

Barton Hills News

What's going on in our neighborhood

Neighborhood Planning – Water Quality Issues Inside and Out – Helter Skelter in the Summer Swelter

From the Executive Committee:

Barton Hills as Not-So-Blank Slate

There have been some recent incidents of graffiti in our neighborhood, including a particularly offensive one on the sign at St. Mark's. While these acts are regrettably sad and thoughtless reflections of isolated individuals, our response to them can and should be a reflection of a vital community. As a BHNA member has written to me, "Usually people do not realize the consequences of graffiti until it is too late. I have seen what happens when graffiti gets out of control, and I am committed that it does not happen here in our neighborhood."

Here are some key points for our consideration to address this problem:

1. Graffiti is easy to control when incipient but hopelessly difficult to control when rampant.
2. Graffiti grows exponentially, meaning, very slowly at first and then rapidly accelerating when unchecked.
3. The only way to prevent graffiti is to remove it as soon as it is posted. Graffiti artists back off when they see people caring and may even be educated by the community response. But this is only when graffiti artists have not reached the point where they feel they "own " a certain area, and it is a challenge for them to show it.
4. Graffiti usually starts in "innocent" places, i.e., areas that belong to no one so it is rare for anyone to go to the trouble of removing or even reporting it.

5. The reasons behind its exponential growth are mostly related to the perceived neighbors' reaction by graffiti artists (fun-to-danger ratio: if the ratio is perceived as high, it will grow; if the ratio is perceived as low, it will abate).

We are actually very fortunate in Austin in that we really do not have a graffiti problem, at least not yet. In addition, we have an outstanding graffiti removal service from the City of Austin: the City Graffiti Abatement Program at 974-1028 or 854-459. Please note that you need to describe the graffiti location with an exact street address. When reported, the City will remove graffiti from any residence in one day and graffiti from any other areas in one week.

Most people do not worry much about graffiti because it is not a major crime—it is kid stuff and perhaps even seen as part of city life. Unfortunately, that is not exactly correct. Graffiti creates, at worse, an atmosphere of danger and possibly gang activity. But even when benign, it can be the small, tell-tale evidence of the lack of a vital and caring community, where people no longer tend to their shared public space.

Please join in making sure this doesn't happen in Barton Hills. People watching and being mindful will make a huge difference. In the sense that it is an expression of community, addressing the problem of graffiti is not a trivial issue.

**Let's respond as a vital
and caring community!**

Message from the President

Once again your friendly neighborhood BHNA board has worked hard to produce another outstanding newsletter, delivered to the doorstep of all 1400 residences in Barton Hills, full of the best news too hot for the American-Statesman. This magical event is a Fantasia of many characters and events, led by Howie Richey as the Conductor. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide you background on the important issues/topics in our community so that you can be informed when you come to discuss them at our coming BHNA General Meeting, which is June 28th, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, with a social hour and barbecue provided by Green Mesquite on the deck starting at 6:00 pm. When an issue is ripe for a vote, you as a member can make an informed decision based in part on this newsletter.

Why this primer on the newsletter, general meetings, and membership? It is not to seek recognition for all the volunteers who make these activities possible. It is not to again make the point that Neighborhood Associations, and especially ours, have an effective role in influencing public policy decision-making that has a direct impact on the quality of our beautiful lives in Barton Hills, and of course on the natural beauty all around us. It is not even to highlight the fact that if not for all of this, BHNA officers and the many volunteers, there would not be an annual July 4th parade celebration in our neighborhood; there would not be experiments with new ideas like the breathtakingly stunning Luminaria at Briargrove in December which was quite simply a celebration of the sacred in its pure beauty. It is not even to make the point that we are playing an important organizing role in preparation for the upcoming City of Austin Neighborhood Planning process, which will result in a legal document of real force in future zoning, land use, capital projects, etc. Nor is it to say that without this role we would not be having a memorable Town Hall-like meeting in October called "Celebrations of Community," a culmination of many activities over the last two years, including the House Meetings last fall.

