

BARTON HILLS NEWS

Neighborhood Watch Meeting

By John Luther

Barton Hills had its first Neighborhood Watch meeting on March 30th in response to an increase in criminal activity in the neighborhood. Although our neighborhood has less crime than many other neighborhoods in the city, a recent rise in incidents prompted the meeting.

Neighborhood Watch is a non-confrontational program comprised of neighbors who are alert to their surroundings, know their neighbors, and take note when a suspicious person or automobile is in the area. They know what and how to report to law enforcement officials. They are extra eyes and ears that supplement police patrols. Neighbors watch out for neighbors; it is simple and it is effective.

26 residents exchanged ideas and solutions during the one-hour meeting. The idea that generated the most excitement was Neighborhood Watch Patrols, which are roving, clearly marked automobiles, manned by volunteers. Their job will be to observe and report suspicious

activity or crimes in progress directly to the Austin Police Department via cell phones. So if you see one of these cars with the distinctive signs on the side driving on your street please wave and say hello or even thanks. Patrolling began earlier this month.

As a visual incentive to obey posted speed limits, the committee may experiment with parking automobiles bearing the magnetic BHNA Patrol signs near frequently disobeyed stop signs on Barton Hills Drive.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held in early May. In the meantime, smaller meetings will be held to explain and expand the program throughout the neighborhood.

Sign up forms for Neighborhood Watch will be available at the April BHNA meeting. In the meantime you can contact me at jluther@austin.rr.com and I will send you a simple volunteer sign up form or try to answer any

NEXT MEETING

Tues. April 28th, 6-8 p.m.

Join us at St. Mark's Church (corner of Barton Skyway & Barton Hills Dr.).
Everyone is invited!

Pre-meeting social hour! at 6 pm
Italian dinner for \$6.

All are welcome!

Agenda

- 7:00 Call to order / Welcome
- 7:05 Administrative Business
- 7:15 Proposal to support BHE Odyssey of the Mind team
- 7:30 Update on Rolling Stones school park projects
- 7:50 Greenbelt Guardians Update
- 8:00 Garden Club Update
- 8:10 Committee on Area Development Update
- 8:20 Neighborhood Watch Update
- 8:30 Adjourn



questions you may have about the program. As an alert volunteer you will make an immediate difference in the level of security in this neighborhood. Can you imagine the impact on crimes if criminals knew dozens upon dozens of eyes and ears were watching out for one another in Barton Hills?

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President's Message



Survey says...

There is something intriguing about surveys and polls: they give us insight, scientific or not, into the thoughts and beliefs of our fellow human, whether political, sociological or cultural.

With the hope of discovering and implementing ideas that neighbors seemed the most concerned about, the BHNA sent out a survey to the neighborhood email group. With help from Jennie Burger, we whittled down the questions to those that best represented the current and future needs of Barton Hills.

The main response areas were crime, the greenbelt and development. Since these represent ongoing issues, please know that the respective committees are always working and would love volunteers! In the meantime, let's tackle some issues right away:

- *Code enforcement?* Call 311 or visit www.austinrecycles.com/code.htm.
- *Not feeling ownership of neighborhood issues?* Please come to our general meetings and get to know us. Everyone's opinion is welcome.
- *Semi-organized soccer games at the school?* Great idea! Please use the Yahoo! Group to gather players.
- *Barton Hills should become more eco-friendly.* Agreed. Want to spearhead a "green" committee?
- *More news on crime, less on lost pets.* Hmmm...
- *More parties!* Excellent idea. We would love to have an ice cream social or other fun events.

One wonderful response: 74% of respondents would like to lend a hand to neighbors in need (checking in occasionally, running errands, preparing meals and such.). In order to fulfill this, we need folks to step up and grab the reins.

Please check www.bhna.net for more in-depth survey information and a big thanks to all who took the time to fill it out. We appreciate your help!

Happy Spring!

Kimberly White Erlinger

2009 Events Calendar

April 18th	Earth Day/Greenbelt Guardian workday at Homedale entrance
April 28th	General Meeting
June 3rd	Last Day of School
June 6th	National Trails Day/Greenbelt Guardian workday at Gus Fruh entrance
July 4th	Neighborhood Parade
July 14th	General Meeting
October 20th	General Meeting

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by advertisers. It is distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, TX in January, April, July, and October. For more information on membership or affairs related to the neighborhood, contact the appropriate person below.

