
NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue Four

November/December 1996

President's Corner

January is the beginning of a new year for officers in the NSCNA. All offices are open for the coming year (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). If you would like to serve your neighborhood, now is the time to put your name on the ballot for one of the vacancies. Call me at 454-6654.

The neighborhood association needs your support in order to continue to provide a service for all residents and keep you up-to-date on happenings that affect our neighborhood. It is important that you come to the January 13th meeting to show your support.

Margo Courreges
NSCNA President



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**



NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: January 13, 1996
TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Pillow Elementary
School Cafeteria

Landscaping and Your Neighborhood

We Texans are known for being good neighbors, and there's no place where that shows more quickly than in the way we landscape our homes. In the hopes that your interest in landscaping will spread to all who surround you, here are ways you can be a better neighbor through landscaping.

1. Take extra pride in the way your landscape looks. Teach by example. Gardening can become quietly competitive. Before you know it, others around you will start fixing up their surroundings.

2. Clean up the debris. Most of us have parts of our gardens where old things are stored. Get rid of the weeds, old lumber, even the old cars. Nobody will come onto your property to do it for you. Cleaning your space is your job.

3. Keep your landscape safe. Watch for low-hanging branches, cracked sidewalks, and sharp-pointed shrubs. Trim away limbs that obscure intersections.

4. Keep your landscape consistent with those around it. Let it blend and look natural. It needs to belong. It should be a part of the block plantings. Don't let it overwhelm.

5. Be careful when you plant trees near property lines, or near your neighbors' houses. Be sure their roots and limbs won't cause them harm.

6. If you're putting up fences, check with your neighbors first. Agree on style and the placement. They might even share in the cost.

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Landscaping and Your Neighborhood

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7. Keep your weeds, your pests, and your pets under control. Nobody wants to live next door to a yard full of invaders.

8. Co-op your gardening costs whenever it's possible. Buy in bulk if you can. It may be unnecessary for everybody on the block to own a power spray rig. Buy as a group, then use that sort of specialized equipment as needed. Assign the block's best mechanic the responsibility of storing and maintaining it, in return for his share of the use. Use the same technique for other expensive and seldom-used pieces of equipment.

9. Be careful your sprays don't drift. You might end up ruining a valuable tree or garden crop, and that certainly makes for poor neighborly relations.

10. Grow plenty of plants – flowers, fruit, and vegetables. You'll be the most popular neighbor around when you start passing out surplus garden-fresh produce.

*From **Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening, 2nd Edition**, ©1991 by Neil Sperry. Published by Taylor Publishing Company. Reprinted with permission. Available at local bookstores or by calling the publisher direct at (800) 275-8188.*

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to both the October and November Yard of the Month winners. October's winners were David and Shelley Boucher of 8502 Daleview Drive. November's winner was Coleman Mills of 8402 Daleview Drive.

The Yard of the Month sign was stolen from the Boucher's yard in early October but returned, anonymously, a few weeks later. We were puzzled and disappointed about the sign's disappearance, but we're glad it was returned.

By the time you receive this issue, December's Yard of the Month will have been awarded on the basis of holiday decorations as well as the usual criteria for an attractive front yard. The committee decided to wait to vote for December's yard until December 9 so that people would have a little more time to decorate. Though this year we weren't able to alert the neighborhood in advance, keep in mind that this will be the start of an annual holiday tradition for Yard of the Month.

Nominations for January are due December 20. February's are due January 15, and March's are due February 15. Call in your nominations to Pam Penick at 302-3467.

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 Felicia Morrison, 8014-A Pinedale Cove, Austin, TX 78757, or call 451-2552. Ads must be paid for in advance.

Name of business _____

Type of business _____

Your name _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

Please include camera-ready artwork (logo, etc.) and your check. Amount \$ _____

Comments _____

Distribution: Bimonthly; reaches approximately 720 NSCNA households.

Rates per issue: Business card: \$15 1/2 page: \$60
1/4 page: \$40 Full page: \$100

Minutes of the September 16, 1996, NSCNA Meeting

The September 16th meeting of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association was called to order at 6:40 p.m., in the Pillow Elementary cafeteria. Margo Courreges presided as president.

Minutes from the April 22 meeting were not read because they were published in the July/August issue of the newsletter.

Harold Anderson, treasurer, reported that the current balance in the bank account was \$893.50. Of that amount, \$260 was received from newsletter advertising and will be used to help cover costs of producing and mailing the newsletter.

The status of the Lucas Tract on Highway 183 was reviewed. The buyer, Robert Ohler, is renegotiating the site plat with the City of Austin. The new configuration includes 64 lots. There will be no "crossover" zone between the commercial zone, which faces Hwy. 183, and the residences. Estimates for the commercial zone activity is 2,000 trips per day. Water runoff will be handled by retention ponds, which are being allocated a large portion of the tract. The ponds, to be located in the southwest corner of the tract, are designed to capture all the runoff from the tract. There is no estimate yet for a groundbreaking date, as the final plat has not been accepted.

Several members requested a review of the outcome of the association's efforts to have speed bumps erected on Rockwood and Primrose. Since the city's traffic count survey revealed that these streets do not qualify for a solution by the city, the association or other individuals would have to pay \$3,000 per speed bump for any that the city erected. This issue is considered closed.

Pam Penick, editor of the neighborhood newsletter, was acknowledged for her efforts by the group. Pam is requesting help in soliciting advertisements.

One of the members remarked that the City of Austin utility bills refer residents to a special phone number (499-7282) for reporting flooding problems. It was suggested that anyone who is affected by erosion on Shoal Creek should call this number and ask for help from the city.

The Yard of the Month Committee was acknowledged for its recognition of residences with outstanding yards. This group provides a sign to be placed in the yards. These volunteers were thanked for their participation in this project.

The members voted overwhelmingly to increase the annual membership dues per household to \$13 from \$10. The additional \$3 will be allocated to the cost of producing the newsletter.

The president of the PTA talked to the group about traffic and other related issues. All neighborhood residents are encouraged to help Pillow Elementary by supporting programs like mentoring.

The next meeting, on January 13, will be the 1997 annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers. Volunteers for officers would be greatly appreciated. If each of us would offer to serve for just one year, it would make keeping an active association a small commitment, and the same individuals would not have to keep serving from year to year. Please call Margo Courreges at 454-6654. We need your help. The alternative is a very weak and ineffective association.

Lynda Oakes
NSCNA Secretary

Yes. I Want to Join the Neighborhood Association

Please complete this coupon and mail it with a check for \$13.00 (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.*



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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

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
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Austin, Texas 78757

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