No, I am calling attention to these basic facts that this activity is not free, it does not happen by chance, there is no "invisible hand" at work here! It happens through a combination of volunteers able to give of their time, passions, and talents and of DUES-PAYING members who give us the necessary strength of moral support, money, numbers, engagement, enjoyment, money, numbers, money...I guess you get the idea. We are in the midst of confirming our membership roles. Believe it or not, recruitment of members and securing payment of dues is not very high on our priority list and so it perennially slips and slides out of attention. Well, now we are making it a priority, and I do hope you will respond in kind when contacted (by phone, email, this newsletter, at the June 28th meeting). It is only \$10 but it is not the money that is important to me (okay, maybe it is). It is that by paying your dues you are saying that this is an important endeavor, you do care about what we are trying to as a whole community together, you are putting in your stake, your ante. And I hope you are doing this out of sincere conviction that this a worthy investment in a better community.

I consider this present concern to verify our membership a part of the natural evolution of BHNA growing as a very inclusive and vital organization, responsive and responsible to the larger changes all around us. We are growing because we wish to build the best possible future for our community by engaging in the "habits of the heart," "the ties that bind," "the call to serve others," right here at home, not "out there." It is to understand that what is most humane and charitable about ourselves is expressed best in our daily living. And certainly this is done mostly in our neighborhood and mini- neighborhoods. This is what I mean by a vision of a "liveable community." This is an ideal, I know, distant, maybe not even very clear. But like a star, it can give us a sense of shared direction and a sense of wonder in the unexpected little things that might happen along the way in following it. We may find that these little things are the very "habits of the heart" that Alexis De Tocqueville knew were the greatest gift of "Democracy in America," and still its greatest promise.

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Eddie Torres
Austin Neighborhoods
Council Representative
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NEXT
GREENBELT GUARDIAN
WORKDAY:
Saturday, July 9
8:00 a.m. – Noon
Homedale (Betty Brown) Trail

Wow!! All this for only \$10! Only in America...

Hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer, with many opportunities for dipping into Barton Springs or Gus Fruh.

Don Long
President, 2005

Membership Missive

BHNA Membership is a year-round bargain!

You already know that Barton Hills is a great place to live. Show your support for your neighborhood association by joining us. Your membership gives you the right to vote on issues considered at our quarterly General Meetings. And you can participate in the Barton Hills Listserv, our popular online e-mail program.

At \$10 per year, your BHNA membership is a great value. Memberships are based on households. All adults 18 years old and older living in a member household are eligible to vote. Property owners who own more than one property are eligible for a single membership and single vote.

Become a Friend of Barton Hills

Add \$10 to your annual \$10 in membership dues and you can become a Friend of Barton Hills. Our Friends support programs such as our upcoming July 4th parade and celebration, our holiday

luminaria project, and our award-winning Greenbelt Guardian workdays. Friends get special recognition in our newsletter and on our Website.

Friends of Barton Hills

Kathryn Bender
Bill, Nan, and Glenn Clayton
Teresa Cochran
Chris and Sally Crocker
Don and Diane Long
Don and Susan Madden
Dennis and Nancy McFadden
Sherine Thomas and Tom Nuckols
Fairy Davenport Rutland

Thanks so much for supporting BHNA this year!

Debby Kalk
debby@cortexlearning.com
442-8829

South Austin Tennis Center Expansion

The South Austin Tennis Center (South First and Cumberland Street) is expanding its courts. The surrounding neighborhood associations (NAs) expressed their opposition in a letter to the City Council. BHNA declined to join in this letter of opposition. While we do honor our commitment to support NAs near South Lamar, it is BHNA policy that we only take a position on an issue outside our neighborhood when we have a compelling interest in such issue (the burden of proof is met). Here are the facts.

The South Austin Tennis Center was created in the early 80s with land purchased adjacent to the South Austin Recreation Center.

The City's plan then was to build 20 courts, but funds only allowed for the construction of 10 courts and a pro shop. The remaining land has been banked until now but has always been intended for use as a tennis center.

BHNA does respect the concerns expressed by the NAs that the expansion would take away some of the surrounding parkland and increase traffic and noise. They also are concerned that there is little benefit to the neighborhood residents, viewing tennis as too expensive and exclusive, and that the expansion is targeted to a relatively small group of tennis enthusiasts outside their community.

