

Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

AISD FACILITY MASTER PLANNING

by Cherylan O Campbell

The Barton Hills neighborhood almost lost its beloved elementary school 5 years ago. An Austin Independent School District (AISD) facility process proposed closure and consolidation options which threatened the future of public education in our hood. Fortunately, district leaders listened to the community input (i.e. outcry) from across the city and took different approaches to address the challenges they were facing. Well, once again, the elected officials – our Board of Trustees – want to listen, so they have commissioned a group of community members from across the city to help them develop a long-range facility master plan. This time, though, we are wiser and much more engaged...and instead of waiting to hear the results, we have representation right in the thick of things.

Last October, I was asked by District 5 Trustee, Amber Elenz, to be a part of the **FABPAC** – cool name, huh? It is the acronym you will hear that stands for the Facility and Bond Planning Advisory Committee. As tri-chair, I help lead and plan our meetings and processes to assure that in addition to the expertise of district staff and external consultants, we bring forward the unique perspectives –and needs– of Austin. For example, areas in the northwest and southwest of the city are bursting at the seams with students. They desperately need us to look at how to expand facilities that aren't safely meeting their needs – let alone allowing children to learn in the most modern ways. Other schools have lost many students due to higher rents, rising property taxes and the competition of charter schools. And, as we know in Central Austin, our schools may be full, but they are aging and some face the threat of future population declines. In the meantime, the district continues to win awards and gain recognition for its academic programming - and new exciting programs are in the works. Our committee is faced with addressing all of those facility challenges...and later, funding issues...associated with reinventing the urban school experience for Austin's school children.

(Continued on page 3)



NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 25, 2016 • 6-9PM

Please join us at
St. Mark's Church

(corner of Barton Skyway & Barton Hills Dr.)

All are welcome!

Meet your neighbors and learn
more about the neighborhood you
love.

Pizza Social Hour at 6pm

Pizza, salad & pasta from

Rockin' Tomato \$7

Neighborhood Meeting:

7-9pm



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.

2016 Executive Committee

President

David Poisson
dpoisson@swbell.net

Vice President

Carlisle Hamling
carlislehamling@gmail.com

Treasurer

Stan Ostrum
sostrum@austin.rr.com

Secretary (Recording)

Alexia Rodriguez
arodriguez@swkey.org

Community Partnership Coordinator

Tom Nuckols
tnuckols@austin.rr.com

Corresponding Secretary

Kierra Francis
kierrabox@gmail.com

Newsletter Design

Caroline Bhargava
caroline.bhargava@gmail.com

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representatives

Kay Killen
bhnarade2007@yahoo.com
Robin McKeever
rmckeever@sbcglobal.net

Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess
phess@mail.utexas.edu

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram
gleeful@earthlink.net

Neighborhood Watch

Reid Sullivan
reid.sullivan@gmail.com

Emergency Preparedness

Susan Donaldson
skdon@mindspring.com

Neighborhood Outreach

Carol Mann
carol.mann13@gmail.com
(512) 695-3057

Barton Hills Community Park

Roy Smithers
rormsmith@yahoo.com

<http://bartonhills.org>

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's Message

By David Poisson, BHNA President

Greeting Neighbors!

It is funny how summer starts off like a broad open expanse, the prospect that the upcoming three months are going to last forever and all the opportunities you have to go out and do things are endless... then all of a sudden it is the end of August and you are scratching your head wondering where all the time went. I know that is most definitely the way I feel and likely the same for all the families out there with kids and for those who like to travel. Seems I have had something on the calendar every weekend all three months, from traveling to the Palo Duro Canyon area in June for 3 nights, organizing the 4th of July parade and party, two extended trips down to Port Aransas, a weekend in San Antonio, then my birthday in mid-August to sort of wrap things up for the summer. Nothing exotic but fun nonetheless, and time has flown by and now I'm wondering what fall will bring.

Most of the spring and the first summer month of June, I spent a good amount of time going down to Barton Creek behind my house. I have a couple spots I like to hang out at with very large rocks you can sit up on and then either sit in the water or swim, depending upon the location and the amount of water that is in the creek. With the water rushing by, being surrounded by all the trees, next thing you know two or three hours has passed – very similar to how summer goes. The creek and greenbelt make a great oasis and escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and perhaps a few hours out of one's busy life schedule.

