

BARTON HILLS NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter

July 2010

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

John Luther, Chair, Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch Program

The BHNA Neighborhood Watch Patrol remains active in our neighborhood. Volunteers are out on our streets several hours a day, keeping a sharp eye out for suspicious activity and providing this valuable service to benefit all Barton Hills residents. Unfortunately, the number of volunteers available during the summer months is reduced due to family commitments. I believe this reduction in available patrol volunteers directly resulted in the recent increase in home burglaries in Barton Hills. This is a problem that we can easily correct with additional volunteers willing to give just one hour a week to the Neighborhood Watch Patrol program. A small commitment will ensure continued patrolling and reduced criminal activity in our neighborhood. Don't leave this important community service to "someone else." Become part of the solution to fighting crime in Barton Hills. Contact me at jluther@austin.rr.com to find out how YOU can become part of the solution. The residents of Barton Hills will appreciate your participation—the bad guys, not so much.

Barton Hills owes special kudos to Booth O'Quinn and Rachel Cohen for the many hours they devote to the Neighborhood Watch program every month. They have assisted in patrol scheduling, crime statistics tracking, developed special websites for Neighborhood Watch volunteers to share information and online membership applications as well as a host of ideas to make our Neighborhood Watch program more effective. As if that was not enough, Booth dedicates hours each week to patrol activities. Booth and Rachel are two major reasons we have such a successful program in Barton Hills. Be sure to wave to Booth when you see him out there on patrol.

The information in the table concerning criminal activity in Barton Hills was collected by Booth and Rachel from APD crime statistics reports and Spotcrime. It is important for residents to know that although we have a very low crime rate in our neighborhood, we are not crime free—yet. I hope we will all do what we can to see that these numbers drop in the months to come. They will if we stay involved, alert and watchful.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, July 27 6-8 pm

Join us at St. Mark's Church (corner of Barton Skyway & Barton Hills Dr.)

All are welcome!

Pre-meeting social hour
at 6 pm. Italian dinner \$6



AGENDA

- 7:00 Call to Order/Welcome
- 7:05 Administrative Business
- 7:10 Update on Neighborhood Development: Amy's Ice Cream
- 7:15 Update on Barton Hills Elementary Beautification Project: Clay Boulware
- 7:20 Steve Dubov: Art on the Way
- 7:35 Neighborhood Watch
- 7:45 Greenbelt Guardians Update: Glee Ingram
- 8:00 Adjourn

Month	Burglary of Residence	Burglary of Vehicle	Criminal Mischief
December 2009	7	4	1
January 2010	2	1	0
February 2010	3	10	1
March 2010	2	4	2
April 2010	3	2	2
May 2010	3	3	1
June 2010	11*	3*	0*
Total	31	27	7

Note. The criminal activity listed has been adjusted to exclude 4 instances of criminal mischief and 6 instances of Burglary of a Vehicle that occurred on the 2900 and 3000 blocks of South Lamar.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi neighbors,

I thought I'd share a story I read recently in *Fast Company* magazine: "In the early 1970s, Nelson Mandela began keeping a vegetable garden on prison grounds. His first plot was just a rocky patch measuring just one yard wide; lacking tools, he had to dig with his hands. In doing so, he not only found a way to supplement his fellow inmates scanty diet with fresh food—he cultivated a place apart from the harsh realities of his world. 'You must find your own garden,' he said simply."

For whatever reason, this made me think of the neighborhood association and what we're trying to do. We're all doing the best we can to make our patch of Austin more fertile. The Fourth of July parade was a huge success and it took everyone's participation to make it happen. Thanks to the executive committee and all the others who made it so much fun. It was fantastic to see everyone out. It made me so proud to be an American with all our opportunities to find our own gardens, whatever they may be.

Hope to see you at the neighborhood meeting on July 27th. Art on the Way artist Steve Dubov will be there to discuss ideas for upcoming installations. This meeting is your opportunity to let him know how you felt about his artwork at the corner of Barton Skyway and Lamar and an opportunity to give feedback. Here's to growing our neighborhood association!

