

Austin, Texas

January 12, 2007

Barton Hills News

Goings-on in our neighborhood

Beginning the New Year in Barton Hills

January is membership renewal time. The annual membership fee of \$10.00 per family gives you a voice in the decision making process concerning many issues effecting the quality of life in our beautiful neighborhood. Your ideas, opinions and participation are important. Without your voice we are less that we can be. So take a moment now to renew your membership. Send your check for \$10.00 to:

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

Membership renewals will also be accepted at the treasurer's table prior to the start of the meeting.

As many of you know, your membership also entitles you to join the BHNA list serve. This exclusive online email site for BHNA members is a popular, effective means of ongoing neighborhood communication and information. You will be able to share specific needs, concerns, opinions, etc with your neighbors. You can use this list serve to seek recommendations for all sorts of home repairs, medical referral information or special services. You can put the word out for garage sales, stuff you want to get rid of and anything else you might have an interest in contacting a neighbor about. And remember, this is for BHNA members only, so "spam" will not be on your menu for the coming year.

I would like to extend a special invitation to all residents of Barton Hills who are not current members of the association. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you and to have you become an important participant in the neighborhood activities that make Barton Hills such a special place to live. Please join us at a January 23rd social

hour/dinner beginning at 6:00 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church located at the corner of Barton Hills Drive and Barton Skyway. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. Come meet your neighbors, have a great dinner and learn about your neighborhood.

Y'all come!!!

BHNA Dinner/ Social Hour: A Neighborhood Favorite

The BHNA social/dinner hour is a wonderful time to enjoy great food, meet new neighbors and catch up on the local buzz. At our last meeting in October, everyone enjoyed delicious pizzas, pasta, salads and dessert from the Rockin' Tomato, 3003 South Lamar. Special thanks to owners, Jeff and Christina Mabrey, and manager, Teak Palmer, for providing our group with their fantastic food.

Please join us on January 23 at 6:00 pm for our social/dinner hour. It's become a very popular community event and a whole lot of fun. We order food based on attendance expectations. Once the food is gone, it's gone. Be sure to arrive as close to 6:00 pm as possible. Dinner is only \$6.00 per person, which includes hot pizza, pasta, green salad, dessert and a drink. What a bargain! The menu is subject to change as our friends at Rockin' Tomato have new items to share. It's always delicious.

We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd at 6:00 pm!
-Kimberly White Erlinger

Association address:

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

A Message from the President

Happy New Year to all. I am stuffed with holiday food, filled with good wishes and ready to begin an exciting 2007 with the BHNA. My wish for you is that you have a wonderful and meaningful new year as well.

The Executive Council has met to consider our tasks for this year and we believe we will be offering programs that include something for everyone. We will be covering city special events planning and the potential impact on Barton Hills, safety and security issues with Austin Police Department representatives, planning and development concerns in and around our neighborhood, community nurturing activities with primary focus on the Fourth of July parade and celebration at Barton Hills park, environment enhancement programs and much more. We would like to cover these important issues and still have a little fun along the way. Hospitality will be our watchword.

We want to encourage everyone to come a little early to enjoy the Social Hour/Dinner event beginning at 6:00 pm before every business meeting. The food is excellent, the company is outstanding and you will meet so many nice folks you won't believe it! So don't worry about fixing dinner for the family on meeting nights; just bring them to this fun social/dinner hour and let them graze. For a mere \$6.00 per plate (little kids free) you can relax and enjoy this evening with neighbors. But don't forget, we order a limited amount of great food and when it's gone, it's gone.

I would like to ask for your suggestions and comments concerning the quarterly meetings. This is your association. We want to address the things that you want on the program. Although we cannot promise all suggestions will make the program we can promise each suggestion will be considered and included when possible. Let us know what you want. Drop me a note in our post office box or send me an email.

I would like to say thanks to two of the outgoing officers of the BHNA: Debby Kalk and Renee Pepin. Debby has been an outstanding leader and organizer over the last few years. We owe much of the success of our association to her and will continue to call on her for guidance. She has taught me so much over the last year about conducting the operations of the association.

Renee Pepin has been an outstanding treasurer. She has organized our records, established sound accounting procedures and even found time to increase business support for us. Renee will be serving as accounting consultant to us over the next year.

Eddie Torres who did an excellent job over the last year, will remain on the board this year as vice-president.

