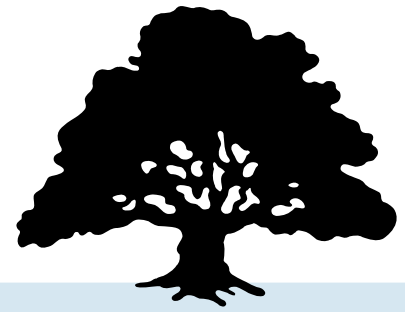


Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



NEXT MEETING

July 28th • 6 - 9pm

Please join us at **St. Mark's Church** (corner of Barton Skyway & Barton Hills Drive)
All are welcome!

Social Hour at 6pm. Pizza, salad & pasta from Rockin' Tomato **\$7**

Neighborhood Meeting: 7-9pm

NOTE: City of Austin staff will be presenting the new parking plan for ACL and other major events at Zilker Park.



continued on page 8

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.

2015 Executive Committee

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President's Message

By Tom Nuckols
BHNA President

Neighbors,

Two long time and very active BHNA members, John and Sunny Luther, have moved to Sun City in Georgetown to relish their golden years. The neighborhood owes them a debt of gratitude for their years of service as chairs of our Neighborhood Watch Committee and Neighborhood Outreach Committee (i.e., the "July 4th parade committee"), respectively. Sunny made the July 4th Parade a highly anticipated neighborhood event year after year, and John made Barton Hill's Neighbor Watch Program the best in the city. Thank you, Sunny and John.

Booth O'Quinn has agreed to serve as the new chair of our Neighborhood Watch Committee. But he needs volunteers to serve in various roles. I've already volunteered to Booth to take a weekly shift patrolling the neighborhood and encourage y'all to volunteer also.

Much of the work of running BHNA is done by the officers of the Executive Committee between our quarterly general membership meetings. The Executive Committee recently approved the following expenditures.

BHNA traditionally makes a donation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in appreciation for their letting us meet there quarterly. We approved this year's donation in the amount of \$500.

John Luther requested new magnetic Neighborhood Watch signs for the sides of volunteers' cars. As a going away present for him, we approved \$280 plus shipping for that purpose.

BHNA also traditionally makes donations in memory of persons who lose their lives in the neighborhood. Star Flight crew member Kristin McClain lost her life on April 28th in a fall from the Star Flight helicopter in the greenbelt at approximately the 2600 block of Barton Hills Drive near Forest Bend Drive. We approved a donation of \$200, which include \$75 members gave BHNA for that purpose, to a fund established for the benefit of her children.

Finally, our bylaws require both for the election of officers at our fall meeting and the appointment by the president of a Nominations Committee to recruit and screen candidates for office for 2016. If you are interested in serving on the Nominations Committee, please let me know.

Regards,

Tom



Ann Kitchen, Parade Marshals John & Sunny Luther and celebrity driver and announcer, Sally Hernandez, Constable, Precinct 3




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Update

Greenbelt Guardians

By Glee Ingram

On Saturday, June 6, our team of Greenbelt Guardians leaders hosted 37 volunteers, who contributed a total of 116 hours of labor to the Homedale Entry Trail, in celebration of National Trails Day. After the recent torrential rains, we had plenty of trail repairs to tend to. Our experienced team leaders led small groups of volunteers, along with the necessary tools, to their respective work sites.

One team reclaimed the entry trails from aggressive vegetative growth and reset the trail boundary stones; another team filled deep trail erosion ruts with compacted granite, and reopened the clogged drainage swales near the trail entry. We had a couple of enthusiastic teams working in the woods removing large new crops of nandina and ligustrum that proliferated from the abundance of spring rain. And the entry kiosks & a large trail boulder were freed of graffiti.