Warmly,

Wendy Papasan



photo by Jay Papasan

ANOTHER GREAT PARADE

The 17th annual Barton Hills July 4 Parade was a success. Thanks to Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, Sara Hickman, the Austin Fire Department (Station 11), Travis County Constables, Barton Hills Food Market, Amy's Ice Cream (free ice cream!), Run-Tex, Jim-Jim's, Rockin' Tomato, Steve Dubov, Art Stone, Wendy Papasan, John Luther, Meredith Weiss, Kay Killen, Jennifer Cook, Penley McQueen, Tyson Midkiff, Randy Linden, Friends of Barton Springs Pool, and all the volunteers and neighbors. A highlight was Gavin Tabone and the Barton Hills Elementary Choir. Expect photos soon on our website: www.bartonhills.org.

2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

- July 27 Neighborhood meeting
- Aug. 23 Back to school
- Sept. 25 Greenbelt Work Day
- Oct. 5 National Night Out (for Texas)
- Oct. 26 Neighborhood meeting

Do you have a neighborhood event that you would like to see included in the newsletter? Send it to Jennifer Cook at jenncook@austin.rr.com at least one month before the next general meeting date.

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by advertisers. It is distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, TX in January, April, July, and October. For more information on membership or neighborhood affairs, contact the appropriate person below.

2010 Executive Committee

- President** - Wendy Papasan
(512) 297-9431 (wpapasan@kw.com)
- Vice President** - Penley McQueen
(penley_mcqueen@yahoo.com)
- Austin Neighborhood Council Rep** - Kay Killen
(bhnaparade2007@yahoo.com)
- Newsletter Editor** - Jennifer Cook
(jenncook@austin.rr.com)
- Secretary** - Meredith Weiss
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- Treasurer** - Penley McQueen (acting)
(morgan78704@gmail.com)

Committee Chairs

- Committee on Area Development** - Peter Hess
(phess@mail.utexas.edu)
- Greenbelt Guardians** - Glee Ingram
(gleeful@earthlink.net)
- Neighborhood Watch** - John Luther
(jluther@austin.rr.com)

Learn more about us at www.bartonhills.org!

This newsletter was printed on 100% recycled paper.



GREENBELT GUARDIANS REPORT

Glee Ingram

June 5 Work Day: National Trails Day Celebration

The hot muggy weather didn't deter a group of 53 volunteers from working on our Homedale trail on June 5. Present were our skilled Greenbelt Guardians-BHNA leadership team and other enthusiastic Barton Hills neighbors, plus repeat volunteers from a church group and a Rotary service group, and a new volunteer group called Little Helping Hands (parents who bring children ages 3–12 to help with service work projects). In addition, seven of our “denizens” group off of Deerfoot Trail showed up to maintain their recently cleared area. Together our volunteers contributed 140 labor hours to the greenbelt.

The blend of varied ages and experience levels yielded a lot of creative learning and camaraderie, with some impressive results. More than a dozen sacks of undesirable weeds were removed near the entry; piles of leftover roadbase and rocks were converted to a new drainage swale and path edging; mounds of small ligustrum and nandina plants now lie prone, with no chance of reaching maturity; a new set of boulder steps is in place to navigate a once slippery slope between the creek and the rock flats trail; and sacks of trash were collected.

Our group worked as part of a larger coordinated event on the greenbelt to celebrate National Trails Day, with teams recruited by the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) and leaders and volunteers provided by Central Texas Trail Tamers, Central Texas Mountaineers, Austin Ridge Riders, plus Environmental Corps staff and Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) staff. Altogether about 320 people were out working on the greenbelt, from the Zilker entry all the way to our Homedale entry. There was a festive feast afterward just outside Barton Springs Pool, plus free swimming to cool off.

GREENBELT GARBAGE

The ratio of park maintenance workers to parkland in Austin is among the lowest in the country: just one employee per 300 acres, compared with the national average of one per 15 acres. Even if all Parks Dept. vacancies were filled, we would be at a ratio of one worker to 180 acres. So neighbors have been bringing trash bags with them when visiting the Greenbelt.

Great Grant News

For several years APF has helped support work on our adopted areas of the greenbelt and has organized volunteer efforts along the upstream areas of the greenbelt. This year APF won an Impact Austin grant for \$105,000, which will be matched by \$50,000 from APF and \$50,000 from HCC, plus \$10,000 from a donor fund set up specifically for the Barton Creek Greenbelt.

