

Barton Hills News

Goings-on in our neighborhood

October 24 General Meeting

Join us on Tuesday, October 24, at 6 pm for dinner (see following article) and at 7 pm for our General Meeting. We will elect our officers for next year and hear about the progress and issues associated with the Neighborhood Planning process. As our neighborhood starts to feel the impact of the tremendous growth in South Austin, the planning process becomes more critical than ever to the future of our beloved hills. Our Barton Hills neighbors, Melissa Whaley Hawthorne and Nan Clayton, have been actively engaged in the planning process. It's been a complex process, the growth pressures are demanding, and we are fortunate that we are so ably represented by knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers. Come hear their presentation and learn what the future holds for your home here in Barton Hills.

Dinner/Social Hour Big Hit

The June meeting saw the introduction of a new dinner menu for the BHNA. Thanks to the excellent pizzas, pasta salads and dessert from the Rockin' Tomato on South Lamar, everyone who came for the 6:00 pm dinner and socializing had a rockin' good time.

Jeff and Christina Mabrey, the owners of the Rockin' Tomato, and Teak Palmer, manager of this great neighborhood restaurant at 3003 S. Lamer, provided excellent catering and outstanding dishes at a very reasonable cost to our members. We look forward to the October meeting when once again the Rockin' Tomato will cater our dinner. But be advised; we order a specific amount of this delicious food to feed a guesstimate of folks who might attend. When that food is gone,

it is gone. So be there right at or near 6:00 pm to ensure you are one of the lucky ones to enjoy this popular dinner. Along with the great food, you will have the opportunity to meet fellow members and get caught up on all the happenings in the neighborhood.

Dinner is served at a cost of \$6.00 per person. This modest charge will provide a selection of hot pizza, pasta or green salad, dessert and drink. The menu is subject to modification should Jeff, Christina or Teak have something extra special they want to share with us.

See you there!

-John Luther

Nominations 2007

At our October meeting, we will elect officers for 2007. The nominations for the coming year are:

- President - John Luther
- Vice President - Eddie Torres
- Treasurer - Dave Kempner
- Secretary - Kimberly Erlinger

John has been serving on our board as Vice President this year. Previously, he organized the luminaria project over the 2005 holiday season. Eddie has served several years as our Austin Neighborhood Council representative and has provided clear and detailed reports on ANC business.

At press time, we are still looking for a newsletter editor to write the editorial content, advertising editor to work with our newsletter advertisers, and a representative to the Austin Neighborhood Council. Contact Debby Kalk at debby@cortexlearning.com or 442-8829 if you are interested.

President's Letter

Thanks, Barton Hills, for the opportunity to serve on this board for the past four years, first as secretary, then VP, and as President this past year. It's been a pleasure working with past board members, including past presidents Robin McKeever, Peter Hess, and Don Long, and with the current board. The candidates for next year's board include John Luther and Eddie Torres, with whom I've enjoyed working this past year, and who will bring valued board experience to their new posts. Special thanks to outgoing board members Renee Pepin, who did a great job as treasurer this year, and to Howie Richey, who handled the newsletter until he moved from the neighborhood recently. Thanks to Gail Suttle for helping to set up our general meetings, including the extensive line-up for our examination of our parks at our June meeting. Thanks go to Kay Killen for organizing a dynamic July 4th extravaganza—luckily for us, Kay has agreed to chair the committee again. And thanks to our generous sponsors, Rockin' Tomato and Wells Fargo! Thanks to Glee Ingram for her visionary leadership in developing and maintaining the Barton Greenbelt Guardian program. Thanks to Jen Stuart for persevering to get those sidewalks finally built out (aren't they great!), to Larry Akers for helping to make Town Lake Park a reality, and to Melissa Hawthorne and Nan Clayton for hanging in there to represent us throughout the Neighborhood Planning process. I apologize to anyone I have left out—thanks to the many other people who give generously of their time, intelligence, and money. What a great neighborhood we live in and what great neighbors! - Debby Kalk

Association address:

BHNA
P.O. Box 2042
Austin, TX 78768-2042

Neighborhood Planning Update

The official City neighborhood planning process is well under way with periodic meetings held at Faith United Methodist Church on South Lamar (next to Matt's El Rancho) or at the City offices at 505 Barton Springs Road. The purpose of these meetings, in which approximately thirty other Austin neighborhoods have participated over the last ten years, is to formulate a vision for the neighborhood and determine how to achieve it. See the City's Web site, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/slcnpa.htm>, for a schedule of these meetings, which are open to all. You can also e-mail Melissa Laursen, our City facilitator, and ask to be added to the meeting notification list. melissa.laursen@ci.austin.tx.us, 974-7226.