Go now and mark your calendars so you won't miss the January meeting. See you there. – John

2007 BHNA Officers

John Luther
President

jluther@austn.rr.com

Eddie Torres
Vice President

Dave Kempner
Treasurer

Kimberley White Erlinger
Recording Secretary

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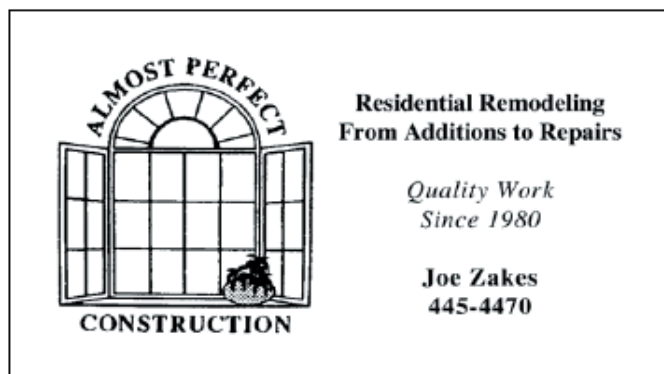
Off. 458-5631
Fax 458-5660

Neighborhood Watch

BHNA will be adding a regular Neighborhood Watch/ Security feature to each meeting during 2007. APD Officer Cody Weiser, District Representative of the Southwest Area Command, will be joining us to talk about APD activity in the Barton Hills area. Officer Cody will discuss specific traffic enforcement and security issues. He will also respond to questions from the membership concerning safety/security matters. We are very appreciative of the willingness of APD to work closely with our association over the next year.

The BHNA Neighborhood Watch has been active for several years now and the volunteer list continues to grow. These volunteers take notice of suspicious vehicles, keep an eye on neighbor's homes and property, report vandalism, note street or utility repair needs and in general, assist in maintaining the security of this fantastic neighborhood. They provide the extra eyes and ears that support successful law enforcement in our area. The resident volunteers of a particular block know their neighbors, know the cars and individuals that live on the block and can identify and report suspicious activity to law enforcement. In short, they make it very risky for someone to engage in criminal activity without being seen.

Remember, the Neighborhood Watch serves as the eyes and ears of a neighborhood, they do not serve as the arm. Volunteers are reminded that their duty is to report only. Call 911 and report your concerns, law enforcement will do the rest.



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 get 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. Members will also get to be a part of the fun. We are hoping to add some laughter to our meetings this year along with some surprise gifts to some lucky members in attendance. So please, join us at the next meeting and help us make this the best year ever for the BHNA.

Welcome Neighbor! - John Luther

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:

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

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

1. _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Household Members 18 years or older

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Greenbelt Guardian Glee-Nings

Work Day Report

Our last work day of 2006 was on October 28, and we did some work on both the Homedale and Gus Fruh trails. Our stalwart core "team of seven" continued work on the large boulder retaining wall by the Gus Fruh swimming hole. It is a creative and ambitious project that will probably require a few more work days to complete.

Our Homedale trail got some much-needed attention. The overgrown trail entry area was mowed and cleared of invading vines and ragweed and lamb's quarters. We hacked back the persistent returning Ligustrum and Chinaberry in the midst of our growing native tree grove. And the hunt for intrusive Nandina and Ligustrum along the switchback trail continued, using the weed wrenches to uproot them. The trail was smoothed and cleared of stray rocks and drainage channels were refurbished.

It was perfect weather for collecting seeds and replanting them in open areas, and we had a great group of girls from the Austin Girl's School who were just right for the job. A sizeable group of younger children and their parents ranged far and wide collecting trash from the creek and cleaning graffiti from the boulders. Our strong and hardy Travis County Juvenile Partners gathered and stockpiled stones for future trail edging projects and helped with some of the clearing work.

In all, we had 47 people working on the two trails, contributing 219 hours of labor for the good of our greenbelt. The before and after difference was notable.

Year Summary

The Barton Creek Greenbelt is widely appreciated, and we continue to attract new volunteers to our stable core of neighborhood volunteers. This past year we reached a new record of 664 volunteer hours, which at the City's \$10.65/hour volunteer rate, yields a contribution of \$7,071.65 from the BHNA Greenbelt Guardians to the Parks Department.

Much more importantly, there are visible improvements along our adopted trails, and a growing community of active "boots on the ground" advocates for the greenbelt.

During the year we expanded our program. In August, we entered into a fiduciary umbrella agreement with the Austin Parks Foundation in order to qualify us as a 501 (c) (3) organization capable of accepting donations and receiving grants. In October we joined the Keep Austin Beautiful "Adopt-a-Creek" program, which provides support in terms of volunteer recruitment and great trash pick-up tools and watershed protection advice. We already met all of their criteria for membership.



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Greenbelt Guardian Glee-Nings (continued)

October and November were "harvesting" months for us. The Greenbelt Guardians were recognized at the 2006 PARD/Adopt-A-Park Awards Ceremony as the "Neighborhood Association of the Year". We received a beautiful carved remnant piece of the Treaty Oak with an inscription. We were also recognized by the Save Barton Creek Association at their annual awards ceremony in November, with a plaque of appreciation for our work in the ecological restoration of the Barton Creek greenbelt. It is extremely rewarding to be acknowledged by these two groups that play such an important role in managing and protecting this wild green space that we have adopted.

