

BARTON HILLS NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

January 2009

New Officers Elected

Please welcome our new neighborhood officers! Our new **President, Kimberly White Erlinger** says, "It's hard to believe that this will be my third year serving on the Executive Committee." She recently launched a real estate firm after having spent the previous 15+ years working as a documentary researcher in Washington, D.C. With an MA in Film, a BS in Radio-TV-Film and a BA in Drama-the latter two from UT-she can talk about movies for hours! Her husband Tate is a physician/administrator at Seton, and her first-grade son Henry and dog Edgar also keep her busy.

Vice President, Sheila Stricker, is the mom of 13-year-old Joshua.



She has been married to love of her life, Scott, for 18 years. She loves living in Barton Hills and says about our neighborhood, "I hope to never move unless there is a mountain out my window."

John Morgan, Treasurer, and his wife Natasha moved to Barton Hills with their two boys, Luke (4) and Finn (2) in July 2007. John has been a resident of Austin since 1983, spending most of those years living in Travis Heights.



He graduated from UT in 1987 and now works as a Human Resources manager at the Whole Foods Global Headquarters at 6th and Lamar. John and his family love their new neighborhood and enjoy getting to know their great neighbors.

Ken Russell, Secretary, grew up in Iowa, but spent life after college in the oil business in Houston. After retirement he worked for 10 years as a teacher at Houston Community College. He moved to Austin after his second retirement in 2004 to be with his grandchildren who live in Barton Hills.



Native Austinite **Kay Killen**, is our **Austin Neighborhood Council representative**. Kay came to Barton Hills following 15 years in the Delwood II neighborhood, where she helped found that association. With a degree in anthropology from U.T., Kay has diverse experience as an archeologist, Realtor, association executive, presidential appointee, and currently as an account executive with McDonald Public Relations. "Our wonderful, active, conscientious neighbors, convenience to world-class greenbelt and Barton Springs Pool, plus overall access to everything Austin," is what Kay loves about Barton Hills.



Wendy Papasan has sailed the North Sea on a 16th-century sailing galleon, climbed the pyramids in Giza, watched television with Saharan bedouins, scuba dived with giant rays, given birth twice with no pain killers, and cooked shark for a crowd. She is currently a landlady, stay-at-home-mom, freelance writer, and real estate agent specializing in investments. She is married to Jay and has two children Gus (4) and Veronica (3). Upcoming plans include traveling across Texas in search of the perfect buttermilk pie and editing this newsletter.



NEXT MEETING

Tues. January 27th, 6-8 p.m.

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

- 6 pm** Social hour! Italian buffet-style dinner for \$6. All are welcome.
- 7 pm** Welcome/Introduce Executive Committee
- 7:05** Approval of Minutes
- 7:10** Treasurer's Report
- 7:15** Neighborhood Watch
- 7:25** Area Development
- 7:35** Greenbelt Guardians
- 7:45** Public Forum
- 8:05** Adjourn



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President's Message



Hello Neighbors,

Recently, a friend asked why I wanted to serve on the Executive Committee this year. Ask about a movie and I can talk for ten minutes, but questions like this always leave me grasping at straws. I stumbled a bit before finding the answer: I love this neighborhood. Barton Hills is such a wonderful place: one where neighbors become friends, where there is an online forum filled with information and opinions and where wildlife and loose dogs interrupt our daily life. Living here for almost three years, I have come to realize that Austin is divided into two groups: people who aren't quite sure where Barton Hills is and people who desperately want to live here. How lucky are we, then, to already be home?

To keep Barton Hills the great neighborhood it already is, it's vital for everyone to feel welcome and to have a sense of community, whether on the listserv or at a meeting. We have several committees who do important work including Neighborhood Watch, Greenbelt Guardians and the Committee on Area Development; for information on how to volunteer, please attend our first General Meeting on January 27th. Coming to the general meetings is also a simple way to become invested in the neighborhood by meeting neighbors and learning about the issues affecting Barton Hills. While you're at it, why not bring a neighbor or sit next to someone you've never met?

We have a fabulous Executive Committee this year: hard-working, fun-loving and committed. Please thank them for volunteering.

Please also thank our advertisers! When patronizing them, let them know you appreciate their support of this newsletter.

Finally, Thank YOU for keeping our neighborhood friendly, safe and active. We need everyone to work together to keep Barton Hills the best neighborhood in Austin. See you January 27th!

Kimberly White Erlinger

2009 Events Calendar

January 27th	General Meeting
March 8th	Daylight Savings Begins
March 16th	Spring Break
April 28th	General Meeting
June 3rd	Last Day of School
July 4th	Neighborhood Parade
July 14th	General Meeting
October 20th	General Meeting

Do you have a neighborhood event that you would like to see included in the newsletter? Send it to Wendy Papasan at wendy@puddle-wonderful.com at least one month before the next general meeting date.

