

# BARTON HILLS NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

October 2012

## BHNA membership update More members, listserv clean up

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) has had a mid-year surge in membership. The total was 440, an all-time high, as of early September.

In another first, we are in the process of cleaning up the listserv email directory. As people have moved through the years, some old email addresses have lingered in the system. This purge is being undertaken to help ensure that the listserv is reserved for members in good standing.

There were 703 emails in the directory, and a systematic reduction is underway. If your email was removed in error, contact BHNA Treasurer Kerry Price at [kpriceatx@gmail.com](mailto:kpriceatx@gmail.com) or (512) 422-8373 with your payment information.

The listserv is one of the biggest ben-

efits of being a BHNA member. Anyone who lives within the boundaries of our neighborhood is eligible to join. Dues are \$10 per household per year — a bargain considering the information, deals and free items you can exchange with neighbors as a listserv member.

To join for 2012, complete the form on the back of this newsletter and send it along with your dues to the address shown. You can also sign up and pay dues at [bartonhills.org](http://bartonhills.org). (See article below for online sign-up instructions.)

On the back of this newsletter you'll find the address of the website you can visit for more about joining the listserv. Once we've confirmed your membership, you will be added to the listserv. ♦

## Step-by-step: Joining BHNA via PayPal

Joining the BHNA online and paying dues with PayPal is very convenient. However, following a few rules during your sign-up will help us process your membership faster.

- 1 Visit <http://bartonhills.org> and scroll down to the "Support your Neighborhood Association" on the right side of the screen.
- 2 Click on the Pay Now button. You'll be taken to the BHNA PayPal screen.
- 3 Choose the way you'd like to pay.
- 4 Once your transaction is finished, **please complete the additional membership form online.** This lets us connect your payment to your address.

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## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 23

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 July 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*  
Peter Hess
  - *Emergency Preparedness*  
Susan Donaldson
  - *ANC Report*  
Tom Nuckols
- 8:15 Elections
- 8:30 BHE park update, silent auction fundraiser
- 8:40 Neighborhood boundaries
- 8:45 Open/closed meetings
- 8:55 Other business brought to floor by membership
- 9:00 Adjourn

## 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.

### 2012 Executive Committee

#### President

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##### Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess  
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##### Greenbelt Guardians

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##### Neighborhood Watch

John Luther  
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##### Emergency Preparedness

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##### Neighborhood Outreach

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<http://bartonhills.org>

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## President's message

# Autumn changes and opportunities

By Melissa Hawthorne  
BHNA President

Fall is almost here and it's time for planting again. I thought I might plant a seed or two.

Elections for the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association will be held at our next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 23. There are many ways to participate — from helping to set up the meeting, to facilitating our newsletter, parading or picnicing. Then there are the wonderful people: the

person who is putting our fire danger signs back up, the loyal folks keeping the Neighborhood Watch, our fabulous Greenbelt Guardians, Membership Outreach keeping bringing us together, and the Barton Hills Elementary/Park folks. We all could use fresh ideas and willing hands. There are many opportunities.

If you have any interest in participating let's us know by contacting anyone in the

list to the left of this message, or volunteering during one of the quarterly association meetings.

With the Austin City Limits Festival expanding next year, there are a few things being implemented this year to make the festival a better experience for those living near Zilker Park. Some of the concerns we've raised include traffic, trash, neighborhood policing, and smoking in the park and

Greenbelt. I would definitely like to hear your feedback on the changes and any ideas for improvement. C3 Productions has taken our feedback and made a plan for action.

As we head into fall it's a time to rejuvenate as the holidays happen all too fast.

Sincerely Yours,

Melissa

*We all could  
use fresh ideas  
and willing hands.  
There are many  
opportunities.*



## Wanted: Newsletter Editor

If you enjoy desktop publishing and working with some of the people that make this neighborhood so great, Barton Hills newsletter editor is the job for you!

Contact Leah Golden: [kaijuhime@gmail.com](mailto:kaijuhime@gmail.com) or 413-3852 or come to the BHNA meeting on Oct. 23 at St. Mark's

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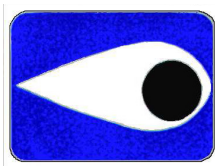
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## Neighborhood Watch

# Home security tips for the holiday season

By John L. Luther

Director, Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program

The holiday season is fast approaching. Thanksgiving and Christmas are busy travel times and should be a joyful time for all. But while you are off to grandma's house or out purchasing those special gifts, you need to be very aware that it is also a big "shopping time" for burglars, as well. Plan now and take some simple steps to make your home as secure as possible while you are away.

