

Barton Hills News

It's what's going on in our neighborhood

Neighborhood Planning Starts - Special House Meetings This Fall
Barton Hills High Expectation for Full Participation and Deliberation

Would you like to see these banner headlines

Big Box Superstore Opens at Gus Fruh Greenbelt Entrance
Barton Skyway Extended from Mopac to South Lamar
100,000 a day at ACL Festival; Neighborhood Parking Encouraged
Barton Springs Closed; Possible Massive Superfund Site
SOS Overturned; Barton Hills to Change Name to Barton C

Or these?

City Council So Impressed with Inclusive Process, Approves Neighborhood Plan without Changes
New Community Pool Opens for Barton Hills and Zilker
Free Parking at Barton Springs and Zilker Park
Comprehensive Sidewalk & Bike Lanes Project Completed with City & Private Funds
Barton Hills Fire Protection Best in the Country

That was a leading question, we hope!!!

To imagine and make possible the second set of headlines, our Association has worked hard this year to get out front of the official City of Austin Neighborhood Planning process. We believe that to better define and achieve our goals and projects requires seeking to engage and inform our entire community in our own education, discussion, and deliberation of what this plan should look like. In addition to newsletter articles and discussions at the general meetings, a planning committee has met regularly toward making this the most informed and representative process possible. This work and commitment is based on a simple premise. We are a thoughtful, active, and caring community, respectful of differences and agreeing to disagree when needed, and we should develop a plan taking advantage of these qualities.

In this spirit, BHNA is pleased to announce that Barton Hills residents will have an opportunity this Fall to enjoy the very best of democracy! *Coming together in small groups to discuss and decide what is most important to our community.* We are very fortunate to have our planning process part of a unique class project at UT. In collaboration with the Community and Regional Planning (CRP) Master's program at the UT Austin School of Architecture, we will convene house meetings, groups of 8 to 12 people, to meaningfully envision our future. Dr Patricia Wilson and Mark Tirpak, Teaching Assistant, and a class of incredible graduate students, will assist us with these meetings and other activities. *(Please Continue on Page 3.)*

Message from the President

I am very pleased about what BHNA has accomplished for our community this year. Believe me, it is the fruit of a lot of hard work, time away from family, and sincere commitment to making a difference in our local community. It is also fun, enriching, and even exhilarating. I have really enjoyed working with so many of you, contributing to the life of our neighborhood community. Selected highlights show we have already greatly exceeded BHNA's goals for this year goals:

- Getting out front of COA Neighborhood Planning process through own education/ engagement with presentations, articles, new committee, etc.
- Successful negotiations with COA in winning Free Parking at Barton Springs; Redesign of Barton Creek Remediation Ponds to meet our concerns; and Effective partnership with ACL Festival
- Oak Wilt presentation and article, with latest research and map
- A memorable and wonderful Fourth of July parade and celebration
- Continuing the award-winning work of Greenbelt Guardian
- Success in promoting and extending work for Greenbelt and community (e.g., Conservation Award, new Youth Community Service Agreement)
- Bike lanes survey, Revision of bylaws
- Expanded and enhanced newsletter
- Strengthened membership, including many new members like Scout (see picture below) *Have you paid your dues like she has?*

The list goes on. And we are not finished yet. I am very excited about the coming house meetings project with UT Graduate students, the proposed renewal of the Barton Hills Holidays Lights tradition, and the creation of a neighborhood mural. I have enjoyed most working with community members and friends, old and new. Volunteer work and the "joining spirit", as Alexis de Tocqueville observed in *Democracy in America*, are the unique and essential qualities of our community life and a confident and optimistic democratic nation. It is also great fun. And this opportunity is even better on the Executive Committee. Positions are open and members will elect new officers at the October 12 general meeting. I regret that Rayma and Derek are departing (a return of their sanity); they are both extraordinary people and very dedicated to enriching our community. Please thank them for their service. .

