

Barton Hills News

Goings-on in our neighborhood

PO Box 2042

Austin, Texas

78768-2042

Wastewater Construction Projects Scheduled for Barton Hills

The federal Environmental Protection Agency issued an administrative order several years ago mandating that the City of Austin eliminate sewer overflows or face a fine of \$27,500 per overflow per day. The deadline to complete all projects is June 2008. The projects slated for Barton Hills in response to this order is one of more than 100 projects either in design, under construction, or completed in neighborhoods across the city.

The Austin Clean Water Program will begin construction in April on wastewater projects entitled West of Lamar Wastewater Improvements Project. This project will include nine separate sites and will impact travel on several streets in the Barton Hills neighborhood until construction is complete. The purpose of this project is to replace old wastewater lines. BHNA members, especially those living on the streets scheduled for construction, will not want to miss the April 10th meeting as representatives of the city will be on the program to discuss the details of this major project.

Wastewater Construction sites for Barton Hills are:

Hollow Creek Drive

Barton Parkway at Wilke Dr.

Will impact the area between Barhill Drive and Wilke Drive, Wilke east of Barton Skyway, and Barton Parkway north of Wilke.

Barton Parkway at Rockingham Circle

Replace existing 8-in wastewater line with 300 ft of new 8-in wastewater line between Barton Parkway and Rockingham Drive and Rock Terrace Drive.

Skyway Circle

Replace 230 ft of 8-in wastewater line with new 8-in wastewater line north of Skyway Circle.

Westworth Circle

Abandonment of existing wastewater line and construction of 350 new wastewater lines between Westworth Circle and Westhill Drive to West Park Lift Station.

Barton Hills Drive

Replacement of existing 10-in wastewater line with 780 ft of new 12-in wastewater line between Clear Cove and Dip Cove.

Barton Creek

Abandonment of an existing 8-in wastewater line and replacement with 220 ft of new 8-in line in an easement crossing Barton Creek near Barton Skyway.

Be sure you are at the meeting to learn the details of project, individual duration of construction, and possible detours that will impact traffic in this neighborhood.

Volunteers Needed For 4th Of July

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with the Fourth of July activities. There is a wide range of activities that could use your special attention. We need folks to assist in setting up at the park prior to the parade, supervise games, monitor water jugs, blow up balloons (with air tank, not your lungs), safety, food, and many more important jobs. If you enjoy being in the middle of a great morning and can assist in seeing that our celebration is fun and safe, please get involved by signing up during the April meeting. Kay Killen is the BHNA Chairperson for this big event. She will see that you have a special place on the team.

A Message from the President

I have now conducted my first BHNA meeting and nobody was hurt, so I am ahead of the game. I want to thank everyone who attended the January meeting and made the new officers feel welcome. Also welcomed at this meeting were several new members and recent arrivals in our neighborhood. I would like to add my personal welcome to each and every one. We hope everyone in attendance had a good time and that we all learned a little more about our neighborhood.

One of the highlights of the January meeting was that BHNA was awarded \$31,250 as a result of the Rolling Stones concert in Zilker Park last fall. This money will be held in a BHNA fiduciary account with the Austin Parks Foundation and may only be used to fund park improvement projects. We will be considering possibilities for using our award over the next few months.

Since the park funds award was announced in January, I have received several inquiries about the possibility of using the money to improve the city park at Barton Hills school. This park sits right in the heart of our neighborhood. It is an ideal place for all sorts of neighborhood events and activities. However, it is in pretty poor condition at this time. There is soil erosion, poor ground cover, exposed rocks, not enough picnic tables, trees that have died and need replacing—the list is pretty long. This park could be and should be our neighborhood gem instead of a somewhat neglected rocky hillside. Now, for once, the BHNA may be in a position to make a difference there.

BHNA also has a wonderful standing committee currently in place that has use for additional funds. The Greenbelt Guardians committee has been hard at work in the greenbelt that runs along the BHNA boundary. Their ongoing work includes trail improvements, erosion control and removal of non-native plants in the area.

With at least two major projects in which to invest our newly acquired funds, decisions must be made. The Executive Committee has decided to appoint an ad hoc committee to study the specific needs and item specific

costs associated with these two parks-related subjects. This committee will report their findings to the Executive Committee in June. A summary presentation will be made to the membership for consideration. Final decisions on how the funds will be used will be determined by the membership.

-John Luther

Kindergarten Round-Up At Barton Hills Elementary

Attention all incoming kindergarten parents, Barton Hills Elementary will be holding their annual Kindergarten Round-up on Tuesday May 1st from 9 to 10 am. On that day, children and parents will be able to meet the kindergarten teachers, learn about the curriculum, and get a head start on registration.

