe the project at the January 29th BHNA meeting.

The project is looking for adopters and sponsors. The plan is to place small permanent plaques identifying the sponsors and adopters at specific areas of improvement throughout the landscape. Carl is seeking the sponsorship of a landscape architect to develop the master plan of improvements. A professional team would then be

sought to do the "dirty work" -- the clearing of hard ground and the necessary leveling. Then, the project would be turned over to volunteers who would follow the master plan's planting suggestions. A fun-filled planting party for the neighborhood has been suggested as a way to kick off this special project.

The BHNA newsletter will keep you posted on the progress of this project. If you are interested in hearing more, please come to the January 29th meeting. If you



are interested in becoming a sponsor or adopter or if you are interested in joining a neighborhood planting party, please call Carl Newsome at 444-9218 (home) or 794-6699 (office).



OAK WILT PREVENTION

Oak wilt has been a problem in our neighborhood for many years. Our recent attempt at stopping the advance of the disease in the Rabb Road area has failed. As there is no cure for this disease, oak wilt prevention is of utmost importance. The injections with the chemical Alamo work best as a preventive measure or in the initial phase of the disease.

Oak wilt in our area affects mostly red oaks and live oaks. Oak wilt is caused by a fungal infection. The fungus is transmitted by interconnected roots (live oaks) and by the sap beetle that transmits spores from diseased trees to wounds on healthy trees (both live and red oaks).

Here are some important things you can do to prevent the spread of oak wilt:

- 1) Avoid pruning live and red oaks from early February through June. This is the time of year when the sap beetle is active and fungal mats are most pronounced. Pruning is best performed in winter during cold weather.
- 2) Whenever you prune a red or a live oak, you should cover the wound with tree paint immediately.
- 3) If you injure an oak, cover the wound with tree paint

immediately. Common are lawn mower or weed-eater injuries to the trunk, to exposed roots, and to root suckers. Trees next to the street can be damaged by trucks; injuries by construction machinery are common as well. Also apply tree paint to broken limbs after a storm. Keep a spray can of tree paint in your garage to immediately paint any wound on your trees.

- 4) Avoid firewood infected with the oak wilt fungus unless it has properly dried. Only wood that has been cured for an entire summer should be stored in the vicinity of uninfected red or live oaks. If you bought oak firewood for this winter and are unsure of its age or origins, use it up before spring.
- 5) Remove and properly treat trees that are infected with or have died from oak wilt to prevent development of spore mats. These treatments include debarking, chipping or splitting, and drying the wood. Covering dead wood with plastic, burying the edges for 6 months, and then air-drying for a similar time will kill the fungus and any associated insects.

LIST SERVE IS HERE!

The **BHNA electronic mail list service** is up and running! In October, 2001, the Association voted to support a list serve to facilitate faster communication among neighborhood residents on topics of importance to the neighborhood, and BHNA initiated the service in late December.

As a result, your \$5 membership fee now gives you access to an additional tool for up-to-the-minute local information.

All paid members with email addresses are automatically enrolled. Subscription is restricted to BHNA members, and the subscription list is confidential. The Association Treasurer, Rafael Quintanilla, maintains the subscription list and moderates use of the service. For continuous service, notify Rafael if your email address changes. To unsubscribe from the service, simply send an email to

barton_hills-unsubscribe@yahogroups.com.

BHNA appreciates the efforts of member Rick Ramke in setting up the system and thanks former resident Gloria Hill and past Association President Joe Gieselman for making it happen.

Neighborhood Crime News

Well, no news is good news! Keith Hamblin, Barton Hills DR, reports that there is nothing major to report in the neighborhood regarding crime. However, there is big news for Keith professionally.

On January 13th, Keith will be promoted to Corporal. This is a patrol position, which means he will be returning to street duty in March. We want to

congratulate Keith and thank him for keeping careful watch over our neighborhood. The BHNA wishes him well in his new duties.

For those interested, there is a city web site for getting current crime reports:

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/neighbor_crime.htm

You must click "Acknowledge" and then select "Barton Hills."

BHNA Web Site

Can't find your latest newsletter? Not sure when the next BHNA meeting is? Don't know who to call about a BHNA concern? Just check the web! BHNA news, meeting announcements and minutes, bylaws, contacts, and other useful information are all on the Internet at <http://www.austin360.com/community/groups/BHNA/>



Barton Hills News

Thanks to the local businesses whose advertisements enable us to distribute this newsletter. Please show your support by choosing the goods and services of these local businesses. If you wish to place an ad, please contact Noel Holmes, 441-8810.



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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR NEIGHBOR



Mike and Betty Dingus and their son, Eric, love the Barton Hills Neighborhood, kids, and chess. So they had a simple idea – "Let's start a Chess Club at Barton Hills Elementary!" They expected 20 students. What they got were over 100 children – more than one-third of the entire school.

Mike remembered his love of the game, elementary through high school, while Betty had not played chess until last year. They bought Eric, now a first grader at Barton Hills Elementary, a used Simpson's chess set and took off on a family adventure.



The Dingus family enjoys recreation that exercises the mind. Studies show that chess promotes concentration, creativity, logical thinking, problem solving, and mental discipline. There is also a link between playing chess and higher test scores.

Mike and Betty list many great reasons to play chess:

- It's fun and exciting. It's been around 1500 years and is played in almost every country in the world.
- No chance or luck – all skill, so it's fair.
- Good for young and old, boy and girl, small and tall
- It's deep – easy to learn, but always something more to know so you can't get bored.
- Every game has the potential for the tension of battle, the beauty of new ideas, and the excitement of conquest.
- It's inexpensive.

Since Eric's first tournament at age 4, he has been the CEA National Champion kindergarten-1st grade, US Junior Open 1st place under 7 and 1st grade Texas State Co-Champion.

David Short, a Barton Hills resident and Barton Hills

Elementary school counselor, is the co-organizer of the Chess



Club. He and Betty have been impressed with how fast the K-6th students ages have taken to the basics and beyond.

The Chess Club meets once a week at the school on Wednesday from 2:45-3:45 pm. The Chess Club needs neighbor volunteers as chess mentors. If you have an interest in Chess, whether you are a teenager or retiree, the Chess Club would love to hear from you. The Dingus family is also interested in starting a neighborhood chess club where residents, parents, and kids could all get together and play informally. Their email is mdingus@austin.r.com and phone number 416-8121. If anyone is interested, please call.

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.