
NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue Two

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

July/August 1996

President's Corner

I need your input.

As you know, the NSCNA has been meeting at Pillow Elementary School for the past two years. Mr. Singleton, the principal, has allowed the neighborhood association to meet whenever needed without charge.

I wonder if it might be a nice gesture on the part of the neighborhood to return this favor by doing something for the school.

If you feel that this is a proper way of saying thanks, I'll need a committee to suggest ways it could be done. If you are interested, please give me a call at 454-6654. Thank you.

Margo Courreges
NSCNA President

Help Lower Crime in Our Neighborhood

According to a recent article in the *Austin American-Statesman* (4/28/96), the crime rate in Austin last year was 81 serious offenses for every 1,000 people. Although that may seem high, Austin has less crime than cities of similar size. Unfortunately, our neighborhood is in a part of the city that has an above average crime rate: 82 to 120 crimes per 1,000 residents.

It doesn't have to be that way. What can you do to reduce crime in the neighborhood? Make your house unattractive to burglars by installing security lights, dead bolts, and alarm systems. It also helps to become more involved in the neighborhood:

- Get to know your neighbors. The better you know your neighbors, the more likely you will notice if something's not right.
- Exchange work and home phone numbers with your neighbors so you can reach them if you need to.
- Watch out for suspicious cars or people, and don't hesitate to call the police. The police would rather be called out for a false alarm than not be called when a crime is taking place.

The NSCNA is looking into setting up a Neighborhood Watch. If you're interested in participating, come to our next meeting and volunteer to help out.

If you want to find out what crimes have been committed in our area, you can call the *Austin American-Statesman* Inside Line at 416-5700. Punch in the four-digit code 1508 for a list of crimes committed in the northwest part of Austin. The information is updated weekly by the Austin police.

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: September (exact date to be announced)

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: To Be Announced

AGENDA: Neighborhood Watch

Yard of the Month

Whether you consider it a labor of love or just hard labor, a beautiful yard can take a lot of time and effort. Therefore, the NSCNA wants to recognize residents who keep their yards attractive and well-maintained.

Starting in August, the NSCNA's Yard of the Month program will begin.

Guidelines

1. There will be one winner in the neighborhood each month.
2. A sign announcing "Yard of the Month" will be placed in each winner's yard for one month (with the resident's permission). Each winner will also be announced in the NSCNA newsletter.

Judging

1. Winners will be selected by the Yard of the Month Committee.
2. A yard may win only once during a 12-month period.

Nominations

1. Yards must be nominated to be considered.
2. Anyone may nominate a yard, including their own.
3. Nominations must be made by the 15th of each month to the committee chairperson.
4. Nominations do not carry over from one month to the next.
5. A yard may be renominated each month, but if it wins it will be ineligible to win again for 12 months.

Nominations for September's Yard of the Month are due by August 15. Until the judging committee is established (the chairperson's name and phone number will be announced in the next newsletter), call Pam Penick at 302-3467 to nominate a yard.

Call for Judges!

We need a few good people to join the Yard of the Month Committee.

If you have a critical eye or just like looking at pretty yards, and if you can spare a couple of hours a month to evaluate nominees and vote, please give Pam Penick a call at 302-3467. More than one member per household may join the committee (a husband and wife team, for example), but a household may cast only one vote.

Speed Control on Rockwood, Primrose

The Transportation Committee met May 6 to discuss ways of slowing down traffic through our neighborhood, particularly on Rockwood and Primrose Lanes. After we shared numerous frustrating experiences in dealing with the city, it became apparent that more concerted action is needed to effect change.

I have contacted the Austin Neighborhood Council, which recently successfully lowered the speed limit on West 6th Street, and learned that they are planning to try to change Austin's traffic policy. Meanwhile, the city's speed hump program is currently on hold until Emergency Services categorizes city streets to determine which streets will be allowed to have speed humps and what type may be used (flat-top or circular).

