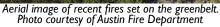
Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fire Safety Starts at Home

One of the great things about our neighborhood is its proximity to the Barton Creek Greenbelt. While this unique wild space is usually a source of pride, the recent arson and resulting fires brings an awareness and a source of concern. The wildfires in Oak Hill, Steiner Ranch and Bastrop are stark reminders of the devastating power a stray spark can unleash. Even if your home doesn't back up to the greenbelt, you're not out of the woods when it comes to fire. Any home within a 1-mile radius of a natural area is in what is known as the Ember Zone, and is at risk of fire from wind-blown embers. Weather conditions can greatly impact the difficulty in containing a fire, and so it is important that we actively guard against giving fire an easy route to spread.







Smoke from recent fires set on the Barton Creek greenbelt. Photo courtesy of Barton Hills listserv



APRIL 24, 2018
• 6-9pm •

Please join us at

St. Mark's Church

(corner of Barton Skyway & Barton Hills Drive)

Featured Presentation: APD & AFD Officers

Social Hour & Dinner \$10 6pm

Neighborhood Meeting: 7-9pm

4 steps you can take today to protect your home, family, & community

'Make your house address number clearly visible from the street or on the curb. This makes it easier for the Fire Department to find your house in the event of a fire or similar emergency.

²Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. Embers can travel miles and will smolder in the gutter debris and burst into flame long after you are expecting it. Remove dead vegetation within 10' of the house. Wildfire can spread to tree tops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6-10' from the ground.

³Close up spaces where embers could lodge, gather and ignite. Block spaces between your roof decking and covering, and cover vent openings with 1/8" or finer metal mesh.

⁴Have a plan. Knowing where you can go and what you should take with you is a good idea in the face of any evacuation or disaster situation. The American Red Cross has an emergency preparedness list on their website, as well as the actual emergency kits for sale.

There is a lot of information about creating a defensible space, making your home more resistant to fire, and being prepared for fire and other natural disasters at https://bartonhills.org/about/committees/emergency-preparedness.

We encourage you to learn more about how to protect your home and property at www.firewise.org.

Any tips you'd like to share please email us @newsletter@bartonhills.org.

What's important to you? Let's talk.



Stephanie Emory Financial Advisor 4021 Capital Of Texas Hwy S Suite A Austin, TX 78704 512-442-5321

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

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.

2018 Executive Committee

President

Mark Gentle president@bartonhills.org

Vice President

Stan Ostrum vicepresident@bartonhills.org

Treasurer

Wilson Stoker treasurer@bartonhills.org

Secretary (Recording)

Kyle Gray secretary@bartonhills.org

Community Partnership Coordinator

Michelle Eades community@bartonhills.org

Corresponding Secretary

Melissa Hawthorne newsletter@bartonhills.org

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Caroline Bhargava newsletter@bartonhills.org

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Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess phess@mail.utexas.edu

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram gleeful@earthlink.net

Neighborhood Watch

Position Open

Emergency Preparedness

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Neighborhood Outreach Position Open

Barton Hills Community Park

Roy Smithers rorsmith@yahoo.com

www.bartonhills.org

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's Message By Mark Gentle, BHNA President

Hi Neighbors,

On Saturday, March 10th Barton Springs Pool reopened for the 2018 season. This means that, regardless of the weather, winter is officially over in Austin. The joys of springtime in Austin were briefly interrupted by the breaking news of fires being deliberately set along the Barton Creek Greenbelt. The response of the Austin and Westlake Fire Departments was truly impressive. Plus, the Austin Police Department Parks Section made an arrest the same day. Bravo.

Crime Stats

1/1/2018 to 4/3/2018

4 assault with injury 2 burglary non residence 2 burglary of residence 2 burglary of vehicle 2 criminal mischief 3 family disturbance 7 theft I possession prohibited weapon

As the new President of Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, it is my hope that the membership in the Association will grow and that more members will offer just a little of their time to attend meetings, get more involved in the Association's initiatives and to pursue new areas of interest. We need volunteers to reinvigorate the Neighborhood Watch initiative, to help with finding sponsors for our activities, and to help monitor the many events and local government decisions that impact our neighborhood. And so much more...

Our long serving officers Stan Ostrum, David Poisson and Melissa Hawthorne, subcommittee chairs Peter Hess, Glee Ingram, Roy Smithers and our webmaster Glenn Chase have invested much of their free time to the Association and have worked very hard to improve our neighborhood. We need that kind of commitment from others; formal or informal, intermittent or on a regular basis.