With the huge population growth in Austin, some 50,000 people a year moving here, the creek and greenbelt that define two of our neighborhood boundaries have become very popular, especially when the thermometer starts hitting 80+ degrees. Similar to the city of Austin, it seems our two greenbelt trailheads are getting overrun. In most cases, 80% of the people are very friendly creek-goers who value the natural resource and are conscientious to the surrounding neighbors – leaving no trace down at the creek or above in the neighborhood. Unfortunately it is the 20% that ruin it for all parties involved.

After personally fielding multiple complaints about greenbelt issues and then having APD, Parks Police, and a Park Ranger give a special presentation at the July BHNA meeting, I think the neighborhood has officially gotten the word in to the city that we want control of the neighborhood and creek back! Judging by what I have heard from city officials, both in the police and the parks department, I have to believe things will be different next time the creek is flowing. We will still have to share the natural resources that define our neighborhood, but with our continued input and involvement we can return our greenbelt and creek back to the relaxing, peaceful place it has always been.

Hope everyone has had a great summer and start to the fall and school year.

See you at the October meeting!

David

AI SD FACILITY

(continued from first page)

The **FABPAC** meets at least monthly at various district facilities. We've been to the oldest and newest schools, as well as the largest, smallest and most innovative ones. Our task is to make recommendations to the Trustees for a long-range master plan. In the short-term, we are also analyzing immediate needs to prepare a potential May 2017 bond election. I want to keep you informed along the way, as we all know our taxes are pretty high in the BH 'hood. We need to make sure we trust the decisions and that we will get the most from those tax investments. It will be critical to stay informed of the impacts specifically on Barton Hills elementary, O. Henry Middle, Austin High, the magnet programs and all the schools across the city.

I am very excited to be part of a process that will allow for active community engagement throughout the planning (not primarily at the end of it, like in 2011!) and hope you can join in the fun. Stay informed by registering at **www.AISDFuture.com** to get updates and invites to meetings. The public is always welcome at our monthly meetings and there is time set aside for citizen communications. You can also call me or email anytime you have an idea or concern. In the meantime, I will keep you informed and actively seek input directly from our local school representatives like principals, CAC/PTA members.

Stay tuned!

Cherylann O Campbell

Forest Bend Dr.

512-517-7589, cherylanno@me.com



Your Barton Hills Neighbor, Serving South Austin for over 14 Years

Thinking about selling? Call today for a **FREE no obligation market analysis** of your home. My team and I offer a **complimentary make ready and professional staging** with every sale!

My Recent South Austin Sales

2502 Milfoil Cove in 78704

1807 Margaret Street in 78704

810 W Elizabeth Street in 78704

810 Cumberland Road in 78704

2215 Post Road #1064 in 78704

1400 Wilson Heights in 78746

2200 Brookhill Drive in 78745

5803 Burnhill Drive in 78745

2215 Post Road #2056 in 78704

2215 Post Road #1070 in 78704

5412 Buffaloe Pass in 78745

151 Courtland Circle in 78737

2215 Post Road #2001 in 78704

3212 Nancy Gale Drive in 78735

2215 Post Road #2032 in 78704

For more information or to search for homes, visit www.KevinHainesRealtor.com

Kevin Haines, REALTOR® | 512-294-9002 | kevin@reillyrealtors.com



New Client Special

vita wellness
... massage ...



Leslie Nichols
License# 118399

\$50
First Hour
Massage



Jennifer Dayton
License# 116333

purchase & schedule online
at vitawellnessmassage.com

Located off S. Lamar & Oltorf

AUSTIN
PARKS
FOUNDATION

Taking action for
Austin's parks

Make it
your park
Volunteer!

512-477-1566
www.austinparks.org

UPDATE: BARTON HILLS COMMUNITY PARK

by Roy O. Smithers, Park Executive Committee Chair

Construction Updates:

Slope between playground and slab: There are 53 limestone blocks strategically placed on the slope that were not there two months ago. There is grass on the slope surrounding those limestone blocks that was not there two months ago. There is a sprinkler system on the slope to water the grass that surrounds those limestone blocks that wasn't there two months ago. The first phase of revamping this slope is almost complete. Praise needs to be given to neighbor Melissa Hawthorne who wrote and got the grant and coordinated the project, neighbor Stefan Pharis who completed the drawings and Strata Landscape who did the work. Thanks are to be given to the Austin Park Foundation and Austin City Limits for providing the funds and approving the grant, and finally, Austin Parks and Rec. for approving the project.