All of the same current outdoor activities (soccer, playground activities, walking, running, dog walking, exploring, etc.) can continue on the 11.7 acres designated as a park next to the tennis center. Although the additional courts mean the removal of some cedar trees and a few oak trees on the tennis center property, a large portion (with 1100 trees) of the current wooded area will remain. Forty-four new trees will be planted including Monterey Oaks, Pecans, and Cedar Elms.

Your serve! Please let us know whether you agree with our principled non-position.

Regional Water Quality Plan Set For Implementation

"Water, Water, Everywhere, but not a Drop to Drink" or Swim In

Over the last few years, the Regional Water Quality Planning Project is developing measures to protect the water quality of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and its Contributing Zone. This is a good example of how we in Barton Hills (east of the Greenbelt) are intimately tied to the water quality and development issues west of the Greenbelt. Through a "stakeholder process," which included BHNA representation (though the extent of our influence is unknown), a Regional Water Quality Protection Plan has been adopted and an Implementation Committee is now being formed. I encourage those interested to get involved and share your findings and concerns with our members. To that end, the following is a brief summary from their website at www.waterqualityplan.org

Rapid growth and development in northern Hays County and southwest Travis County have created concerns with the increasing potential for pollution of groundwater and surface waters. Concerns raised were not only on the impacts to drinking water supplies but to the threatened or endangered species that reside in the area.

A Regional Group was established in early 2003 to address the water quality issues facing the area of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer and its contributing zone and the desire to preserve water quality in this area. This Regional Group determined there was a need to develop a regional approach to water quality protection within the Barton Creek watershed. The completion of a regional water quality protection plan would provide the basis for political subdivisions, to the extent allowed by law, to implement local water quality protection plans and ordinances and provide best management practices that could be adopted by local stakeholders for water quality protection.

The planning process used to develop the regional plan will be very public and stakeholder-driven involving public input in every aspect of the development of the plan. For this process to be successful, public participation is paramount and every effort will be made to notify all impacted parties, stakeholders and the general public of all

meetings and allow them the opportunity to provide input and feedback on elements of the plan as they are being developed. Building consensus as the plan is developed is critical to producing a document that can be adopted and implemented by local governments and stakeholders.

The planning effort is funded by grants from the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Texas Water Development Board and through in-kind services from many other entities. The firm of Naismith Engineering, Inc. has been retained to assist in developing the Plan.

AMD's Build Bid

Both Sides Now

This brief informs BHNA members and the wider community on both sides of a controversial issue, which will be on the agenda at our June 28th BHNA meeting. The Austin Neighborhoods Council, which serves the interests of Neighborhood Associations (NAs) as a whole, has voted to oppose AMD's move; BHNA, a member of ANC, abstained from this vote.

Supporting

Source: an article by Kirk Ladendorf and Shonda Novak (*American Statesman*, 4-14-05) [Editor's note: this was the best we could find for an "objective" view; we did not see an AMD equivalent to the SOS website below.]

Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., plans to move 2,000 of its Austin workers to a new \$200 million office campus in Southwest Austin, signaling a long-term commitment by one of the city's biggest employers. The complex would consolidate AMD's corporate, office, and engineering design workers in a complex that eventually will be 825,000 square feet at Stratus Properties' Lantana development. When completed, the complex will have room for 2,900 workers, spokesman Travis Bullard said.

(more next page)

The chipmaker is braving the wrath of some members of Austin's environmental community because Lantana is at Southwest Parkway and West William Cannon Drive in the environmentally sensitive Barton Springs watershed, which steers rainwater and runoff to the Edwards Aquifer. The Save Our Springs (SOS) Alliance said it would try to persuade AMD to reverse its decision.

Seeking to counter the opposition, AMD said its new campus will meet the water quality standards of Austin's Save Our Springs ordinance and will have less impervious cover—structures or pavement that block rainwater runoff from seeping into the ground—than the city allows. In addition, AMD and Stratus will contribute \$5 million to buy and protect land in the watershed.

Opposing

Source: an excerpt from

<http://www.moveamd.com>, sponsored by SOS.