Two years ago, the City divided the neighborhoods along the South Lamar corridor into four planning areas (Zilker, South Lamar, Barton Hills, and Galindo), following the boundaries of existing neighborhood associations. Since then, the four areas have been combined into one large planning area called the South Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area (SLCNP), which now includes Barton View, a small area south of Ben White, as well as the formation of the Southbank Alliance representing the property at Barton Springs and Lamar. With some persuasion, citizens convinced the City staff to retain the original four planning areas, organizing the final combined plan to encompass individual plans for each. This will allow neighbors to address the very different character of their individual areas while cooperating in areas of overlapping interest.

As this goes to press, neighbors in the four plan areas are continuing planning exercises to help us map future land uses. There has been concern expressed from the four planning areas regarding the process. One of which is the way single family is depicted on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). Currently, all single family is indicated by one color and the concern is, the possibility

Neighborhood Planning (cont.)

of the introduction of higher-density single-family housing being easily justified into the neighborhood. Planning the density is one thing... The combined neighborhoods have requested another designation for the higher-density housing and at this time have not gotten the City to allow that type of specificity. The other is the request to add Office Mixed Use as a category, which would also aid us in planning intensity and density. Zilker and South Lamar Neighborhoods have both passed resolutions regarding these matters. The City has also adopted as part of the Commercial Design Standards a Vertical Mixed Use section (VMU) which can be found toward the end at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/commercial_design.htm. There are some items the Neighborhood needs to consider, as well as if there is an opt in or opt out option that will need to be addressed within a specific time frame.

Please get involved. Realizing as you look around and see our community developed, we are a part of a larger planning area. There are City-wide concerns over density and sprawl and where the new folks coming in are going to live, hence a desire for densification. The plan could have effects on redevelopment in areas surrounding us and protection of the beloved greenbelt and creek that is so near and dear to all of us.

To be a part of the planning committee, attend our meetings typically held on the 4th Thursday of the month. We post a reminder on the listserve or one of the City of Austin meetings which are listed in advance on the Web site above. You can always drop us a line:

nanclayton@yahoo.com

or


apsinc@austin.rr.com.

-Melissa Whaley Hawthorne

Join

Invitation to Join BHNA

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association invites all residents to join and participate in this vital organization. It is your neighborhood and the association is your chance to have a voice in the decisions that affect this beautiful residential area. For a modest \$10.00 per year per family you get an opportunity to meet your neighbors at our quarterly dinner/social hour and business meeting. You will the opportunity to have your ideas and concerns for the neighborhood heard. Members become a part of the solution to neighborhood concerns and the guardian of the future Barton Hills. So please join us at the next meeting. Welcome Neighbor! - John Luther




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July Work Day Report

We are looking forward to cooler conditions for our upcoming work day on Saturday, October 28. Despite the record heat spell, we had an amazingly energized and well-attended work day on Saturday, July 15. From 8:00 am to noon, 36 volunteers contributed a total of 128 labor hours, working on a variety of trail maintenance tasks at Gus Fruh, fueled by a hardy breakfast from Maria's Tacos and a delicious coffee cake provided by Yates Barreda. Our thanks to BHNA for funding the food for energy, and to Maria's for providing a discount and generous servings. And as always, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers who generously contribute their time and talent to this wonderful place.

We have been working on two long-term projects at Gus Fruh, which require skill and stamina. Using stones found along the hillside and in the creek bed, we have been creating a more permanent, mortared trail edging at the upper trail entry, and at the bottom of the trail we have been building an ambitious-sized, artistic stone retaining wall to stabilize the soil at the creek's edge. One of our volunteers, who works at Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB)I, commented that the creek side wall should be entered into KAB's beautification contest—it really is a work of natural art. We have a few more work days to go before the two stonework projects are completed. The wall builders will continue their work on the October work day, while the rest of the volunteers will be working at the Homedale Trail. At the July work day, we also had a dedicated crew of "Weed Warriors," removing the invasive Ligustrum and Nandina along both sides of the creek. And we did some erosion control management along the switchback trail. There is always a clean-up crew that brings back sacks of trash.

Looking Forward

The Rolling Stones Concert in October may provide us with more than music and traffic jams. As a result of the negotiations for planning yet another large venue in Zilker Park, some of the proceeds from the concert will go back to the parks system. Zilker Park will receive 50% of the give-back, to help in its recovery from such large gatherings, and the surrounding neighborhoods can also apply for funds to improve their green spaces. The Greenbelt Guardians will be applying for some of those funds to help fund our "Rapid Response" strategy of removing the large Ligustrum trees on the greenbelt, and to purchase some special trail materials to repair areas with persistent erosion problems.