Principal Kati Achtermann reminds all parents to bring their child's birth certificate and social security card, immunization records, parent's driver's license, and proof of address. To enter kindergarten in the fall of 2007, children must be five years old on or before September 1st.

This is a great way to get to know the teachers, see the school and get registration out of the way so you can enjoy the summer!



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Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

2007 Membership Form

Join or renew your membership. Annual dues are \$10.00 per family. Make checks payable to BHNA. Mail your membership check to:

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Your name, address and members of your household 18 years or older (Please Print)

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Dinner & Social Hour

We extend a warm invitation for all in Barton Hills to join us on April 10 at 6:00 pm for our social/dinner hour. We can promise plenty of good food and a terrific opportunity to catch up with your neighbors.

Please remember: we order food based on attendance expectations so once the food is gone, it's gone, so try to arrive as close to 6:00 pm as possible. Dinner is only \$6.00 per person, which covers hot pizza, pasta or green salad, dessert, and a drink. This menu is subject to change if our friends at Rockin' Tomato have something new they would like to share, but it will always be fantastic.

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association social hour is a wonderful time to enjoy great food, meet new neighbors, and catch up on the local buzz. We look forward to seeing you on April 10th at 6:00 pm!

-Kimberly White Erlinger



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BHNA Membership Perks

One of the advantages of living in a special neighborhood like Barton Hills is being able to be an active part of the community through participation in the neighborhood association. The name of our organization is The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association and membership is open to every resident of the neighborhood.

Your membership enables you to participate in the neighborhood list serve, an email service to the membership, where you can give and receive information on favorite restaurants, garage sales, help wanted and opportunities to help out with various neighborhood activities.

With your membership you are eligible to participate in and vote on issues that affect our homes and neighborhood. And probably best of all you can join in for dinner and a chance to meet your fellow members, new and old, before every neighborhood meeting.

The cost of membership in the BHNA is just \$10.00 per household per year and is renewable each January. The membership list is compared to the List Serve after the second neighborhood meeting in April and is open to all active members.

There are members of the association who have expressed an interest in doing a little bit over and above the regular membership and so a "Friends of the Neighborhood" was established. To be a "Friend of the Neighborhood," the cost is just an additional \$10.00 per year. As a "Friend" you will receive special recognition in the regular neighborhood publications, meetings, and web site.

The neighborhood membership list is confidential and is not provided for any commercial purposes.

-Dave Kemptner

Association address:

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

Love Your Doq?

I recently picked up a young dog who was running in the street on Barton Hills. He appeared lost and in a panic as cars roared past him. When I stepped out of my car and called to him, he ran eagerly to me and jumped into my car without hesitation. Although he had no tag, he did have his name and a telephone number written on his collar. Because of that information, Max was back in his own home in less than thirty minutes from the time I found him. It was a happy ending for Max and for me.

We all love our pets. We provide them all the love and care we can. If they are hungry, we feed them; if they are sick, we take them to the vet. We want them to feel loved and cared for. Well, one of the most loving things you can do for your pets is to provide them with an identification tag. This inexpensive little tag will allow someone else to help your pet when you are not around. Things happen—thunderstorms, fireworks, or even a gate left open by accident—and "Max is on the road." That identification tag can be the difference between your pet getting home safely and quickly and perhaps not getting home at all.

Identification tags cost about five bucks and are immediately available at any large pet store. An ID tag can assist in returning your pet home quickly. On the other hand, city pound fees are expensive. It also takes a lot of time to post signs in the neighborhood and drive the streets looking for your lost dog. Time and money; you do the math. Please, show your pet your love. Get him an ID tag today. Max and I would appreciate it.

-John Luther



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Greenbelt Guardian Glee-Nings

We dodged the winter ice, wind, and freezing weather at our Greenbelt Guardian work day on Saturday, February 10. It was just cold enough to energize the 38 people who came to donate their time and talents to the Homedale Trail.

At the beginning of the day there were many fallen trees and branches lying around, due to the summer drought and to the cutting down of the dead standing ligustrum that were girdled last year. It looked like a hurricane had passed through much of the trail.

In a grown-up version of pick-up-sticks, volunteers stacked and arranged those branches and limbs and trunks into wind-rows. They placed them perpendicular to the steep canyon banks so that they will disperse and filter flowing storm waters and reduce the pollution and sediment that would otherwise reach the creek. We got to address our water quality protection goal with this activity.

Trail safety was addressed by setting in large, level stones along steep and slick portions of the trail. And John Cook went out this past week and secured and extended some lovely rustic cedar rails along a very steep portion of the trail to steady the way for hikers. The cedar posts were recycled from trees that fell over into the trail after the last ice storm. Also, volunteers pruned back shrub overgrowth into the trail and removed the snagging Greenbriar Vines.

