

BARTON HILLS NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

January 2013

Birds of Prey: Rescue and Rehabilitation

Sallie Delahoussaye, wildlife rescue expert and long-time Barton Hills resident, will present a unique program on the rescue and rehabilitation of birds of prey at the Jan. 22, 2013, Barton Hills Neighborhood Association meeting. Sallie will bring some beautiful owls along to assist in her presentation.

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about wildlife in our neighborhood and get an up-close look at some of the birds we hear at night, but seldom see. You will love this presentation.

Sallie is a renowned expert in the field of wildlife rescue and has had a lifelong interest in birds and mammals since she was a child in southern Louisiana. As an adult, she expanded her knowledge in the field by volunteering her time to work with rescued wildlife and attending specialized training opportunities.

In 1979, Sallie became a member of Wildlife Rescue, where her knowledge and skills in working with birds and

animals were welcomed and her expertise continued to grow through hands-on training and formal classes. She now specializes in the rescue and rehabilitation of birds of prey, including a variety of owls and hawks.

Some of her charges will be released into the wild after rehabilitation. Sadly, others have suffered injuries that prohibit release. However, those who will not return to the wild do earn their keep by assisting Sallie in programs at schools and other educational venues.

Sallie is indeed a special kind of urban hero. Her devotion to the care and rehabilitation of birds of prey can be and has been the difference between life or death for these special birds, some of which will fly again above Barton Hills.

When asked why she became so involved in this work given the time and dedication involved, her response was simply: "I love the critters."

What better reason could there be? ♦

Join BHNA or renew your membership!

See membership form on page 8.

Volunteer opportunities

See page 2 for more about how you can get involved.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 22

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 Oct. 23, 2012 meeting minutes
- 7:12 Treasurer's report
Kerry Price
- 7:20 Committee reports:
 - *Neighborhood Watch*
John Luther
 - *Membership Outreach Committee*
Sunny Luther
 - *Area Development*
Peter Hess
 - *Emergency Preparedness*
Susan Donaldson
 - *ANC Report*
Tom Nuckols
 - *Greenbelt Guardians*
Glee Ingram
 - *Barton Hills Park*
Kathleen Schneeman
- 7:45 Update from City of Austin
Neighborhood Connectivity Department
- 8:00 Birds of Prey: Rescue and Rehabilitation
Sallie Delahoussaye
- 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.

2013 Executive Committee

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<http://bartonhills.org>

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's message

Onward Vision

By Melissa Hawthorne
BHNA President

The year rolls out before us and we have many things on the horizon to be grateful for. We are all here, alive and well, and we live in the best neighborhood in the City of Austin. We have the countless efforts of our wonderful neighborhood committees and what they bring to our community to be proud of: our Neighborhood Watch, Community Outreach (currently bringing you the Independence Day Parade and Spring Fling), Greenbelt Guardians, Neighborhood Park Improvements, Emergency Preparedness and Area Development.

At the end of the last year, we were fortunate to have two grants awarded to us here in Barton Hills to our own Greenbelt Guardians and our Barton Hills Community Park from the Austin Parks Foundation. This year's focus for me will be working in the community trying to

pull together the resources for our park revitalization.

The Barton Community Park is approximately 4.76 acres of land adjacent to and a part of the Barton Hills Elementary School. The park was formally deeded to the City of Austin in October 1975. The Barton Hills Community Park Master Plan will be formally heard at the City of Austin Parks Board meeting Jan. 22, 2012. This vision has been supported by many.

So let's move forward together and see what we as a group can do to bring

change upon our park. Let's create a space within the neighborhood we are all proud of and then use it joyfully because we can be the change we want to see in the world.

Truly Yours,

Melissa

*Let's create a space
within the
neighborhood we
are all proud of and
then use it joyfully
because we can be
the change we want
to see in the world.*

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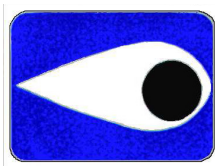
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Neighborhood Watch Volunteer Today

By John L. Luther

Director, Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program

The Barton Hills neighborhood continues to use the Neighborhood Watch patrol, the most proactive approach to crime prevention employed by volunteer organizations in the state. The patrol program is labor intensive and can only be successful when neighborhood residents volunteer their time to assist in providing roving patrols to actively seek

out and report criminal activity, as well as suspicious persons or vehicles. Our neighborhood currently has over 30 of these dedicated volunteers. Working hourly shifts, they looking out for us all, every day. So don't forget to wave when they pass.

Remember your wave and smile will be their only compensation. Thank you.