AMD has been a good corporate citizen in Austin for 25 years, locating its facilities in our Desired Development Zone (map at website). Now, AMD and CEO Hector Ruiz are planning on reversing their years of responsible growth by moving exactly where our community has said major employers should not locate—the Barton Springs watershed.

The Austin Neighborhoods Council, Clean Water Action, Liveable City, Austin Sierra Club, Save Barton Creek Association, and Save Our Springs Alliance are all asking AMD and Hector Ruiz, who lives in Austin, to reconsider their decision and work with us to find the right site for AMD, for Austin, and for Barton Springs.

AMD's proposed move would open the flood gates for other companies to follow them to the Barton Springs watershed. This would further escalate land prices and make permanent land conservation more difficult. AMD and Stratus/Freeport (the owner of the proposed site) are offering \$5 million in "mitigation" funds to purchase land elsewhere in the watershed. The escalation in land prices that would result from AMD's move would completely offset whatever acreage could be acquired with \$5 million.

House Bill 2833 was the latest attempt by developers and property owners to prevent cities and counties from regulating land use by limiting the amount of impervious cover allowed. Impervious cover refers to such things as pavement (parking lots, driveways) or rooftops of buildings that prevent the infiltration of water into the soil when it is raining. Limiting the amount of impervious cover allows more water to sink into the ground (and therefore the aquifers) and reduces runoff that may cause flooding and contamination of creeks. In Austin, the SOS ordinance limits impervious cover to 15–25%.

HB 2833 would have required *any* local government seeking to limit impervious cover or lot size to pay the owners of the land for the reduction of property value that the owners claimed as a result of the limits placed on the land development. (Interestingly, the bill would not have required property owners to pay the local government if the property value increased because of the development restrictions.) The bill would have required governments to pay landowners if impervious cover limits went below 45% and would have made the regulations too expensive for the local governments to enforce.

The bill's proponents said that they were just trying to protect individuals' rights. They said that property owners have an interest in protecting the environment as well and would not do anything to decrease the value of their property but that governmental regulations were just too onerous and unfair.

Although the bill was aimed primarily at Austin and San Antonio, it was worded broadly enough to affect all local governments. And that helped kill it. The combination of the Texas Municipal League and the Sierra Club helped ensure that this bill was defeated.

The bill came close to passing. Rep. Eddie Rodriguez worked hard to defeat it and Senator Barrientos was able to finally kill it for good in the early morning hours of May 26.

Diane Stangl

Next Steps in Barton Hills Neighborhood Planning

Summer Community-Wide Survey and Fall Town Hall Meeting

For those of you who are avid readers of the BHNA Newsletter, occasional or regular participants in the BHNA Listserv, and even those bold enough to come to BHNA meetings, you know that BHNA over the last two years has made neighborhood planning its highest priority. Our goal has been to energize and educate our entire community about the "upcoming" City of Austin (COA)-sponsored neighborhood planning (NP) process. We have undertaken a number of activities including the formation of the NP Committee to research and identify key issues, resources, strategies, and needs; numerous Newsletter articles and Listserv discussion; a variety of speakers at BHNA meetings; and the culminating interviews, trainings, and House Meetings last fall, facilitated by graduate students in the Regional and Community Planning program at the UT School of Architecture.

This activity has been purposeful and deliberative in order to engage our community as fully informed citizens in this process. With both "hard" empirical data and "soft" wings for your own imagination and generosity of spirit, you could discuss and decide NP matters as members of a vital body politic, not just isolated homeowners or renters. We intended to provide a larger context so that you could meaningfully understand the component parts or single issues such as zoning and land use, deed restrictions, development on the Aquifer, greater density along the South Lamar Corridor, transportation, etc. etc.

We found, unfortunately, that to continue this quest and to carry the momentum forward from last fall required more volunteer time and effort than was immediately forthcoming. The recent discussion on the Listserv concerning deed restrictions was at once exhilarating in terms of the interest evident in NP issues, but it was also a disappointing reminder of our yet unmet dream, as it seemed many were discovering this issue for the first time. Clearly, we have not done a good enough job in sharing all the information and findings we have gathered over the last two years.