### 1. Don't leave evidence of an empty house while you are gone.

Arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your newspaper, mail and any hanging advertisements from your door every day.

Purchase at least two timers and place them in different parts of the house to control lamps turning on and off during the evening. A light in the house at night can deter would-be intruders.

### 2. Make it hard for a would-be intruder to enter your home.

Double-check all windows and doors to be sure they are locked before you leave. Bathroom and kitchen windows

are often overlooked in this process, so make extra sure of those. Don't forget to secure the doggy door opening.

Outside lights should be left on to remove dark areas around your home that might provide a hiding place for anyone attempting to enter your home.

Garage door openers should be removed from any vehicle left in your driveway.

If you have a deadbolt on your front and/or back door it should be inspected to make sure it will delay or keep an intruder from entering your home by simply kicking the door open. (More than 40% of intruder entries into homes in Austin are through the front or back door.) To do this inspection, use an electric drill with a Phillips head screwdriver bit and back one screw out of the deadbolt striker plate. If the removed screw is less than 3-inches long, you need to replace both screws. A 3-inch screw will go through the soft doorframe and into the hard wall stud next to the door. This increases the strength of the deadbolt and

makes a kick-in very difficult, if not impossible.

Remember, a determined intruder will find a way to enter any home. The trick is to make it difficult, noisy and time consuming. This increases the chance he will be detected. So, make it hard to identify your home as empty and make it hard to get into your home. Intruders are looking for the easy target. If you take these simple precautions your home will never be an easy target. ♦

### Austin Urban Shield Exercise: Call for volunteers

By Susan Donaldson  
Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Austin region will be hosting an Urban Shield exercise on Dec. 1-2, 2012. The 48-hour exercise will involve multiple locations in and around the Austin area testing multiple scenarios, including SWAT, HAZMAT, Ambulance Strike Team and Hospital Surge capacities.

If you'd like general information about the exercise, visit [www.urbanshield.org](http://www.urbanshield.org) and you can browse past events in the nation.

The Austin Urban Shield will be the first time this event will use hospitals in the scenarios.

To volunteer for the Dec. 1 exercise, contact [Linda.Haynie@austintexas.gov](mailto:Linda.Haynie@austintexas.gov).

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## Greenbelt Guardians report Good time to remove invasives from your yard

By Glee Ingram  
Chair, Greenbelt Guardians

Our next scheduled Greenbelt Guardians workday will be on **Saturday, Nov. 10**, at the Homedale trail entry. We will send out a notice to our neighborhood listserv and to our volunteer list in advance of that event. We plan to continue working on entry trail repairs and invasives removal projects, as well as some follow-up monitoring activities.

Now that the weather is cooling and we've had some rain, we encourage our neighbors who are willing to remove the invasive ligustrum and nandina plants from their own landscapes, as they are the source of the seeds that proliferate the population in the Greenbelt. We have weed wrenches we can loan you stored in the small storage shed behind Barton Hills Elementary. Just call to reserve them: 441-3278 or 431-4501. We can meet you there to explain the removal protocols. ♡

### Protect yourself from West Nile

Mosquito populations may be waning now that fall is here, but West Nile Virus (WNV) is still a concern. Mosquitoes buzz around here all year, though they're most active from April through September.

For more information, visit <http://bartonhills.org> and scroll down to the Sept. 18 post on West Nile Virus, courtesy of Susan Donaldson.



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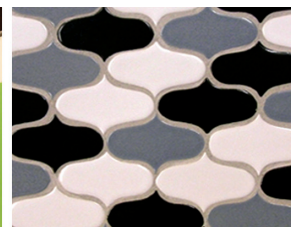
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# Bunco groups help friends stay connected

By Leah Golden

Barton Hills Newsletter Editor

Since the early 2000's, two neighborhood bunco groups have met regularly, their members staying connected through the years over dinner and dice rolls.

The first group started getting together in spring 2001. According to Beverly Crozier, the founding member, a couple of her neighbors became interested in forming a group after she mentioned being involved in bunco when she lived Dripping Springs.

"People comment to us that

they're amazed that we've been together for 11 years and going strong," Beverly says.