With the passing of each fiscal year, the streets in our neighborhood that have requested speed humps have dropped on the city's priority list. This is due in part to many new requests from residents on other city streets and what we feel to be a very flawed speed hump rating system, which we intend to challenge.

Continued on page 3

Some neighborhoods with low priority ratings have come up with money to fund part or all of their speed humps, which were then installed despite their low priority. Other neighborhoods, which choose not to or cannot afford to pay, must continue to wait. If any individual or group in our area wishes to pay for speed humps to be installed, they are free to do so, providing they obtain permission from Emergency Services and follow city regulations.

The Austin Neighborhood Council is currently seeking a ruling from the city attorney on whether the city has the authority to lower speed limits in neighborhoods while maintaining enforceability. There is some disagreement on this issue, but apparently most neighborhood representatives feel that the city does have the authority but refuses to use it. Should this ruling go in our favor, we could benefit

greatly from lowered speed limits in our neighborhood.

Generally speaking, I feel that we can be a bit more optimistic about traffic improvement due to coordination of our efforts with the Austin Neighborhood Council and with the new head of the Transportation Department. You can help by reporting all neighborhood auto accidents of any kind to the police and making sure they document it. This is very important in making your street a high priority for traffic control. Do not assume the police will automatically report an accident, because they don't.

The Transportation Committee cannot be aware of all traffic problems in our neighborhood without your input. If you have a specific concern about a traffic problem, call me at 459-0371.

Lane Pearson
Chairman, Transportation Committee

Real Estate Market in North Shoal Creek

Dear North Shoal Creek Neighbors:

My name is Felicia Morrison, and I have been your neighbor since 1989. I work in real estate, and I thought you might enjoy a comparative market analysis for our neighborhood.

Homes Currently Listed for Sale:


<u>BD-BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>	<u>SQ FT</u>
4-2	8204 Sandalwood Cv.	109,900	1,608
3-1.75	3103 Candlelight Ct.	120,000	1,064

Homes With a Contract Pending:


<u>BD-BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>	<u>SQ FT</u>
4-2	2706 Kerrybrook Ln.	134,900	1,861
3-1.5	8500 Stillwood Ln.	85,000	1,051
3-2	2705 Benbrook Dr.	124,000	1,665
3-2	8405 Stillwood Ln.	102,000	1,383

Homes Sold Since December 1995:

<u>BD-BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>	<u>SQ FT</u>
3-1.75	2707 Ashdale Dr.	87,700	1,177
3-2	8404 Millway Dr.	92,000	1,152
3-1.5	8404 Briarwood Ln.	96,000	1,051
4-2	8106 Logwood Dr.	100,000	1,494
4-2	8002 Briarwood Ln.	115,500	1,926
3-2	2702 Clarkdale Ln.	115,500	1,830
3-1	8313 Franwood Ln.	82,200	1,141
3-2	3008 Crosscreek Dr.	104,000	1,242
3-2	2710 Thrushwood Dr.	107,000	1,754
3-2	8312 Millway Dr.	108,000	1,264
3-2	2703 Benbrook Dr.	119,000	2,046
4-3	3103 Stanwood Dr.	124,500	2,516




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NSCNA Minutes of the April 22, 1996 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by the president, Margo Courreges.

In the absence of the secretary, Lynda Oakes, the president gave a brief report on the January meeting.

The treasurer, Harold Anderson, reported that the current membership represented 31 households. The balance in the Association's bank account was \$932.98.

A report was given by Pat Sullivan, a member of the Lucas Tract committee. She indicated that in a meeting with Robert Ohler, prospective buyer, the committee learned that another developer had shown interest in the residential area of the tract, so there is the possibility that Mr. Ohler's bid will not be accepted by the trustees. He has spent a great deal of money on engineering studies of the water drainage problem and the city requirements for drainage of the property. If Mr. Ohler's bid is not accepted and the other developer becomes actively involved, there may be a request for zoning changes, and the committee is opposed to any change in the zoning at this time. The committee sent a letter of the Association's endorsement of Mr. Ohler's proposal to the attorney representing the Lucas Tract trustees.