We are also planning to enter into another agreement that will help expand our focus and resources. The Keep Austin Beautiful program has an "Adopt-A-Creek" program, which focuses on water quality. We were invited to sign up for the program because we already meet their goals and criteria (working to protect creek areas, at least four times a year). We will get a special plaque to place at the entry kiosk and recruiting help for each work day. In addition, they have small grants that we can apply for and a working relationship with the Water Quality Division staff, which can offer specialized guidance. This agreement does not conflict with our Adopt-A-Park program.



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Feedback

As a follow-up to the wonderful Parks Panel discussion at our June BHNA meeting, I sent a copy of the Annual Report of Greenbelt Guardian activities to Warren Struss, one of the panelists, and the Director of PARD. He sent back a very complimentary letter of thanks saying, *"the report was very informative and clearly indicates the level of commitment your organization has towards the greenbelt. The Department truly appreciates all the time and effort you and your organization give to the park system. Without your continued support, we would not be able to reach many of our goals... We look forward to opportunities for continued partnership with the Barton Creek Greenbelt Guardians."*

-Glee Ingram

NEXT GREENBELT GUARDIAN WORK DAY

Saturday, October 28
9:00 am-1:00 pm

Homedale Trail—Main volunteer work
activities

2010 Homedale

RSVP gleeful@earthlink.net
or 443-7522

Gus Fruh Trail—Rock wall crew only
2642 Barton Hills Drive.
Contact Stan Ostrum: 431-4501

Barton Hills Neighbors Rally for 13th Annual July 4th Parade

A beautiful hot Austin summer day greeted residents and visitors to the **13th Annual Barton Hills Neighborhood Independence Day Parade 2006**, where *Red White and Blue* ruled the day!

Parade line-up began at 8:30 am with a kick-off at 9:00 am with Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from neighborhood Troop 17 and Pack 14, respectively, leading the flag processional, followed by **Grand Marshall, Nan Clayton**, Austin's education advocate and outstanding Barton Hills resident, who was recognized for her life-long contributions with the fall opening of the **Nan Clayton Elementary School** near the Wildflower Center.

Following the Grand Marshall were an array of neighborhood honorees including residents, **Barton Hills Elementary principal, Kati Achtermann** and **Austin School Board member, Karen Dulaney Smith**, who rode atop vintage automobiles and trucks driven by neighborhood residents. Patriotic and decorated floats, trailers, bicycles, tricycles, baby carriages, pets, as well as individuals, followed the parade route and waved to onlookers.

"The parade follows the tree-lined and rolling Barton Hills Drive a short distance to the Barton Hills Elementary playground where refreshments of lemonade, cookies and watermelons greeted the parade marchers," said **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association president, Debby Kalk**. "We often have more parade marchers than onlookers since everyone enjoys getting in on the fun," Kalk concluded.

The Independence Day post-parade ceremony kicked off with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the National Anthem sung by neighborhood native, **Barbara Kemptner Waldon**, followed by American patriotic facts presented by **Dr. Norman D. Brown**, the *Barbara White Stuart Centennial Professor in Texas History* at the University of Texas and long-time Barton Hills resident.

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Parade (cont.)

After the short ceremony, games including the popular bocce ball and 3-legged sack races were enjoyed by both children and adults.

Barton Hills residents and Decorations Judges, **Randy Linder**, **Judge Bob Perkins** and **Diana Welsch**, awarded ribbons to the winners of the best decorations and game competitions.

Sponsors for the parade include local neighborhood businesses **Rockin' Tomato** and **Wells Fargo Bank** with contributions by **Barton Hills Market** and **Jim-Jim's Water Ice**.

Many thanks to ALL our loyal neighbors and volunteers including **Master of Ceremonies, Howie Richey**, and others who contributed cookies, watermelons, products, time and money to help make this annual event a neighborhood treasure!

Can you help? More volunteers are needed next year to help coordinate games. To become involved and continue the fun and festive Independence Day Parade tradition, please contact 2007 Parade Chairman, Kay Killen, at bhparade2006@yahoo.com; 447-4287.

– Kay Killen

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St Mark's Church Fall Festival

St. Mark's Church has their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 14th from 9 - 4. There will be crafts, silent auction, food, and fun for kids too!

St Mark's Day School Fiesta

St. Mark's Day School will hold their sixth annual Fiesta and Silent Auction on October 26. St. Mark's is an accredited, non-profit school serving children since 1963 located at 2128 Barton Hills Drive. Many children in Barton Hills have benefited from a nurturing preschool experience at St. Mark's and your contribution can make a difference! We are currently seeking donations for the Silent Auction, examples include gift certificates, vacation stays, memberships, services or individual items from your store. All donations are tax-deductible and will be listed in the Fiesta program as well as distributed in updates to the St. Mark's parents and teachers. Please contact Jill Ivie at 899-1193 for more information.