Proclamation

Be it known that

Whereas, National Trails Day is a nation-wide community service day that provides an opportunity for hundreds of volunteers in Central Texas to work on trail projects; and,

Whereas, This service day began in the Austin area in 1990 through a partnership initiated by REA (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) and the City of Austin Parks Department, and includes active participation from American Youthworks' Texas Conservation Corps, the Austin Parks Foundation, the Austin Ridge Riders, Greenbelt Guardians, and Hill Country Conservancy; and,

Whereas, June 6th is National Trails Day, and the City of Austin wishes to recognize it locally; and

Now, Therefore,

I, Steve Adler, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, do hereby proclaim

June 6, 2015


as

National Trails Day

in Austin,

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Austin to be affixed this 6th Day of June in the Year Two Thousand Fifteen

Steve Adler, Mayor, City of Austin



We also had a hardy group that constructed mortared stone retaining walls to help secure the new bridge installed last year by an Eagle Scout candidate, Carter Pace and his scout group, with guidance and supervision from City PARD staff John Cook. The previous bridge had floated off its moorings in a flood event that further widened the drain channel. We are working to keep this bridge in place, by preventing further channel erosion around it. As upstream development and impervious cover have increased through the years, the creek water flow rate has increased exponentially. Twelve years ago, a short jump would get you across this same drain channel!

We were not alone in celebrating National Trails Day. The Austin Parks Foundation, Hill Country Conservancy, and Texas Conservation Corps partnered to host Austin's local National Trails Day, which is the American Hiking Society's nationwide trails awareness program.

Over 800 volunteers participated in Austin's National Trails Day event at 40+ separate project sites to improve trails throughout the city. It was the City's largest National Trails Day event yet. Volunteers and community members came out to improve the trails, and discover some of Austin's most beautiful places –which for our group is the Barton Creek Greenbelt!

Exercise Your Right to Bike

by Amanda Haight, VESS Consulting Group

We’ve all seen those terrifying near misses: a car backs out into a bike lane forcing a cyclist to swerve into traffic; a cyclist blows through a stop sign forcing the driver with the right of way to slam on their brakes. It’s from interactions like these that a culture of animosity is sometimes created between the driving and cycling communities. But what holds us all together is a common goal of getting to our destination, whatever our chosen method of transportation.

Sharing the road must be a joint effort between drivers and cyclists. That’s why McMinn Law Firm has launched Bike Rights Austin, a resource that hopes to cultivate a respect for cyclists alongside cars, answer questions and refute common misconceptions while educating both drivers as well as cyclists on the rules of sharing the road. The firm recognized the movement by both the City and its citizens to make Austin a more bike-friendly city, but noted a general confusion from drivers and cyclists alike on the place of bikes on the road.

There are plenty of reasons to ride your bike: it’s good for your health, it’s good for the environment, and possibly best of all, you can avoid Austin traffic. Centrally located residential areas are great for not just recreational cycling, but also for using cycling as a primary method of transportation in commuting and running errands. As Bike Rights Austin develops, the campaign will provide materials for those hoping to use cycling as a primary mode of transportation.

Though the City of Austin is continually working to make its streets more bike friendly, bikers can still sometimes feel unwelcome. Cyclist casualties have risen in recent years as cycling has become more popular, and Texas leads the country as one of the top three states with the most serious and fatal accidents involving cyclists, with around 75% of bicyclist fatalities occurring during the spring and summer months in urban areas.

Bike Rights Austin hopes to improve these statistics, making Austin a more bike friendly city through education and awareness. Bike Rights Austin’s main resource is accessible at www.bikerightsaustin.com and short tips and biking advice can be seen on the Bike Rights Austin Facebook page. Find information like what to do if you’ve been in an accident, where to ride when there’s no bike lane, and quick tips for cars when sharing the road with more information coming every week.

Bike Rights Austin is looking to engage the cycling community through participation with existing biking groups and community outreach. For more information, feel free to explore our main resource, or contact bikerightsaustin@gmail.com. Through collaboration between drivers and cyclists, we can make Austin a cleaner, fitter, faster city.



Neighborhood Watch Update By Booth O’Quinn

Become a Neighborhood Watch Patrol Volunteer

Barton Hills generally has very few crimes against property (car and home burglaries, theft) as compared to the neighborhoods close to us. The Austin Police Department credits our Neighborhood Watch program as the reason our crime incidence is lower than other nearby Austin neighborhoods that do not have a Neighborhood Watch program.

Barton Hills has had an active Neighborhood Watch program for about six years. We are the eyes and ears for the Austin police, who do not have the resources to patrol Barton Hills regularly. Doubtless you have seen the Neighborhood Watch street signs and the magnetic signs on your neighbors’ cars who are patrolling, looking for criminal activity, alerting would-be burglars and thieves that this neighborhood is watching for unwanted activity. Our signs are also seen by people who do not live here. Some residents wave to us when they see our signs; thank you for that.

