

# Barton Hills News

A Quarterly Newsletter

April 2013

## ***In a Wildfire environment your goals should be:***

Stay Safe.  
Prevent Property Damage  
Help the Fire Departments Save Your House.

**By Susan Donaldson**

The simplest steps you can take to reduce Wildfire damage to your house are:

1. Make your house address number clearly visible from the street. This makes it easier for the Fire Department to find you.
2. Clean out your gutters. Embers can travel miles and will smolder in the gutter debris and burst into flame long after you are expecting it.
3. Clean out dead landscaping within 10 ft. of your house. This includes leaves, shrubs and tree limbs. Even better to trim all your trees 6 ft. up.
4. Keep flammable patio furniture, cushions, grass doormat, etc. off of wooden decks or away from your house.
5. Place long water hoses connected at all your hose bibs and near all corners of your house. The FD will use them when they can find them. Your house may not be the one the fire truck is parked near.

*continued on page 2*

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## **NEXT MEETING**

**Barton Hills  
Neighborhood Association  
Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 6 - 9PM**

*Join us at St. Mark's Church (corner of  
Barton Skyway and Barton Hills Drive).*

*All are welcome! Social Hour 6PM.  
Pizza, salad, and Pasta from Rockin'  
Tomato \$7.*

## **Agenda**

- 7:00 – Call to Order**
- 7:05 – Brief Announcements**
- 7:10 – Approval of the Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> Minutes**
- 7:12 – Treasurer's Report  
Kerry Price**
- 7:20 – Committee Reports**
  - **Neighborhood Watch  
John Luther**
  - **Membership Outreach  
Sunny Luther**
  - **Area Development  
Peter Hess**
  - **Emergency Preparedness  
Susan Donaldson**
  - **ANC Report  
Tom Nuckols**
  - **Greenbelt Guardians  
Glee Ingram**
  - **Barton Hills Park  
Kathleen Schneeman**
- 8:00 – Goodwill Site Presentation**
- 8:30 – AISD Bond Presentation**
- 8:45 - Other business brought to the floor by membership.**
- 9:00 – Adjourn**

**Join BHNA or renew your membership!**

See membership form on Page 8

## Wildfire Environment Goals continued from page 1

6. Keep a roof height ladder handy. The FD will use it when theirs is in use elsewhere.
7. Keep propane tanks turned off and away from the house. Also keep firewood away from structures.

### *More involved steps:*

1. Keep your roof cleared of debris.
2. Keep shrubs away from windows. They will burn hot and explode the glass allowing fire into the house.
3. Keep embers from getting under wooden decks. Using solid material (brick, rock, etc.) and not lattice to keep the leaves & embers out.
4. Keep a 10 foot fire resistant zone around your house. Remove any items that will foster embers. Be aware that a wooden fence can be a fire conduit. Best to replace the fence post touching the house with brick or metal or in an emergency leave the gate open.
5. Keep tree canopies open so that fires cannot travel from tree to tree.

### *Long Range Goals:*

1. Replace wood type roofs with fire resistant materials. Your insurance company will reward you.
2. Use fine metal screen behind soffit, gable, & roof vents, chimneys and other openings to the attic or house.

Further information & details can be found in this brochure:

<http://firewise.org/~media/Firewise/Files/Pdfs/Booklets%20and%200Brochures/BookletGuidetoFirewiseLandscapeandConstruction.pdf>



Lost Creek Country Club invites you to see what we have to offer! We are happy to extend a Special Invitation for Barton Hills Neighborhood Homeowners for a complimentary Preview Membership!

**Only available through May 1, 2013!**

Activate a Preview Membership to enjoy the privileges of private club membership! Golf, tennis, fitness, pools and dining in Creekside Dining Room, or the beautiful Poolside Pavilion!

Contact Pam for membership details 512-861-4750 or Pam.Staulcup@ourclub.com  
Lost Creek Country Club 2612 Lost Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78746 [www.lostcreekclub.com](http://www.lostcreekclub.com)



## Neighborhood Watch

By John Luther

I am very happy to let the neighborhood know that property crimes have remained very low during the first two and one half months of 2013. The Austin Police Department crime stats indicate that there have been zero burglaries of residences in Barton Hills during January, February and the first half of March. There have been just four burglaries of vehicles during this same period. There were some reports of property theft not involving home entry, but these too remain very low. APD states that the low property crime rate in our neighborhood is directly related to our very alert residents who practice the techniques of Neighborhood Watch. They are not hesitant to call 911 when something or someone is suspicious and operate a very proactive Neighborhood Watch Patrol.

