

The Hill Country VILLAGE

July 2022 • Newsletter



Published monthly by Neighborhood News for the Hill Country Village Neighborhood Association

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Gabriel and Barbara Durand-Hollis

By Susan Schopp

Sometimes you just know when things were meant to be. After interviewing Barbara and Gabriel Durand-Hollis and thinking about how they met, their family's journey to Hill Country Village and what they've been up to since moving here, it occurred to me that Gabriel (Gabe), serving as Mayor, and Barbara, serving as Secretary for the neighborhood association, was definitely in the cards.

However, their meeting in 1989 was highly unlikely and some might even say hinged on "questionable". Gabriel had been called to serve on a Federal Grand Jury. Yes, Federal, like where the bad guy is really bad, accused of murder, drug smuggling, black mail and stuff like that. Serving required committing to a 3-9-month stint, meeting every two weeks and holding complete secrecy.

Although he was very busy with his thriving architecture firm, called Durand-Hollis Architecture at the time, he was told by the judge that he was an ideal person to serve on this jury, and yes, he had to serve.

Eventually he realized that at least the view wasn't too bad, having spotted pretty court reporter, Barbara. Barbara was working as a Federal Court Reporter and still does to this day. Ahead of the curve in working from home and for herself, Barbara noticed Gabe on the jury as well.

Although they shared the occasional peek and smile, it would take about 7 months for them to have a conversation. Jurors and court staff would occasionally lunch together. Finally, after another couple of months, they had a chance to have a one-on-one lunch.

"The case was sealed, and we could not talk about it. It was illegal for us to discuss. We did not talk about the case, but we did finally start getting to know each other." Barbara said.

They started dating and got married later that fall. Before they knew it, they were parents of their "Valentine Baby" Gabriel III, who was born on February 14, 1991. Three years later daughter Natalie was born.

The younger Gabriel is "living his passion" as a drum-

mer. He has a degree in Psychology, is working on his second degree in Music Education and has taught music and percussion. Gabe was in the Longhorn Band at UT for 5 years and was honored with receiving one of the most prestigious awards that UT has to offer, actual mounted Longhorns.

Daughter Natalie is married and a Registered Nurse working on her Practitioner degree. She was named for the City of Natalia. The couple was out and about, trying to decide on a name and drove by Natalia and decided that Natalie would be a good name, in part because Gabriel was paying homage to both his English and Spanish roots. Her middle name, Ann, was decided on by Gabriel while Barbara was still in the hospital. "He decided to give her my middle name and didn't even tell me about it!" she laughed. Natalie is fine with both names and says she is thankful that they weren't driving by Cotulla!

Prior to arriving in Hill Country Village the family lived just across 281 in the Lorrence Creek neighborhood where they were already involved with Gabe serving as Board President and Barbara gearing up to participate in the kids' school activities. It was important to their teens that they attend Churchill High School, so in July of '03 they made the move across 281 to Hill Country Village.

"We loved this area and we happened upon this house right after it had been put on the market", said Gabe. They fell in love with the trees and the feeling of country living and knew this was the place for them.

The family was very involved in Churchill High School and Barbara and Gabe volunteered for many years handling concessions for band, football, track, and more. As they settled into their new home, they also got to know their neighbors and became more involved. The Hollis's helped start the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt along with neighbors.

After about 6 months, Gabe was asked to run for City Council, where he served for 6 years. He was then elected Mayor and is now starting his 11th year while Barbara has served on the HCV Board for 14 years since 2008.

They are both still busy with their careers. Gabe's architecture firm is now called DHR Architects and the firm has done some of the largest and most interesting projects in San Antonio. From working on the San Antonio Airport helping to implement new security standards after 911, to



(Continued on page 3)



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BEST HOA DEAL IN SAN ANTONIO

HCV Dues Information

If you enjoyed VillageFest, you can thank the HOA. It's the best investment in the community you can make. For \$60 a year, HOA members receive a free HCV directory and get to be a part of the many fun activities that are happening. Dues also help pay for the Hill Country Village Easter Egg Hunt, Fun Run, Beautification projects, VillageFest and the Holiday Party! We want to see you and your family at these wonderful events and we would love to be able to contact you through the directory! So sign up today!

