

# Barton Hills News

## *Goings-on in our neighborhood*

P.O. Box 2042 • Austin, Texas • 78768-2042

### Barton Springs Pool Master Plan Presentation

The June meeting of BHNA will include a very special presentation by architects Laurie Limbacher and Al Godfrey on the proposed City of Austin plans to restore and improve the Barton Springs Pool area. The presentation will include fantastic photos of the Barton Springs site at various times in its history as well as excellent architectural drawings of the proposed enhancements envisioned by Limbacher and Godfrey.

You can see an example of this firm's work by dropping by Deep Eddy pool. Laurie and Al served as the architects for the extensive bathhouse renovation at that location. Their eye for history and detail have captured the sense of the original structure without losing sight of modern day needs. Their work at Deep Eddy was featured in the May 28 edition of the Austin American-Statesman and is well worth reading.

The purpose of the Barton Springs Master Plan is to prepare a master plan/ needs assessment report, illustrated with the preliminary design concepts as well

as implementation and prioritization recommendations. The report will also serve as a guide for future funding and project decisions.

The goal of the plan is to return the site to its former glory, where the water was cleaner and the experience of the pool was more enjoyable for all.

The firm of Limbacher & Godfrey, Architects, was hired by the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department as consultants to work with a team of landscape architects, structural engineers, civil engineers, mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers, dam engineers as well as expert consultants in the areas of roofing, permitting and cost estimation. Together with City of Austin staff of the Watershed Protection Dept., Nature Center, PARD, and environmental scientists and hydrogeologists this team is working on the protection and beautification of one of our neighborhood gems. Come hear all about it.

### BHNA 4th of July Celebration

The Fourth of July Grand Parade and Celebration in the park is almost upon us. As usual, there will be a monster parade with walkers, bikers, strollers, antique cars and the traditional big red fire truck just to name a few. There will be prizes awarded to participants in various categories sporting the red, white and blue so dress up your bike, trike, wagon, your family and yourself and join this great tradition as we parade down Barton Hills Drive from the Barton Hills Market to the Barton Hills school playground. Upon arriving at the school there will be snacks, water, watermelon and games for all.

Yes, there will be a fire truck this year! Our favorite firefighters from Station #11 will be there to answer questions and show you the best and cleanest

fire truck in Austin.

If cheering on the parade participants is more to your liking then be sure to be alongside Barton Hills Drive by 9:00 am to get a good place to watch and perhaps catch a goodie or two thrown out by some of the star spangled folks strolling in the parade. Then come on along to the school playground and join in the food, fun and games. All your neighbors will be there.

#### Parade Schedule:

- 8:30 am:** Parade line-up and muster at Barton Hills Market, 1220 Barton Hills Dr.
- 9:00 am:** Parade starts
- 10:00 am (approx):** Arrive at the school playground for the fun, food and games

## Message From The President

There are so many exciting things going on in and around the neighborhood these days. While some tend to impact our usual traffic patterns, they too, are part of making our neighborhood better in the long run. So, the next time you pass down Barton Hills Drive please give a friendly wave to the hard working men toiling in the sun on your behalf. And for heavens sake please go slow in the construction zones. We want you as a neighbor for a long time.

On the brighter side, the rains have come and cleaned off our streets and property and make the lawns lush and green and put some water in the creek for all to enjoy. By the looks of the traffic along the 2600 block of Barton Hills Drive I would stress the "all" part. But that is part of Austin in the summer. My wish for those using the greenbelt and creek is that they be safe and respect the neighborhood by hauling their trash out and respecting the property of other people.

Speaking of parks, the BHNA ad hoc committee assigned to study the needs as associated costs of improving the greenbelt and the park at Barton Hills Elementary School will have completed their work by the next BHNA meeting. The membership will get to hear about identified projects and have the opportunity to vote on those projects they feel should be funded by our infamous "Stones Fund". I look forward to hearing their report and getting some of these projects under way. A special thank you to committee chairman **Clay Boulware** and all the folks that served on this committee. We will all reap the benefits of your hard work.

On the subject of hard work, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Parade Chair **Kay Killen** for her outstanding and constant effort to make sure Barton Hills has a great parade and park celebration. This is Kay's second year to head up this project. That alone is enough merit a standing ovation from the neighborhood. Well done Kay!

Now, mow the lawns, then get out there and enjoy the neighborhood. Walking, biking, greenbelting, neighbor meeting and so much more is there for our enjoyment – no charge.

## RIDE THE #29 BUS



## Volunteers Needed For 4th of July

We are planning for a really big event to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. Food and games will be waiting at the end of the parade and there should be lot of fun for everyone. But in order to make this as successful as we want we need volunteers to assist in a variety of tasks. Please become a part of this grand event by volunteering to help out. This is a neighbor to neighbor day so please pitch in as a volunteer. Kay Killen, Director of Parade And All Things Fun has identified the following tasks that need volunteer (read neighbor) assistance.