Please take a moment for reflection on what matters most to you in connection with the quality of life in the neighborhood. If there is a role that the Association can play toward preserving or enhancing those attributes, let's discuss how you can participate.

With kind regards,

Mark Gentle



Current Listings and Recent Sales

1102 Robert E. Lee #1102

1005 Lund

600 Cliff Dr.

701 Dexter

1700 Dywer

2312 Ridgeview

1507 Juliet

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2 April 2018



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Introducing Your 2018 BH



President - Mark Gentle

Mark has lived in Barton Hills since 1995. In June of 2017, Mark concluded a 37 year legal and management career which included 7 years in the private practice of law and 30 years of service to various judicial, regulatory, law enforcement and higher education institutions in Texas. Mark and his wife Lin are outdoor enthusiasts and advocates for open spaces.

Vice-President - Stan Ostrum

Stan and his wife Robbin have lived on Barton Hills Drive since 2001. He is a software engineer who has worked in many different fields including a 15-year stint with Motorola/ Freescale. Stan has co-coordinated the Greenbelt Guardians program for 15 years and has served as BHNA treasurer for the past two. Current passions include playing and listening to live music, trail running, kayaking, skiing, biking, and hanging out with his cats.



Community Partnerships Coordinator – Michelle Eades Michelle Eades has been a 78704 resident for 12 years. She is the owner of several small businesses and a true entrepreneur, having started her first business at age 9. She enjoys lounging at Barton Springs in her free time.

Recording Secretary – Kyle Gray

Kyle and his wife, Kelly, have lived in Barton Hills on Oak Haven Drive for the last two years. They are big fans of the neighborhood, sending their children to Barton Hills Elementary and experiencing South Austin and all that it has to offer. Kyle is a practicing business attorney in town and in their spare time their family enjoys the Austin music scene and Hill Country destinations.



4 April 2018 bartonhills.o

NA Executive Committee!

Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter) - Melissa Hawthorne

Melissa and her husband, Glenn, moved into their home off Deerfoot Trail in 2004 and enjoy wandering around the Barton Creek Greenbelt. Melissa enjoys working on the Barton Hills Elementary Community Park and on invasive vegetation, especially Ligustrum, in the Greenbelt. Melissa works in commercial development. In their leisure time, Melissa and Glenn enjoy scuba diving and motorcycling all over the world.





Treasurer - Wilson Stoker

Wilson and his wife Jennifer have lived in Barton Hills since 2010. Their two daughters attend BHE and they like to take their dog to the Greenbelt and go to their favorite 78704 restaurants. Wilson is an employment law attorney, providing advice to companies about workplace issues. In his free time, Wilson enjoys comedy, and watching and playing sports. He just completed his first marathon. Wilson is originally from Buffalo.

Newsletter Design - Caroline Bhargava

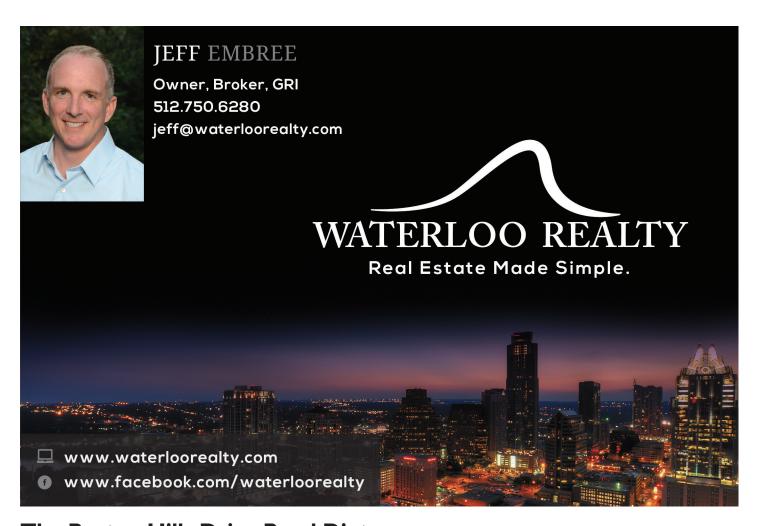
Caroline and her family have lived in Barton Hills for the past 5 years. Caroline enjoys raising her 2 kids close to BHE, the greenbelt and Zilker Park, and does landscape design in her free time. You may see them walking around with their 3-legged Aussie, Jack. Caroline has lived in Austin for 24 years.





Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep - David Poisson

David is 22 year Barton Hills resident living on Forest Bend. In his free time David loves all outdoor activities, including going down to the creek behind his house, taking his boat out on Lake Austin, and enjoying some beach action at Port Aransas and St John USVI. David is a big live music fan and loves going to all the Austin festivals year round. David also enjoys barbecuing in the fall while watching football and is always up for a beer at one of the many craft breweries opening up around the area.



The Barton Hills Drive Road Diet Info Courtesy of Mike Schofield, CoA Transportation Department

Our main thoroughfare has experienced some remarkable changes in the past year and a half. Though Barton Hills Drive is a neighborhood street with a 30 mph speed limit and an elementary school, it is often used as a cutthrough for commuters trying to avoid Lamar traffic. On average, 6000 cars drive down BHD each day. So while the new narrowed lanes and one-sided bicycle lanes aren't everyone's favorite configuration, there are some immediate positive benefits to the changes on Barton Hills Drive. The chart below shows a significant increase in automobile and pedestrian safety on the road.

46% DECREASE IN SPEEDS OVER 35 MPH



67% DECK



PEDESTRIAN REFUGE
ISLANDS FOR SAFER
CROSSINGS



Since Barton Hills Drive was reconfigured, the city has identified a 54% increase in elementary kids using active transportation and a 25% increase in students walking or biking to Barton Hills Elementary in the first year after installation. In addition, this project contributed a 1.25 mile section to our All Ages and Abilities Bike Network and filled in 1800 feet of sidewalk gaps around the elementary school. Kudos to all involved in this project!

Barton Hills Community Park Update By Roy O. Smithers, Chair, Park Exec Committee Stairs on the East Side (Barton Hills Drive) of the Park: The stairs have been completed and are open for entering or leaving the park from Barton Hills Drive. You'll note that there are three irrigated planters adjacent to the stairs. Neighbor and landscaper Stefan Pharis has stepped up yet again and has provided land-scaping plans for the area surrounding the stairs and for the planters. We are currently seeking a bid for the landscaping. Some of the planting could be done by park volunteers, so stay tuned for a work day some future weekend to do some plantin'. If you see Stefan, please give him a big Barton Hills thanks for all his hard work.

6 April 2018 bartonhills.org

Soccer Saga Rolls On By Mark Gentle

By the time you read this article, much will have changed in the ongoing search for a site appropriate for a Major League Soccer stadium in Austin. Here is what we know as of March 12, 2018.

The "McKalla Property" is the current focus of the soccer team owner and apparently City leadership. Mayor Pro Tem Toyo is sponsoring a Resolution directing the City Manager to bring to Council a detailed analysis of 10414 McKalla Lane as a potential site for a major league soccer stadium. The draft Resolution also directs the City Manager to provide a detailed description of the community benefits that a MLS soccer team would bring to Austin. Under this draft, the City Manager's report is due June 1, 2018. Co-sponsors include Council Members Kitchen, Pool, Renteria and Mayor Adler.



McKalla Place, at Burnet Road and Braker Lane photo credit: Jay Janner/American Statesman

Due to various timing and attendance issues with the Council, this Resolution will likely not be on the Council's agenda until April. While this new Tovo Resolution may appear to imply that parkland is off the table for the stadium, it certainly does not say that, and until some formal action is taken by the Council, their original Resolution directing City staff to explore "underutilized parkland" for the soccer stadium remains on the books. Our neighborhood needs to remain clear and vigilant in our opposition to the use of parkland for this purpose.

This McKalla location was one of eight locations originally "suggested" by the Acting Director of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Kimberly A. McNeeley in her memo to Mayor and Council dated December 14, 2017. That memo from PARD staff described some issues with the McKalla location, including the fact that the Austin Water Utility has debt outstanding on the purchase of the property.

continued on next page



with the last 3 months statistics of homes sold in the Barton Hills Neighborhood

	4th Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	Percent Change
Homes Sold	13	19	-31.60%
Avg. List Price	\$889,692	\$822,100	8.20%
Avg. Sold Price	\$867,192	\$788,247	10.00%
Avg. Square Ft.	2,175	2,270	-4.20%
Avg. List Price - SqFt	\$442.01	\$363.22	21.70%
Avg. Sold Price - SqFt	\$412.98	\$349.42	18.20%
Avg. Days On Market	50	57	-12.30%

Search Criteria: Sold Properties from 10/1/17 to 12/31/17 - Barton Hills

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512-707-9143

David has been very active within the Barton Hills neighborhood, currently serving his second term as Neighborhood Association President, and serving on the executive committee for the past 7 years. This dedication to community is the type of service you can expect working with David on any real estate transaction.

