

BARTON HILLS NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

July 2012

Join or renew today!

BHNA mid-year membership drive

Did you enjoy the 19th Annual BHNA Independence Day Parade on July 4? This long-standing event is just one place to see your Barton Hills Neighborhood Association dues at work. If you're not a member yet — or were a member awhile back — please sign up (again) now!

Join or renew today for only \$10 per household per calendar year. Complete the Membership Form on page 8 of this newsletter and send it with your \$10 check to the address listed. You can join and pay online at bartonhills.org, as well.

All residents and homeowners within the boundaries of Barton Hills are eligible to join. A boundary map is available

at bartonhills.org/about/boundary-map.

The Yahoo Groups listserv is one of the benefits of membership and lets you consult and connect with neighbors immediately on a variety of issues. Once you're a member, send an email with your name and home address to barton_hills-subscribe@yahoo.com to join.

If you have questions about your membership, please contact Kay Killen, BHNA vice president, at (512) 633-6025 or bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com.

Visit our website at bartonhills.org for further information about membership, quarterly meeting information, current events, helpful links, photos and more! 🍕

NEXT MEETING Tuesday, July 24 6-9 p.m.



Join us at St. Mark's Church (corner of Barton Skyway and Barton Hills Dr.). All are welcome! Social hour 6 p.m. Pizza, salad and pasta from Rockin Tomato \$7.

Agenda

- 7:00 Call to order
- 7:05 Brief announcements
- 7:10 Approval of Apr. 24, 2012 meeting minutes
- 7:12 Membership Committee
Kay Killen
- 7:15 Treasurer's report
Kerry Price
- 7:20 Committee reports:
 - *Neighborhood Watch*
John Luther
 - *Greenbelt Guardians*
Glee Ingram
 - *Membership Outreach Committee*
Sunny Luther
 - *Area Development*
 - *Emergency Preparedness*
 - *Austin Neighborhoods Council Report*
Tom Nuckols
- 8:15 Nomination Committee creation
- 8:25 Presentation on Barton Hills Community Park
- 8:55 Other business, as brought to the floor by the membership
- 9:00 Adjourn

July 4th Parade photos now online!

Visit
bartonhills.org/pictures/

See page 6 to find out who helped make this year's parade a great success!

Listserv notice: Pay dues, update email by September

If you are **not** a paid member of BHNA for 2012 and if your current email address is **not** listed on our 2012 Membership Roster, you may be dropped from the listserv effective Sept. 15. At that time the listserv will be updated and non-member email addresses purged. We apologize for any inconvenience to currently paid members if there is an error. Please contact Kay Killen if you are accidentally dropped from the listserv or if you have any other membership concerns.

In this issue

Preparing for Austin City Limits Festival	2
Barton Hills Elementary community park project	3
Neighborhood Habitat Challenge	3
Traffic infrastructure improvements	4
National Night Out festivities	7

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by advertisers. It's distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, Texas. For more about membership and neighborhood affairs, contact the appropriate person below.

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<http://bartonhills.org>

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's message

Working together makes the neighborhood better for everyone

By Melissa Hawthorne
BHNA President

As neighbors gathered June 2 for National Trails Day and our Greenbelt Guardians coordinated the much needed repair along the trail at Gus Fruh Park, I'm reminded of why Barton Hills neighborhood is so special: neighbors helping neighbors, neighbors helping the environment — neighbors who care.

Barton Hills is in a unique position not only to take care of its own issues as they arise, but also to help others. A recent example occurred when our Barton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) Yahoo Group of neighbors collected over \$3,300 in less than 10 days for the family of city worker, Tim Louviere, who was killed this spring in a tragic backhoe accident on Barton Hills Drive.

In the past we've worked together to make our streets safer by installing stop signs and sidewalks, we worked quickly and effectively to save Barton Hills Elementary from closure, and last year the timely installation of fire danger signs may have prevented a fire in the Greenbelt during Austin City Limits Festival.

We are currently working on several projects for the overall good of the neighborhood and the future of all residents, and your help is needed.

We need your time, talents and treasures. The first step is to join BHNA with your \$10 per year dues. These dues are used to support the quarterly newsletter, neighborhood meetings, the annual Independence Day Parade, and other special projects as deemed important to neighbors. Membership also affords you the opportunity to vote on important issues that are addressed at our association's quarterly meetings.

As a member of BHNA you will be eligible to join the popular Yahoo Group listserv, which immediately connects neighbors to relevant issues including announcements of lost pets, found items, road closures, timely emergency and crime announcements, giveaways, health and professional recommendations, and more. As a member of the Yahoo Group list, you're connected to your neighbors in a spirit of community.