Don Long, President, BHNA



Officers

Don Long

President

416-0679 (h)

Rayma Chase

Vice President

462-1424 (h)

Derek Stuart

Treasurer

441-3186 (h)

Debby Kalk

Recording Secretary

442-8829 (h)

Vacancy

Corresponding Secretary

Robbie Botto

Austin Neighborhood

Council Representative

448-0693 (h)

NEXT
GREENBELT
GUARDIAN
WORK DAY:

Saturday, Oct. 16

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Homedale Greenbelt

Entry

2010 Homedale Drive

Neighborhood Planning

House Meetings This Fall (Continued from Page 1)

In their own words, the purpose of these house meetings or dialogues is *“to foster neighborhood interest and greater participation in neighborhood and community visioning and planning. It is hoped that well-facilitated, open, and inclusive block-level conversations will help prepare the entire neighborhood for participation in the city's scheduled neighborhood planning process. Currently, the UT graduate students are gathering background information on the neighborhood and are meeting with a cross-section of residents to learn more about what makes Barton Hills a community resource. On Monday evening, October 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Barton Hills Elementary School, the BHNA is hosting a workshop for those interested in convening one of the house dialogues about the future of Barton Hills. The UT students will facilitate a house-style dialogue with all those present (any Barton Hills resident may attend, including teens!), and give you sample invitations and guidelines for hosting your own gathering. Students will be available to serve as facilitators or recorders at your house meeting during October and November.*

Students will be on hand to share more about the October 18th workshop and the house dialogues on the future of Barton Hills at the BHNA general meeting on Tuesday, October 12. We, the students in CRP, look forward to working with the Barton Hills neighborhood. There is nothing more important than an informed citizenry able to talk and listen to each other about their needs and dreams for the future of their community.”

We are extremely fortunate to have these students to assist and to inspire us. Please respond in kind and put this date on your calendar now. Also let Don Long know if you would like to host a house meeting.

Beginning the Conversation

What Do You Envision?

The following represents an opinion of a BHNA Planning Committee member, Gary Poole, on the issue of Austin's growth as it relates to our neighborhood planning. Your opinion is also very welcome on this or any other issue important to developing a neighborhood plan. If time and talent permit (in other words, if we have more volunteers), we may begin an online neighborhood planning newsletter dedicated to providing both facts and opinions (and what's in-between) that contribute to a robust and lively conversation about our community - where we are, where we are going, and where we would like to be and go.

It's no secret that Austin is growing. The Envision Central Texas project predicts that the population of Travis and its surrounding counties will almost double over the next 20 to 40 years. A large part of that growth will occur in our city. Such dramatic demographic changes have undesirable consequences: sprawl; pollution; loss of habitat; increased per capita social services, infrastructure, and transportation costs; loss of green space; watershed destruction; and more. By accommodating most of our population growth within already existing urban and suburban areas, we can avoid or mitigate the most deleterious consequences of growth. This was the idea behind scenarios C and D of Envision Central Texas. Not surprisingly, these were the models most favored by the Envision respondents.

Obviously, to contain a large part of Austin's population growth within the existing urban boundaries will require substantial redevelopment. Planning officials have spoken of the need to increase the populations of existing neighborhoods by twenty percent. This increase might be accomplished through the construction of single or multi-family units on vacant land, the conversion of single family units to multi-family units, or the removal of existing structures and replacement by multi-family housing or single family housing on smaller lots.

As we work on our neighborhood plan we need to think about this issue and try to find ways we can accommodate additional population growth in our community. No doubt few residents wish to see radical changes in our neighborhood. For the most part we like it as it is. However, ignoring the problem of growth will not render us immune to the consequences of uncontrolled sprawl: Barton Creek will be damaged, our air will be polluted, our taxes will increase, and our roads will be more congested. Our neighborhood's health depends on our city's health. If in our neighborhood plan we proactively accommodate population growth we will be protecting our community as well as performing a civic duty.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws committee, chaired by Debby Kalk with contributions from Nan Clayton, Peter Hess, Don Long, and Robin McKeever, proposes the following changes to the BHNA Bylaws. These changes are designed to reflect actual practice or to accommodate new initiatives. At the October General Meeting, we will consider and vote on each of these proposed changes individually. Each change is indicated below. Words proposed for removal appear with a strikethrough; words proposed for addition are underlined.

