

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Quick Dips

We lost a good friend this spring when Jane Pitkin died. Back in January 2006, Jane and Nancy McCandless and I held the first swimmers meeting, just the three of us, to form a group to do something about the condition of the Pool. Jane loved the Pool, and she will be missed. See her obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/statesman/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=127611609>

I've been making an effort to keep the bulletin board at the Pool updated at least once a week, and that's a good place to get news and updates on upcoming events.

Chasity is keeping the website lively and attractive. The web address is below.

Friends splash into summer, with new directors, new challenges, and familiar stewardship goals

Spring was a busy transition for the Friends. Waking from winter's somnolence, we organized a posse of volunteers for the annual spring cleaning, recruited new board members for a new board year, threw a meeting for our members, and dived into a whirlpool of board and commission meetings filled with drama.



Springs Cleaning Parties

We turned out scores of volunteers to help the staff scrub the Pool floor, sides, and railings during the two week closure in February. We also formed a wheelbarrow brigade to lay sod in some areas denuded of grass. Annie Walker has kept the cleaning parties coming, with the most recent on Thursday, May 28.

This year is looking a lot like 2006, when drought conditions fostered the horrid algae blooms that prompted a group of swimmers to form the Friends of Barton Springs Pool. Thanks to improved maintenance practices, the algae has not reached the 2006 proportions this year, but we must work to keep it at bay.

New board brings new vigor

Two strong directors rotated off the board this spring, but they were replaced, and vacant positions were filled, bringing the board up to full strength.

Steve Barnick retired as President, after an outstanding job. Steve was active

in the Friends since its formation in 2006, and I had a great time working with him. He continues to take part in Friends events and spread the message.

Sandra Grimes retired as Fun Chair. She was another who got active in the Friends through our volunteer cleaning parties, and she is active in several other organizations. Chasity Keen Larios and I rejoined the board in our previous roles as Chair of Communications and President. Gary Beyer, Mike Cannatti, Tom Weber, and

Patricia Bobeck joined the board at Vice President, Secretary, Advocacy Chair, and Fun Chair. And Maria Weber, Clarke Hammond, Peggy Wall, and Annie Buckman Walker continued their service as Treasurer, Fundraising, Membership, and Service Chairs.

Bypass tunnel and trees

We began the year wondering just how bad the condition of the bypass tunnel would turn out to be, and how high the cost of fixing it would rise. When the City Council funded the short term projects about two years ago, it was thought that the tunnel just needed some joints sealed. Now it appears it will require major reconstruction.

The next bad news was a consultant report that recommended removal of some two dozen trees at the Pool and surrounding areas. That number is being reduced, and more attention will now be focused on the tree care that was the original point of the project.

And summer is just beginning!