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
(kimbbersays@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
(wendy@puddle-wonderful.com)

Secretary - Ken Russell (GISatHCCS@aol.com)

Treasurer - John Morgan (morgan78704@gmail.com)

Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development - Nan Clayton, Melissa Hawthorne, 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 using soy inks.



Neighborhood Business Profile

By Wendy Papasan

With so many new businesses popping up in our neighborhood, we thought it would be a good idea to occasionally spotlight one of them. Let's here it for South Austin! Shop Local! Go South Lamar!



Irie (pronounced eye-ree) is a Jamaican word meaning "the state of feeling great." Feeling good is how you feel after a few minutes at Irie Bean Coffee Shop at 2310 South Lamar.

It has delicious coffee and a cool space with sofas and tables for working or chatting with friends. The menu is limited to pastries and sandwiches, but they have smoothies and cold beer and of course the coffee, which is what I, the mom of two toddlers, always imbibe.

I've never been to any of their events, but they look fun: campfire songs, drum circles and live music. Sounds like South Austin to me.

My favorite part? The funky outdoor space for my kids to run around outside. They love the couch made of grass, the fountain filled with river rocks, and the homemade spaceship. We can fritter away an afternoon there, no problem, mon.

Irie Bean Coffee Bar
2310 South Lamar, Suite 102
(512) 326-4636
www.iriebean.com

Neighborhood Watch

By John Luther

I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is reported criminal activity in Barton Hills really picked up just before the new year. In December we had five homes burglarized, 10 burglaries of vehicles, and three bicycle thefts. The bad guys seemed to be working on their Christmas lists with a vengeance. Already in the first six days of January we have had two burglaries of vehicles and three thefts! Make a resolution this year: remove valuables from your car and lock the door.

The good news is that soon the Austin Police Department will have 65 new officers on the street after a 1200-hour cadet training program. The graduates will be among the best trained police officers in the state, far surpassing the minimum state training requirement of 618 hours. Hopefully some of these new officers will be assigned to the Southwest Command, which has Barton Hills within its boundaries.

In November, I attended a training at the police academy along with other representatives of neighborhood and activist organizations in Austin. We participated in "APD Reaction to Resistance," which included night sticks, voice commands, firearms and Tasers. Volunteers were invited to experience being Tased – no, I did not! Chief Acevedo did step forward and the training staff Tased him. Believe me, you do not want to experience this special treat.

The last phase of our day at the training academy was a "Shoot, Don't Shoot" class in which you, acting as a patrolman, are placed in situations where you must make a life-changing decision in seconds. According to the training officer, I did not survive my encounter. I did walk away, but my heart was still racing hours after the experience.

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

January is the time to 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: _____

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Names of additional household members 18 years or older:

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

Terrace PUD Agreement Finalized

By Nan Clayton, Melissa Hawthorne & Peter Hess

After a year of negotiations and meetings, an agreement with the Terrace Planned Unit Development (PUD) was approved by the City Council on December 18. The agreement, which the membership approved on July 15, calls for the number of approved buildings to be reduced from four to three. It also specifies that the buildings be built along MoPac, as far away from Barton Creek and Barton Hills as possible. In return, the buildings will have a somewhat higher height limit, 120 feet for buildings III and VIII and 100 feet for building IV (the building closest to the creek near the MoPac bridge). The plan was further secured by a signed letter of agreement between BHNA and the Terrace PUD and the heights limits inserted in a restrictive covenant amendment.

Perhaps the biggest issue was to find a mechanism to protect the undeveloped land closest to the creek and the neighborhood. Hill Country Conservancy agreed to take on the conservation easement of almost 40 acres (out of a 109-acre tract). That agreement was also finalized and recorded in December prior to City Council action.

Members of the association ushered the agreement through the approval process, attended public hearings relating to the issue, and spoke at the Environmental Board, the Planning Commission, and the City Council to ensure its passing. The agreement was nearly derailed because of a last-minute objection by city staff to the height of the buildings, but we prevailed.

It is uncertain when construction will begin. And no doubt the buildings will be visible from our neighborhood, although less so than under the previous plan. We will post the documents on

www.BHNA.net when available. Your neighborhood association will continue to work with the Terrace PUD as the project progresses.



Pajama Program

There is a new non-profit in Austin. It is the Pajama Program, which provides new pajamas and new books to children in need. These children live in shelters and group homes and are shuffled between temporary living facilities. Many of them have been abused or abandoned, and have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a mother tuck them in at bedtime and read to them. For more information on how to help, visit: www.pajamaprogram.org

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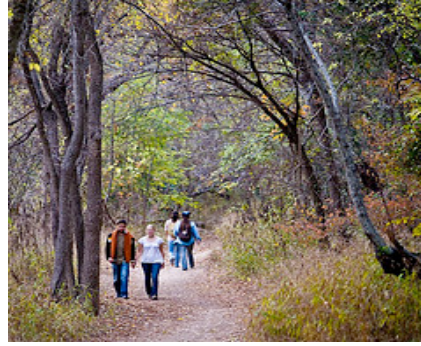
Greenbelt Guardians Round Up

by Glee Ingram

2008 was a highly productive, expansive, and creative year for the Greenbelt Guardians. In 2008 alone, we helped organize and oversee 1,249 work hours! Compare this to 2,928 hours in the previous five years and you see we have been busy. Our core team grows stronger and more skillful, our collaboration with other volunteer groups is expanding, and our number of repeat volunteers is increasing.

