



# Barton Hills News

An epistle of goings-on in our neighborhood  
Austin, Texas 78704 October 2002

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## BHNA President's Message

As another year draws to a close for the association, we are again reflecting on the "power of the people" to make a difference in the neighborhood. More than 600 BHNA members are paying attention to the things that matter in one of the nicest areas of the whole city. Volunteerism is alive and well here.

Building on efforts that began in 2001, we established the BHNA eGroup for all members with e-mail addresses. Supported by Yahoo.com, this message service has been a resounding success, allowing rapid distribution of safety and traffic information. We've also had several rounds of spirited discussion revealing not only the diversity of our little community, but also some history of the area.

In the spring, we were able to survey every City Council candidate on issues significant to our area and distribute their responses to the eGroup before the election. Also this year, revamping www.BHNA.net was a huge project that will have long-term impacts.

Some pending BHNA projects and challenges will continue into 2003. Currently a dedicated group of BHNA'ers is leading an effort with the school district and the City in an application to fund sidewalks and other neighborhood improvements. This effort is part of the Safe Routes to School Program supported by the Texas Department of Transportation. The application must be finalized in late October and a decision is expected in early December.

(continued on back cover)

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association  
 General Meeting  
 Tuesday, October 22  
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church

**Agenda**

**6:00 - 7:00 Meet and Greet Social**  
 BBQ dinner catered by Green Mesquite. \$5 per plate: 2 meats, 2 sides, \$1 cobbler  
 Demo of Early Voting Machines

**7:00 - 9:00 Business Meeting**

- Officer Mike Summers
- Guests: County Commissioner Candidates, Pct. 3
- Guest: Nancy McClintock, City of Austin, on Barton Creek Pollution
- Election of BHNA Officers for 2003
- Project Reports
- Other Business



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## Terrace Update

In response to the annual survey in January, the BHNA membership indicated a high level of concern about large commercial establishments near the neighborhood. As a result, the executive committee has maintained contact with The Terrace at MoPac and Highway 360. In May, Mark Gentle, BHNA Vice President, met with Rod Arend, Project Manager for The Terrace, and concerned residents of Barton Hills (Stan Ostrum and Robbin Trusty) to discuss noise problems. Mr. Arend confirmed that The Terrace

will undertake a noise abatement project for Building VII, which is the most recently completed building, to address our neighborhood's concerns about the noise from that building's large air-conditioning unit.

To abate the noise, the Terrace will enclose the two sides of the air conditioning unit that face the greenbelt and our neighborhood using sand-filled blocks. The Terrace indicated they chose this alternative as the most likely to block the noise from the unit following a study of the

problem with an acoustic consultant. Mr. Arend indicated it is the most expensive alternative, but they are serious about reducing the noise. The construction was to have been completed by the last week of June.

Mr. Arend has consistently expressed an interest in co-existing as a good neighbor, and we appreciate his commitment on this problem. Let's hope their efforts abate the noise. We will keep an ear to the ground!

## BHNA Pedestrian Audit

Twenty neighbors from the Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods attended a 4-hour pedestrian safety workshop on Saturday morning, September 14th, at Barton Hills Elementary School. Sponsored by the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, this "Pedestrian Audit" was designed to raise awareness of changes that could improve pedestrian access and safety in our neighborhood. Pedestrian audits are offered by the Trans Texas Alliance through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

The workshop was led by Charlie Gandy, a nationally recognized pedestrian and bicycle consultant, who was assisted by Shannon Hornsby of the Trans Texas Alliance. Special guests included Representative Elliot Naishtat and Ricardo Soliz of the City's Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department. Anna Bryan-Borja, Debby Kalk, and Glee Ingram organized the event, with help from BHNA President Robin McKeever. Other workshop

participants included: Larry Akers, Lucy Joyce, Jody Slagle, Stella Arzola, Sharon Slagle, Jany Kazanoff, Cheryl Smithers, Sarah Denton, Jennifer Stuart, Wayne Denton, Rick Ramke, Rob Read, and Lorraine Atherton.

After identifying attendees' particular concerns in the Barton Hills neighborhood, Gandy offered examples from across the country of solutions to pedestrian-access problems faced by Austin neighborhoods. The presentation included photos of problem areas in Barton Hills. The workshop continued with a "walkabout" down Barton Hills Drive to Robert E. Lee, up Robert E. Lee to Rabb, Rabb to Ridgeview, Ridgeview down to Barton Hills Drive again, and back to the school. After being sensitized to a range of pedestrian access obstacles in the first part of the workshop, attendees quickly identified problems all along the walk route, and Gandy facilitated discussion of possible solutions. Convening back at the school, Gandy debriefed attendees and provided

resources for follow-up work, particularly regarding TxDOT's Safe Routes to School Program, which offers grants to improve the safety of children traveling to and from school.