If you have ever thought about joining the BHNA, I hope you will take a moment to complete the form on page 8 of this newsletter and send in your dues today. I look forward to seeing you at the next BHNA meeting, too.

Melissa

BHNA Neighborhood Watch prepares for Austin City Limits Festival Oct. 12-14

Barton Hills will again be at ground zero for off-site parking for the Austin City Limits Festival. We plan to have Neighborhood Watch patrols moving about the neighborhood before the music starts to check that folks are not parking illegally. We will report traffic and parking violations to the Austin Police Department. We're also requesting that APD assign roving patrols within the neighborhood.

BHE park improvements begin soon

The Barton Hills Elementary parents are spearheading a multi-year project to improve the Barton Hills Elementary playground area.

One of the first projects slated for the park is the installation of a rain garden, the first in Austin. A grant from the U.S. Green Building Council will help fund the installation.

The Barton Hills Elementary PTA, Barton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA), as well as individuals in the neighborhood, have committed their time and money to support this project. The school playground is also a city park, co-owned by the City of Austin and Austin Independent School District. Both the district and the city will be involved.

In addition to erosion control, irrigation and enhanced wildlife habitat, the project also seeks to improve the usability of the space for the wider Barton Hills community with climbing structures, natural playscapes, exercise equipment and seating areas. For more about the project, visit the Barton Hills website at bartonhills.org and look under recent posts for "BHE Park Improvement Plan."

The budgeting, funding and planning

stage is already well underway. In fall 2011, the BHNA agreed to fund the installation of a water fountain on the school grounds with the help of the city.

The BHNA membership will consider and vote on fundraising for the project at its July meeting. The Barton Hills Elementary PTA approved funding for the project in May. Tree Folks has contributed a grant of 100 trees. Green Space Planner and neighborhood resident

Stefan Pharis is donating his time to create a master plan for the space. A grant application has been submitted to the City of Austin Neighborhood Partner Program, and additional grant applica-

tions to private and non-profit organizations are in the works.

There will be many more opportunities to contribute to this project, including in-kind professional services and sweat equity.

For more about how you can help, visit the Barton Hills Community Park page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/BartonHillsCommunityPark), or contact Cherylanne Campbell (TCampbell19@austin.rr.com) or Kathleen Schneeman (Kathleen.Schneeman@gmail.com). ♡

Have an opinion about the Barton Hills Elementary park improvement project? Come to the July 24 Barton Hills Neighborhood Association meeting and let your voice be heard!

Join the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge!

The Neighborhood Habitat Challenge is an annual contest organized by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org). The goal is to make Austin a more wildlife-friendly city.

The three neighborhoods with the most new certifications by Nov. 14 win recognition from the City of Austin, as well as prizes.

Here's how you can be part of it:

1. Turn your yard into a wildlife-friendly habitat.

There are four elements you need to transform your yard into a habitat: food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise young. In addition, practice two sustainable gardening measures.

2. Complete the Wildlife Habitat Certification form at nwf.org.

You can also download and print the form. There is a \$20 fee for certification, but a limited number of pre-paid applications are available by emailing wildlife@austintexas.gov.

For more information about the program, visit bartonhills.org and look for the June 2 post about the wildlife challenge. For more details, contact Melissa Hawthorne at mwh@austin.rr.com.



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Traffic improvement projects in and around Barton Hills

By Peter Hess

Chair, Committee on Area Development

There are several transportation infrastructure projects around Barton Hills in various planning stages that will bring improvements to the way we get from place to place.

- **Barton Springs Road Bicycle Improvements project:**

The City of Austin will start this project within the next few months. The project will add bike lanes between South Lamar and South First, as well as improve bike traffic at the Robert E. Lee intersection. For motorists, the changes will be minimal. Cyclists will get a bicycle box on Barton Springs Road in the right-hand westbound lane, as well as a westbound bike lane that will start half-way across the bridge. A curb cut across the Robert E. Lee intersection will be added so northbound bike traffic can directly access the trail. Trails in the vicinity will be adjusted to improve bicycle connectivity.

- **Replacement of the Barton Springs Road bridge across Barton Creek:**

The bridge is in poor condition and the city wants to replace it. It is a named project in the bonds package



Railing repair planned for this summer near Barton Springs Road Bridge.

that will go to voters in November. If approved, it would be designed in 2013 and built in 2014-2015. The new bridge would be better aligned to improve traffic flow and still have four lanes of traffic, but it would also have bike lanes and wider sidewalks.

- **Retaining wall on Robert E. Lee at Barton Springs Road intersection:**

The wall is not in good condition and is leaning perilously. So far, the city has not addressed the issue as the city right of way ends at the curb. The owner of the adjacent property — Angeline Umlauf — passed away recently, so there may be some developments in the near future as the land presumably will become part of the Umlauf Garden property. The city plans to repair the railing leading to the Barton Springs Road bridge this summer.