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Barton Hills-Horseshoe Bend Neighborhood Association, a non-profit organization, hereafter referred to as the Association.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility

B. Membership in the Association shall be issued on the basis of residency or property ownership and payment of annual dues. Each non-resident property owner shall be limited to one membership.

C. All resident members of a dues-paying household 18 years of age and older are members of the Association.

V. VOTING

2. A quorum shall be necessary for the transaction of Association business. ~~In no event, however, shall a quorum be constituted with less than 10% of the members represented.~~ A quorum shall be constituted by the attendance at the meeting of at least five percent of the total membership of the Association.

3. The Treasurer will determine the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum at meetings for the rest of the year based on the paid membership as of the first General Meeting of the fiscal year.

4. An affirmative vote of more than fifty (50) percent of the ~~quorum members present at the regular or special called meeting when the vote is taken~~ shall be binding on the Association.

5. The privilege of introducing motions and voting shall be limited to members who are current in their dues and those who have joined the Association by paying dues at least ten days prior to any regularly scheduled or special called meeting. Renewing members in good standing as of December 31 may pay their dues for the following year at the first General Meeting of the year and are thereby eligible to vote at that meeting.

VI. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Association shall be elected from the active membership and shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Community Partnerships Coordinator, and Delegate to the Austin Neighborhood Council. These seven ~~six~~ elected officers shall comprise the Executive Committee.

2. Officers shall be elected for one-year terms at the ~~last~~ last October quarterly meeting of the year and shall assume office at the beginning of the next year ~~January~~ meeting. The officers shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same elective office.

3. Nomination of officers shall be the responsibility of a ~~three~~ five-member Nominating Committee appointed by the President from the active membership prior to the ~~last~~ last ~~October~~ quarterly meeting of the year. Nominations may also arise from the floor at the meeting.

4. Duties of Officers:

C. The Community Partnerships Coordinator (CPC) shall be responsible for the development and growth of community partnerships with businesses, organizations, individuals, and other stakeholders consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Association, as specified in Articles II and III. The CPC is expected to exercise initiative and creativity in fulfilling the duties of this office. Specific responsibilities include marketing and advertising for the newsletter, business sponsorship of BHNA activities, and development and growth of special stakeholder and community-based partnerships, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

5. Removal from Office

Any officer may be removed from office for cause at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present ~~quorum~~ providing that notice has been furnished to the membership at least two weeks prior to said meeting.

VII. MEETING AND ORGANIZATION

1. Meetings of the general membership of the Association shall be held quarterly beginning in January or February. The Executive Committee shall set the specific time, place, and agenda of each meeting.

4. The Association may publish a quarterly newsletter and maintain an electronic mail service. The newsletter is distributed quarterly to Association members and ~~twice a year~~, at the Executive Committee's discretion, may be distributed to all neighborhood residents. Subscription to the electronic mail service shall be voluntary and limited to Association members. The Executive Committee may adopt protocols necessary to administer the orderly use of the electronic mail service.

XI. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present ~~quorum~~ provided that the amendment(s) have been submitted in writing to the membership prior to the vote.

XII. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Barton Hills -Horseshoe Bend Neighborhood Association, no class of member shall have any right nor shall receive any assets of the Association. The assets of the Association are permanently dedicated to a tax-exempt purpose. In the event of dissolution, the Association's assets, after payment of debts, will be distributed to an organization which itself is tax-exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Vote on these proposed changes
at the BHNA General Meeting
October 12.

