
THE NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEWSLETTER

Issue Six

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Summer 1997

President's Corner

In the past few years, Mother Nature has sent us many devastating thunderstorms, which have caused major damage to some of the trees in our neighborhood. Some of these trees have been removed; in many cases, however, a replacement tree has not been planted.

A place without trees would be a barren world. Windstorms would roll across the countryside, blowing away the topsoil and leaving no protection for other plants and animals. Without trees, we would have little protection from the summer heat and cold winter winds.

Trees are such a commonplace part of our environment that it's easy to overlook their vital role in making our neighborhood a more livable place. Leafy canopies shade us from the hot summer sun, conserve moisture in the soil, slow the wind, keep the air clean, and help quiet loud traffic noise. Trees also create a welcome

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Pillow PTA Petitions for Middle School Change

The Pillow Elementary School PTA is petitioning school administrators to make Murchison the middle school that graduating Pillow students would attend. (Murchison Middle School is located off of Far West Boulevard.) Currently Pillow students go to middle school at Burnet.

On April 15, PTA officers met with Larry Lewis, superintendent of Area 5 schools, to voice their concerns and ask how Pillow could be tracked to Murchison, where the friends students make would go on with them to Anderson High School and where their classwork would be aligned with classes at Anderson. Mr. Lewis said the PTA's concerns seem valid and suggested the PTA draw up a petition asking school administrators to consider the matter.

In its petition, the PTA says academic continuity is its primary concern. According to Pillow principal Ernest Singleton, for the last five years the curriculum at Pillow has been geared toward Murchison's curriculum; similarly, Murchison's classes are taught with an eye to sending students on to Anderson High. This vertical alignment of curricula, from elementary school up to high school, was designed to ease transitions between schools and to avoid the duplication or omission of subject matter as students move up a grade. Without

See PTA Petitions, page 2

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE:	Fall 1997 (Exact date to be announced on signs in the neighborhood)
TIME:	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Pillow Elementary School Cafeteria

President's Corner

Continued from page 1

home for birds and other wildlife. Moreover, they improve property values and make your home and community a greener and more pleasant place to live.

This year, why not plant a tree to replace one you've lost. Or, if you have one of our neighborhood's many declining, short-lived Arizona ashes, plan ahead and plant a replacement tree nearby. By the time your ash needs to be removed, your young tree will be well established and on its way to shading your house.

Please also consider removing any dead limbs from your trees this year. Trees with large dead limbs could cause a lot of damage if a thunderstorm with high winds were to hit our neighborhood. Dead limbs also detract from the beauty of our neighborhood.

Margo Courreges
NSCNA President

PTA Petitions for Middle School Change

Continued from page 1

the benefit of this alignment, students moving up to a higher school can find themselves, like "the new kid in town," trying to catch up on missed classwork or twiddling their thumbs until the classwork catches up to them.

All elementary schools are "tracked" (its students sent) to a particular middle school and then to a particular high school. Pillow is on the track that leads to Anderson High, but historically it has been diverted from that track at the middle school level. Pillow students are currently sent to Burnet Middle School, which is on a different track than Pillow. Burnet students are tracked to Lanier High School, with the exception of former Pillow students, who are sent to Anderson.

The petitioning parents and teachers believe that this interruption in Pillow's tracking affects students academically and socially. Academically, once they get to Anderson High, former Pillow students who went to Burnet may be at a different point in their studies compared to classmates who went to Murchison. Socially, the ex-Pillow students will be separated from friends they made at middle school when they go on to Anderson. Some parents worry that their children may feel isolated in high school.

Dewayne Naumann, last year's PTA president, wrote the petition, and the PTA met on April 24 to discuss it. With Principal Singleton's assistance, copies of the petition were given to Pillow students for their parents to read and sign, if they wished. A copy of the petition was also available until May 2 at Pillow for signing by parents and other concerned parties.

If you want to learn more about the petition, contact Dewayne Naumann at 835-7941 or new PTA president Huddie Murray at 835-1636.



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Real Estate Market in North Shoal Creek

The following sales information and its sources are deemed reliable but not guaranteed. For more information, please call Felicia Morrison at (512) 606-3399.

Homes Currently Listed for Sale:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
4—2	8001 Stillwood Ln.	109,950
4—2	8115 Parkdale Dr.	117,750
3—2	8012 Logwood Dr.	118,000
3—2	8506 Flagstone Dr.	119,500
4—2	2708 Clarkdale Dr.	124,900
3—2	8606 Stillwood Ln.	129,900

Homes Under Contract:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
3—2	2603 Steck Ave.	95,200
3—2	3101 Candlelight Ct.	99,500
4—3	8311 Rockwood Ln.	109,900
3—2	3104 Crosscreek Dr.	112,500
3—2	8406 Daleview Dr.	105,000

Homes Sold Since January 1997:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
3—2	8204 Briarwood Ln.	87,100
3—2	8314 Stillwood Ln.	103,000
4—2	8113 Parkdale Dr.	114,999
4—3	8310 Daleview Dr.	116,000
3—2	8006 Parkdale Dr.	123,000

How to Get Help from the City of Austin

■ For a speeding problem or other frequent traffic violations in a neighborhood, send the location of the problem and what time it tends to occur to the Austin Police Department Administrative Traffic Office, 715 E. Eighth St., Austin, TX 78701.