As the meeting concluded, Robin McKeever, BHNA President, appointed the following team to generate a list of action needed to improve pedestrian access in the neighborhood and to create a Safe Routes to School grant application: Debby Kalk, Glee Ingram, Jennifer Stuart, Anna Bryan-Borja, Jody Slagle, and Sharon Slagle. This team is already hard at work meet the City's October 31st deadline for Safe Routes to School applications. Team members have recently met with representatives from Barton Hills Elementary School, the PTA, and the City of Austin.





## Early Electronic Voting

**E**arly voting for the November election will be totally automated. Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir says that the county has entered a new era in elections. No paper ballots will be used in early voting, which begins on October 19 and ends on November 1.

According to Ms. DeBeauvoir, the new voting system can be learned in a couple of minutes and requires no special knowledge. You just turn a wheel to highlight your

selection and push a button to mark the choice. You will also see a Ballot Summary that shows how you marked your ballot. You can change your mind without worrying about ruining your ballot or selecting more choices than allowed. A "help" button is built in should you need it that brings printed instructions to the screen or notifies a poll worker that you have a question.

After testing several other automated systems over the past year, the County Clerk selected the "eSlate" system

as the most secure and fully compliant with provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The system does not require Internet use.

The county will use the automated machines only for early voting this time. On Election Day, November 5, only paper ballots will be used, which is the last time paper ballots will be used in Travis County. Beginning next year, the county will use the voting machines in every election without using any paper ballots except for mail-in voting.

## Fourth of July Recap

**I**t is not often that a community really comes together just to have fun, but this neighborhood had a beautiful, heartfelt 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade this year. The cooler weather (for July in Texas) and breeze, along with the strong patriotic atmosphere, made this an especially meaningful and much-enjoyed parade.

One of our neighborhood Boy Scout color guard troops led the parade, followed by the Grand Marshal Sara Hickman. Bob Daemmrich once again led the kazoo float. There were red, white, and blue kids on bikes, skates, wagons, and even decorated little cars, while Art Stone drove along playing patriotic music. Once we found Sara Hickman (busily swinging with her 2-year old), she sang an emotional rendition of the National Anthem. Our

very own Bill Brands gave a stirring speech reminding us why we were gathered. The Motorola Semiconducted Singers delivered "America the Beautiful" in four-part harmony. We ate watermelon and cookies, raced across the playground in potato sacks, spit seeds for prizes, and bashed piñatas. It was, in a word, **fun**.

BHNA would like to give a big THANKS to everyone who volunteered his or her time and money. You wouldn't believe the work it takes to put this little parade together. The following people went above and beyond their call to make our parade a success: Christine Stueve organized decorations, John Bell picked up tables from kind neighbors all over Barton Hills, Lisa Farenkamp organized food donations, Emily Mazac did the publicity, Howie Richey

was a fabulous MC, Lance Hickman-Schriner took digital pictures for our website, Randy Linder, Sara Gaertner, and Alexa Welsh had the hardest job of all—judging the contestants. How do you decide between the patriotic shark and the decorated dogs?

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Noel Holmes who organized much of the event before she moved to Dallas, and to Jennifer Stuart who took the reins from there.

As we look towards next year, Jen Stuart (Jenstuart78704@yahoo.com) welcomes any comments or suggestions. Thanks to your input, we are already planning an egg toss for next year, and we would love to organize a contingent of veterans to march in the parade with us. Hope to see you all then!

## Traffic Calming: Pace Cars

**L**ike many neighborhoods in Austin, Barton Hills is challenged with finding effective ways to slow down vehicular traffic and increase safety on residential streets without

drastic measures such as speed humps. Two northwest Austin neighborhoods are addressing the problem with a new approach called the pace car program. Residents of the Balcones Village and Spicewood homeowners

associations are signing pledges that they will drive only the posted speed limits and come to a complete stop at all stop signs. In return, they receive windshield stickers proclaiming them as pace car members. The



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idea is that improved driving practices by a few residents will slow the other traffic as well. Peer pressure for better driving

is also an element of the program. A former transportation engineer and resident of the neighborhood, Jack Shockey,

suggested the program after hearing that the program was working in other cities.

## First Annual ACL Music Festival

**A**t 7:43 am on Saturday September 28th, the sound check crews played a Lyle Lovett hit through the sound system of the main stage, and thus unofficially kicked off the first Austin City Limits Music Festival. The Festival created an unmistakable buzz around town and in the neighborhood. Many residents were skeptical, and others volunteered to identify and resolve neighborhood issues with the promoters (Capital Sports and Entertainment) and city staff. Behind the scenes, the Mayor's office, Parks and Recreation, and the promoters worked extremely hard to respect the affected neighborhoods.

