

# Barton Hills News

A newsletter of what's going on in our neighborhood

Austin, TX 78704

June 2002

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**BHNA 2002 Events**

**Barton Hills Neighborhood  
Association General Meeting  
Tuesday, June 25th  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church**

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The big news for this issue is to get ready for a major neighborhood event: the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade! We anticipate even more fun than last year, which was over the top. **Sara Hickman** will be Grand Marshall, **Bill Brands** will do the history, and **Howie Richie** as master of ceremonies--It's an event for everyone, not just kids. Patriotism, games and a little silliness! Whether participating or spectating, you'll enjoy the day...We also have a good line-up for the BHNA meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We're very pleased that our newest City Council Member, **Betty Dunkerley**, will attend. We'll get her thoughts on neighborhood planning as well as the City's budget crunch...Also, Barton Hills resident **Larry Akers** will give us an update on the planning for a Town Lake Park

adjacent to the performing arts complex at Auditorium Shores. Ideas for that segment of Riverside Drive may have snagged the overall plan...**Jody Slagle**, Compost Manager at Hornsby Bend, and BHNA Member **Scott Johnson** will talk to us about the many benefits of Dillo Dirt. Hope to see you there!

Regular quarterly meetings of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association during calendar year 2002 are scheduled on Tuesdays: June 25<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**General Meeting Agenda**

**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**

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Plan
- Guest: Betty Dunkerley, Austin City Council, Place 4
- Guest: Larry Akers on Town Lake Park Plan
- Guest: Jody Slagle, Hornsby Bend Compost Manager on Dillo Dirt
- Open Microphone on Speed Humps
- Project Reports and New Business
- Adjourn



## Reported Crime Stats

The Austin Police Department's database for "Neighborhood Association Reported Crime Information" contained data for 25 reported crimes reported in March, and 36 crimes reported during April. Of the total 61 alleged crimes reported during the two-month period, 24 occurred on apartment properties. The remainder occurred in single-family residences, business parking lots, restaurants, gas stations, convenience store, washateria, sidewalks, or a mobile home park.

These crime statistics reflect police reports in response to disturbance calls, and multiple reports may result from a single police response. An "assault with injury" report, for example, is often made at the same time as a "family disturbance" report. During the March-April period, there were a total of 12 "family

disturbance" reports, of which 6 were related to "assault with injury" reports. ([www.cityofaustin.org/police](http://www.cityofaustin.org/police) provides information and links on family violence.) Four reports of "possession of drug paraphernalia" were made during March, and none in April. There were five reports of "public intoxication" during the two-month period, one DWI on Hollow Creek Drive, three auto thefts, and 11 reports of burglary of a vehicle.

Of the total six reports of "burglary of a residence," only two occurred at apartments. One residential burglary was reported on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 in the evening in the 2500 block of Wildwood, and another burglary was reported nearby on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. in the 1800 block of Glencliff Drive. Additionally, a bicycle was reported stolen from a carport in

the area of 2300 Westworth Circle.

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 data at the City's web site for *Crime Listed by Neighborhood Association*: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/neighbor\\_crime.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/neighbor_crime.htm). BHNA stats are listed under Barton Hills/Horseshoe Bend.

## New APD Liason

Earlier this year, the Austin Police Department assigned a new district representative to our area following Keith Hamblin's promotion to Lieutenant. Mike Summers, Senior Police Officer, visited the BHNA meeting in April to introduce himself as the new representative. He caught everyone's attention with a brief report of APD's apprehension of an armed suspect in the Greenbelt following reports of gunshots. The man was dressed

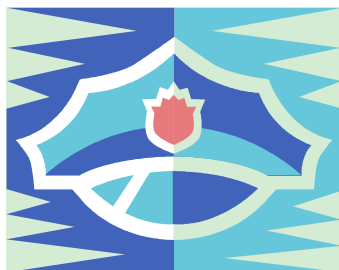
in camouflage, packing weapons and ammunition, radios and a cell phone. Although additional people were believed to be involved, only one suspect could be apprehended. Officer Summers said federal authorities took control of the case following the apprehension, which occurred in late February in the area just south of Highway 360 near Barton Creek.