Crime prevention is something like fishing; you just can't catch them all. As such, there still some bad guys plying their trade in our neighborhood. The following is a list of home burglaries and burglaries of vehicles committed in Barton Hills during October, November and the first half of December. ♦

October

Burglary of a Residence: 23xx

Westrock, 23xx Westoak, 23xx

Westrock, 26xx Forest Bend, 28xx

Oak Haven.

Burglary of a Vehicle: 12xx Barton Hills Drive, 26xx Rockingham, 11xx Hollow Creek

November

Burglary of a Residence: 23xx

Westrock, 27xx Oak Park, 24xx Barton

Skyway, 33xx Westhill, 24xx Bluffview,

25xx Homedale

Burglary of a Vehicle: 26xx Deerfoot Trail, 23xx Westrock, 29xx Kassirine Pass, 23xx Westworth, 23xx Arpdale

December (partial)

Burglary of a Residence: 28xx

Cedarview, 22xx Forest Bend

Burglary of a Vehicle: 29xx Oakhaven, 27xx Tether Trail, 24xx Wildgrove

Special thanks to Rachel Coen for maintaining BHNA crime statistics file.

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BHNA Executive Committee volunteer opportunities

There are three vacancies on our Executive Committee — three ways to get involved in your neighborhood.

Vice President: Serves as the Membership Coordinator and moderator of the Barton Hills Yahoo Group.

Newsletter Editor: Brings you this fine publication every quarter.

Community Partnership Coordinator: Gets advertising for the newsletter and donations for events.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Melissa Hawthorne at mwh@austin.rr.com.

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Greenbelt Guardians: 10 years and going strong!

By Stan Ostrum

Greenbelt Guardians

Lots of good news to share as we reach the end of our 10th year of taking care of our stretch of the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

As we reported a few weeks ago, we received the \$35,000 Austin Parks Foundation grant that we applied for this fall, money that will be used to fund a two person E-Corps crew that will remove invasive plants from over 30 acres of our adopted portion of the Greenbelt during 2013.

Our last workday of 2012, at the Homedale entrance on Nov. 10, had about 30 volunteers who repaved the first part of the entry trail that was badly eroded, resurfaced parts of the upper trail to cover some rough and low areas, removed invasives in some areas along the lower trail and creekbed, re-decked the wooden footbridge near the rock flats, and weeded, trimmed, and cleaned up the whole entry area.

Check out our Picasa gallery at <https://picasaweb.google.com/greenbeltguardians>. The number of volunteers we've had and the amount of work that's been accomplished over the years is pretty impressive.

Here's our tentative schedule of workdays for 2013:

Saturday March 2

Austin Park Foundation's "It's My Park Day"

Saturday, June 1

American Hiking Society's "National Trails Day"
(the country's largest celebration of trails)

Saturday, Sept. 28

National Public Lands Day
(celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2013)

There will be one or two more, with dates still to be decided.

We're planning some special events to celebrate our 10th anniversary this spring. Stay tuned for more details. ♡



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Neighborhood Traditions: Deerfoot Denizens

By Carole Price

On a recent Saturday night the Denizens of Deerfoot Trail were gathering as they have yearly since 1985, the year that early resident of the Trail, Cyndy Perkins, invited her neighbors to a touring dinner.

"It was a way to get to know the people on the street, Cyndy said. "From the start it was a success. We had seven to eight houses, then a dozen, now we get 55 to 60 people. We always knew it would go this long, but it has exceeded our expectations!"

Carol Klausmeier, who was

building a house on the street at that time, was an early attendee and became Cyndy's partner in the organization of the event each year, helping get the word out and planning the meal.

The idea was simple: Persuade three sets of homeowners to host a different part of the meal, invite everyone on the street to bring a dish, and show up to meet and eat.

Those who have lived on or near Deerfoot Trail are denizens for life. Many people who have moved away still frequent the party to catch up



and admit it was a mistake to ever leave Barton Hills in the first place! There are so many benefits to this kind of gathering: putting names and stories to people you just wave to in passing, catching up with the lives of your childrens' school friends, finding out how a parent you met last year is doing and, best of all, looking at the fabulous remodels after watching the activity for months!

Each year Carol and Cindy do the famed announcements with news from the street,

concerns or questions, and who is going to host next year. They always find or cajole someone.

Nowadays the format is slightly different. We only visit two houses, as the numbers have grown so large that sitting down to dinner is not possible. It's heavy appetizers and drinks at the first house followed by dessert at the second house. And don't worry, football fans: If there's UT game, it will be on!