Just clip this form and send it to
Bill Scott at 16403 Hidden View.

Checks should be made out to HCV-HOA.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(We don't publish or share emails)

- Yes, publish my info in the directory.
- Do not publish my phone number.
- Do not publish my address.
- Do not publish any info.

Community Interests

I would like more information about:

- HOA Welcome Committee
- Ladies' Dinner Club
- Book Club
- HOA Board
- HOA Newsletter
- VillageFest
- Spring Fun Run
- February Chili Cook-off
- Dee Holiday Party



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Scan this code to pay.

(Continued from page 2)

working on the Phipps Building and Santikos Theatres, to joining architects from across the world in the Federation of Pan-American Architects Olympics project in Rio De Janeiro. He has had a successful career that has taken them both all over the world. However, his favorite project is right here in San Antonio at the Scobee Planetarium at San Antonio College. It is a must see!

What's next for the couple? They say they don't plan to stay in their current neighborhood positions forever, but still have a lot of work to do.

"The biggest project that I would like to see completed, or at least a decision made, is on the 10 acres of HCV city-owned land along Bitters." Gabe explained. "We are in a situation where residents have voted not once, but twice, to disallow commercial development on the site and instead use it for municipal purposes, such as a park or future home of City Hall. The current City Hall is outdated and needs upgrades. It does not meet ADA standards and we know that must be resolved one way or another."

So, no big changes in the near future. Barbara and Gabriel are dedicated to their current careers and volunteerism. Barbara says, "we are happy residents, and we love our city and our neighbors, police department and staff. We try to focus on the positive and want to do the best we can while we are here. We feel very blessed to be living in Hill Country Village."



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JOIN OUR TEAM

The Bad News:

- ✓ No Pay
- ✓ Unpredictable hours

The Good News:

- ✓ Meet new people
- ✓ Get involved with the neighborhood

Dear Hill Country Village Residents,

Our next Homeowners Association meeting will be on **August 17 at 6:30 pm**. We will be meeting at City Hall as usual. We would love to see you there. We are really in need of a few new Board members. Some of us are getting a little long in the tooth.

Joining the Board is a fun activity. I have been on it for many years. We usually meet for an hour every 2 to 3 months. It is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and contribute to our community. Seriously, the demand on your time is minimal. We all pitch in to make events happen and not overburden any one person. There are usually a few libations at the meetings to enhance the fun.

I have noticed there are quite a few younger families that have moved into the Village. If you have children and want to help enhance their sense of community, I would ask you to help on the Board so that we can develop activities to appeal to younger families and kids.

Best Regards,
Brian Skop, *President HCV HOA*

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Congratulations Jennifer!



Jennifer graduated from Ronald Reagan High School. Throughout her high school career, she participated in speech and debate. In her senior year, she won first place in Prose at UIL districts. Jennifer received a scholarship from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas because of her and her moms involvement in many of their events over the years. Jennifer will be attending Texas State in the fall.

Did you know you can place a "free" classified ad in your community newsletter?

Are you a teenager who wants to offer babysitting, pet sitting, lawn care, or house sitting services?

For details call **210-558-3160** or email

Ariel@neighborhoodnews.com. Place

"Hill Country Village Resident" in the subject line.

One ad per resident.



For sale type items only (no commercial businesses or services allowed).

Real Estate News for Hill Country Village

By Liz Delarosa, Resident Realtor



Homes For Sale in Hill Country Village:

There are currently three homes for sale with the largest home at 8398 sq.ft. listed at \$1,850,000 and the smallest home at 5300 sq.ft. listed at \$2,610,000.

Hill Country Village Homes Sold:

Two homes have sold in the last 6 months. A 4 bedroom, 6 bathroom home with a greenhouse, pool and tennis court that sold for \$1,300,000. And a 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home with 6 horse stalls and beautiful landscaping that sold for \$1,680,000.