Soccer Saga Rolls On, continued

While some of the local news outlets have done some fine reporting on this process, the utter uproar of opposition to using parkland for this particular private purpose has been somewhat downplayed. For example, an online Petition has garnered over 10,000 signatures opposing the use of parkland for the MLS soccer stadium location. This Petition was a spontaneous, grassroots initiative that gathered thousands of signatures during the first week it was posted. Both Zilker Neighborhood Association and BHNA adopted Resolutions opposing the use of parkland for the MLS stadium site.



Neighbors protest use of park land for soccer stadium photo credit: Harrison Funk/Hill Country News

Key stakeholders in the communities surrounding Roy Guerrero Park attended a recent Parks Board meeting and spoke with power and authority on the reasons why they oppose the MLS stadium in that park. The Parks Board voted II-0 in favor of a Resolution asking City Council to take Roy Guerrero Park off the list of potential sites for the stadium.

Once the dust settles on the entire matter, some reflection and inquiry will be warranted as to how the idea of using parkland for a professional sports venue got passed by this City Council in the first place, and how 5 park locations got on a list of 8 sites "suggested" by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department without any outreach to our neighborhood. However, at this point, it appears that the dust storm is not quite over.



8 April 2018 bartonhills.org

Greenbelt Guardians Birthday Celebration by Glee Ingram

We came into being due to the love of a dog and the lack of a fence. Those variables translated into daily walks in the neighborhood with the dog, and the discovery of the Homedale entry into the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

It was a bit like Alice in Wonderland, finding this lovely natural Hill Country landscape with the episodically flowing creek. For someone who grew up on a dry land farm during the midst of the great drought, this was paradise. But it was a paradise that was experiencing neglect and occasional abuse. My professional landscaper eyes saw the intrusions of invasive foreign plants, and drainage and erosion challenges to the dirt trails, and trash, and even old car disposals.

I began inquiring at the Austin Parks Department to see if and how volunteers might participate in maintaining the trails, and worked with then BHNA President Robin McKeever to establish how we might engage our neighborhood in the work required. She suggested that we set up a committee under the Neighborhood Association that would organize and oversee volunteer greenbelt trail work days. That committee became the Greenbelt Guardians.

We worked with The City of Austin Parks Department to set up a formal adoption agreement in March of 2003, for the sections of the greenbelt that fall within the Barton Hills neighborhood: from the Zilker park trail entry starting below the Barton Creek dam, to the Homedale and Spyglass entry trails, to the Gus Fruh entry trail ending at the Highway 360 trail entry.

For two years we had small work days with volunteers recruited through our Barton Hills Neighborhood Association website and newsletter. A steady core of dedicated volunteers showed up, and became the leadership team of our quarterly workdays. In 2005, we got a small grant and began working as a park adopter under the fiduciary umbrella of the Austin Parks Foundation, which offered small grants to groups that engaged in park improvements.

Since that time, we have been fortunate to obtain grant funds from some private donors for habitat restoration, plus a grant from TCEQ (Texas Center for Environmental Quality). We have also collaborated with the Austin Parks Foundation on the execution of privately funded activities to improve environmental integrity and trail improvement activities.



Gus Fruh trail after a workday photo credit: Greenbelt Guardians

As the city has grown, so has the use of the greenbelt as a refuge from urban stresses. In response to these pressures, a larger, collaborative response has been created to assure that our precious greenbelt and publicly accessible natural lands are protected. More information to come in our next newsletter about the larger collaborative efforts for expanding and managing what is known as the Violet Crown Trail.

**2018 MARKS THE 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GREENBELT GUARDIANS**

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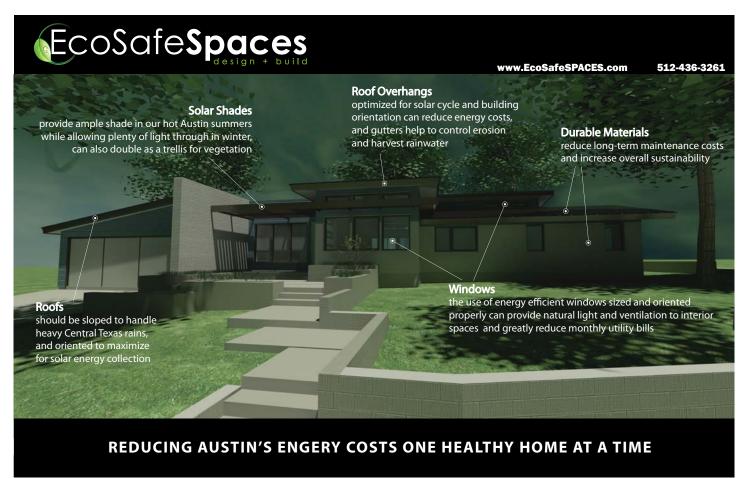