- **Mopac bicycle bridge:**

This project is currently in its planning stages. It will be part of a separate bicycle and pedestrian trail that connects Southwest Austin with downtown. It addresses perhaps the biggest gap in Austin's bike trail network. Northbound Mopac in that area is a parking lot between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., so bicycle commuting should be an attractive alternative for some. A separate bike bridge also will make it possible to add a fourth southbound traffic lane on the existing bridge.

The new bike bridge will be built immediately next to the northbound structure. It will be 15 to 20 feet below the existing deck. It will be supported by seven bents. Two types of foundations are currently under consideration: spread footing (which has a larger footprint) and micropile (which will require deeper drilling and anchoring). Sample borings indicate a solid limestone rockbed without karst/recharge features at the foundation anchor points. This means there will be little or no permanent impact on Barton Creek and the aquifer, even with the micropile option. Most of the construction activities will be staged from the existing bridge so the impact on the Greenbelt during construction will be limited. ♻️

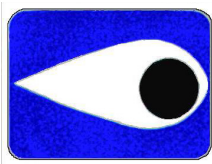
Photo by Billee Golden

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Neighborhood Watch

A volunteer program that helps deter criminals

By John L. Luther

Director, Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program

We are the lucky ones. We live in Barton Hills and our neighbors are invested in the security and well-being of this wonderful community we share. We contribute, volunteer, vote and show our support for dozens of projects and causes. I want to tell you a little about a volunteer group that strives to keep this neighborhood crime free for the benefit of us all.

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program is an all-volunteer group comprised of residents dedicated to the reduction of criminal activity within our neighborhood. With an average size of just 30 volunteers, this program provides roving patrols on our streets several hours of each day Monday-Friday during identified hours of most active crimes-against-

property incidents. After a brief training session and in well-marked vehicles, these volunteers drive our neighborhood streets every day looking for signs of criminal activity. Ours is the most proactive citizen crime prevention program in Austin and been identified by the Austin Police Department and the Texas Crime Prevention Association as the most effective Neighborhood Watch in the city.

I want to express my thanks to this dedicated group of volunteers and let each one know that serving with you has been one of the greatest honors of my life. You do your job without fail each and every week. You do it when it is too hot, too cold, too wet or too dark. And too often I receive the community acknowl-

edgement for your hard work. The honor indeed belongs to each of you.

I hope that each resident of Barton Hills will take notice when they see a volunteer out on patrol and wave to them. Let these volunteer/neighbors know you support what they are doing for us all. Hopefully we will have an opportunity to meet these volunteers as a group soon. Yes, we are the lucky ones. ♦

Last two dates for Blues on the Green

Wednesday, July 25

Wednesday, Aug. 8

Dates subject to change if it happens to rain.



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Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012

Texas National Night Out

By Kay Killen

BHNA Vice-President

Texas will celebrate National Night Out on Oct. 2 from 6-9 p.m. to support, heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. Barton Hills neighbors are invited to turn on porch lights and plan block parties, pot lucks and street gatherings for neighbors to meet neighbors and promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and especially neighborhood camaraderie.

America's Night Out Against Crime was introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a nonprofit crime prevention organization. In the first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated, involving 2.5 million Americans. The 28th Annual National Night Out last year involved 37 million people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states.

This year the rest of the nation will

observe National Night Out on Aug. 7; however, because of the oppressive heat in August, Texas has chosen to observe it on Oct. 2.

If you'd like to be a part of the official Barton Hills National Night Out coalition, in addition to officially registering your gathering with the City of Austin, please contact John Luther at 441-0748 or jluther@austin.rr.com, or Kay Killen at 633-6025 or bhnparade2007@yahoo.com. Barton Hills neighborhood gatherings will be reported online through the Barton Hills listserv before Oct. 2, and also on the Barton Hills website at bartonhills.org.

Although official Austin registration information is not yet available, you can learn more by contacting Rosie Salinas at the Community Liaison Office at 974-4900 or nno@ci.austin.tx.us. ♦

**For more information about National Night Out visit
www.austintexas.gov/article/national-night-out**

Thank you July 4th Parade volunteers and sponsors

Grand Marshal

Richard McCain

Richard McCain, Constable Precinct 3, has served Barton Hills wonderfully over the years. He has provided security for our 4th of July parades, and has always attended our neighborhood meetings and activities. He has been an outstanding public servant and a tremendously loyal friend to us all.