When attending APD monthly meetings between neighborhood watch representatives from various neighborhoods and police representatives at the Southwest Police Substation I am always very proud when Barton Hills is held up as the outstanding example of how neighborhoods can take action to provide increased security and reduce crime. Our neighborhood does just that. We do it with volunteers. And we do it every day. So each and every resident of this beautiful neighborhood should take a bow; you are doing a great job in fighting crime. Please give an extra bow to the special group of men and women who volunteer an hour of their time each week to participate in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Patrol. Thank you all for what you do to keep our neighborhood safe.

## The Friends of Barton Hills Community Park

are pleased to announce that our "Come Play" fundraiser was a huge success! All of the proceeds from the event, over \$26,000, will be used for playground equipment at the Park. It was great to see so many neighbors at the event. The generosity of the Barton Hills community helped us exceed our goal by more than \$6,000.

"Come Play! Swing Into Action" featured a silent auction, the band *ShinyRibs*, live auction, and paddles up. A big thanks to Blairfield Realty our King of the Mountain Sponsor. Thanks to our Ring Around the Rosie sponsors: Caliber Collision, Nantz Orthodontics, Ranserve, Relentless Boot Camp, and South Austin Therapy Group. Their generous support helped cover all the costs associated with the fundraising event. A full list of in-kind and business donors can be found at [ComePlayAustin.org](http://ComePlayAustin.org).



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The money raised is in addition to the \$40,000 awarded by the Austin Parks Foundation in December for improvements to the park. These efforts comes after a year's worth of community input and engagement that culminated in a vision of a park that will draw visitors for decades and remain attractive and useful throughout the year.

Next steps for the park include installing irrigation, sod and play boulders for climbing. The updated playground will incorporate natural materials and state-of-the-art equipment, as well as take advantage of the topography and environmental features of the park. And that's just the beginning. Think kickball, baseball, community events such as star-gazing parties. Imagine a pavilion where long-time residents can pass on tomato-growing secrets or volunteers can serve slices of watermelon after our world-famous Fourth of July parade. These fund-raising efforts kick off a \$500,000 Capital Campaign and partnership that involves neighborhood support, corporate grants and city funds. Thank you all for your continued support. Stay tuned for more events! To find out more information or to make a donation, please visit: [ComePlayAustin.org](http://ComePlayAustin.org).

Photos of the event can be found at  
[www.facebook.com/bartonhillspark](http://www.facebook.com/bartonhillspark)

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## Real Estate Market Report from January to the end of February.

By Ryan Rodenbeck, Spyglass Realty and Investments

Sales continue to climb and inventory remains at record low levels in the Austin area. Active listing numbers were the lowest since 2007. In the years 2008 through 2011 active listings ranged from 8,000 on the low side to 9,300 on the high side. Active listings in January and February of 2013 ranged from 4,900 to 5,100. It's truly a seller's market.

Sales for January and February were the highest they have been since 2008, but not quite as high as they were in 2007. This is likely to change as the year progresses.

The median home price in Austin for the first quarter of 2007 was \$176,000. In February of 2013 it was \$208,000. The average sold-to-list price in February averaged 97%, up 1% over one year ago.

In the first quarter of 2007, Austin's inventory levels were 4 months of inventory. In February of 2013 it was down to just 3 months. A healthy real estate market is usually measured at 5 months.

Inventory for area 7 (the section of 78704 west of Lamar) was measured at 4 months. Inventory for area 6 (east of Lamar) was measured at 1.6 months. This is probably due to the fact that, by and large, homes in area 7 are more expensive than in area 6.

The median home price for area 7 at the end of February was \$457,500, up 20.2% over the previous year. This is based off data from only 8 listings that sold in February. That's 25% fewer homes than were sold one year prior. Year to date at the end of February were 23 homes sold, up 64.3%.

## Barton Hills Experts



### Buying

*Buy with confidence knowing that you:*

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## Your Neighbors Are Our References.

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Info@Ranserve.com

  
Ranserve.com



## Neighborhood Watch Needs YOU!

Volunteer one hour of your time per week. Crime is simply a problem. You can be a part of the solution. Contact our King of the Watch John Luther at [jluther@austin.rr.com](mailto:jluther@austin.rr.com)

Our annual Independence Day Parade will organizing over the next quarter.

If you'd like to be a part of the wonderful volunteers who make the magic happen Contact Sunny Luther at [ssluther@austin.rr.com](mailto:ssluther@austin.rr.com).