A report was given by a member of the committee investigating the possibility of having speed humps installed on Rockwood and Primrose Lanes.

In conversations with city employee Joan Hudson, the committee member was informed that the volume of traffic is sufficient to allow for their installation, but the Neighborhood Association would have to provide \$3,000 before the City would commit additional funds to cover the cost of the speed humps. Lane Pearson volunteered to chair the committee and indicated that he would call an immediate meeting of the committee and actively pursue other ways to get speed humps installed. This committee was also urged to request city signs indicating the speed limit on Rockwood Lane.

Other Association members reported recent burglaries of homes and cars and instances of vehicles driving through yards. The president urged members to call the police when any suspicious persons are seen in the neighborhood. Another member suggested that we ask the police department to send one of the regular neighborhood patrol units to attend our next meeting.

A motion was made to hold Association meetings every other month and to have the bi-monthly newsletter printed and distributed on alternating months. This motion was seconded and passed by a majority of the members present. The president will arrange this schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Ida Fisher
Acting Secretary

HELP WANTED

The NSCNA Newsletter needs ad solicitors.

We need ads in order to pay for production of the newsletter. If you would like to help keep the newsletter coming and can volunteer a few hours a month to solicit ads, we'd love to hear from you. This is a good way you can help out the neighborhood. Call Felicia Morrison at 451-2552.

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Advertise in the NSCNA Newsletter

If your business would like to run an ad, please complete this coupon and mail it with your check (made out to the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association) to Pam Penick, 8509 Daleview Drive, Austin, TX 78757.

Name of business _____
Type of business _____
Your name _____
Business phone _____ Home phone _____
Camera-ready artwork (logo, etc.) available? Yes ___ No ___
Comments: _____

Distribution: Bimonthly; reaches approximately 720 NSCNA households.

Rates per issue: Business card: \$10 1/2 page: \$60
1/4 page: \$40 Full page: \$100

Neighborhood Service Directory

This service directory will list the names and ages of North Shoal Creek children who wish to offer their services. Listings are free. Names will be carried for two consecutive newsletters; after that, you must renew your listing by calling 302-3467.

To place a listing, mail your completed coupon to Pam Penick, 8509 Daleview Drive, Austin, TX 78757, or call 302-3467.

Check a box to indicate which service Name: _____
you would like to provide:
 Babysitting Address: _____
 Pet sitting Phone: _____
 Lawn mowing
 Other _____ Your age: _____

Join the Neighborhood Association

Help support the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association by joining today. Membership (with voting privileges) costs only \$10 a year. To join, please complete this coupon and mail it with a check for \$10.00 (made out to the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association) to Harold Anderson, Treasurer, 2802 Benbrook Drive, Austin, TX 78757.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please check one: Renewal: _____ New Member: _____

Please note that dues are collected annually for the period January through December. Dues may be paid in the middle of the year, but they will be due again the following January.

**Membership Now Open To All Members Of The
North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association.**



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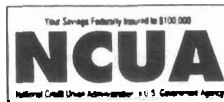
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APR-Annual Percentage Rate. Rates effective March 21, 1996

All rates and policies are subject to change without notice.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Officers

President - Margo Courreges: 454-6654
Vice President - Frank Fisher: 452-5941
Secretary - Lynda Oakes: 467-7781
Treasurer - Harold Anderson: 453-4032

Steering Committee Members

Chuck Crane: 451-1644
Ida Fisher: 452-5941
Pam Penick: 302-3467
Tomas Rodriques: 454-9851

Newsletter Committee

Editorial/Production - Pam Penick: 302-3467
Production - David Penick: 302-3467
Advertising - Felicia Morrison: 451-2552

Thanks to Austin Telco for sponsoring production of this issue of the newsletter.

**North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
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Austin, Texas 78757**

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