All that is changing now! First, Glenn Chase, our incredible webmaster, is placing all the key NP documents and resources, including all those from the House Meetings, on the BHNA website. Just go to www.bhna.net and click on Neighborhood Planning in the navigation bar on the left. For those of you without Internet access, we will have all of these key documents at every Neighborhood Meeting for the foreseeable future.

Second, with reckless abandon to the fates of our work, family, and personal pursuits, we have again embarked on completing the ambitious journey begun last year. The next step will be conducting over the summer a comprehensive NP survey of our entire community, not just members, that will be designed by us, not the COA. We will have several drafts to share at the June 28th BHNA meeting, and

seek volunteers for a survey design and administration team. Zilker NA has designed an excellent survey, which we will use as a model; it is posted on the BHNA Neighborhood Planning website. Please review in advance of our meeting.

In October, we will have an extraordinary and memorable Town Hall meeting, called "Celebrations of Community," where we can discuss survey results and craft our own BHNA NP Charter (vision, goals, values, projects). We will make this a fund-raiser with corporate and local business sponsorship to support a worthy project to be defined by you. And look for an announcement of a very special guest to headline this event!

Don Long

Handbooks Still Available

In 2003, Craig Smith and Howie Richey compiled a neighborhood "operator's manual" for new and vintage BH residents. If you haven't picked up your very own copy, you could do so at this month's meeting June 28 from Scott Smith, our treasurer. Get more information about this beautiful and interesting handbook on the BHNA website, where you'll find information about paying online. New neighbors get it free, while long-timers pay a nominal \$5.50. You'll be glad you did!

Take a (Side) Walk

The Sidewalk Committee has met and is considering a number of options for our sidewalk plans. First of all, we are studying the feasibility of putting in a crushed granite sidewalk on the Homedale side of Barton Hills Elementary. This is under the assumption that some sidewalk off the street is better than no sidewalk at all. We could do this project ourselves at a greatly reduced price. We are awaiting the city's approval.

Secondly, our idea is to draw up a plan, raise some money and do as many sidewalks as we can until we have a solid sidewalk all the way from Barton Hills Elementary School to the Barton Hills Market. The city no longer offers the 50/50 program for sidewalk construction. However, if we have the money and a permit, we can put in sidewalks ourselves. The BHNA will sponsor a Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale this fall. The money generated from that will go to the Sidewalk Fund.

We do not want to infringe on the rights of our neighbors who live on Barton Hills Drive. If your house is on Barton Hills Drive between Barton Hills Elementary and the market, we'd like to know how you feel about BHNA putting sidewalks there! Please contact me at 441-3186 or Jenstuart78704@yahoo.com if you would like to help in this effort or need more information.
Jen Stuart

Ride the #29 Bus!

Greenbelt Guardian Glee-Nings

Recent Work Day

On April 23, the BHNA-Greenbelt Guardians participated in the city-wide "It's My Park Day!" sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation. On that day, 33 parks around town received the caretaking attention of some 940 volunteers.

We had a total of 60 volunteers show up to donate some 210 hours of time on our Greenbelts. The trails were crowded with the traffic of busy volunteers. Our neighbors turned out in generous numbers, plus the Community Service kids from Travis County Juvenile Probation, an enthusiastic group of Cub Scouts, and some Community Service students from UT.

Because we were receiving help from the Austin Parks Foundation in recruiting for volunteers, we got more ambitious in our scope of work this time. For the first time, we worked both trail heads, Gus Fruh and Homedale, on the same day, which required more elaborate planning and participation by our expanding leadership team.

We completed the ambitious trail renovation project that we had started on our last work day at Gus Fruh. The remainder of the cross-drain swales were excavated and packed; stone and gravel catchment basins were constructed; and the entire trail was resurfaced with decomposed granite and then compacted. Lots of muscle power and endurance went into the effort. The results are spectacular and transformative. Peace, safety, and aesthetics reign on the once rutted and eroded trail.

The overgrown Homedale trail entry was opened up and cleared and widened, yielding a much more expansive trail entry. The large natural stone steps and retaining wall at the bottom of the trail onto the "rock flats" by the creek were completed, and the retaining walls in the arroyo supporting our new bridge were repaired.

Both trails got cleared of sticker weeds and invasive grass, and rock borders were straightened and repaired. The invasive ligustrum and nandina plants got our enthusiastic weed wrench treatment at both trail sites, and we hauled away sacks of weeds and garbage.