By the end of the event, most observers were amazed at how well the festival ran and even more impressed at how much fun everyone seemed to have, even in the baking sun of early fall Texas afternoons.

Many things worked well. On Saturday and Sunday, the back gate to Barton Springs was open all day, parking was reserved for swimmers, and the park police kept close watch over the influx of traffic into the neighborhood at Barton Hills Drive and Robert E. Lee.

Because of the mad rush to see Los Lobos at about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, the waiting time for buses and

tickets was a temporary bottleneck. Also, the lack of public water and a \$2 price tag for a small bottle of water posed a health hazard, in one opinion.

On Sunday, the crowd was smaller but the parking in the neighborhoods got a little more aggressive. Trash removal was still going on Tuesday evening, but people were back playing pick-up football in Zilker Park as usual. It is likely that the Festival will be back next year.

Please bring your comments to the upcoming meeting so we can hear from you. The city staff and the promoters are interested in our feedback.

## Pollution in Barton Creek?

**I**n early August, bold headlines in the Austin American-Statesman reported "Barton findings hint at future health risks" and "Chemical in pool sediment not hazardous to humans yet." The chemical has been detected in the Barton Springs pool sediment in four tests since 1995. Although 20 of 25 tests since 1991 showed no evidence of the cancer-causing chemical, and the four tests do not warrant closing the

pool, the state's toxicologist advised the City that the findings are a red flag for action. Mayor Gus Garcia pledged that the City will ensure that chemical levels do not increase and will take appropriate action to control pollution.

The chemical, benzo(a)pyrene, an oil-based byproduct of the combustion of organic material, is present in motor oil, asphalt, and automobile exhaust particles.

A principal source of the pollution may be Barton Hills Drive runoff during storms. The Statesman indicated that City officials are working with the management of Barton Hills Park Place Apartments to limit runoff at that point. Nancy McClintock from the City's Watershed Protection Division will attend the October 22 BHNA meeting to discuss current activities and plans for limiting the pollution.

## Golf Scramble

**C**ook-Joyce, Inc. is proud to be a sponsor for the 3rd Annual Golf Scramble for Children With A-T. The National Organization to Treat A-T (*ataxia telangiectasia*) is an organization that CJI has supported since it was founded. This year the scramble will take place on

Monday, October 14, at 1:30 at the Barton Creek Country Club and is dedicated to the memory of Tom Joyce.

In addition to the scramble and also in Tom's memory, Cook-Joyce, Inc., will be sponsoring a tissue-typing drive to be held the same day. In conjunction with the National Marrow Donor

Program (NMDP) at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, this drive will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2128 Barton Hills Drive between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you are unable to get by the church, tissue-typing will also be conducted at the golf scramble during the



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awards banquet following play.

Last year, Tom's life was cut short by leukemia, a disease that claims the lives of countless people around the world each year. Tom touched many lives in his 50 years and your participation in the NMDP,

in his memory, will allow him to touch even more.

To qualify as a volunteer marrow donor, you must be between 18 and 60 years old and in good health. The first step towards becoming a donor is to have your tissue typed. This is a simple procedure, requiring only a

finger prick, in addition to a minimal amount of paperwork and does not take more than 10-15 minutes. More information on the NMDP can be found at [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org).

## Shorts

### Honorable Mentions

Michael Borel, son of Sue and Dennis Borel, recently earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest level in the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of Troop 17, sponsored by Faith United Methodist Church. For his Eagle project, he rebuilt a playground structure at the church. Neighborhood resident Cheryl Smithers was his church project advisor, and neighbor Glenn Chase served as a member of his board of review. Michael will be a junior at the LBJ High School Science Academy.

Jennifer Boyd, daughter of Sue and Dennis Borel, has been selected to receive a \$1,000 Gift for Life Scholarship from the Young American Bowling Alliance. Jennifer bowls in the Junior Masters League at Westgate Lanes and will be a senior at Austin High School.

### A Great Shirt!

Barton Hills Elementary School's PTA is sponsoring an excellent t-shirt! A Barton Hills student designed the graphic to depict the school's mascot, an Eagle, flying a US flag with smaller eagles saluting at the base of a flagpole. The shirt, which says 'Barton Hills Standing Strong 2002,' will surely be a collector's item soon for anyone living in this neighborhood!

The T-shirts are \$10 and all proceeds go to the PTA's student academic and cultural enrichment

programs. Remaining sizes are medium and large youth sizes. Adult sizes are medium, large, and X-large. They are 100% cotton on medium blue.

You can buy your shirt at the next BHNA meeting or you can email Jamy Kazanoff at [jpkaz@austin.rr.com](mailto:jpkaz@austin.rr.com). You can also stop by the school and fill out a form and attach a check. For more information contact Jamy 462-9180.