Neighborhood Watch

The #1 Crime Prevention Technique in the World

Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Volunteers and Austin Police Department (APD) Officers Dawn Leonard and Mario Renteria have met twice in the last two months to launch the new "Neighborhood Watch for the 21st Century." These meetings were not only full of excellent information and training about neighborhood, home, and personal safety from Officer Renteria, APD Crime Prevention Specialist, and the latest insights and advice from our APD community liaison, Officer Leonard, who is unsurpassed in her dedication, service, and availability to our community. They were also very entertaining due to surprise visits by Hollywood celebrities, including Arnold Schwarzenegger, who provided the *Terminator's Top Ten Reasons to Join a Neighborhood Watch*. Sorry if you missed it!! But I think he'll be back. So you can still join and not miss out the next time.

door neighbor when you notice they suddenly stopped retrieving their mail though at home.

A NW partnership with police officers also leads to interesting City of Austin police details. For example, did you know our southwest region, David Sector, is the largest at about 45 square miles (South Lamar to Mopac, Town Lake to Circle C)? What is startling though is that this is an area of phenomenal population increase yet the actual coverage of officers on a shift has decreased from 12 to 10!! So a NW is a vital and mutually-beneficial relationship between a community and the APD and between community members. Our next step is to expand the present number of "block captains" (about 25 who have expressed an interest but may or may not have attended one of these meetings due to scheduling conflicts). "Block Captains" are simply trained participants in a NW who serve as the "eyes and

Safety Tips

- Illuminate outside walls of house and keep shrubbery below window sills so others could see a burglar.
- Lock doors and windows! This is #1 way burglars enter homes.
- Rekey your house (recommended every year); this proven to lead to reduction in burglary.
- Secure deadbolts to wood studs of door frame by using 3 inch long screws.
- Try to be more attentive to detail when noticing suspicious activity (e.g., license plate number).
- Use the code word, "Burglary in Progress," to alert dispatcher to make top priority for more immediate response.
- Always call 911 whenever it is a question of personal safety.
- Our neighborhood postal lady, Nikki, recommends that elderly residents leave emergency contact information in their mailbox so she can alert appropriate persons when concerned.
- Officer Dawn Leonard, Southwest District Representative, welcomes all neighborhood concerns; you can contact her at 974-4405 or dawn.leonard@ci.austin.tx.us

Most importantly, these meetings were simply enjoyable opportunities to get to know neighbors better, share concerns about our mutual safety and respect for privacy, and brainstorm about how our Neighborhood Watch (NW) can serve to knit us together better as a safer and more caring community. That's right, *more caring* too. A NW can be much more than a "law and order" endeavor, ever on the watch for "suspicious activity." This is important but it doesn't express the many other benefits from a NW. As Officer Renteria emphasized, a NW can also be a way to be our brother's keeper, to be more aware of your neighbor's needs and situation, and to respond effectively and thoughtfully. For example, you may alert a neighbor who allows newspapers to pile up when away on vacation or check on an elderly next

ears" of the community and know how to report concerns effectively. Since our neighborhood is divided into seven sectors, 3 to 4 block captains per sector would be enough to get the NW restarted. Officer Renteria said ideally you need about 20 percent of area residents to participate (but not all have to be block captains); this would be about 280 households, which is less than our BHNA membership. We could use the listserv to keep everyone informed, a 21st century virtual NW.

Officers Leonard and Renteria will come to the October 12th BHNA general meeting to provide more information on Neighborhood Watch. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Let Don Long know if you are interested in serving as a block captain.

Coming Attractions and Other Neighborhood Events

Southwest Trail and Greenbelt Planning Workshop

Imagine a continuous greenbelt trail stretching from Town Lake through Zilker Park, past Barton Springs, southwest all the way to the LBJ Wildflower Center and beyond, into the Texas Hill Country. Such a scenario might actually be possible if a new community planning effort bears fruit. Come learn a bit about current and future trails, bikeways, safe routes to school, zoning and trail building success stories, and then help shape this new trail linking Lady Bird Johnson's greatest legacies to Austin.