Officer Summers referred to the incident as an example of APD's reliance on neighborhood awareness of suspicious activities and assistance in reporting suspicious activities. He encourages BHNA members to contact him as the APD liaison for any questions regarding departmental procedures. For emergency

assistance, residents should continue to call 9-1-1 for an officer to be dispatched immediately. For non-emergency situations, please call 3-1-1 to avoiding overloading the emergency response system.

If you would like to contact our new district representative:

Mike Summers  
Senior Police Officer  
Southwest District  
Representatives  
404 Ralph Ablanado  
Austin TX 78748  
974-4405  
[mike.summers2@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:mike.summers2@ci.austin.tx.us)





## Star Spangled Celebration -- WE WANT YOU!



We want you to come join in this great neighborhood tradition, Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Barton Hills Neighborhood Association Parade.

The parade will assemble at 8:30a.m. at the Barton Hills Market and at 9:00a.m. proceed to the

Barton Hills Elementary Playground.

Show off your true blue patriotic and creative spirit. Decorate your bike, wagon, stroller, scooter, roller blades, pets, or yourself and march in the parade. Old Navy will be donating specialty Fourth of July items and kazoos. These decorations will be handed out at 8:00 at the Barton Hills Market. So, come early and join the kazoo band in the parade. It will be three cheers for the red, white, and blue and you may just win an award or two!

The ceremonies will be held on the Barton Hills Elementary playground. Nationally known and locally loved singer/songwriter Sara Hickman will serve as Honorary Grand Marshall and sing the National Anthem. The Boy Scouts will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Brands, Pulitzer Prize nominee, will present the history of Independence Day. KUT-FM's Howie Richey will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

There will be tons of fun for everyone. Festivities include: watermelon seed spitting contest, sack races, piñatas and awards for the parade participants. Watermelon, cookies, and plenty of

water will be served.

Along with your patriotic spirit, we need donations of cookies and watermelon. Please bring them to the playground on your way to the parade. If you cannot bring them the day of the parade, but would like to donate something, contact Lisa Fehrenkamp at 444-3211 to arrange an early drop off.

If you have an eye for patriotic style and flair, you be the judge!!!! We are in need of three talented individuals to help judge the parade participants. We also need energetic early birds to help set-up the festivities at the Barton Hills School Playground at 7:30 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>. All patriots who volunteer their services for this star spangled celebration will be officially recognized by the M.C. and greatly appreciated by all who attend this event.

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association extends special thanks to the parade's business sponsors who have supported the event with resources or prizes: Matt's El Rancho, Changos, Phoenicia Bakery & Deli, Green Mesquite Barbeque, Kerbey Lane Cafe, Holland Photo Imaging, Reinking Assets Management, Carl Newsome, Barton Hills Market, Comet 1 Hour Cleaners, Whiteside Motors, and Barton Hills Mobil Station. We urge Barton Hills residents to support these civic sponsors with their business.

We also wish to recognize the individual efforts that make this event possible: Noel Holmes, Jennifer Stuart, Art Stone, Lisa Fehrenkamp, Tom Davis, Emily Mazac, Sheila Strickland, Robby Anderson and volunteers from throughout the neighborhood.

## BHNA Web Site Update

**<http://www.bhna.net>**

Our new neighborhood association web site (<http://www.bhna.net>) is the place to look for current news about our neighborhood until the next newsletter comes out.

If you were watching our web site you already know that neighbor Sara Hickman has agreed to serve as Honorary Grand Marshal of our Fourth of July Parade - we posted a picture of her from last year's parade and a link to her web site so you can learn a little more about this talented and compassionate singer/songwriter.

if you have a few hours you'd like to devote to helping keep Barton Hills a wonderful place to live, volunteer opportunities are always listed on our committees page. Stop by and see how you can help Jen Stuart out with preparations for the upcoming July 4 Parade!

Be sure to watch the web site for more news about the upcoming Parade as well as new features we hope to implement soon. If you have an idea or suggestion for the web site please take a moment to send it to Glenn Chase ([spanky@mac.com](mailto:spanky@mac.com)).



## National Night Out

The Austin Police Department is inviting neighborhoods throughout Austin to join thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 6th, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., to participate in the 19th Annual National Night Out. APD officers as well as City Council Members will attend neighborhood gatherings throughout the City and participate in a neighborhood walk.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in anti-crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

On the evening of August 6th, residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police and fire

fighters. Neighborhoods are encouraged to fill out an application form to be registered with APD to host a party or gathering. Many neighborhoods are planning cookouts, block parties, parades, flashlight walks, contests, and youth activities.