About six months to a year after Beverly formed the first neighborhood bunco group, a second group sprang up. According to Diane Singleton, who had been a substitute the original group, she and a few other subs saw how much fun the regular members were having and decided to form their own group.

According to Diane, their group members originally got to know each other as parents



While themes aren't required, hostess Teresa Carpenter enjoyed setting one. This photo is from "Fitness bunco", and it included medals. Photo by Teresa Carpenter.

of Barton Hills Elementary students. As their kids got older and attended other schools, they wanted to maintain that connection.

Both groups meet once a month. Hostess duties are rotated through the group, so no one hosts more than once a year. The game itself requires no skill: Points are earned through the rounds by rolling

the dice.

"It doesn't take any brains to play," Diane laughs. "There's nothing competitive about this. ... It's basically an opportunity to chit-chat with people you haven't seen for a month."

*Continued on page 7*

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## Emergency resources online

By Susan Donaldson  
Chiar, Emergency Preparedness Committee

The following services and websites can help keep you informed and prepared in case of an emergency.

### Emergency Notification System [wireless.capcog.org/ENS/Intro.aspx](http://wireless.capcog.org/ENS/Intro.aspx)

Did you know that there is a way to register your phone number to receive emergency notifications? The Emergency Notification System (ENS) is an automated phone-dialing tool that allows authorized public safety personnel to notify residents in an emergency situation. Residents are called only when property or human life is in jeopardy.

The system contacted me when a neighborhood in another county was threatened by a burglar breaking into unoccupied homes. It was also used to notify

another community when an escaped prisoner was suspected to be nearby.

### Texas Prepares [www.texasprepares.org](http://www.texasprepares.org)

This comprehensive website from the state of Texas contains helpful resources to build your disaster preparedness plan, including family strategies, handy checklists and special needs considerations.

My favorite page is the Essentials page. It lists the essentials you'll need to support yourself and your family during all types of emergency situations.

### Texas Forest Service Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal [www.texaswildfirerisk.com/map](http://www.texaswildfirerisk.com/map)

Wildfire will continue to be a threat people and property across Texas. Rapid

population growth into Wildland Urban Interface areas and an increasing frequency of elevated fire weather conditions represent major concerns. The Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal provides access to information that describes wildfire risk statewide.

### Prepared.ly

[www.prepared.ly/about](http://www.prepared.ly/about)

Prepared.ly is a project created by Code for America for the City of Austin and Travis County, and provides homeowners with an online tool to help them be more prepared for wildfires. This website is still under construction but it has good roots. It will be tied into Austin Fire Department and the Texas Forestry Service. It has Firewise information and links to other informative sites. ♦

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## How does your garden grow?

# Be part of 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. The goal is to make Austin a more wildlife-friendly city. Austin has more than 1,700 certified wildlife habitats, according to Wildlife Austin! ([www.keeptaustinwild.com](http://www.keeptaustinwild.com)). Nationwide, there are more than 150,000 certified habitats.

The three neighborhoods with the most new certifications by **Nov. 14** win recognition from the City of Austin, as well as prizes. Prizes for past years have included neighborhood picnics, tree giveaways and wildlife workshops.

Here's how you can be a part of it:

1. **Turn your yard into a wildlife friendly habitat** that provides 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 [www.nfw.org](http://www.nfw.org). You can also download and print the form. There is a \$20 certification fee.

For more information about the program, check out the challenge guidelines and FAQs, visit [bartonhills.org](http://bartonhills.org) and look for the June 2 post about the wildlife challenge. ♡

### Continued from page 5

Both Diane and Beverly agree that getting together to play bunco with their respective groups helped them stay connected with their friends and neighbors as the years

rolled by.

For Beverly, the draw of the group is "the camaraderie. It's the getting together and catching up, and staying connected with your friends."

"Over the course of the

years we've had some car accidents and some health issues that we've just drawn closer as a result of our friendship and helping each other through those problems," Diane says. "It's been a great

support system."

Diane's advice for anyone thinking about starting a group, be it a bunco, bridge or book club, is to just do it.

"It builds lasting friendships," Diane says. ♡

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#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF BARTON HILLS NEWS

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- ▶ Holiday security tips
- ▶ Expert advice on removing invasives

Once you're a BHNA member, you can join the Barton Hills listserv.  
Visit [groups.yahoo.com/group/barton\\_hills/](http://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](http://www.bartonhills.org/membership.html).  
(PayPal service fee of \$1 will be added to your total.)