National Anthem sung by

Jennifer Ellen Cook

Mistress of Ceremony

Kay Killen

Parade sponsors

Barton Hills Market	Kerbey Lane Cafe
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CG&S	CraigO's Pizza and Pastaria
Construction, Inc.	Rockin' Tomato
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Sonic	Jim-Jim's Water-Ice
Zygmunt Chiropractic	
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BHNA Volunteers

Sponsorship	Angel Rodenbeck
Food & Decorating	Heather Ralston
Watermelons	Michael Urbanski
Tables & Chairs	Ken Russell
Water	Jeff Embree
Judges	Rosalie Russell, Cindy Bogard, Kimberly Erlinger, Kerry Price
Watermelon Surgeons	Ann Kitchen, Mark Yznaga
Games Czars	John Luther, Chuck Raglan

Special thanks to BHE Principal Kati Achterman, The Boy Scout Color Guard and the Austin Fire Department.

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Greenbelt Guardians report Invasive removal progress

By Glee Ingram
Chair, Greenbelt Guardians

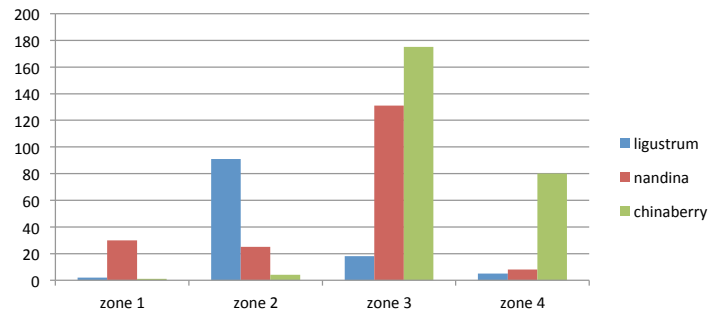
We've had a busy spring. In February, we hired crews to remove the large Ligustrum and Chinaberry along the main trail, from the Gus Fruh swimming hole to near the 360 trail entry, an area of more than 25 acres.

Some areas were quickly transformed from dense shade with minimal undergrowth to large areas open to the sun. The rains came, and the native seeds, long dormant, sprang forth: inland sea oats, day flower, turk's cap, marbleseed and others. It was a balm to the eye and assuring confirmation that this native landscape can heal itself, given the conditions to do so.

We also know the rains are indiscriminant in the seeds they nurture; the seed bank also holds an abundant supply of invasive plant seeds. We organized two volunteer workdays to do follow-up monitoring and invasives removal in a defined area across from the Gus Fruh swimming hole. The plan was to experiment with ways to collect data and track our progress.

Through a neighbor we connected with Austin Discovery

Invasive Plant Chart by ADS Students



During their field trip to the Greenbelt, students from the Austin Discovery School observed that there were a high number of young Chinaberry in Zones 3 and 4, and a lot of Ligustrum was pulled in Zone 2 (possibly because students got help from the naturalist in identifying them). They also observed that that Zone 1 contained a lot of older Nandina, which took longer to remove. This made it look like there were fewer invasives in Zone 1.

School, a public charter school that uses the outdoors and environmental education as the organizing hub for their curriculum. The students prepared for a field trip to the Greenbelt with studies of wildlife and habitat interrelationships, and the effects invasive species can have on those systems. On May 23 we provided them with hands-on experience in invasives identification and removal, and data gathering. A week after the event, their teacher sent the data analysis produced by the students (see graph).

On our June 2 Greenbelt Guardians workday, we continued our follow-up monitoring and removal activities in the same area of the Greenbelt. We asked volunteers to quantify the number of invasives they removed. The results were sobering. There was a bumper crop of new invasive seedlings, plus the small growth Ligustrum and Nandina that the hired crews had left for volunteer removal. The totals reported removed were:

Nandina	584
Ligustrum	1,162
Chinaberry	35
Mixed Species	600
All Removals	2,381

We had 15 volunteers working in the area, contributing an average of 3.5 hours each. In their 52.5 aggregate hours, volunteers removed a total of 2,381 invasives of various sizes.

We will continue to address this area annually for the next two to three years, at which point the invasives seed bank will be much diminished, according to the research literature. I hope we can find someone to do some bona fide research on this. 🌱

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF BARTON HILLS NEWS

- ▶ Thank you, parade sponsors & volunteers!
- ▶ Traffic improvement projects on the horizon
- ▶ Join the Neighborhood Habitat Challenge
- ▶ Community park project starts soon

Once you're a BHNA member, you can join the Barton Hills listserv.
Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/barton_hills/ for more information about how to sign up.

2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fill out this form to join or renew your membership in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$10 per household, payable when you join (for a new membership) or every January (for renewal).

Your Name: _____

Other 18+ members of your household: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send this form along with your annual dues to:

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, PO Box 2042, Austin TX 78768-2042

Make checks payable to BHNA. You can pay dues online through PayPal at www.bartonhills.org/membership.html.
(PayPal service fee of \$1 will be added to your total.)