- Cookie and/or cake providers:  
(as many folks as possible)
- Watermelon providers: ( the more the merrier)  
Balloon inflators: (at least six folks; air tank provided)
- Set up crew: ( arrange tables and supervise serving)  
Game supervisors: (assist kids with bocce ball, washers)
- Judges: (judge all things red, white and blue)
- Clean up: (assist in leaving the park as we found it)

If you can assist with any of these job and want to be in the middle of a really fun day please contact Kay Killen right away. We are counting on the Barton Hills spirit to make this a success. Volunteer Now!

**Kay Killen,**

*Parade Coordinator 2007*

**Ph. 447-4287**

*(please leave your name and number)*

**E-mail: [bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com](mailto:bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com)**

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## Committee On Area Development

The BHNA Committee on Area Development has been very busy monitoring development issues along Lamar Blvd. over the last months. They have identified a particular tract of land, currently occupied by Citi bank that is of immediate concern. A developer has requested zoning changes in order to build on that land right up to the overhang directly above the Barton Greenbelt. Our committee is leading the fight to restrict construction to the front part of the lot and away from the overhang. By the time you read this the battle may be over, but you need to know that we have a dedicated and knowledgeable group of neighbors that are spending untold hours of their time to protect our neighborhood and surrounding greenbelt from the effect of this and other unwise development in our immediate area. We owe the committee chair **Peter Hess** and the members of his committee a debt of gratitude for their caring and very hard work on our behalf. Thank you each and every one.

## Dinner/Social Hour

Don't forget neighbors that we will be having our social/dinner hour prior to the business meeting on June 26. We will have our usual excellent selection of pizzas, salads, pasta and ice tea available. But be aware; we only order so much and it is a first come first served affair beginning at 6:00 pm. For best selection come on time and enjoy this wonderful meal before the meeting. The cost per person is only \$6.00. You gonna like it!

The social/dinner hour is also an excellent time to come and meet your neighbors. We extend a special invitation to folks that have recently moved into the neighborhood. We want to welcome you to Barton Hills and to the association. There is no better time to sit and chat and become a part of this friendly organization. We hope to see you there.



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The BHNA expresses its gratitude to the following members who have contributed over and above the established membership fee for 2007. These funds are used to support the activities of the association that benefit the neighborhood during the year. Thank you.

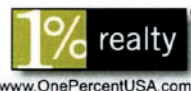
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## Why We Pay Attention to the ANC

Did you know the Austin Neighborhoods Council distributes information affecting neighborhoods quickly and efficiently? Actually, the ANC is guided by neighborhood interests. The ANC meets monthly in the Austin Energy Building on Barton Springs Road. Here is a recap of information on issues important to our neighbors and provided by ANC during the 2006 year. Traffic, traffic, traffic. Has anyone traveled I35 lately? You can't miss it. People are coming. Some are passing through and some are staying. City personnel reported that all land in the City of Austin is claimed. That is putting pressure on neighborhoods to increase population. How? Neighborhood rezoning is suppose to identify areas that can hold more people. That's right--neighborhood rezoning is about letting people in - not about keeping people out. Is it possible to add more people here in Barton Hills? Absolutely. That pressure creates needs now. And the hot topics now are toll roads and managed lanes, transit oriented development, and vertical mixed-use development. Mopac on our west and South Lamar on our east will both add lanes to accommodate commuters. Mopac will become more noisy and South Lamar will become more developed. And since the vertical mixed-use ordinance is not binding, I would expect us to enter the developer-neighborhood conflicts that other neighborhoods are experiencing.

Gordon Derr, of the City of Austin Public Works Department, spoke to neighborhood concerns regarding speeding in neighborhoods. Mr. Derr called ANC's attention to H.B. 87, Section 545.356, of the 79th regular session. This act allows the authority of a municipality to alter speed limits in an urban district within the municipality. In order for speed limits to be changed, the city must say the current speed limit is unsafe. He mentioned that no neighborhood has

asked for implementation.

Regarding affordable housing, a panel consisting of the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development and non-profits provided the following information: More than 54,000 Austin households are paying beyond their means for housing; Austin has the highest housing costs in Texas; Home-ownership in Austin is only 48% compared to 64% for Texas and 66% for the nation; 4,000 school children lack homes or live in temporary housing; and in the next 25 years, the number of Travis county residents 65 and over will increase by 218%. The 2006 bond proposals that passed will help with affordability. Recently there was a city meeting discussing ways to begin spending the money and the American Statesman reported a big turnout for affordable housing information at the old Robert Mueller Airport.

Let's not forget about Barton Springs. With both Mopac and South Lamar draining toward the creek, the concerns over its care will continue. Bring in the champions of Barton Springs. Whether you agree with their agenda or not the Save our Springs Alliance keeps the importance of the springs front-page news and that forces us to think about the decisions our communities make.

These are the concerns of the Austin Neighborhoods Council and the reasons we pay attention. Eddie Torres, Vice President - BHNA



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## Greenbelt Guardian Gleanings

### April 14 Work Day Report

We had our most ambitious work day yet on the April 14 citywide "It's My Park Day" event. We stretched ourselves to include the Gus Fruh Trail, the Homedale Trail, and the Sunken Gardens. We kept 95 volunteers busy with productive tasks, and logged a total of 315 work hours! That brings our new grand total number of volunteer hours since initiating our program in March 2003 to 2679, which at the city's \$10.65 in-kind labor rate is a contribution of \$28,531.35 to the welfare of the greenbelt.