2009 Executive Committee

President - Kimberly White Erlinger
(kimbersays@yahoo.com) or (512) 779-0827

Vice President - Sheila Stricker (sheila@shoehorndesign.com)

ANC Rep - Kay Killen (bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com)

Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Ed. - Wendy Papasan
(wpapasan@kw.com)

Secretary - Ken Russell (GISatHCCS@aol.com)

Treasurer - John Morgan (morgan78704@gmail.com)

Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development - Peter Hess
(phess@mail.utexas.edu)

Greenbelt Guardians - Glee Ingram

Neighborhood Watch - John Luther (jluther@austin.rr.com)

Learn more about us at www.BHNA.net!

This newsletter was printed on 100% recycled paper.



Neighborhood Business Profile

By Wendy Papasan

One night last month, my husband and I decided to check out our neighborhood's new wine bar - House Wine, located at 408 Josephine (near P. Terrys).

We went on a Wednesday and it was a pretty mellow place to stop by and get a snack and some wine. I've heard it can get very busy on the weekends, but this night there was about 6 other people imbibing.

I had a delicious glass of Pinor Noir and we split a generous cheese plate with smoked salmon. If I was with a girlfriend, I would have

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join or renew your membership in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$10/household. Make checks payable to BHNA and mail them to: **PO BOX 2042 * Austin TX 78768-2042**. You can also pay dues online at BHNA.net. There is a \$1 service fee.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Names of additional household members 18 years or older:

☐ I am interested in getting more involved in neighborhood activities. Please contact me.

been satisfied with that for dinner, but since my husband isn't about to have a bit of salmon and cheese for dinner we left after a glass and went to Olivia's for dinner.

In addition to happy hour specials, they offer Wine Tasting Tuesdays

and free WiFi. They are open 3 p.m.-midnight daily. It was too cold the night we went, but the outdoor seating looked lovely. The comfy couches and local art inside definitely made it feel like a Home, instead of a House.

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Greenbelt Guardians Report

By Glee Ingram

We've been busy. In February we held a sell-out work day! Fifty-six volunteers at Homedale Trail weeded, removing ligustrum and chinaberry along the creek beds, sowing native seeds, planting native trees donated by Keep Austin Beautiful, and regrading the entry trail. Neighbors, Austin Ridgeriders and members of various service groups logged an incredible 208 hours. Even a Barton Hills Elementary teacher who incorporates the greenbelt into his science curriculum, made an appearance.

We had a short rest before the citywide It's My Park! Day, organized by the Austin Parks Foundation. BHNA joined 19 other businesses, foundations, and public organizations as a sponsor of this successful event. This year 60 different park projects logged 2500

volunteers hours! Check this site for more info visit:

www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html.

Our It's My Park! Day projects drew 82 volunteers and contributed 314 hours of work. We worked the Gus Fruh and Homedale trails. The rock wall at the Gus Fruh swimming hole grew, and the ligustrum population suffered some severe damage. At Homedale, the ligustrum population also had a serious setback, plus invading weeds at the trail entry were tamed. A slippery portion of the steep switchback trail now has stable boulder steps, and the entry bed above the drainage culvert is stabilized with boulder edging. Volunteers removed eight large sacks of garbage from around the cliff cave at the rock flats.

We are collaborating with a new non-profit called EcoTexas, founded by an AISD high school student. The group is informed and passionate about the problems that invasive species pose to native ecosystems. They did some invasives removal at Gus Fruh on March 28, and plan to work with us again in June.

We have two upcoming work days. Earth Day, April 18, will focus on resurfacing the Homedale entry trail with granite polymer. Volunteers will be recruited through the Green Apple Festival event organized by Brandi Clark, of Austin Eco Network. The second will be on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6, at Gus Fruh Trail. Upstream, a coalition of public, private and non-profit groups will be working at the 360 trail entry to begin the first phase of the regional "Walk-for-a-Day" trail network, envisioned by the Hill Country Conservancy.