BHNA encourages independent initiatives on each street throughout the neighborhood. Get together with your immediate neighbors and hatch a plan. If planning a big deal on your street is more cost than benefit, then plan a "little deal"! The point is to get to know your neighbors and coordinate your efforts with APD for complete information. To participate effectively in this effort, you should complete the NNO Application, which is available with complete information at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm). For any questions, contact Yolanda Buchman at the Community Liaison Office at 459-1554, or by email at [nno@ci.state.tx.us](mailto:nno@ci.state.tx.us).

## Officers

Robin McKeever  
President  
442-7446 (h)  
[rmckeeper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmckeeper@sbcglobal.net)

Mark Gentle  
Vice President  
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Recording Secretary  
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Peter Hess  
Austin Neighborhood Council  
Representative  
445-7289 (h)  
[phess@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:phess@mail.utexas.edu)



## Bandit Sign Crackdown

The City is notifying neighborhoods that it is cleaning up illegal signs placed in the public right of way. What are "bandit" signs? They're signs that are subject to the City's Land Development Code, Sec. 25-10-103, which prohibits signs in the public right of way. This means that a person may not install or use a sign maintained on a structure located on or over public property or public right of way (ROW). The ordinance has been on the City's books for almost 20 years.

The City Manager and code enforcement staff have the authority to remove and dispose of a sign located on public property without notice. In many cases,

people who install the signs are not aware they are breaking the law. Some of the most common types of bandit signs seen everyday on streets and intersections:

- Garage sale notices
- Employment solicitations
- Local business ads
- Political campaign signs
- Directional signs for new homes and development.

A violation is a Class C misdemeanor. In most cases, the sign identifies the beneficiary or contact information. The City has launched an aggressive campaign

to educate the public about the sign ordinance. It is also organizing the clean up through several city departments and working with volunteer groups.

To become a Volunteer Ranger, contact Sherry Mitchell, Austin Policy Department, 974-7673, or Gloria Quinonez, Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department, 974-7673, [bruna.quinonez@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:bruna.quinonez@ci.austin.tx.us). A partnering effort is sponsored by Keep Austin Beautiful; registration for their program is available at [www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org](http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org).



## A Better Earth with Dillo Dirt!

Nearly everyone has heard of it by now—Dillo Dirt is compost material made by the City of Austin since 1989. If you know Austin, you will not be surprised to learn that it was the first program of its kind in the Texas and one of the oldest in the nation. All yard trimmings collected curbside across the city as well as some of our treated sewage sludge are combined and composted to create Dillo Dirt. The heat generated in composting (130 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit) is sufficient to virtually eliminate human and plant pathogens. After active composting for over a month, our compost is "cured" for several months, then screened to produce finished Dillo Dirt.

Dillo Dirt easily meets all Texas and EPA requirements for "unrestricted" use, including vegetable gardens. Like many other composts, Dillo Dirt has

many benefits to the soil and plants. Composts add to the organic matter in the soil, reducing watering. Organic matter feeds the microbes in the soil as well as plants, making a healthier environment. Dillo Dirt is made from totally recycled materials, and this recycling is less expensive to citizens than landfilling these materials. There's no doubt about it, it's good stuff!

Dillo Dirt is sold at many retail outlets, including Emerald Garden, Don's Grass, Natural Gardener, and all Home Depot locations.

For more information, contact Jody Slagle, Compost Manager at the Hornsby Bend Treatment Plant and a Barton Hills resident at 972-1954. Jody will be a guest speaker at the BHNA meeting on the 25th.

## Ride FREE

### Ozone Action Days Program

Cap Metro has supported the Ozone Action Days program since 1993. As part of their commitment to clean air, rides are free on Ozone Action Days. Based on federal air quality regulations (National Ambient Air Quality Standards—NAAQS), Central Texas may receive designation as a non-attainment region.

This designation of non-attainment is expected to include the 5-county Austin-San Marcos MSA, which includes Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. A designation of non-attainment for a region can result in economic development restrictions, delay of highway projects and other economic impacts to the region.