In 2008, we participated in eight work days, plus we collaborated with other greenbelt volunteer groups with planning, tools and materials support. The Austin Parks Foundation designated the Barton Creek Greenbelt/Greenbelt Guardians group as the "Park of the Month" in February, and recruited the help of the Austin Ridgeriders and the Central Texas Trail Tamers and the Hash House Harriers groups to help in our trail resurfacing project on Gus Fruh. The resurfacing work is holding up beautifully, and offers a smooth, natural and tranquil walk/ride through steep terrain to the creek.

Our work on removing the invasive *Ligustrum* trees also took a dramatic leap. The "Green Corps Rock and Roll" team had a special work day, invasives removal was a major emphasis at our work days, plus we collaborated with many other organizations in special invasives removal work events. We have established some successful protocols that are becoming the standard being used by numerous



volunteer groups. On Earth Day, KXAN did a TV spot featuring our removal work on the greenbelt.

We also supported an Eagle Scout day project at Sunken Gardens. Our work to promote increased security on the greenbelt resulted in a coordinated security initiative in March, by the Austin Parks Police and the APD, with a TV spot and several security "raids" that resulted in the removal of homeless encampments and drug and alcohol busts. Also, the absence of running water this year greatly reduced the vandalism, graffiti and encampments.

We are looking forward to 2009. There's still plenty to do! We are planning five Saturday work days: February 7, March 7 (the city-wide It's My Parks Day), July 18, and October 31. Please mark these days on your calendar and plan on joining us! It is productive fun.

We are very grateful for the continued support from the BHNA for the Greenbelt Guardian program. You have provided us with funds for our work through the Rolling Stones grant, with fortifying food, volunteer leadership and labor for our work days, and moral support through the years.

Like to Party?



Are you outgoing and organized? Do you want a chance to get to know your neighbors better? BHNA is looking for someone to help organize neighborhood events. If you are interested in helping out, contact Kimber at kimbbersays@yahoo.com and she can give you a better idea of what the responsibilities might entail.



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Waterfront Overlay

By Melissa Hawthorne

The Waterfront Overlay Ordinance is a layered ordinance created in 1986 to protect and enhance the lakefront on Lady Bird Lake. Barton Hills Neighborhood is adjacent and connected to several of the sub-districts set out in the ordinance.

While the original ordinance was largely successful, recent

development pressure along the shoreline has people wondering whether the current ordinance is adequate to protect and enhance the lakefront, especially since the it underwent significant code changes in 1999.

In response to this concern, the City Council charged the Waterfront Overlay Taskforce, made up of members of Austin's relevant boards and commissions, neighborhood advocates and development

community, with reviewing the current situation. An 8-month review revealed that the current code was significantly weakened by the

changes in the ordinance -- in particular the 1999 re-codification of the ordinance that removed significant protections and incentives to promote community benefits and enhancement of the waterfront.

The task force also reviewed sub-district set-backs, the variance request process, density bonuses, conditional uses and height restrictions. They presented a report to City Council in December. As a result, City staff are drafting revised code. Action is scheduled to tentatively take place in January and February 2009. The City Council will then hold public hearings with possible action later in the spring.

For more detailed information on the recommendations see <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/>

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Owners Michael and Kim Heide have been Barton Hills residents since 1997 and are the proud parents of two Barton Hills Elementary School students.

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Did you Know?

Barton Hills was featured in Austin's 1956 Parade of Homes as "the world's largest air conditioned subdivision." Beginning in that year, it was platted as subdivision in six sections by S.R. Sheppard,

Builders Development Corporation and others. Barton Hills eventually had 1,585 lots planned on its 535 acres (0.84 square mile).

In 1990, the population was 6,796. Still growing, we now have 8,036 Barton Hills neighbors, according to the 2000 census.

The banks of the Colorado River have long been a lively place. Dinosaur footprints 99 million years old can be found in Zilker Park, and artifacts indicate the presence of Native American camps near Barton Springs some 11,000 years ago.

Bring a Friend!

One of the executive committee's goals is to increase attendance at the monthly meetings. If you've never been to a meeting - stop by St. Mark's Church at the corner of Barton Skyway and Barton Hills Drive on **January 27th 6-8 p.m.**, to see what it's all about. Children are welcome, as are renters, homeowners, new neighbors, old neighbors and everyone else. If you have been thinking about attending, but haven't done it, now is the time! 2009 New Year's Resolution - become more active in your neighborhood. If you are a regular attendee, drag a neighbor or two with you. There will be a prize for the person who brings the most new members to the meeting.



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Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

January 2009

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