Current Interest rates as of March 14, 2022:

Conventional 30 year	4.875%	APR 4.922%
FHA 30 years	4.625%	APR 5.247%
Jumbo 30 year	4.25%	APR 4.276%
Investor 30 year	5.625%	APR 5.733%

The new Texas migration: Why more people are choosing to live, work and invest in the Lone Star State

Over the last decade, three counties surrounding the Austin-San Antonio corridor (Comal, Hays and Williamson) have seen the most growth in the state, averaging 48.8 percent growth. As of 2021, Texas surpassed the country of Brazil to become the ninth largest economy by GDP worldwide.

The truth is everything really is bigger in Texas – the states' land mass makes up 7.4% of the entire nation. From 2015 to 2019, 40 percent of people moving to Texas came from other countries. The top three countries were Mexico, India, and China. The other 60 percent of new Texas transplants came from other states in the US.

Most of the Texas migration comes from California, 42 percent to be exact. Companies like Oracle, Jamba Juice, Hewlett Packard, Samsung, Charles Schwab, Jacob's Engineering, Toyota and Kubota Tractors have elected to move headquarters or build new plants in Texas citing the business friendly climate.

San Antonio-New Braunfels posted an 18 percent climb in the median housing price over the past year based on data from SABOR. Our real estate prices are still considered to be very affordable compared to the east and west coast. (Read the entire article in the *San Antonio Business Journal*, Real Estate Trends in Texas.)

A quarter-million and counting: Migration to San Antonio spurs apartment development boom

In the last decade millions of people moved from other states to make their home in Texas. More than 250,000 of them chose San Antonio, keeping apartment developers here busy. One of the newest apartment buildings is Iron Ridge @ Hill Country Village, 15083 San Pedro.

Between 2010 and 2020 developers built 55,100 apartment units in the metropolitan area, a boom that has helped supply housing for the net migration of 259,857 people to the San Antonio area between 2010 and 2019. Most of them are located within San Antonio city limits and more are on the way. A total of 9,300 apartment buildings are now in various stages of development.

(Read the entire article in the *SA Report*, article by Shari Biediger.)

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Great Springs Trail will link San Antonio and Austin

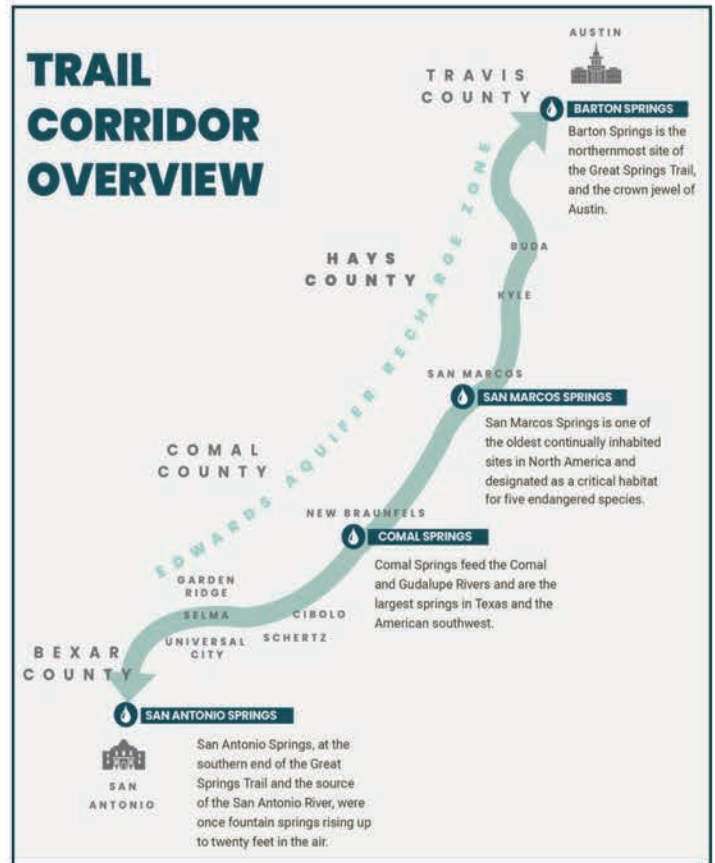
Many San Antonians enjoy the trails that link our local parks. But did you know that a statewide group is working to create a hike and bike trail that will run all the way from San Antonio to Austin?