Comprehensive Plan for the Park: The Committee's next project is to consider a comprehensive plan to deal with a multitude of park master plan issues. A diagram of the plan of what could be done has been created by Stefan Pharis and his neighborhood landscape firm, Pharis Design. The issues to be dealt with are: (1) adding more limestone blocks to the slope, (2) moving the trail to increase the open area on the upper level, (3) improving the rain garden located in front of the rear entrance to the school, (4) redoing the drainage pipe which channels water under the track/trail at the northeast part of the park and (5) the purchase of new exercise equipment.

Sidewalks for Homedale & Briarcrest adjacent to school & park: The Barton Hills PTA and Parks Committee have long sought to have sidewalks installed adjacent to the school and park along Homedale and Briarcrest. Our City councilwoman, Ann Kitchen, heard the request and listed the sidewalks as a project to be done with the extra funds that were generated and not used on the ill-fated extension of light rail. You have probably noticed that the project has begun, as about half of the sidewalks have been poured. Estimated completion date is mid-September due to all the rain.

Thanks: As always, the Committee truly appreciates all of the support from Barton Hills Elementary School, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the Barton Hills PTA, this Neighborhood Assn. and every Barton Hills resident. If you are interested in keeping up with the latest Committee discussions, the minutes of Committee meetings can be obtained by emailing me at rosmith@aol.com.



Photographs courtesy of Melissa Hawthorne

BARTON HILLS GARDEN CLUB KICKS OFF 2016-2017 SEASON

by Susan Reinking

Barton Hills Garden Club meets from September to May each year and has been since 1960. We will have our next meeting on September 27th, 2016 beginning at 9:30am at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center on Barton Springs Road.

We would love to have you join us for coffee, muffins, and our featured speaker each month. Topics range from succulent care to disease management for plants and trees. Each month will feature a different speaker and topic. Our meetings typically last 2 hours and we meet the 4th Tuesday of each month.

We are accepting new members, and all ladies are welcome. Membership is \$25 per year. While we hold our monthly meetings at the Zilker Botanical Garden Center, we also feature a Girls Night Out in November, a Holiday Party at the home of one of our members in December, and culminate our season with a May Luncheon and Fashion Show.

If you would like more information on joining, please contact Sue Reinking at sue@reinking.com, or come down to the Botanical Garden Center on September 27th at 9:30 and bring a friend!





THE #1 LISTING AGENT IN BARTON HILLS

Donna Blair

President & Broker, Blairfield Realty

512-968-9080

www.BlairfieldRealty.com

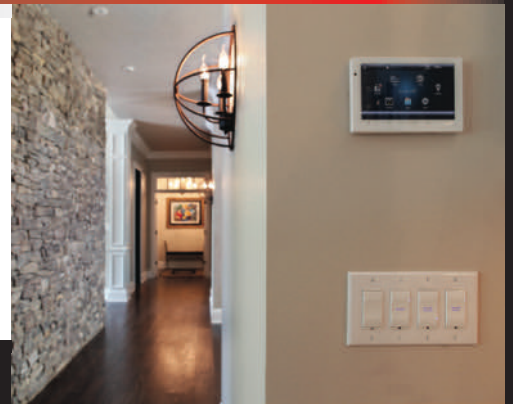


www.nextaustin.com
512-263-9700

• Home Automation • Lighting Control & LED Conversions • Motorized Shades
• A/V Pre-wiring & Distribution • Outdoor A/V • Media & Theater Rooms



Take back control of your A/V System with Control4



CRIME STATISTICS

Due to the numerous problems and complaints this past spring and summer the police intend to increase patrols of the greenbelt trailheads. At the July neighborhood meeting the APD representatives stressed that calling 911 and reporting any problem seen as a non-emergency will get a quicker response than calling 311.

The police representatives also told us about the **Austin 311 app**: whenever you see something that needs to be brought to the city's attention (graffiti, a loose dog, loud music, potholes, etc.), you use the app to take a photo and (if location services are enabled) the app will geolocate your photo to give a precise location to 311 so they can dispatch the appropriate responder. This will be especially helpful down in the greenbelt where it's difficult to describe one's position to police dispatch.

Find the Austin 311 app at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/311/smart-phone-app>

Relevant Crime Stats from April 1 to Aug 19:

- 4 assaults
- 2 auto thefts
- 4 burglary of residence
- 3 burglary of vehicle
- 9 theft

Our AWESOME neighborhood APD representative is Officer 'Wojo' and he can be reached at stephen.woytke@wicz@austintexas.gov.