"Blazing a New Trail," Southwest Trail and Greenbelt Planning Workshop, will be held October 2nd, 9:30am-5:00pm, Lady Bird Johnson National Wildflower Center. Hosted by UT School of Architecture & Community Planning Dean Dr. Frederick Steiner, experts and the general public will meet to create trail and greenbelt connections between the Barton Creek Greenbelt and the Wildflower Center, and beyond! If interested in this workshop and/or project, e-mail swgreenbelt@austination.org or visit <http://www.swgreenbelt.org>.

Barton Skyway Mural Committee Field Trip

The vision is to have a welcoming entrance to our neighborhood at Barton Skyway and Lamar that is as beautiful as Barton Hills. Instead of a blighted concrete supporting wall running along the sidewalk, we'd see a wonderful art project developed by our neighbors. Another Austin

neighborhood has had great success in creating a similar entrance-way mural. Join us for a field trip to see this mural on East 11th St, just east of I-35. We will follow-up with questions for the guiding force behind this mural, Dr. John Yancey, chair of the Painting program at UT Austin. Contact Debby Kalk, 442-8829 or debby@cortexlearning.com to participate or support this project.

Barton Hills Elementary Fall Carnival

Barton Hills Elementary will host a special Fall Carnival fundraiser on Friday, October 29, from six to nine p.m. This year, with our theme Ancient Greek Civilization, we're bringing the excitement and glory of the Golden Age of Greece to your back yard!

We'll have games to endlessly entertain you and your children: a moonwalk, a Velcro wall, Jacob's ladder, a high striker, a dunking booth, cakewalk, an amazing "Glow in the Dark" Labyrinth with a Minotaur, bingo, face painting and that old favorite, the Pringles toss. Buy gifts and Christmas ornaments, and take home some sweets prepared especially for this event by the parents of Barton Hills. Dine in the luxurious ancient setting of the Parthenon on nachos, hot dogs, chips and pizza, as well as other delicious food generously donated by Phoenicia bakery, Olive Garden, Poke E Joe's, Artz's Rib House, Matt's El Rancho, Sun Harvest, Changos and HEB.

So bring your elementary school children (or grandchildren!) and spend a wonderful evening of

family fun exploring ancient Greece!

Holiday Lights in Barton Hills

Long before the Trail of Lights in Zilker Park, Barton Hills' holiday lights were a much-anticipated annual celebration. At our members' suggestion, the BHNA has targeted this year for a rekindling of a holiday lights tradition. The specifics and scale are not yet set – which is why we need your participation to make the holiday lights take shape in a form of your choosing.

Elders of Barton Hills recall a variety of details about the neighborhood during holidays past. Luminarias, which are bags illuminated by candles or electric lights, were once distributed throughout the neighborhood. Awards were given for the best decorated houses. Which of these traditions will be ours in 2004? We may even start a new one, with a tree-lighting ceremony at the Stones' home, spinning under a tree made from a radio tower that will dwarf the Zilker Park one!!

The purpose of the holiday lights is simple: to have fun and to celebrate the holiday season as a community. If enough interest is generated, you may see luminarias. Or hear caroling. Or win an award for having the best-decorated house. It's really up to you. If you are interested in helping in some way, whether it is judging decorations, organizing luminarias, or maybe even something else not yet imagined, please contact Kay and Phil Sanders at AgyjdgPhil@cs.com or contact Derek Stuart.

Barton Hills, Creek, Springs and Greenbelt

Austin Conservation Award

The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District has awarded BHNA the recipient of the 2004 Innovation Conservation Award. This is the first year this category of award has been offered and will only be awarded "when a nomination is deemed extraordinary and a true model for future activities, and may not be given every year." The Innovation category honors efforts that "incorporate new and creative practices or represent outstanding efforts in communication and partnership toward the betterment of the aquifer and related environmental issues."

We will have a commemorative plaque made for each of the entrances to the Greenbelt (Gus Fruh and Homedale) for all posterity and current Greenbelt lovers to celebrate this acknowledgement of the value of community commitment and care for the natural beauty around us.