We had an avid and effective team going after the invasive species this time. Since the soil was moist, it was much easier to yank out the Nandina and Ligustrum with the weed wrenches. A whole new Nandina monoculture area was discovered across from Campbell's Hole, far too many to remove. So lots of folks went out with scissors and trash bags and removed the berries, so that at least a whole new crop was prevented. We also tested to see if GPS units can pick up signals in the canyon to help us create maps

to guide the city teams that will be girdling the large Ligustrum trees. One of the units worked, which could be a great help in mapping out, planning, budgeting, and communicating for future Ligustrum removal. At least 200 Ligustrum trees were identified and tagged for girdling this spring. And that is just the tip of the iceberg...

The trash collectors bagged the usual bottles, cans, plastic wrappers, metal pipes, pillows, and clothing remains, plus a long, curly blond wig. The kids really enjoyed using the picker-uppers provided by Keep Austin Beautiful. Maria's tacos and Gatorade kept the energy high, and a common love of place produced a great spirit of conviviality and cooperation.

Thanks to all who came out to this quarterly work day; our group effort yielded 160 hours of productive work, a labor donation value of about \$1,720.

We also had a bonus work day on March 7, with the donation of volunteer work from 10 students from South Dakota on their "Alternative Spring Break". They traveled to our warm and "happening" City of Austin to have fun while providing service to different groups. SOS matched them up with the Greenbelt Guardian project, and they contributed 40 hours of work helping repair and pack the entry trail that had become rutted and eroded from heavy rainfall. Their reward was a guided tour of the rock flats area at the bottom of the trail, Campbell's Hole, and a climb up to the cave that overlooks a long stretch of the creek bed.

-Glee Ingram, Greenbelt Guardian Coordinator

Work Day

Our next work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. We will be working both Gus Fruh and Homedale Trail, in honor of the city-wide "It's My ParkDay!" Event, sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation. Mark your calendar now to join us!

Construction at Barton Hills Elementary

I'm sure we've all driven or walked past Barton Hills Elementary over the past few months and wondered what all the construction is about. Thanks to Principal Kati Achtermann, I can fill in some details for everyone.

In 2004, forty years after Barton Hills Elementary was founded, a bond was approved to update BHE with a new music room, an upgraded HVAC system, roof and drainage improvements, and exterior security and lighting improvements. Additionally, accessibility issues will be addressed.

At approximately \$2.7 million dollars, the bond will focus on an incredible array of improvements for our neighborhood school. Approximately 18,000 square feet of roofing will be repaired or replaced to improve drainage and hopefully prevent future leaking. The building addition that is visible from Barton Hills Drive will be a new music room, two new bathrooms, a new kiln room, and a new custodial closet. The open walkway will be enclosed to allow for a handicapped-accessible ramp. Also visible is the wonderful new pavilion over the play slab. I know the children will appreciate that now that the warm weather is returning!

Other necessary improvements that won't be quite as visible to the neighborhood will be new sanitary sewer lines into the kitchen, new tiles in the cafeteria ceiling, new sink faucets in selected classrooms, and upgraded storm drainage around the campus.

The HVAC system will be upgraded during the summer months, just in time for the start of school in August.

Barton Hills Elementary is such a special and essential part of our Barton Hills community, so let's all congratulate them on their wonderful new improvements!

-Kimberly White Erlinger

Very special thanks to Principal Katie Achtermann for help with this article.

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Call for Officer Nominations

There are currently three elected positions unfilled on the BHNA Executive Committee. We have a candidate nominated for the position of Delegate to the Austin Neighborhood Council and this will be voted on by the membership at the April meeting. However, the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Community Partnerships Coordinator will remain unfilled until we receive nominations (read volunteer) to be presented and voted upon by the membership. Descriptions of these positions, are stated in the BHNA By-laws:

If you are a member of BHNA and one of these positions fits your skills and interests and you would enjoy serving the Association, please contact John Luther, President, at jluther@austin.rr.com

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If you have a business that could benefit from advertising in the BHNA newsletter, contact an officer of the association and learn about the distribution and rates for one of four sizes of our ads. It is a win-win proposition. Everyone in our neighborhood will have the opportunity to learn of your business and support you when they can. What better way to reach over 1,000 homes with your message and to do so four times per year. Additional information regarding ad placement may be obtained by contacting BHNA President, John Luther, at jluther@austin.rr.com

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BHNA General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

6:00-7:00 pm Social Hour/Dinner

Pizza, salads, pastas, drink and dessert: \$6.00 per person

7:00 General Meeting

Opening Business

Election of Officer

Wastewater Improvement Projects

Austin Police Department Greenbelt Guardians

BHNA Park Funds Committee On Area Development

Fourth of July Committee Adjourn

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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 February, June, April and October.