At the Homedale and Gus Fruh entry trails, we regraded trail sections eroded due to heavy rains, foot and bicycle traffic. We packed in roadbase to hold the grade until we get the funds needed to apply a long-lasting resinous-based granite surface. This special trail surface should hold for an extended period of time. We also closed off "rabbit trails" with collected dead branches, completed a mortared entry trail stone edging, repaired broken cedar railings and posts, removed piles of pesky perennial weeds, widened the trail section onto the rock flats, completed a retaining wall, trimmed back overhanging vines and limbs, and hauled out at least 30 sacks of trash.

Our fearless, peerless invasive species removal teams had very prosperous pickings, thanks to the moist soil that released the stubborn hold of the ligustrum and nandina plants with less of a struggle. The piles of uprooted plants were laid perpendicular to the canyon slope to slow and filter storm water rushing toward the creek.

The Sunken Gardens crew hoed, hacked, and pulled out a near solid covering of poison ivy, dewberry vines, hackberry seedlings and other noxious weeds, wheeled in yards of amended soil, and shored up the spring banks.

### New Pilot Program: "Green Corps"

A neighbor, Johnny Barnett, brought his teenage son and friends, and they invented a whole new approach to removing sizeable ligustrum that are beyond our weed wrench capacity. With youthful inventiveness, cooperation and high energy, they "rocked and rolled" until the plants uprooted! It inspired a new pilot program to be led by Johnny, to systematically try this new technique. If the pilot program works, it will

fill out our invasive species management strategy. Our weed wrench teams remove 1"-3" diameter trunks, the "green corps" removes 3"-6" diameter trunks, leaving certified tree girdling/herbicide teams (city requirement) to remove the largest seed-bearing ligustrum.

If we receive grant funding for the large tree girdling, we will have a comprehensive invasives management program in place. This will help support a healthy ecosystem with abundant wildlife. A recent Masters study conducted in the Balcones Canyonland Preserve found that areas with 98% native tree cover had 59 different bird species with 1294 sightings over the period of a year, whereas areas with up to a 56% cover of non-native cover (e.g. ligustrum), had only 32 different bird species and 448 sightings. The difference is stark. And that's just the birds. We are in a race to contain the ligustrum.

### A Gift

We have received the first donation to our 501C-3 fiduciary umbrella account. A fundraising musical event sponsored by the Hildegirls and the Djembabes donated their proceeds to SOS and the Greenbelt Guardians, in honor of Earth Day. Our account now has \$200, our first deposit! We are very grateful for the donation, and as always, for the generous time, effort and creativity of our volunteers.

Glee Ingram  
Greenbelt Guardian Coordinator

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### UPCOMING GREENBELT GUARDIAN WORK DAY:

Saturday, July 7, 9:00 – Noon  
Gus Fruh Trail

Look for Announcement on the BHNA List serve

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## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 7, will be National Neighbors Night Out. This is the evening that neighbors are encouraged to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and gather as a group as a statement that your neighborhood is one it its desire to fight crime. It is an excellent time to have a neighborhood pot luck, meet new neighbors, and establish a network of neighborhood mutual security.

Neighborhoods that wish to participate need to file a short application form with the Austin Police Department in order to receive promotion materials and a nifty gift bag of goodies to give out at you gathering. Also, by filling out the short form you can indicate if you would like a visit that evening from an EMS unit, Police unit, and/or Fire unit. These city units make every effort to come by your gathering, but unforeseen circumstances may make that impossible in some cases. Barton Hills neighborhoods that have participated in the past have always had a visit from one or more of these units. (the fire truck is always a big hit with both adults and children).

The deadline for filing an application to participate is July 6, 2007, so don't delay. Contact the following for your event:

**Austin Police Department  
Office of Chief of Police  
Attn: Rosie Salinas  
P.O. Box 689001  
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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.

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## BHNA General Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, June 26, 2007**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

(Corner of Barton Hills Dr. and Barton Skyway)

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

Pizza, pasta, salad and drink:

\$6.00 per person

**7:00 pm - General Meeting**

- Opening Business
- Barton Springs Pool Master Plan Presentation
- Austin Police Department
  - Vote on Vertical Mixed Use Issue
- Committee On Park Needs
  - Presentation of identified needs report
  - Vote on dedication of "Stones" funds to projects
- Fourth of July planning update
- Greenbelt Guardians
- Adjourn

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## In This Issue

Barton Springs Pool Presentation.....	1
BHNA 4th Celebration.....	1
Presidents Message .....	2
Volunteers Needed .....	2
Area Development Committee.....	3
Dinner/Social Hour .....	3
Friends of Barton Hills Association .....	4
Austin Neighborhoods Council.....	5
Greenbelt Guardian Gleanings .....	6
National Night Out .....	7
Support.....	7

## 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.