Greenbelt Guardian Update

Our upcoming Greenbelt Guardian workday on October 16 will focus on sprucing up our wonderful urban Greenbelt trail for its showcase tour by participants of the National Trails Conference being held in Austin the following week.

The Homedale Trail entry to the Barton Creek Greenbelt was selected as an exemplary trail that provides urban dwellers with the balm and relief of the natural world in the midst of a bustling city. At the base of the trail a whole new world emerges in this largely undisturbed area: rigorous mountain biking trails, walls for rock climbing, kayaking and swimming opportunities when the waters are flowing, large rock flats for spontaneous festive seasonal gatherings when the weather and water levels are ideal, and quiet, meandering trails for meditative hiking year round. John Cook, our Austin Parks Department partner, and Glee Ingram, the Greenbelt Guardian coordinator, will lead the tour for the conference participants.

We need volunteers to help us: weed, remove invasive species, repair trail edging and eroded areas, complete the construction of lower steps onto the rock flats, complete repairs of the retaining walls by the new bridge, collect trash and debris, and gather native seeds for our revegetation process. If you would like to help, please join us for all or part of our next work day.

BHNA Agreement to Support Youth Community Service Program

For the past two Greenbelt Guardian work days, our community volunteer base has been complemented by the able assistance of 25 or more young people doing community service through the Travis County Juvenile

Probation Program. It has proven to be a mutually beneficial partnership, in which we gain added cooperative and youthful muscle power, and the Juvenile Probation program and its participants receive mentoring and encouragement from our community volunteers. The director of their Community Service Program reported that the young participants gain a lot from working with our Greenbelt Guardian volunteer program (they are normally dropped off at bleak sites with little instruction or training), and proposed that we enter into a formalized Joint Agreement.

The BHNA Executive Committee met and decided to enter into a formalized Community Service Partnership Agreement. The agreement is that for each of our upcoming Greenbelt Guardian work days, the Travis County Juvenile Probation Program will provide a group of youth volunteers along with their staff supervisors. We in turn will provide a set of tasks that need to be accomplished, along with the necessary instruction and mentoring. We are excited about this opportunity to expand both the scope and mission of the Greenbelt Guardian Program.

Town Lake Trail Foundation

In 2003, a group of Austin runners, walkers and friends of Austin's Town Lake Trail formed a non-profit corporation, the Town Lake Trail Foundation, to raise funds for improvements and enhancements to the Town Lake Trail. The mission of the Town Lake Trail Foundation is to ensure that the trail remains the most natural, beautiful, fitness-friendly hike and bike trail in the United States. Leaders of the Foundation will make a presentation at the October 12th BHNA General Meeting.

"We believe that everyone who uses and benefits from the Trail has a responsibility for ensuring it remains a public treasure," said Dan Garrison, the Foundation's Director.

Individuals and families who wish to get involved can do so in several ways:

- Donate money to be used for Trail improvements such as new restrooms, water fountains, mile markers and stretching areas
- Participate in events like the Trash and Treasure Trail Cleanup on September 25th from 8 AM to 12 Noon. To be kept updated, email volunteers@townlaketrail.org.
- Attend a volunteer meeting and learn more about the organization. The next meetings are on October 13 and November 17. For an invite, email to volunteers@townlaketrail.org.

For more information, visit: <http://www.townlaketrail.org> or call (512) 302-0608. Financial pledges are welcome and should be sent to: Town Lake Trail Foundation, P.O. Box 5195, Austin, Texas 78763.

The Trouble with Noisy Dogs

For some reason, the "Noisy Dogs" issue reminds me of the Robert Frost's poem, where "Good fences make good neighbors." This may be true of frosty New England but it isn't the spirit of Barton Hills, where many neighbors are good friends and most are "above-average" friendly. A "live and let live" attitude reigns over our peaceable community. But this also makes it difficult and uncomfortable to even discuss, much less address problems with neighbors when they do arise. Yet these problems can greatly harm the quality of life and peace of homes. This doesn't have to happen. Generally, a little common sense and common courtesy is all it takes; simply talk to your neighbor and peace can be restored. However, there are times when neighbors are not so fortunate, and the problem only worsens, leading to greater misunderstanding and tension – and woe to the Jeffersonian, pursuit of unhappiness.