■ If the problem can't be resolved by additional enforcement, call the Public Works and Transportation Department at 499-7129.


■ Neighborhood advocates say that because the city has so many requests for help, it is necessary to follow up calls with a letter, and send letters to City Council members and the city manager's office.

■ The city may require petitions or an indication that the majority of the neighborhood supports a traffic proposal.

*Excerpted from the
Austin American-Statesman, April 2, 1997*

Helpful Numbers.

Road/Driveway Repair	
Requests.	478-5705
Streetlight Bulb Outages.	505-7046
Streetlight Installations.	505-7592
Tree Limb Pick-up.	499-2111
Tree Trimming from	
Electrical Wires.	322-6455
Power Outages and	
Electrical Fires.	322-9100
Tree/Forestry Questions.	476-6485



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"Mulch" Ado About Nothing

Mulching flower beds, gardens, and landscaped areas is an often overlooked but important aspect of gardening. Here in Texas, mulch is especially useful in retaining moisture and cooling the soil during the hot summer. Mulching also reduces weeds and makes it easier to pull the ones that do appear.

Many types of material can be used as mulch: shredded bark, bark mulch, bark nuggets, compost, grass clippings (especially good in gardens), cypress mulch, and even newspaper. I do not recommend using rock (gravel) as a mulch because it makes reworking the beds difficult and because it allows weeds to get established.

I like to use small-sized bark mulch. It looks good and works well, and when it gets old and breaks down it can be mixed into the soil. Using mulch in this way actually helps to improve the soil. Afterward, just lay some

nice fresh stuff over the surface and your bed looks great.

Cypress mulch, which is lighter in color than bark mulch, costs more, but it decomposes more slowly; thus it lasts longer. It also is purported to "not float," so it may work well in areas that get a large influx of rainwater.

Mulches that decompose quickly, such as compost and grass clippings, tend to attract fungi and insects like pill bugs, especially during wet conditions in early spring. Caution should be exercised when using these mulches on tender, new plants at that time of year.

One thing to remember when creating landscaping beds is to leave room for mulch. Mulching a couple of inches deep is usually sufficient, but the deeper the better. Mulch is beneficial to your plants and your pocket-book, so get some now before the heat of summer is upon us.

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Yard of the Month



Congratulations to our recent Yard of the Month winners. March's winners were Charles and Pamela Crane of 8717 Primrose Lane. April's winners were the Weintraub family of 8709 Stillwood Lane. May's winners were Sally, Paul, Ryan, and Kelsea Allin of 8701 Donna Gail Drive.

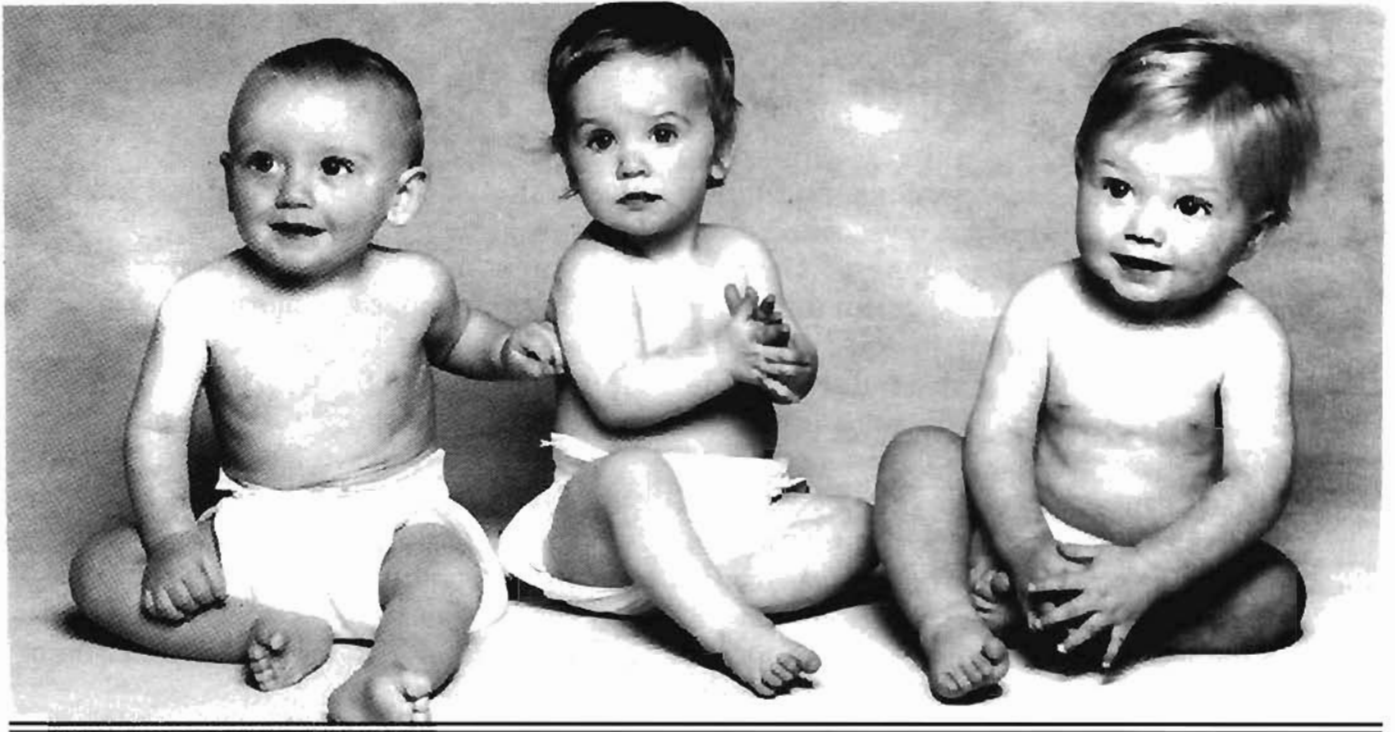
We welcome nominations for Yard of the Month. Let us know whose yard tickles your fancy. Nominations for July are due June 15, August's are due July 15, and September's are due August 15. Tina Huckabee is now heading the Yard of the Month committee, so give your suggestions to her at 453-6953.