## Capital Metro Update

The Cap Metro Transportation Authority Board of Directors decided at their meeting on May 29th not to hold a referendum on light rail in November 2002. The need for more community involvement and input into the plan was cited by Board Chairman Lee Walker, President/CEO Fred Gilliam and board members as the most compelling reason not to call for an election. In a memo presented to the board at their meeting, Gilliam said: "I am confident that Capital Metro heard citizens when they said more information and public input is needed before bringing light rail back for a vote." Gilliam added, "As we have gone

out into the community, we have found that the enthusiasm for a rail plan has led to people wanting more—not less—time to help shape this vital project."

In other action, the board sought to demonstrate the agency's commitment to regional mobility by dedicating one fourth of the sales tax for the current year to transportation and mobility projects. The specific projects will be advanced by the cities and counties in the Capital Metro service area: Austin, Leander, Manor, Lago Vista, Jonestown, Travis County Precinct 2, and portions of Williamson County Precinct 1 & 2. Capital Metro's

commitment to regional mobility projects now totals \$150 million.

If you would like more information on Capital Metro activities and subscribe to their electronic newsletter, go to:

<http://www.enebuilder.net/capmet>

[et](http://www.enebuilder.net/capmet). You can subscribe to get updates on Capital Metro's route and service improvements, the latest from the Rapid Transit Project, and other information. This information is also available directly from the Capital Metro website at

<http://www.capmetro.org>. You may also contact Brad Ehlers, Community Relations Specialist, Capital Metro, at 389-7590.



# Barton Hills News



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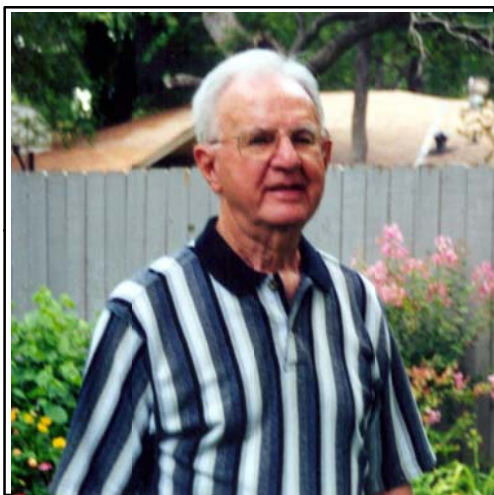
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**SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR NEIGHBOR**

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## Ralph White Model for Community Spirit



His neighbors know him as a humorist, an ardent and successful gardener, and a person of unusual intellect. He easily discusses opera, political campaigns, and fascinating details of his extensive travels. He cares about his neighbors, enjoys a good party and interacting with diverse people. Ralph White and his wife, Frances, are both deaf and are revered for many qualities including their leadership of deaf populations across the United States. Although they have been retired at their Bluffview address for several years and residents of Barton Hills for four decades, they have lived and served elsewhere. During the 1980s, for example, Ralph was Superintendent of the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

When Ralph was advised that he might be featured in a BHNA newsletter, he noted that he hardly resembles

Robert Redford, that his closet is without skeletons, and accordingly, he would not be an attractive personality for the spotlight. We must disagree!

Ralph holds a bachelors degree and two masters degrees from the prestigious Gallaudet University in Washington, D. C., the University of Texas,

and California State University at Northridge. He was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Gallaudet. He has been President of the National Association of the Deaf, President of Deaf Seniors of America, a principal actor with the National Theater of the Deaf, and has garnered honors which, if listed, would consume the entire space of this newsletter.

A native of Georgia, his career in Texas has involved teaching, counseling, administration, governmental duties, lobbying, tireless civic activism and much more. Ralph's work has earned him the respect and admiration of all who have encountered him and benefited from his efforts. Chief among his and Frances' accomplishments is their daughter, Vicki, who now resides in the Dallas area. Vicki is a successful certified counselor, who closes her

office several times a year to return to Bluffview with husband John to visit the Whites.

Although Ralph remains active in the affairs of the deaf community both locally and nationally, and he continues a keen interest in politics, much of his time now is devoted to cultivation of plants instead of minds. His yard reflects this devotion—he is peerless with St. Augustine grass, his xeriscape garden is gorgeous, and he is occasionally passionate about tomato plants and squirrels. His garden is a swarm of butterflies and hummingbirds.

Ralph may not be Robert Redford, but in our estimation he possesses a track record without equal, and he is a model for the community spirit that we hear so much about lately. Barton Hills is fortunate indeed to have him and his wife as residents.

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:  
Robin McKeever,  
[rmckeever@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmckeever@sbcglobal.net).