A neighbor's barking dogs can be such a problem. Man's best friend can become annoyingly noisy, especially when treeing a raccoon at

night or on some other wild kingdom encounter, or when left outside for long periods of time. Some dog-owners get so used to their dog's barking that they don't even notice it and may consider a neighbor's complaints unreasonable. However, having noisy dogs is not only unneighborly; it is also against the law (see City Ordinance 3-3-6). This ordinance is in effect all the time. A simple solution to avoid aggravated neighbors and expensive noise ordinance violations: Keep your dog indoors at night and when you're not home. But this

The City's "Noisy Dogs Ordinance" (Austin Code Ordinance 3-3-6) states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or harbor any dog which makes frequent or long, continued noise which is disturbing to persons in the neighborhood who have normal nervous sensibilities."

solution is sometimes not so easy and owners continue to leave their dogs outside to disturb the peace. It's perfectly normal and reasonable for dogs to bark from time to time, just as children can be noisy when they play outside. But there is an ordinance for a reason; there is a reasonable limit to this noise. Continual barking for long periods of time is a sign that a dog has a problem that needs to be addressed.

To the Owners of an Outdoor Dog: If a neighbor has mentioned that your dog barks a lot, realize they have probably been putting up with it for some time, given our spirit of good neighborliness. Ask neighbors if they've noticed a pattern, and try to adjust. Better yet, ask if they could take a video so you could experience the problem from their perspective.

To the Neighbors of a Barking Dog: Give the dog's owner the benefit of the doubt: they may have no idea their dog is

creating such a nuisance, since many dogs bark because the owner is not around. If

you can, make a video of the problem and let them see it. If your attempts to resolve your concerns with the owner fail, you can call APD's Non-Emergency 311. If the problem persists, you should contact APD Officer Dawn Leonard at 974-4405. Finally, if all else fails, you should file a formal "Barking Dog Complaint." Make sure to have evidence to support your complaint (again, video is best). To get the necessary form, go to <http://www.ancweb.org/resources.htm>, under Other Documents, print the APD Complaint Form for Barking Dogs and follow the directions for submitting it to Municipal Court.

Bike Lanes Survey

We need your input regarding the following proposed changes to enhance the safety and access of existing bike lanes in Barton Hills. This survey is also being sent to the listserv.

- 1) On the west side of Robert E. Lee Drive, ban parking in the bike lane at all hours because there is no sidewalk.
- 2) On Barton Hills Drive, ban parking only from Trailside Drive to Robert E. Lee Drive. Some vehicles park for days at a time in front of the multi-family complexes that front onto Barton Hills Drive. Parking is already banned on a section of Barton Hills Drive close to Robert E. Lee.
- 3) Allow parking from 7pm to 7am daily in the bike lane on Barton Hills Dr. from Trailside Drive to Barton Skyway. Parking would not be allowed from 7am to 7pm daily (**either one side or both**) to allow for daytime and early evening use of the bike lane by bicyclists, runners and walkers. The bike lane in front of Barton Hills Elementary School would be exempt from any potential parking restriction.

Please contact Scott Johnson at 447-4595 with your thoughts and comments regarding these proposals.

Austin City Limits Festival Report

A Sweaty Soiree

Those who braved the record crowds and blistering conditions in Zilker Park on September 17-19 were treated to another spectacular show at the Austin City Limits Musical Fest. Although the concert wasn't without its inconveniences to neighborhood residents, the event was a remarkable success. For the 2nd year in a row, the concert resulted in no arrests, with participants instead peacefully reveling in the fine music served up at Barton Hills' doorstep.