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10 April 2018 bartonhills.org

The Incomparable Dr. Stanley "Doc' Cohen and His Wife, Pat

by Roy O. Smithers

We moved into our home on Barton Parkway in 1973. Our son, Austin, was one year old. One reason we bought the home was because I was smitten with the two level waterfall in the backyard. The former owners had hauled large rocks and with concrete built three pools on the steep slope in the backyard. They installed an electric pump which would pump water from the bottom pool to the top. It was so cool! Of course, later my infatuation with the waterfalls dampened greatly by the fact that I constantly had to clean leaves, twigs, bugs, and other "gradoo" out of the three pools. As time passed, it became patently clear that the waterfalls were the least beneficial aspect of our purchase. As always, one's things are never as quite as satisfying as one's relationships with other folks.

And, what grand folks they were! We were fortunate to have moved next door to the best neighbors ever—Doc and Pat Cohen. Not many in the "hood" will know these names as they did not socialize, didn't attend neighborhood meetings and they had no children. Several years before we bought, they had moved from Indianapolis after Doc had retired as a federal government veterinarian. He had grown up in Pennsylvania, but had attended and graduated from Texas A&M vet school because it was much cheaper than the vet schools in the northeast. Pat had been a school teacher and had actually taught in a one room school in Pennsylvania. Doc once showed me an evaluation of Pat which rated her as a teacher in several categories such as math, English, etc. One of her ratings was listed as "middling," a term which in the past was used instead of "average." Doc and Pat were never intrusive, but were always helpful for anything we needed. Doc helped me repair my appliances and he was always available to sharpen a lawnmower blade or cut a piece of wood. When we were out of town, Doc and Pat watched our house and tended to our pets.

It did not take long for me to learn that Doc was a renaissance man. He could do just about anything and if he did not know, he would read books or search the web and teach himself how to accomplish a particular task. He had a full wood woodshop in his garage; he sewed his wife's clothes; even made clothes for himself; made all sizes of furniture and wooden objects of art; and he repaired his own electronics and appliances. When he was seventy, he purchased his first computer, taught himself how to use it. It wasn't long before he was building his own computers from scratch and mastering the web. If I needed to know something, I would call him, give him the question and by the time I got home, he would have printed the answer and delivered it to my house. When, Cheryl, my wife, would take him and Pat cookies, a pie or other goodies, Doc would always return with the clean dish and a gift from his home.

On one occasion, Doc gave us his photos of his 1931 Easton High School track team and 1932 football team. Easton High School in Easton, PA began playing football in 1894. After Pat died, I would go over to his house one evening a week and talk and watch television with him. Doc was a man of few words and would not have said anything had I not asked him about his Easton High School teams. He said his high school mascot was the "Red Rovers." A couple of interesting differences from today's game of football were: (I) a player substituted into an offense could not attend the first huddle (it was to prevent a coach from sending in plays; they wanted the high school quarterback to call the plays); and (2) a pail of sand sat on the sideline at the middle of the field (they didn't use tees to kick off, but would build a mound of sand, put a divot in the middle and stand the ball; once the ball was kicked, the sand would be dispersed so that it would not be an obstacle).

I then asked him about his track team. He said that he ran the 100 yd. dash. After graduating from high school, he entered NYU in New York City. He ran track for NYU and once raced in Madison Square Garden. I asked him if he won; he replied no, that Jesse Owens had won and that Jesse was a real nice gentlemen. In other conversations I learned that he had visited the hardware store owned by the father of actor Jimmy Stewart. He described Stewart's father as a man who did not like to talk and that he would answer most questions with one word. He also told me that with his father he once sat next to Jack Dempsey at a boxing match. He described Dempsey as having the broadest shoulders of any man Doc ever saw. Doc died in August, 2011 at 96 years of a heart attack. Upon his death, I realized that we lost the best neighbors ever!

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

Fire Safety Starts at Home	FC
President's Message	2
Introducing Your BHNA Executive Committee	4-5
Barton Hills Road Diet & Barton Hills Community Park Update	6
Soccer Saga Rolls On	7-8
Greenbelt Guardian Birthday Celebration	9
The Incomparable Stanley "Doc" Cohen and His Wife, Pat	11

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.

2018 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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