### Happy Trowels to You

The Horseshoe Bend Garden Club, a group of women that has been gathering for nearly 20 years, meets four Thursday nights and holds two evening potlucks a year. If you are looking for an informal way to get to know your neighbors, join us! For information, call Yates Barreda at 448-1276.

### More Dirt

The Barton Hills Garden Club extends an invitation to anyone interested in gardening or promoting civic beautification in our area to join. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Austin Area Garden Center at 9:30 am for refreshments with a program starting at 10:00. Dues are \$15 a year.

The October 22nd meeting will focus on flower arranging by Margaret Spofford. For more information, feel free to call membership chairman Sadie McRae at 442-2286, or president Lisa McCrimmon at 327-5633.

## Officers

### Welcome Packets

New residents of Barton Hills will soon be presented an "operating manual" for the neighborhood. This booklet will contain useful information about natural history, services, tips about landscaping, and other aspects of the good life in these hills. Look for it soon.

### Let Us Know!

What exciting Barton Hills news can you share? Which of your neighbors has earned a Tony Award? What kid got a full scholarship? We'd love to hear from you! Send your news to:

Howie Richey, Editor

[zow@io.com](mailto:zow@io.com)



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# **B a r t o n H i l l s N e w s**



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## President's Message, cont.

Also, the Barton Hills Handbook of useful information is being finalized as part of a plan to welcome new residents. And the Greenbelt Cleanup is in the planning stages for January... more to come on that. Basic volunteer opportunities include the need to establish a newsletter distribution committee. We have the basic tools, but need a coordinator and core group who would like to get a little extra exercise twice a year.

Serving as your president during 2002 has been a special experience for me. I have particularly enjoyed working with the executive committee and making many new friends among the storied hills of Barton. Members of the BHNA executive committee really deserve gold stars for their tireless efforts on your behalf—Mark Gentle, Rafael Quintanilla, Sharon Slagle, Peter Hess, Noel Holmes, and Howie Richey—what a great group! As we close the year, it's time to turn over the

helm as BHNA holds elections for the coming year. A committee will nominate officers at the October 22 meeting. We hope your name will be among the nominations, and we urge you to contact any member of the current executive committee or Emily Mazac at 447-8708 if this would interest you.

Robin McKeever

## ECT

Can you imagine living in a city with 2.5 million people? If current projections are correct, Austin may get there as soon as 2020. Those of you who witnessed the growth spurt of the past few years understand the high social and environmental cost of such rapid growth, not to speak of transportation problems. Envision Central Texas is a coalition of citizens from Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties that will incorporate the priorities and interests of residents throughout the region into a plan to address our future growth. With input from citizens, businesses, and elected officials, ECT wants to tailor a growth strategy that will consider all essential aspects of regional planning.

As part of this process, a series of six workshops will take place next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. You're encouraged to attend one of them—but you may attend more than one. The Envision Central Texas web site is not fully operational yet, but you will be able to register for the workshops there: <http://www.envisioncentral>

## November Election

[texas.org/](http://texas.org/). Please note that you should register by October 9! You may also call Dianne Miller at 916-6037.

Just when you thought politics-as-usual was stagnant, here comes another chance to vote. The election ballot for Tuesday, November 5th, includes:

- Senate and Congress
- Texas Governor
- Texas Senate
- House of Representatives
- Numerous judicial positions
- State Board of Education
- Other statewide offices such as Railroad Commissioner.

Travis County elections for Precinct 3, which includes Barton Hills, are also included at the bottom of the ballot.

Precinct 3 candidates for County Commissioner:

- Margaret Moore (Democrat)
- Gerald Daugherty (Republican)
- William Brooks (Libertarian)

Justice of the Peace candidates in Precinct 3:

- Melissa Goodwin (Rep.)
- John Vasquez (Dem.)
- Dale "Sam" Malone (Lib.)



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Down-ballot candidates have expressed concern with a long ballot that voters may not take the time to vote in those races. JP workload in our area is mainly criminal cases, mostly related to minors in possession of alcohol and also theft. Critical dates for early voting:

10/19 – 11/1 in person

9/6 – 10/29 by mail

Present a voter registration certificate or a form of identification to vote. For questions about your voter registration card, call 854-9473. Examples of proper ID include any picture ID, preprinted in-state checks, a library card, two credit cards, or any official mail addressed and sent to you by a government agency.

Travis County voters may vote at any mobile voting location. Dates, locations and times are announced shortly before early voting begins. Early voting locations are posted on the website for the Elections Division, Travis County Clerk at [www.co.travis.tx.us/county](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county)

[www.co.travis.tx.us/county/elec1/pamphlets](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county/elec1/pamphlets). They may also be reached at 854-9020. For additional information, contact the Secretary of State's Office at

[www.sos.state.tx.us/function/election](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/function/election)