The total \$215,000 fund will be used in fiscal year 2011 to support an experienced five-member Environmental Corps work crew plus three large-scale volunteer work days, which will focus on repair and restoration along the eight-mile Barton Creek trail. A working group of APF staff, HCC staff, Austin Parks and Recreation Department staff, Greenbelt Guardians coordinators, and E-Corps staff will meet weekly to systematically identify, prioritize, and address maintenance issues on the trail and surrounding areas. The goal of this infusion of resources is to repair and restore the area to a point of sustainability, so that going forward there will be less need for triage and more focus on maintenance.

Upcoming Work Day: Sat. Sept. 25

Our next scheduled work day is Saturday, September 25. We will participate with other volunteer groups organized by APF, in the celebration of National Public Lands Day. An announcement will be sent via the BHNA listserv before the event with details on trail locations and tasks.

WATERING SCHEDULE

Use sprinklers or systems before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
Odd addresses: Weds., Sat. Even addresses: Thurs., Sun.
Call 311 to report violations.



GROWING DESIGNS

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OAK WILT: PRUNE OAKS NOW

(DON'T PRUNE SPRING OR FALL)

www.texasoakwilt.org

www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt

Jennifer Cook

At the last neighborhood meeting, Chris Dolan, the City Arborist responsible for the Oak Wilt Suppression Program, presented information on Oak wilt in our neighborhood. Oak wilt has killed over 10,000 live oaks in Austin.

Oak wilt is an incurable disease affecting live oaks and red oaks (Spanish, Shumard, Texas Red, and Blackjack oaks; White oaks are less susceptible). It is caused by a fungus that infects the tree's vascular system. The vessels of an infected tree become blocked by the fungus and cannot transport adequate moisture to sustain a living tree. Live oaks show yellowed leaves and die within three to six months. Red oaks die within weeks in a flash of color in early summer. Red oaks often show fungal mats under cracks in the bark (this can be seen in dead, cut wood as well).

Prevention and Management

1. Remove diseased Red oaks.
2. Paint wounds and cuts on oaks immediately.
3. Prune oaks only in the hottest or coldest months.
4. Handle firewood appropriately.

Pruning and Risk Assessment

The fungus is spread through root systems and beetles. You want to prune in the coldest part of winter and hottest part of summer. When pruning, any time of year, make sure all cuts to oak trees are sealed immediately with a tree sealant or even paint.

Contact Chris Dolan and he will come to your home and give an assessment. Our neighborhood has

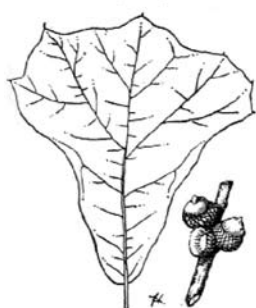
several pockets with known infections. If you have red oaks or live oaks within 150 feet of infected trees, they are in danger. A preventive measure involves injecting the roots of your healthy trees with "Alamo." It's not cheap (roughly \$12 per inch of tree diameter, measured at four feet above the ground) but costs less than removing a dead, mature tree. Use a certified arborist; a list is available from Chris Dolan or at texasoakwilt.org. Fungicide doesn't work if the tree shares a root system with an infected tree. More drastic measures involve trenching to disrupt integrated root systems. The Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Project offers cost sharing (see <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/Stewardship>).

Dead Wood

Chipping is acceptable as the process dries the wood, killing the fungus. Burning the wood does the same. However, storing the wood is another issue. Do not store infected wood near healthy trees. This includes wood you have bought from vendors. Store such wood under a clear plastic sheet, with the edges buried or at least sealed with stones or bricks. This seal prevents spore-carrying beetles from escaping. Pruning is best during the hottest months of July-September and the coldest months, December-January. So prune oaks now! Don't prune during the fall or spring.



Red Oak group



Blackjack Oak



Texas Oak/Spanish Oak



Shumard Oak

More Information

Brochures will be available at the next BHNA meeting. Contact Chris Dolan: 974-1881 or chris.dolan@ci.austin.tx.us. For questions concerning oak wilt, including a list of certified private arborists, please refer to www.texasoakwilt.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: TUESDAY OCT. 5

Tuesday October 5 is the 27th Annual National Night Out for Texas (for the rest of the nation it's August 3, which is too hot in Texas). National Night Out is designed to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back, generate local support in crime prevention and awareness, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police relations.

