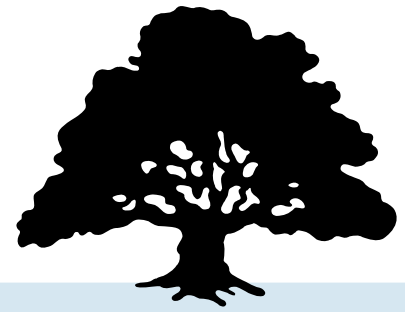


Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



The musical Music Room window shade

By Glenn Chase



Notable window coverings for the BHE Music Room

As you drive down Barton Hills Drive you may not know that behind the window screen pictured above the Barton Hills Choir is practicing to perform in their FIFTH Austin City Limits Music Festival.

The Choir members aren't the only ones who benefit from the room; BHE Music Director Gavin Tabone teaches every student in every grade, and his influence is apparent at their special performances throughout the year.

Mr. Tabone describes the Music Room at Barton Hills Elementary as "ideal." You may not know that it is a relatively recent addition to the school, and that it's window shade carries a secret message.

In 2004 Austin voters approved bonds that included nearly \$2.8M in improvements and repairs to Barton Hills Elementary, including addition of a new music room. Construction financed by the bonds began in 2007, and the new music room was completed in time for the 2008-2009 school year.

As Music Director for Barton Hills from 2001-2009, Mrs. Becky Dykhuis provided important input regarding the new music room. One of her lasting contributions that's easily visible from outside the school is the creative window covering that features musical notes across a perforated silver screen.

One afternoon while walking on the BHE playground with my daughter I asked her what the notes represented, not really expecting her to know. To my surprise, she confidently responded "Beethoven's Ode to Joy."

"How do you know that?" I asked, surprised. "Mrs. Dykhuis told us," she replied with a look on her face that implied I should have known that.

Mrs. Dykhuis retired at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, so I confirmed with Mr. Tabone that the notes are indeed from Ode to Joy, and asked Mrs. Dykhuis via email for the background story of how they were selected. Here is her reply:

When the music room was being built I was in on some of the decision-making. One of the tasks that I was given was to come up with a 10-note melody to put on the window covering staff. After much thinking I came up with the Beethoven melody because of its universal musical theme and love by all. I figured that through the years and all of the changes that will take place at BHE and the world it will always remain a superior and much loved melody.

NEXT MEETING

January 26, 2016 • 6 - 9pm

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

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

Neighborhood Meeting: 7-9pm

NOTE: The Trail of Lights

Official dates: **December 8-22**

Continued on page 8

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by advertisers. It's distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, Texas. For more about membership and neighborhood affairs, contact the appropriate person below.

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Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's Message

By Tom Nuckols
BHNA President

Neighbors,

For the two years I've served as BHNA president, the best thing that has happened in Barton Hills is the installation of the "We are Barton Hills" mural at Barton Hills Community Park, adjoining Barton Hills Elementary School. The land where the mural was installed is indeed the heart of our neighborhood. It's where we send our children to learn, play, and make lifelong friends. Some say it takes a village to raise a child. I agree. Installation of the mural gives our kids a lasting symbol of their village that they will always remember.

As for we grown-ups, the mural is now a piece of our neighborhood we can enjoy, like we never did before, simply by seeing it as we drive by it on Barton Hills Drive. (At least until we're too old to drive.)

Many thanks are due to the mighty women who made the mural happen. Thanks are due to the artists, Wanda Montemayor and Rachel Noffke. Rachel also helped put together the grant application to the City of Austin and did many other things that made the project happen. Thanks are also due to Beatriz Mejia and Mina Kumar, who also shepherded the grant application through the process and handled lots of the nitty gritty of making tiles for the mural and installing them.

Others who've worked many hours to make the mural possible include: Students of O Henry Middle School and Barton Hills Elementary School, Ms. Montemayor's summer camp students, Alicia Barker, Roy and Cheryl Smithers, Becky Nolan, and a bunch of others.

There will be an official dedication ceremony for the mural at the park on December 12th. I encourage everyone to attend.