Special thanks go to the dedicated contributions of our neighborhood Greenbelt Guardian Team Leaders for this work day: Stan Ostrum, Robbin Trusty, Tim Steckler, Scott and Janet Byers, Robin McKeever, Kay Kennedy, Nancy Koch, and Ken and Rosalie Russell. And of course, our PARD Partner, John Cook, can't be recognized enough times for his dedication and knowledge and true partnership in this endeavor.

Glee Ingram

Other Neighborhood Items

Austin Neighborhoods Council Briefing

Executive Director of CAMPO, Michael Aulick, began the April agenda by giving an update on the CAMPO Mobility 2030 Plan. CAMPO oversees federal funding for a long-range transportation plan. The plan includes programs for transit, bicycles and pedestrians, roadways, and freight. Tolls are seen as the most reasonable short-term solution to traffic congestion problems. Currently there are 512 miles of toll road plans approved. Its area of concern is Travis, Hays, and Williamson counties. The plan was scheduled for final adoption June 6, 2005. For more information, go to <http://www.campotexas.org>.

From Capital Metro, Rob Smith, Director of Strategic Planning, spoke on *All Systems Go*. Mr. Smith spoke on the efforts to move freight rails away from the city and use those lines for public urban and regional transportation. Other business included the adoption of a resolution to support the expansion of ACC's tax base and a resolution asking AMD and the City of Austin to work together to find a more appropriate site off the aquifer. Finally, the ANC adopted two resolutions on conditional use permits for big-box retail. Both resolutions seek an impact analysis demonstrating the net costs and benefits to the community. The difference is one was drafted by austinflcircle.org and the other by the ANC.

May's agenda was primarily concerned with the May 6, 2006, City of Austin bond proposal, which would provide money for drainage and wastewater improvements, facilities such as the downtown library, land acquisition, and transportation. Each neighborhood association was urged to conduct its own research and bring any conflicts to the attention of the committee.

Another item on the agenda was Austin's Reclaimed Water Initiative. City staff said the idea is to use recycled water, also known as grey water, for park irrigation and industry. The water, which is not potable, would be stored in above-ground tanks. A proposed line appears to follow Barton Skyway and go down to the greenbelt. (I'm wondering if we could ask for some hydrants along this line for wildfire protection in the greenbelt.) There was also an update on 45S, connecting FM1626 to MoPac. Basically, it is going to get done. However, the consensus seems to be that it is only going to increase traffic problems on MoPac.

Old West Austin Neighborhood Association sought support for historic zoning of several properties in their neighborhood. On May 26th the City Council considered petitions to rezone properties on Harthan and Waterston streets. Rezoning will allow the properties to be demolished and replaced with larger structures. On the same day the City Council considered removing from historic zoning a property on Poplar Street.

Finally, the ANC collected fans for Family Eldercare in memory of Lee Leffingwell's wife. As your delegate to ANC, I donated a fan on behalf of BHNA. Another was donated by Melissa Whaley Hawthorne.

Eddie Torres

When Barton Hills was the City Limit

When the first sections of Barton Hills were developed, back in the mid-1950s, the city limit was Bluebonnet Lane and Rabb Road was a gravel lane. Reminiscing with long-time residents John and Jodie McWhorter brings up these and other memories of the early days of the neighborhood. The McWhorters first lived in the Zilker area, then to Barton Parkway and finally to Oakhaven Drive in the mid-60s.

In the early days, there wasn't much south of Wilke Road except cedar breaks, and Barton Hills was deer country. The McWhorters remember that folks would trap game around Campbell's Hole, and once saw mountain lion tracks along Barton Creek. Lamar was still called Fredericksburg Road and a lumberyard outside of town hadn't yet been transformed into the Broken Spoke. Matt's El Rancho was still a beer joint called the Hanging Tree and Brodie Oaks was a cow pasture.

What hasn't changed in 50 years is that Barton Hills is still beautiful, green, and hilly.