TRAFFIC CALMING: Concrete Planters

The west-side of the street bike lanes will be barricaded from the driving lanes for most of the street by turtle humps, not those white sticks as along Bluebonnet. However, through the generous work from some BH neighbors & friends (shout out to our Councilmember Ann Kitchen, Austin Transportation's Mike Schofield, Melissa Hawthorne, Stefan Pharis, and others) and contractors working with us on the park improvements, we are going to get thirty 50-gallon-reservoir self-watering planters installed in 10 locations (i.e., 3 planters per location) mostly in front of the school. The strange cut-out concrete shapes you see there within a few weeks will house these planters, creating a beautiful bike lane/crosswalk barriers.

The plants slated to be installed have been donated by a very generous neighbor, and will have low-watering needs. But, of course, Low-Watering does not mean No-Watering. So this is a request for contributions of time and money. We have a couple of matching pledges already in the mix (\$2000, I think), so any donation neighbors can make would be great to help us meet those matching challenges and get double the donations.

Funds will be allocated in the BHNA budget specifically for installation, maintenance and watering costs for the plants. We also need Green-Thumb Volunteers, just for the occasional pruning and caring for the plantings. Once established the plants should do fine. If you can donate money or time, please contact BHNA President David Poisson at dpoisson@swbell.net.

(Information courtesy of Melanie Gantt)



gymnastics

Jump!

Our Programs:
BIRTHDAY PARTIES
PRESCHOOL • AFTERSCHOOL
CAMPS • GYMNASTICS

**CALL TODAY
 OR SIGN UP
 ONLINE!**
 (512) 505-8608
JUMPGYMNASTICS.COM

Austin's most FUN way to LEARN GYMNASTICS!

**MENTION THIS AD AND GET \$30 OFF
 YOUR FIRST MONTH'S TUITION.**
**NEW STUDENTS ONLY*

**FRIENDS, FUN
 & GYMNASTICS!**



THANK YOU TO OUR BHNA 4TH OF JULY PARADE 2016 SPONSORS

Gina Hinojosa, TX House Dist. 49

SALLY for Sheriff

Spyglass Realty

Holt Engineering

Waterloo Realty

Cheryl & Roy Smithers, Attorney-at-Law

Blairfield Realty

Michael & Kim Heide, B&B Muffler

Kevin Haines, Reilly Realtors

Cub Scout Pack 14

Brownie Troop 130

Girl Scout Troop 773

Wheatsville Food Co-op

Jim Jim's Ice

Rockin' Tomato

Barton Hills Market

Laurie Mechler

Jump! Gymnastics

Amy's Ice Creams

Hawthorne Chiropractic

Dr. Glenn & Melissa Hawthorne

Phil's Icehouse

JuiceLand

Papasan Properties Group, Keller Williams Realty

Councilmember Ann Kitchen

Office of Sally Hernandez, Constable Precinct 3

AFD Station #11

Peach & Cynthia Reynolds, Kaleido Properties

Carol Mann, Keller Williams Realty

David & Susan Donaldson

David Poisson, Sky Realty

Westgate Pet & Bird Hospital

Greenbelt Guardians

WE APPRECIATE YOU



Area specialists for over 25 years!

Considering buying or selling? We welcome the opportunity to work with you. Call today for a **FREE** no-obligation consultation or market analysis - we love spreading **GOOD NEWS!**

- Peach and Cynthia Reynolds

*** Free Notary Service ***

KALEIDOPROPERTIES

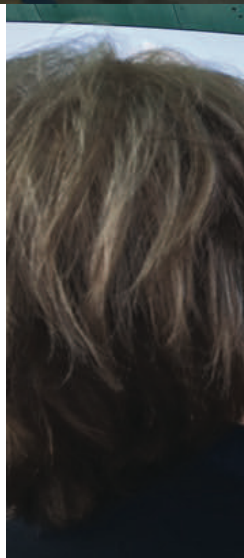
440-1799

Email: Peach@kaleidoproperties.com
www.kaleidoproperties.com

Recently participated in the sale of:

- 1604 Dexter
- 1606 Dexter
- 1135 Barton Hills Dr, #246
- 2100 Wright
- 707 Jessie
- 2200 Montclair
- 2102 Ford
- 1701 Kerr

2016 4th OF JULY PARADE



DE AND PARTY PHOTOS



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

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT#1120

IN THIS ISSUE

AISD Facility Master Planning	FC
President's Message	2
Barton Hills Community Park Update.....	5
Barton Hills Garden Club.....	6
Crime Statistics & Traffic Calming.....	8
4th of July Sponsors	9
4th of July Photos.....	10

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.

2016 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/>.
(PayPal service fee of \$1 will be added to your total.)