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We have already begun our plans for 2007, which includes a collaboration with the Austin Parks Foundation and the Parks Planning Department to plan increased volunteer activities and resources in other areas along the greenbelt trail needing attention. Our goal is to get the other four miles of the trail adopted and tended on an ongoing basis.

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First Work Day Planned for 2007

Our first work day for 2007 is planned for Saturday, February 3, from 9:00 – 1:00. We will send out an announcement in late January on the BHNA listserve and the volunteer list to announce the place and plans for the day. We hope to see many new and familiar faces at this festive community event. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and talent in 2006.

BHNA Elective Positions Open

We currently have three elective positions vacant on the Executive Committee.

- Community Partnership Coordinator: marketing and advertising for newsletter.
- Corresponding Secretary: communication within and outside the BHNA.
- Delegate to Austin Neighborhood Association: attend and report activities to BHNA.

Interested individuals should submit their names to John Luther, President. The Executive Committee will place names in nomination. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. The positions will be filled by the election process in accordance with BHNA bylaws.

Committee on Area Development

Committee on Area Development Formed

Due to membership interest and concern over the increasing development and zoning issues in the areas surrounding Barton Hills, the Executive Committee has established a committee to monitor these activities and to report to the Executive Committee monthly. The Committee on Area Development will be chaired by BHNA member and former president, Peter Hess. The committee will be comprised of BHNA members with expertise in city government, planning, zoning and development. They will keep the Executive Committee apprised of development/zoning related matters and make suggestions to the Executive Committee concerning the need for possible immediate responses to the issues having a direct effect on the quality of life in our neighborhood. The committee will also provide regular briefings to the membership as part of every BHNA meeting during 2007. The committee will use the listserve to keep members informed between meetings. The general membership will then have the opportunity to discuss the issues and determine if Association action or response is necessary.

Most of the development and zoning activities now occurring around Barton Hills are outside our immediate association physical boundaries, but they will have an impact on the quality of life in our neighborhood. Traffic, utilities, city services, parks and more may well be affected as a result of the decisions made by the city. We, as a neighborhood need to be well informed on these and any other area matters that could impact our neighborhood. The Committee on Area Development will meet this need.



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Barton Hills July 4th Parade 2007 Needs Volunteers

It's never too early to begin planning the next celebration

With the holiday season officially behind us, it is time to turn our thoughts toward the next celebration. For the **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association** it is the **BIG July 4th Parade**, complete with costumed children, pets and parents, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, games, antique cars, lots of snacks, goodies and more.

The **Barton Hills Independence Day Parade** is always a great success because of a host of faithful volunteers lending their support to the parade's inner workings to insure floats are decorated, tables are rented and set up, balloons are inflated, sound system is in place, snacks and drinks are available, games are manned, and a clean-up that leaves the **Barton Hills Elementary School** playground spotless.

"We're so fortunate to have such a creative, active and civic-minded neighborhood," said newly elected **2007 Barton Hills Neighborhood Association President, John Luther**. "Our July 4th Parade is the shining star of the neighborhood. It is a time when everyone is united in celebrating the birth of our nation. It's a special time, and I'd like to encourage everyone, whether new or old to the neighborhood, to volunteer and to enjoy the spirit of the day."

An early invitation is extended to all neighbors to become involved in YOUR parade. Volunteers are needed for all segments of the celebration including set-up and tear down. Specifically needed are adults to host the games: watermelon seed spitting, sack races, piñata, bocce ball, washer pitching and more to insure fun and safe participation by all.

Please take time now to make your commitment to support your **BHNA Independence Day Parade 2007** by volunteering today to support your favorite activity.

The BHNA Parade 2007 will be held **Wednesday, July 4, 2007**, and begin by gathering at the **Barton Hills Market** at 8:30 am with Parade Start at 9:00 am. We will march along Barton Hills Drive the short distance to **Barton Hills Elementary** playground. The parade will be followed by refreshments and games. The festivities should conclude about 11:00am.

A special invitation is extended to performance and specialty groups in the neighborhood, for example: Greenbelt Guardians, runner, bicycle, skateboard and scooter clubs, martial arts groups, craft guilds, book clubs, gardening groups and anyone who would like to represent their hobby or club in the parade.

Contact **Parade Coordinator, Kay Killen, 512-447-4287**.

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BHNA General Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 23, 2007
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
6:00-7:00 pm Social Hour/Dinner \$6.00 per person
7:00-9:00 General Meeting
Opening business
 Welcome
 Approval of Minutes
 Financial Report
Austin Police Department Committee on Area Development
Austin Community College Fourth of July Activities
Austin Parks Foundation Open Forum
Greenbelt Guardians 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 and June and only to paid Association Members in April and October.