Regards,

Tom

BHNA President



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Update

Barton Hills Community Park

by Roy O. Smithers and Melanie Gantt
 Executive Committee Chair and Chair Playscape Committee



The spectacular "Jewel of Barton Hills" mural is almost complete. Everything but the last and smallest panel has been completed. The last panel should be finished by mid-November. "Nugging up" is also currently taking place. To "Nug" means to fill in any larger spaces between tile with small pieces of similar colored tile. The final step, grouting the mural, will take a day or two to complete. So, the mural should be completed by the end of November or earlier, which is long before the projected completion date. There will be a mural dedication, which it is hoped that the Mayor will attend, in early December. Furthermore, the project is way under budget. The Park Committee approved using some of the leftover funds for a party for all of the neighborhood volunteers who have donated countless hours designing, making, glazing, and hanging tile.

If you visit the mural, look for a hidden message, spelled out in multiple tile. I'm not referring to the messages on each tile. Also, there are tile in the mural which glow in the dark.

The Committee and Neighborhood can't thank enough the folks who have spearheaded this effort from the beginning. These folks include:

- **Wanda Montemayor**, artist, cheerleader, mural guru beyond compare, without whose guidance, this project probably would not have been accomplished.
- Neighbors **Rachel Noffke**, **Beatriz Mejia**, and **Mina Kumar** who have worked tirelessly for four years in multiple capacities to make this happen.
- The many **Barton Hills residents** and the **students of O. Henry Middle School** who have contributed many hours to this project.

The Committee has a new member, **Teresa Carpenter**, our neighborhood fitness trainer. She, with the assistance of **Amanda Gammage**, is working to select and obtain approval for adult outdoor exercise equipment for the park.

There is major movement on landscaping the hillside between the play scape and the play slab. The purpose of this project is to beautify, control erosion and transform the hillside into seating for performances which could be held on the slab. Committee member Melissa Hawthorne is on fire to get this

project done. She has obtained a bid from a contractor, met and obtained approval from Austin Parks and Recreation Department and AISD and with Melanie Gantt's help completed and submitted a grant application to the Austin Parks Foundation (APF). With the grant application the Committee is attempting to capture ACL donated funds through APF. APF will review and hopefully approve the application in December. Then, the challenge will be to find approximately five weeks to do the work, taking into consideration the fact that school is currently in session. Melissa would like the job finished in time for the 4th of July celebration in 2016.

Years ago when Craig Smith was president of BHNA, money was approved to install a water fountain at the school/park. After many frustrating delays, the fountain was finally installed. Unfortunately, the contractor who installed it did not check to see if it operated correctly. It was a used fountain that had been stored for several years. Two of the three fountains were clogged. I took the fountain apart and got the water flowing only to find that one of the valves was leaking. I ordered and installed a new valve, only to find that someone had stolen one of the buttons to operate one of the three fountains. I ordered and installed a new button; hopefully this will mean that the fountain will operate correctly for some time. I still am encouraging the contractor to finish the job by placing crushed granite around the base of the fountain.

As the spirit of the season is upon us many donate to a charity. The Barton Hills Community Park has an account with Austin Parks Foundation (which is tax-deductible). You can contribute any amount to park revitalization at:

<https://www.austinparks.org/adopter-donations.html>

As always, the Committee truly appreciates all of the support from Barton Hills Elementary School folks, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the Barton Hills PTA and every Barton Hills resident. Please continue to support our efforts in the future. If you are interested in keeping up with the latest Committee discussions, the minutes of Committee meetings can be obtained by emailing me at rorsmith@aol.com.

We know our neighborhood.

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- 4 Vandalisms (destruction or damage to property)
- 1 Burglary (unlawful entry to a structure to commit theft or felony)
- 20 Other Incidents (Includes disturbances, trespass...)

The above are the reported police events that occurred in a 5 mile radius from the intersection of Side Cove and Barton Hills Drive from October 31, 2014 to November 2, 2015. None of them occurred in the Barton Hills neighborhood! (Most of them occurred on Lamar Blvd. and further south/east of Lamar) In the first 10 months of 2015, 13 burglaries occurred in our neighborhood. This is similar to the number experienced since 2013.