Barton Hill Elementary Carnival Sponsors Needed

Please consider being a Carnival Sponsor for Barton Hills Elementary School. There are many organizations that ask for your money and time but I'd be willing to bet that none will have as direct an effect on children in your community as the PTA right here at Barton Hills. Our carnival on **October 20th** is the main fundraiser for the Barton Hills PTA. The PTA funds provide:

- Library books and periodicals
- ½ the salary of our Computer Lab Personnel
- All of the cultural arts programs—shows, plays & more
- Math Pentathlon
- Children's emergency fund
- Scholarship for seniors who have attended Barton Hills Elementary
- \$300 for each teacher to buy needed supplies that AISD does not supply
- The upkeep of the grounds around the school

Recognition for sponsors will occur in a number of ways. Not only will there be thanks in our Carnival and PTA Newsletters, but we will also have a beautiful, big, sponsor wall in the cafeteria the day of the carnival. Sponsors will have their names attached to the animals that reflect the sponsorship level that they choose below.

- **Whales** will receive 4 wrist bands. A minimum donation of **\$200** is required to qualify to be the largest and smartest of our sea friends.
- **Dolphins** will receive 3 wrist bands. A minimum donation of **\$150** is required to swim with the Dolphins.
- **Sea Turtles** will receive 2 wrist bands. A minimum donation of **\$100** is required to become one of these beautiful creatures.
- **Lobsters** will receive 1 wrist band. A minimum donation of **\$50** is required to be one of these interesting and delicious crustaceans.

Please make your check out to Barton Hills PTA and drop it off in the school office ASAP to be part of this exciting *Under the Sea* (partly tax-deductible) Adventure. Contact Jen Stuart at jenstuart78704@yahoo.com or 441-3186 for more information.



Ride the Bus!

I feel I'm a real urbanite now!

I ride the bus everywhere! Because I live "inside the beltways" of Mopac and Loop 360 in Barton Hills, and I take public transportation everywhere—to work, grocery and other shopping, business and personal appointments—I feel I've arrived as a new Austin Urbanite!

Living in Washington, DC, for two years in the early '90s prepared me for what is now my Austin urban experience. I rode the underground "Metro" trains everywhere in the metroplex, as did other Washingtonians. It is the smartest, most convenient and acceptable form of transportation in our nation's Capital, and given the expense and inconvenience of owning a car in Washington, the best transportation solution.

I've learned to maneuver Capital Metro buses for five months now, and I am doing quite well at it, despite the fact that our neighborhood bus service is terminated on the weekend. I'd like to see that situation change to serve residents well into evenings and on weekends. After all, life doesn't end at 9:00 pm or on the weekends!

Riding the bus is such a wonderful, viable alternative to higher gas prices, congested roadways, limited parking and road rage. My \$10.00 per month bus pass is the best money spent to have unlimited city-wide ridership.

I hop aboard our neighborhood #29 bus one-half block from my residence on Trailside and arrive at work 15-20 minutes later. And that's even with a short three block walk to my office.. I love the walk, and marvel at the beauty and bustle of downtown Austin each and every morning.

During the week day, I schedule doctor and business appointments, meet friends for lunch and after work, visit the post office on South Congress, buy groceries at HEB on Oltorf, recently attended Governor Ann Richards' funeral, and generally conduct everyday business by riding the buses.

Returning home at 5:30 pm is a breeze. The bus is typically on schedule within ten minutes of expected time, and drops me within a block of my front door. It hardly gets any easier.

While riding the bus I find I'm relaxed; and I'm definitely relaxed when I arrive at work every morning...no frustration with stop-and-go traffic or nasty, inconsiderate drivers. I thoroughly enjoy the ride and the view of passing scenery without worry or headache. I can read, listen to music or educational instruction through headsets, jot down ideas or chat with fellow riders.

With Capital Metro's expansion soon to accommodate rail service from Leander and Cedar Park, and ultimately connecting communities along the IH-35 corridor to San Antonio, Austin is poised ready to become a real urban city. Are you ready? I'm already on board and loving it!

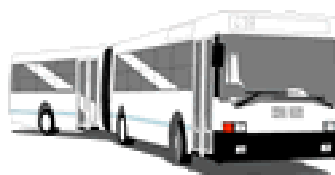
Try it! You may just love it too!

- Do you have questions or concerns about public transportation?
- Would you be interested in hearing from a representative of Capitol Metro speak to our neighborhood association at an upcoming meeting?

Please contact BHNA President, Debby Kalk with your interest today!

You may also contact Kay Killen at bhparade2006@yahoo.com or 447-4287.

-Kay Killen



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BHNA General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

6:00–7:00 pm Meet-and-Greet Social Outside on deck

Pizza, salad, and dessert from Rockin' Tomato

7:00–9:00 General Meeting

Opening business

Officer election

Approval of minutes

Neighborhood planning

Adjourn

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More!

Barton Hill 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 February and June and only to paid Association Members in April and October.