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If you've outgrown your present home, there's only one thing to do. Talk to a real estate professional who'll help you set a price that's right for you and attractive to buyers. Call today, I've lived in this neighborhood since 1989, and I love it! Believe it or not I am a little shy, so that is why I haven't knocked on your door to introduce myself. We are taking new properties for the Springtime sales rush.



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Minutes of the May 5, 1997, NSCNA Meeting

Presiding: Dallas Maham, Vice President

Treasurer's Report: Harold Anderson, Treasurer. Current balance: \$1,358.56. Pending disbursement: \$381.13 for newaletter costs.

Secretary's Report: Lynda Oakes, Secretary. Minutes from the January 27, 1997, meeting were published in the Spring 1997 issue of the newsletter.

Guest Speaker Highlights: Officer Dale Cooper, a 12-year veteran of the Austin Police Department, spoke to the group about neighborhood safety and security, distributed packets of information, and answered many questions. Many of those in attendance expressed a strong interest in forming Neighborhood Watch groups. Officer Cooper recommended that individuals talk to their immediate neighbors to begin forming a Neighborhood Watch on their street.

Officer Cooper's phone number is 834-7982. He encouraged anyone with questions about the Austin Police Department and its support of our neighborhood to call him.

Old Business

Speed Humps: Dallas Maham gave an overview of the neighborhood's efforts to get speed humps installed, and he reported on the city's past and current positions on speed humps. Currently, the city has put on hold new construction of speed humps. A city council meeting on the issue was scheduled for May 7 in the council assembly room; Dallas recommended that anyone interested should attend. The group was divided over whether our neighborhood should try to get speed humps installed, and alternatives were discussed.

Glastron Tract (off Hwy. 183, where the Yellow Rose tried unsuccessfully to locate): The neighborhood zoning committee continues to negotiate with the owner, who has agreed to conditional overlays for the property.

Lucas Tract (the field at the north end of the neighborhood): The NSCNA will not permit automotive sales businesses on the property adjacent to Hwy. 183.

New Business

Vacant Lot at SE Corner of Steck Ave. at Burnet Rd.: The zoning committee planned to meet on May 19 with attorneys representing Whit Hanks, who is interested in developing the property.

Pillow PTA Request: The Pillow PTA is preparing a petition for the Area Superintendent of AISD, recommending that students graduating from Pillow be sent to Murchison Middle School. The PTA requested the neighborhood association's support. A copy of the petition was made available after the meeting so that anyone who wished could sign it.

By-Laws Committee Meeting: It was unanimously approved that the officers schedule a meeting of the by-laws committee.

Graffiti: Several members volunteered to work together to remove the graffiti that has recently appeared in the neighborhood.

NSCNA Membership Cards:

Membership cards were distributed after the meeting.

Lynda Oakes
NSCNA Secretary



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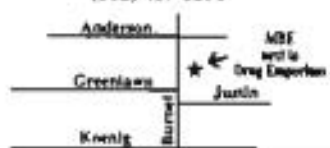
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Rates per issue: Business card: \$20 1/2 page: \$60
1/4 page: \$40 Full page: \$110

To run an ad, please call Pam Penick at 302-3467, or write to her at 8509 Daleview Dr., Austin, TX 78757.
Ads must be camera-ready and paid for in advance of publication.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Officers

President - Margo Courreges: 454-6654
Vice President - Dallas Maham: 452-3673
Secretary - Lynda Oakes: 467-7781
Treasurer - Harold Anderson: 453-4032

Zoning Committee

Steering Committee

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

Yard of the Month

Newsletter

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

Traffic Committee