We all value the safe environment that the Barton Hills (BH) neighborhood provides us. There are probably well understood and documented socio-economic reasons why the Barton Hills neighborhood is a safe place to live and raise our families. What role do you think the Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch (BHNW) patrol plays in that mix of reasons?

As you know, volunteers to the BHNW patrol invest at least an hour a week driving their vehicle throughout the neighborhood to accomplish two objectives. The first objective is to make it apparent to any potential trouble-makers that there are people watching the neighborhood, and these people will alert the police should they see suspicious activity or crimes taking place. Our vehicles have large magnetic signs on them that proudly proclaim us as Neighborhood Watch agents. We believe this visible presence of watchful eyes acts as a significant deterrent to would-be perpetrators.

The second objective is to actually be on the lookout for suspicious activity. Should we see such activity, our role is to notify the police. We are explicitly prohibited to undertake any confrontational action. We follow that instruction with 100% compliance! The patrol volunteer is never in any danger.



In addition to the two principal objectives, the BHNW strives to keep the issue of neighborhood safety front-and-center in the minds and in the behavior of our neighbors. In that regard, please remember that we can all contribute to our own safety, and to the safety of our neighbors, by just doing the "right neighborly things", such as:

- Get to know your neighbors and watch each other's houses, especially when residents are out of town.
- When leaving town, stop newspapers, mail and delivery of products to your doorstep.
- Do not leave garbage cans on the road.
- Ask neighbors to take fliers/advertisements and packages off doors and porches if you are leaving town.
- Use timed interior lighting when not at home to suggest that the home is not empty.
- Keep garage doors closed when possible.
- Install burglar signs and alarms when possible, as these deter thieves. (Signs, in the absence of burglar alarms, are probably effective also.)
- If you see someone doing something suspicious around a house, call 311 to report it.
- If you see a possible crime taking place, call 911 to report it.
- Let your neighbors know when you will be out of town.

As the demographics of the BH neighborhood have trended toward younger families, the number of neighborhood patrollers has dropped precipitously from an average of 24 over the past few years to a current number of 12. (We all understand the time constraints imposed on younger families by the demands of both careers and child rearing.) Moreover, we will lose 2 more patrollers very soon as 2 long term volunteers are leaving the neighborhood. (We thank them for their long-term service on the Patrol!) This will leave us with coverage of only two hours a day, assuming that remaining volunteers can always perform their one hour per week. Two hours a day of patrol activity may be insufficient to provide the level of "visibility" needed to deter potential perpetrators and, consequently, to maintain our current level of safety.

As a result, we are seeking new volunteers. As a current volunteer, I find that the one hour I spend in my auto on patrol is quite pleasant. It is a good way to keep up with the housing changes taking place in our neighborhood and frequently people wave and indicate that they are glad we are out there for their protection. We appreciate their acknowledgement.

We welcome any new volunteers. If you have a little time to serve as a BHNW patroller, please contact Booth O'Quinn at ocohen2sbglobal.net.

Continued from the front page

It took 15 notes so they had to work those in. The workers unfortunately painted the top and bottom of the screen black, which makes it, look like the staff has too many lines. Also I would have liked for them to put stems on the notes. By the time they finished the room we were just happy to be in it on time to start school that year so it never got done. Also, there was an idea by one of the architects to put movable notes on the staff so that the melody could be changed. That got vetoed due to the possibility of the notes being stolen. Also I was having trouble visualizing me out there on a ladder putting notes up and down all the time.

My own familiarity with Beethoven's music for Ode to Joy stems from its inclusion in the Beatles movie Help! where the Fab Four lead a chorus of "famous Beethoven's famous Ninth Symphony" to calm a tiger that has trapped Ringo. Later I would discover the same melody in the hymn Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, wondering in church if God minded me thinking about the Beatles while I sang it.