Debby Kalk

July Fourth Celebrates Children and the Young at Heart

This year the annual Barton Hills Neighborhood Association July 4th Parade will again go forward, rain or shine, with the exception of lightning (well, maybe hail, too)! Our very special theme this year will be a celebration of the children in our community, and all those young at heart. There will be some extra surprises in store for all, but mum's the word. You will have to come to find out.

So please join us in this wonderful traditional tribute to our community and to our country by parading on foot, bicycle, tricycle, scooter, buggy, or other vehicle of your choice, along with your dog, goat, or other legal and tame animal. Many thanks go to our two generous sponsors: Wells Fargo on South Lamar, for the second year in a row. In my opinion, this is the best bank in town and truly committed to supporting local business and our community; and Rockin' Tomato, at South Lamar and Barton Skyway, a new sponsor and very well known as a good friend to Barton Hills Elementary School, Little League, Youth Soccer, and to all as having the best pizza in Austin. Please support both of these local businesses as they truly are community institutions dedicated to our neighborhood and civic leadership.

We are also honored this year to have a Grand Poohbah or two of some sort who will serve as a Grand Marshall. But much more important, in keeping with the theme of children, you can expect many dignitaries from our own Barton Hills Elementary School and St. Marks Episcopal Church to have a prominent role. Kati Achterman, principal, Kay Wallingford, librarian, Sarah Tso, Teacher of the Year, and Robbie Anderson, Volunteer of the Year for all of Austin, are among the invited guests.

The parade will assemble as usual at Barton Hills Market at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 4th. At 9:00 a.m. the procession will begin to Barton Hills Elementary School, where the various thespians and dignitaries will deliver keynote addresses worthy of Lincoln. Pulitzer-prize winning historian Dr. Bill Brands will again inspire the day with a historical perspective on the Declaration of Independence. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and our very own

internationally known singer/songwriter Sara Hickman will sing the National Anthem. She will also lead the parade in a South Austin vintage float (a.k.a. flatbed truck) in a joyous sing-along with a chorus of children in the spirit of this year's theme. Festivities will follow and include such time-honored favorites as a watermelon seed spitting contest, sack races, egg toss, face painting, piñatas, and the judges' awards to the best parade entries in various categories. So don't forget to decorate your stroller, wagon, scooter, bike, skates, dog, hat, Humvee, airplane . . . Refreshments will be served at the playground as well.

The most important thanks goes to our July 4th Chair, Cindy Bogard. She literally is the reason why we are having a parade this year, so please help her help our entire community in the many small tasks where volunteers are still needed. E-mail Cindy at Cindy.Bogard@austin.rr.com to volunteer for any of the following:

- running the games after the parade (watermelon seed spitting, sack race, etc.);
- bringing two filled piñatas (one for little kids, one for big) and supervising their destruction;
- making about six posters to advertise the big event and setting them up at key intersections in the neighborhood about a week before the parade (a great one for teens with too much summer looming before them.);
- setting up and decorating the morning of the parade (8:00 a.m.);
- taking down and cleaning up after the festivities; bringing cookies or donating a watermelon (or both!);
- contributing about 200 cups and napkins; or letting us use your large Igloo water cooler.

Lisa Farenkamp has volunteered to coordinate cookies again this year (thanks Lisa). Please contact her at 444-3211 to arrange for a cookie donation in advance or to let her know that you'll bring them the morning of the parade.

Don Long

Support Our BHNA Sponsors!

To place an ad, please contact Howie Richey at 444-4550 or zow@io.com

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BATHS

BHNA General Meeting Agenda

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Tues., June 28, 2005

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

**6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Meet and Greet Social Outside on Deck
BBQ and Peach Cobbler from Green Mesquite**

**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
General Meeting**

Opening Business

Speaker Series: HB 2833

Rep. Elliot Naishtat

Updates:

Austin City Limits Festival

Neighborhood Planning

Parks & Rec Open Forum

Neighborhood Watch

4th of July Parade Preview

ANC Brief

Committee Reports:

Greenbelt Guardians

Sidewalks

Adjourn

Please reserve babysitting in advance: 416-0679

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Barton Hills News

The newsletter of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is published quarterly, and is supported by the advertisements of our generous sponsors. It is distributed in print to every home in Barton Hills in February and June, and only to paid Association Members in April and October.



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