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Survey Results In

By Wendy Papasan

The results of the survey sent out last month are in. 100 people responded. Here are highlights. The full survey and results are available at www.BHNA.net.

How important are the following neighbor-hood issues to you? These percentages are those who said the issues were "very important." Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed said that the quality of Barton Hills Elementary was very important. Greenbelt maintenance was a close second, with 67%. Success of local businesses was right up there with 62%. Greenbelt safety and sanitation garnered a 60% response. Traffic patterns affected by new development was felt to be very important by 60% of those surveyed. Graffiti was viewed as very important by 57%. Just over 50 percent of neighbors surveyed thought that lending a hand to neighbors who could use extra help was very important. Litter was also 50%. Forty-seven percent thought that getting to know my neighbors better was very important. Only 38% of those surveyed thought that additional yellow caution signs and crosswalks along neighborhood streets was very important. Of course, we are a caring neighborhood, all of these things are important, but a survey like this gives the BHNA executive committee priorities to focus on.

Just over 22 percent of neighbors surveyed said they attended at least two BHNA meetings per year.

For those that didn't attend at least two, here's what might bring you there more often in order of importance: knowing the agenda ahead of time; being reminded of the meeting dates with enough lead time; having background information about the agenda topics ahead of time; agenda items that are more important to me; shorter meetings; onsite childcare; different meeting day; a different meeting time; and shorter, more frequent meetings.

Thanks for all who responded!

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Barton Hills Banter

by Wendy Papasan

Former Barton Hills Elementary school student, **Kody Lee-Allen Dyer**, age 15, recently completed his Eagle Service Project at his former school. Kody organized students, adults, scouts and other community members and created a beautiful mural on the cafeteria stage. It took a combined 163 service hours to finish. Some of you

may know his mom, **Terri Dyer**, who is an Art Specialist at BHE. Thanks Kody! The bad news? Neighbor **Nina Miller** had her bike stolen. The good news? Thirteen neighbors, most strangers she'd never met, responded to her request to borrow a bicycle. Amazing! Neighbor **Janice Godwin** recently won the "Strangest Listserve Request" award when she sent out a message to our email group asking for a tabletop catapult. The results?

"What a neighborhood!" says Janice. "A boy scout, **Tommy Glass**, came to my rescue and built a catapult for our presentation..." A shout out to neighbor **Glenn**

Chase, who tirelessly works behind the scenes to regularly update our website. THANK YOU GLENN!!

Visit www.bhna.net to see his handiwork. A **Barton Hills Elementary** team will advance to the World Competition for Odyssey of the Mind. Their Shockwaves structure and spontaneous problem solving efforts earned them 2nd place statewide. They will travel to Iowa in May to compete against teams from around the world. They are seeking funding to assist with travel and supplies. Email **Cherylann Campbell** if you can help: TCAMPBELL19@austin.rr.com. Have some **GOOD** news for Barton Hills Banter? Send it to Wendy at wpapasan@kw.com.

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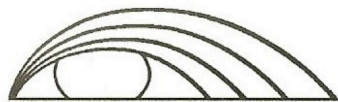
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Did You Know?

The year after the 1836 Texas Revolution, William "Uncle Billy" Barton patented the land near the springs. A colorful character, he named the main springs after his daughters, Parthenia, Eliza, and Zenobia. He ran a gristmill and kept two baby bison to amuse visitors.

Barton Springs have been an attraction from the earliest days. One who came to visit, the story goes, was Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee. The road named after him, skirting the Springs, was a common path for soldiers on their way to the western forts after Texas was annexed. A merry-go-round was built at the Springs, and later an ice-making plant.

In 1875 you could take the steamboat Sunbeam for an excursion from Austin, then a nearby city, to Barton Springs for a round-trip ticket price of 50 cents. Early in the twentieth century, the land around the Springs was acquired by Andrew J. Zilker, who deeded it to the City of Austin as a park in 1918 and 1931, on the condition that the City support vocational education in Austin schools.

This information was excerpted from the HISTORY OF BARTON HILLS by Dick Kallerman. More history of the neighborhood can be found on bhna.net/history.

Go Green!!

Does anyone else think it's weird that we make a product whose only purpose is to be thrown away?

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Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

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