As you view the musical notes you might think they are the same on the east and north sides of the school. But if you view both sides from the corner you'll see the 15 notes beginning on the left side of the east wall and continuing around to the right side of the north wall represent the entire first stanza of Beethoven's Ode to Joy. For those like me who can't read music, they are: e-e-f-g-g-f-e-d-c-c-d-e-e-d-d

Now you can join me in thinking/humming/whistling Ode to Joy whenever you walk or drive by Barton Hills Elementary and see the Music Room window notes!

Interesting facts:

- The final movement of Beethoven's ninth symphony, more commonly known as Ode to Joy, is the music for the Anthem of the European Union.
- Beethoven never got to hear his Ninth Symphony performed, although he helped direct its premiere, because he was totally deaf by the time he composed it.
- You can find songs, pictures, and videos of the Barton Hills Choir performances on their web site:

<http://bartonhillschoir.org>



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Photo by: Gavin Tabone



Photo by: Chan Geltmeyer

Stuart Murdoch of Belle and Sebastian rehearses with the Choir for their performance at the 2015 ACL Music Festival. (above) Interior view of the BHE Music Room. (above, top)

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Austin Real Estate

by Ryan Rodenbeck Broker/owner of Spyglass Realty



Bubble Watch

Let's talk about Trulia's "bubble watch" and why it's bogus. If Trulia were a real news agency, they wouldn't constantly contradict themselves. Below are the conditions of a housing bubble, most of which Austin does not meet:

Easy credit - No. We now have much more stringent financing conditions than we've had in previous years.

Speculation - Do we have excessive or unhealthy investor activity? No.

Slow job growth - No. Austin is consistently in the top 5 job markets year after year.

Lax urban planning controls - No, not a problem for Austin. Constrained supply and high demand - Yes. This is the only indicator of a bubble that Austin is currently experiencing, but should soon ease as more rental inventory enters the market.

The best indicator for the future is to look at the history of any given market. If you bought at the peak of the last boom in Austin and kept that property, you should be doing just fine right now.

Trulia loves to sensationalize articles in order to get name recognition. Now that we've put that to rest, let's move on.

Market Stability

If you look at the graph to the right showing the most stable markets in the U.S. for the past 25 years, you'll see that Austin is #2 on the list. Do you think companies looking to start up or relocate look at things like this? Of course they do!

Population and Labor Market

Population growth in Austin has been on a steady rise since 1980 and we have not had one single blip in increase, not even at the height of the last recession. We have consistently added around 53,000 people net each year for the past 10 years! And Austin's population growth is only going to go up from here.

There is no indication in sight that the next 35 years are going to be any different. We are looking at more growth over the next four years than we have had in the last ten, especially when you factor in the international popularity of Austin.

The Urban Land Institute is a well respected data reporting agency that looks at the conditions of emerging markets and many top businesses pay close attention to their reports to determine which cities to move into. So what qualities do large corporations and startups look for when determining where to open a new business or relocate an existing business?

- **The live/work/play environment. Does that describe Austin?**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Tight labor markets and the coming labor shortage - Jobs are chasing the knowledge worker.**
- **Disruptive influence of technology- Work from home, shared office spaces.**

When looking at all the factors, Austin fits the bill to a "T".

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BY THE NUMBERS

HOUSING MARKETS WITH THE MOST STABLE GROWTH

Rank	City	Odds of a 5% Loss in Home Price*	Home Price Growth Since 1990	Index
1	Boulder, CO	0 %	269 %	100.00
2	Austin-Round Rock, TX	0 %	242 %	98.28
3	Bismarck, ND	0 %	241 %	98.06
4	Midland, TX	0 %	226 %	94.53
5	Casper, WY	9 %	320 %	92.24
6	Anchorage, AK	0 %	215 %	92.06
7	Billings, MT	0 %	210 %	90.93
8	Walla Walla, WA	12 %	256 %	89.66
9	Odessa, TX	4 %	219 %	89.63
10	Houma-Thibodaux, LA	0 %	197 %	88.17

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**Once you’re a BHNA member, you can join the Barton Hills listserv.
Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/barton_hills/ for more information about how to sign up.**

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:

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