For a long time your Neighborhood Watch had around 25 regular patrollers. In recent months we are down to 12 car patrollers, most of whom have been volunteering for years to make our neighborhoods safer. Some weekdays we now have only one patrol scheduled, which is not sufficient to be potentially visible to would-be burglars and thieves. We need help.

It takes only about an hour per week to be a Neighborhood Watch patroller. We offer training and support to new volunteers. Patrolling is not dangerous, we do not get out of our cars and we do not confront people. We contact the police if some activity needs intervention or investigation.

If you are interested in volunteering to make your neighborhood safer, please contact **Booth O’Quinn** at ocohen2@sbcglobal.net, **Gary Todd** at gctodd@yahoo.com or **Della Sprager** at dsprager49@gmail.com.



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continued from the front page



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- Phil's Icehouse
- Barton Springs Bike Rental LLC
- JuiceLand
- Matt's El Rancho
- Rocket Banners
- Sonic
- Office of Sally Hernandez, Constable Precinct 3

Neighbors & Friends —

I want to thank everyone who helped or participated in the 22nd annual BHNA 4th of July Parade! It was a great success and the kids were the stars!

Over 400 folks gathered to parade down Barton Hills Dr. from Barton Hills Market to Barton Hills Park. AFD Department Station 11 led the way with sirens blaring. Cub Scout Pack 14 were our color bearers, marching with a big U.S. flag. They were followed by Brownie Troop 130 with a 10-foot banner and big smiles.

There were funky vehicles, adorned pets, political candidates and costumed children. All with only one agenda—enjoying our country's 239th birthday.

Watermelon, cold water, cookies, ice cream, flavored ice, games and prizes waited for us at the park.

Winners of the costume contests were: **Vehicle** — Balloon Ranch (Chen Family); **Bike/Stroller** — Finn Riley (Eagle); **Pet** — Skid (Roy Smithers, owner); **Child** — Hanna Rojo. **Many thanks to our great sponsors for fabulous prize packages.**

Thanks again for helping us all enjoy our little piece of Americana.

Carol Mann, BHNA Outreach and Parade Coordinator



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Our Four-legged Friends

By Melissa Hawthorne

Family Member Names:

Glenn and Melissa Hawthorne

Pet’s Name:

BB

Type of Animal/Breed:

British Labrador

Male or Female:

Male

Pet’s Age:

2 years 10 months



Where/why did you get your pet? When we married, Glenn had two chocolate labs which we lost at the ripe old age of 15. Missed them so much we decided eventually to take on a puppy. Having had chocolate labs before we wanted another so we got him from Wildrose Kennels. We also have two cats which are both rescue kitties.

Is there a story behind its name? BB is named after the legendary Ms. Betty Baker who is chair of the City of Austin’s Zoning and Platting Commission. Betty is a mentor of mine and her grandkids call her BB.

Anything special or unusual about them (talents/quirks)? I am not sure if you actually train your dog or train yourself. B has manners for being such a youngster and he goes to work with me every day. He likes to go shopping as well. He is quite the social butterfly.

What do you like best about your pet? Absolute unconditional love.

Any funny stories? B likes to go swimming more than anything (well maybe besides steak). He goes to Barking Springs and has a little game all by himself. He puts his toy in the overflow flume so it will rush on into the water and goes and retrieves it and he’ll do it over and over and over. If you try and take it away to throw it for him without him offering it to you he thinks he has to go home. Folks see him doing this and are amazed. It is not uncommon for him to get videoed playing his little game. He likes to make friends after awhile and see if he can coax them into throwing his toy a little farther. He’ll have kids lined up to toss his Frisbee out into the water.

How spoiled is your pet? B is so spoiled. He swims at Barking Springs and hikes on the Barton Creek Greenbelt. Saturdays I get a massage and so does B and the cats.

What else should we know about your pet and/or how your pet has enriched your home/family? B gets us out adventuring more outdoors.



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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.

2015 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 P.O. Box 41206 Austin, TX 78704

Make checks payable to BHNA. You can pay dues online through PayPal at <http://bartonhills.org/about/membership/>.
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