From 6:00–9:00 p.m., residents throughout Austin are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters, and EMS paramedics. Block parties and neighborhood walks are popular. In Barton Hills, neighbors on Briargrove and Westrock regularly participate. Join National Night Out 2010:

1. Get all your neighbors to turn on their porch lights.
2. Organize a block party or some type of neighborhood event.
3. Fill out the 2010 National Night Out Application: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm>
Austin Police Dept. will try to have a 1st responder stop by each party registered by the **September 10** deadline.

www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm

CITY OF AUSTIN TREES

The city of Austin TREES page has information on trees interfering with power lines and more:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/>

Austin's Tree of the Year Award:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/treeoftheyear/>



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ART ON THE WAY

ARTIST DUBOV AT THE JULY 27 BHNA MEETING

On the agenda for the next neighborhood meeting, Tuesday July 27, is Art on the Way and Barton's Barriers artist Steve Dubov. The City of Austin has awarded Dubov several installations on the site at S. Lamar and Barton Skyway. He will be attending the BHNA meeting to discuss ideas and plans for the next installation. This is your chance to have your voice heard. (Believe me, he already knows what most of you thought of the last one.) The BHNA will be setting up an art committee to field suggestions.

According to the Art on the Way website, "Each sculpture will be designed for its site, enhancing the site's geography, topography and overall feeling in some way, shape, or form. This means the sculptor must have a connection and sensitivity to the location—a quality that will be assessed by those who live or work nearby. They will have the opportunity to approve the final work, which is the best way we know of getting buy-in and encouraging participation from the community itself." <http://artontheway.com>



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DEVELOPMENT ON SOUTH LAMAR

Our neighborhood thoroughfare is bustling with new businesses. El Meson, a new Mexican restaurant by the Horsehoe Lounge, has been receiving good reviews on the BHNA listserv. New watering holes include Black Sheep Lodge, Red's Porch, and Gibson. Stalwart Romeo's Restaurant has begun featuring songwriters and live music Thursday-Saturday in the bar area.

In August the owners of Amy's Ice Cream expect to open Austinville 78704, a retail center at South Lamar and Barton Skyway with only locally owned businesses.

Expect Amy's, Phil's Ice House, and Papatote taqueria (by the owners of Azul Tequila) to join Ga Ga children's clothing. The center will include a children's playscape. Representatives of Amy's Ice Cream will be at the BHNA meeting July 27 to discuss the project.



WHY JOIN THE BHNA?

Your \$10 gives you access to a listserv with useful information from your neighbors:

- * lost and found pets
- * free furniture
- * contractor recommendations
- * crime alerts
- * event tickets
- * babysitters or pet walkers

The listserv can send you a daily "batch," which is a single email with all the posts. Subject lines are listed first, so you can scan the first few lines of the email and delete if you don't see anything that interests you.

www.bartonhills.org

Check out the new, improving web-site, www.bartonhills.org (all info is still available at www.bhna.net). The site has Neighborhood Watch info, links to crime data, legislators, tax info, school links, parks, road closures, and city offices.

2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join or review your membership in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$10/household. Make checks payable to BHNA and mail them to **Barton Hills Neighborhood Association, PO Box 2042, Austin TX 78768-2042**. You can pay dues online (with a \$1 PayPal service fee) at www.bartonhills.org/membership.html. If you pay online, send an email to barton_hills-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to be added the list server.

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.

BREAKING GROUND AT BARTON HILLS ELEMENTARY

Clay Boulware

So, here's what's been going on between the playground and the basketball court at the park. These are the projects funded by the Rolling Stones' money in the neighborhood account at the Austin Parks Foundation. So far, the crew from American Youthworks Environmental Corps broke up the compacted ground on the hillside, added two loads of new soil and resodded the area with Bermuda. They also extended the chainlink fence around the playscape to the location of the new trash cans. They are also adding additional drainage measures around the basketball court and have begun installing a new planter on the hill.

I'd like to thank architect Martin Barrera for his help in designing and drawing up the project pro bono for the neighborhood association, and Moyara Pharis of Pharis Design, Inc. (www.pharisdesign.net) for suggestions with plantings for the planter. Also a big thanks to everyone else who has worked on this project over the last few years.

GOT A SCOOP?

Seen something extraordinary? Reviewing a new restaurant? Neighbor deserving of recognition? Throwing a block party? Let your newsletter editor know:

jenncook@austin.rr.com

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