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Public works in the neighborhood

By Sara Hartley

As the neighborhood is well aware, Public Works and other city departments have been working to improve the Barton Hills neighborhood quite a bit lately. We have several projects ranging from reconstruction of streets, to waterline repairs, to bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

While we understand that construction can be painful, we believe in making sure that our neighborhoods have the upgrades to their infrastructure that are needed. Below you will find an update on those various projects in your area that we are working on, specifically to improve your community.

Please never hesitate to contact us with concerns, ideas, questions, and even compliments if our crews are impressing you in any way. Thank you always for your

patience as we work in your "backyard!"

Barton Springs Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Project

Description: Provide continuous bicycle facilities and upgrade sidewalk to ADA standards on Barton Springs Road from Zilker Park to Congress Avenue. **Status Update:** Crews have completed trail upgrades in Zilker Park and are currently upgrading the Butler Trail entrance on the north side of the intersection of Barton Springs Road and Robert E. Lee. This trail entrance should be complete by the first of the year. Next phase: Crews will begin to upgrade the sidewalk on Barton Springs Road to meet current ADA standards. This spring crews will construct a multi-use trail in front of the

Palmer Events Center for westbound Barton Springs Road cyclists. Completion Date: Spring 2013 Contact: Chad Crager, Public Works Department (974-3570), Project Manager

Barton Springs Pool Water Quality Retrofit Project

Description: This project has several phases. Phase 1 is the construction of a low earth berm to prevent sediment laden runoff from the gravel parking lot from reaching Barton Springs Pool. In addition to the berm, the athletic field was reconditioned to increase infiltration of runoff into the soil and rejuvenate the field for recreational use. **Status Update:** Phase 1 is complete. The temporary fence should be removed by Jan. 1, 2013, after the turf has had a chance to establish. Next Phase: Phase two is focusing on controlling the soil erosion on the disc golf course. The

Continued on page 7

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Public works

Continued from page 6

project is going to be using low impact soil conservation measures such as contour berms, terraces, mulch, and native vegetation. This will help to prevent the large amount of erosion that clogs up the area inlet by the MoPac frontage road and Barton Springs Road after heavy rains. Completion Dates: Design will be complete this summer, with construction anticipated for fall/winter of 2013/14. Contact: Charlie Kaough, Watershed Protection Department, (974-3397) project engineer and sponsor

Group 10: Miscellaneous Streets Reconstruction, Barton Hills and Zilker Neighborhoods

Description: Full depth street reconstruction on the following streets. Water, wastewater and storm sewer improvements will be included prior to the street reconstruction.

- De Verne (Rae Dell to Paramount)
- Paramount (Rabb Glen to end)
- Rabb Glen (Rae Dell to Ann Arbor)
- Arpdale (Paramount to Bluebonnet)
- Rock Terrace (Barton Skyway to Barton Parkway)

Deerfoot

Continued from page 5

Kerry and I have been going since the year we moved to the Trail. After 22 dinners we still look forward to each year and seeing people who are not just neighbors but friends we have come to treasure knowing.

Why not start this tradition on your street and get the great benefits? The more events like this, the better for our wonderful Barton Hills community. ♡



Work continues on Rockingham at Barton Skyway (above), while the Butler Trail entrance nears completion (right).



- Rockingham (Barton Skyway to Barton Parkway)
- Westridge (Michael to end)
- Ridgeview (Barton Skyway to Westridge)
- Cliffside (Wildgrove to Spring Creek)

Project Status: The contractor has most of the underground utilities installed on the project and should have all of the underground utilities installed by the end of January to early February. The only utilities that are not fully installed are the water line on Cliffside Drive, which should be completed by the beginning of January, and the storm drains on Arpdale Street and Westridge Drive. The installation of the storm drain should take a couple of weeks and thereafter the street reconstruction will take place.

Next Phase: The contractor has begun street reconstruction on Rock Terrace and Paramount, which should be completed by Christmas week. However, the road may not be paved with asphalt until early January. The road has a tack coat in place for dust reduction until that time. Upon completing/testing of all the lines on Rabb Glen, Cliffside and Ann Arbor, the road reconstruction will begin on these streets as well, expected at the beginning of the year.

Completion Date: The contractor's substantial completion date is mid-May; however, we are hopeful the contractor will be finished with the project and in the restoration phase earlier in the spring.

Contact: Demira Wyatt, Public Works Department (974-7213), Project Manager ♡

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.

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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.

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: _____

Please send this form along with your annual dues to:

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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.)