The Great Springs Project is planned to link the two cities with a 100-mile route that connects four natural springs: San Antonio Springs, Comal Springs, San Marcos Springs, and Barton Springs. In addition to recreational purposes, the goal of the trail is to protect our state's water resources and their watersheds.

Scott Parker, land transactions director for the project, said it grew out of discussions 10 years ago on how to preserve the state's green spaces amid a fast-growing population. Three years ago, the Great Springs Project was formed as a private nonprofit organization.

Some of the land is already available, but project staff estimate that 50,000 more acres are needed to create a narrow linear park along the trail. It is estimated that the project will be completed in 2036, though major sections of it will be finished years before that, Mr. Parker said.

It is estimated that after completion, the project will provide \$55.9 million in economic benefits to the South and Central Texas region, he said. For more information about the project, go to: www.greatspringsproject.org





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Babysitter!



Hi, my name is Katie [redacted] & I live in Hill Country Village! I go to San Antonio Christian and I will be a junior in the fall! I can drive, love to have fun, and love kids of all ages! I am usually open all days of the week and some weekends. I rodeo (barrel race), and I am a varsity tennis and volleyball player!

Feel free to call or text me if you ever need a babysitter!

(409) 270-9600

Welcome Readers!

If you have any news you would like to contribute, contact:

info@neighborhoodnews.com

NOW ACCEPTING:

Recipe of the Month/Prettiest Yard
Neighborhood Hero/Garden Tips
(All contributions are subject for review before published.)



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Homemade Big Red Ice Cream

Recipe by Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News

Ingredients:

- 2 liters Big Red soda
- 2 cans sweetened condensed milk
- 1 16 oz. heavy cream
- ¼ cup of sugar (granulated)
- 1 large bag of ice (at least 10 lbs.)
- 1 box rock salt
- 1 4-quart ice cream maker



Instructions:

In your ice cream container pour Big Red soda, heavy cream, sugar, and both cans of sweetened condensed milk. I like to use Eagle Brand, but you can use any that you prefer. Stir until all ingredients are mixed well.

Place container in ice cream maker and add a layer ice, then a layer of rock salt, then a layer of ice, and so on until the ice cream maker is full of ice.

*If you have a different type of ice cream maker, please follow the manufacturer's instructions. This recipe will work in any ice cream machine.

Once finished, stir again from the bottom up a few times to ensure the heavier ingredients don't get stuck at the bottom and then freeze for 2 hours until completely solid.

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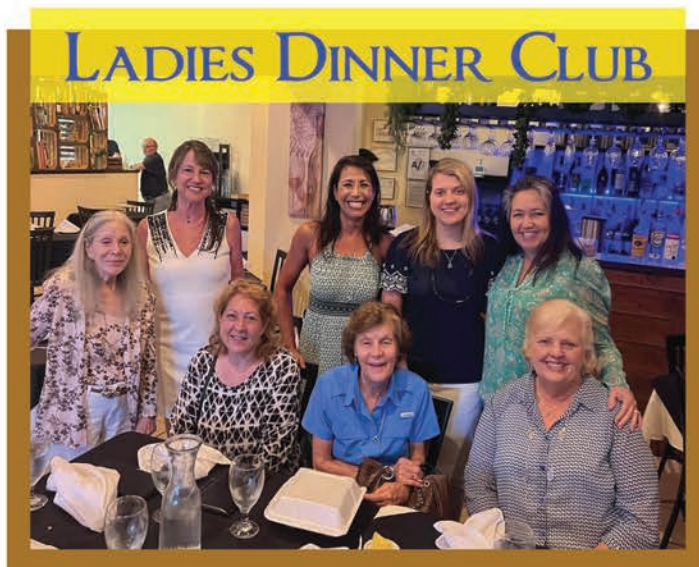
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Don't forget to...
 use Hill Country Village rather than San Antonio as your address when ordering online so that HCV gets the tax revenue.

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