Recently participated in the sale of:

2008 Arpdale  
1504 Juliet  
2021 Bluebonnet #107  
1606 Hether  
2305 Rundell  
2110 Wright  
1307 Kinney #155  
2607 Trailside #2  
3200 Westhill  
1905 Frazier  
2107 Rabb Rd.  
906 Jessie

## Zilker Area Specialists for Over 25 Years!

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- Peach and Cynthia Reynolds

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## President's Message

Spring is upon us, and all the indicators I see so far, say it's going to be another hot dry summer in here in Barton Hills. I have already started on my preparedness here at home. Working around the property trying to clear away any debris, and practice those tips we all got about hardening the home.

One of the things I enjoy most about living here is meandering through the Greenbelt on the weekends. I am often surprised as I walk with the amount of brush, cut trees, and sometimes even trash that is just sent over the bluff. I wonder at times if maybe people don't know, maybe they have a yard service, or someone working, and don't realize that there is a pile of kindling right behind their homes. I certainly know it's not a

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small amount of effort to haul it out.

Take time to enjoy the spring and be mindful of the dry conditions. We haven't had a lot of rain. Be safe.

Yours truly,  
Melissa

## Meet the team!



Jeff Embree	Donna Blair Miller	Monica Blackburn	Kevin Haines
512.750.6280	512.968.9080	512.695.7881	512.294.9002
Barton Parkway	Four Oaks Lane	Rock Terrace Drive	Barton Hills Drive

Call us today for a free market analysis on your home!

## We Our Neighbors!

Blairfield Realty is proud to introduce our newest team members. We all live and work in your neighborhood. Check out some of our newest listings!

2508 Spring Creek



2017 Ford



1724 Glenciff



## 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.

### 2013 Executive Committee

#### President

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#### Vice President

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#### Treasurer

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#### Committee Chairs

#### Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess  
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#### Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram  
gleeful@earthlink.net

#### Neighborhood Watch

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#### Emergency Preparedness

Susan Donaldson  
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#### Neighborhood Outreach

Sunny Luther  
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#### Barton Hills Community Park

Kathleen Schneeman  
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www.bartonhills.org

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper

## GREENBELT GUARDIANS

By Glee Ingram

As the drought continues, we face another season in which we are mindful of the potential for wildfires, especially in areas of the city that border grassland and woodlands, known as "wildland/urban interface". Those of us living in Barton Hills, adjacent to the Barton Creek Greenbelt, are such an area.

We partake of both the pleasures and the perils of living next to this natural Hill Country terrain with its densely wooded canyons and grassland areas, and its hallmark seasonal creek which feeds into the Edwards aquifer. These lands are managed for many purposes: watershed protection, endangered species protection, and recreational use by hikers, bikers, climbers, geo-cachers, and others.

These groups have collaborated in the publication of a document called *Wildfire Ready: Austin: Before and After the Fire*, which was introduced at a "Firewise" seminar held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in February. Following are some quotes from the publication:

***The Bastrop area fire was a wake-up call, and has motivated an extraordinary amount of collaboration between numerous City of Austin Departments (Fire Department, Watershed Protection, Forestry, Wildland Conservation, and Environmental Protection) as well as County and State departments and Texas A&M Forest Service, and some non-profit groups.***

Wildfires are a natural component of healthy ecosystems and have historically provided a key positive role in Central Texas ecology. Over time, human development has expanded into wildland areas, and our actions have changed the dynamic pattern of wildfire. Since natural areas are critical to our well-being and prosperity it is important that they remain natural, and therefore wildfire will continue to be a part of our lives.

Consequently we must work together to become a fire-adapted community, comprised of informed and prepared citizens who collaboratively take action to safely co-exist with wildfire. Information and applied knowledge are the most valuable tools for preventing damage from wildfire.

The training emphasized ways in which home dwellers can create defensible spaces around their homes with a better understanding of "home ignition zones". We can each take responsibility for removing ignitable vegetation and materials abutting our houses, and we can take action to prevent embers and flames from coming into contact with the flammable materials near and in our homes.

Our BHNA Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Committees are working together to provide information and resources to 1) alert the public during high fire danger periods, and 2) help us protect our homes in the eventuality of a wildfire in our area.

### **BHNA listserv: One of your membership benefits**

When you join the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, you can join the BHNA Yahoo! group, also known as the listserv. The listserv lets you keep up with your neighbors from the comfort of your computer. Posts cover everything from lost-and-found pets to crime stats and local events. See page 8 for the BHNA membership form.

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 41206  
Austin, TX 78704

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THE LATEST ISSUE OF BARTON HILLS NEWS

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## 2013 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sign Me Up!** I/we wish to receive email from the BHNA listserv.

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

Please send this form along with your annual dues to:

**Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, PO Box 41206, Austin, TX 78704**

Make checks payable to BHNA.

You can pay dues online through PayPal at <http://bartonhills.org/about/membership/>

(PayPal service fee of \$1 will be added to your total.)