The only 300 or so heat-related first aid cases out of over 200,000 festival attendees bespeak the quality planning of the ACL production. In the opinion of Barton Hills NA member Andy Smith, while more misting stations and air-conditioned pavilions would have been great,

the policies that let people bring in their own water and also only charging \$2 inside the festival for water probably saved many from heat exhaustion. The crowds were much heavier this year than last (70,000+ per day instead of 50 - 60,000), which seemed inevitable between last year's buzz and this year's extensive national advertising campaign. Still, lines for food and bathrooms were generally very manageable, and people were overwhelming friendly and courteous.

In no small part due to the concerns voiced by neighborhood residents last year, a new sound management was improved for 2004. Speakers engineered so as to be pointed downward at the



crowd, along with more strict enforcement of decibel restrictions and cut-off times for shows, resulted in a quieter experience for the neighborhood. As Barton Hills resident Larry Akers noted, "I think ACL has finally discovered the key to controlling sound for shows in Zilker Park."

From all reports the neighborhood parking impact was reduced this year as well. The signs, barricades and people in the orange vests seemed

to make a difference.

Resident Sheila Stricker posted on the email listserv, "I realize that traffic was a challenge at times but it was manageable. I heard many, many times the radio station KGSR asking people to please be considerate of the two neighborhoods and that parking

was not available. 'That with those neighborhoods' cooperation this festival could continue to be a positive thing for the city.' I very much appreciated that attitude." Thankfully many festival-goers opted to attend by bicycle, with the largest complex of steel racks ever witnessed provided a safe haven for bike storage.

Residents who wish to comment on any aspect of the ACL Fest can contact Treasurer Derek Stuart at derekstuart78704@yahoo.com. Concerns from neighborhood association members will be compiled and then presented to the festival's producers at a later date.

We would like to again thank Lee Haskin, Vice President, and Pete Longoria and the staff of Wells Fargo for their generous sponsorship of our Barton Hills Fourth of July Parade this year. Their support and participation helped make for a great event, a wonderful celebration of our community and country.



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BHNA General Meeting

This Issue

Tues. October 12, 2004
St. Marks Episcopal Church

AGENDA
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Meet & Greet Social

Outside on Deck
BBQ and Peach Cobbler
Green Mesquite

7:00 to 9:00
General Meeting

Election of New Officers

Bylaws Changes

Neighborhood Watch – APD
Officers Dawn Leonard and
Mario Renteria

Town Lake Trail Foundation

Neighborhood Planning
Update – House Meetings
Project w/ UT Graduate Class

Proposed “New” Tradition –
Holiday Lights

Bike Lanes Survey
Greenbelt Guardian Update
New Community Service
Agreement

Neighborhood Mural Project

Babysitting (\$5 per child)
for entire General
Meeting !!

Neighborhood Planning –
Special House
Meetings

Member Viewpoint:
Issue of Austin’s
Growth

President’s Message

Bylaws Changes

Neighborhood Watch

Coming Attractions and
Events

New Feature: Barton
Hills, Creek, Springs,
and Greenbelt

Noisy Dogs

Bike Lanes Survey

Austin City Limits Festival
Report

BHNA

2205 Farnswood Circle
Austin, Texas 78704

Special Announcement!!!

The Tiger Cubs and Wolves of Barton Hills Cub Scout Pack 14 have delivered these newsletters to your doorstep (this hand delivery made it possible to expand the size and number of this edition). These boys, ages 6-7, are having an incredibly fun and busy year, including Schlitterbahn, camping trips, Pinewood Derby, and just returning from staying overnight on the U.S.S. Lexington. Their two mottos say it all: “Do your best” and “We do stuff!” What a fun way to learn lots of cool things and build character and a sense of public service. Please thank them when you see them! Your boys are welcome to join!!

Barton Hills News

The newsletter of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is published quarterly, and is supported by the advertisements of our generous sponsors. It is distributed in print to every home in Barton Hills in January and June, and only to paid Association Members in April and October.