
The North Shoal Creek Newsletter

Issue 9

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Spring 1998

President's Corner

As we begin a new year in the NSCNA, the first thing I need to say is thank you to Margo Courreges for serving the association so well as president. We also are marking the new year with the retirement of Harold Anderson, who until January was the only treasurer the NSCNA ever had. Thank you, Margo and Harold.

Now let's consider where we as an association need to go from here. The two major ongoing concerns seem to be traffic and crime. Last year the Austin Police Department gave us a presentation on the Neighborhood Watch Program. Has anyone followed up? Do we need another presentation?

Although we have reached an agreement with the developers regarding the tract of land fronting Hwy. 183 (see article on page 4), we will still be challenged to implement the agreement and work with the city to get appropriate traffic-calming devices installed on our streets.

Please let your officers know of any other concerns that you have. If you are a member of the NSCNA and would like to serve on a committee, please let me know. If you aren't an association member, please join us. Our collective wisdom will allow us to maintain our neighborhood's very desirable livability. Thank you.

Dallas Maham
NSCNA President



The Grapevine



Spring Garage Sale

Felicia Morrison is organizing a neighborhood garage sale, on Saturday, March 21. This is a great way to make money and clean out your garages and closets. To participate, you need to pay \$5 for advertising and signs. Felicia also needs block captains to help with signs. To join in, or for more details, call Felicia at 451-2552, or stop by her duplex at 8014-A Pinedale Cove.

Pillow School Playground Needs Repairs

The playground at Pillow Elementary is in dire need of repair. Sections of the playscape are rusting through and have been blocked with netting or plywood to keep kids off, to no avail. Also, the graveled areas around the playscape, which are supposed to absorb the shock from falls, are nearly bald.

If you care about the safety and future of the playground, whether or not you have children at Pillow, please come to a meeting on Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Pillow Elementary. City employee Sandra Shipley will discuss the possible use of bond money earmarked for the playground. Call PTA president Huddie Murray at 835-1636 for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Committees

All of our committees need volunteers. Please consider joining one (or more) of the following: By-Laws, Zoning, Traffic, and Incorporation. Call Dallas Maham at 452-3673 to volunteer.

NSCNA To Seek Nonprofit Status

The NSCNA has signed an agreement with the Lucas tract developers and Town North Imports that gives the NSCNA \$25,000 (see pg. 4). Currently the association is not formally incorporated, but if we become a nonprofit organization, this and other donations would be tax-exempt for us and tax-deductible for the giver. Therefore, the NSCNA has decided to pursue nonprofit status.

Nonprofit status will necessitate changes in the way the association is run. On the plus side, all contributions to the NSCNA will be tax-deductible. This includes membership dues along with anything else you might contribute to the association. Businesses that contribute to the NSCNA also will get this deduction. This encourages businesses to sponsor neighborhood projects and our newsletter.

The NSCNA also will save money by becoming nonprofit. As a nonprofit, we will not have to pay sales tax on anything we purchase. Also, we will qualify for less expensive, nonprofit postal rates for our mailings.

Of course there is a down side—namely, the added bureaucracy of being tax-exempt. Once we are nonprofit, we must meet governmental recordkeeping and reporting responsibilities. We will not be able to run ourselves as informally as we have done in the past. As treasurer, I'm thankful to Town North Imports for supplying lawyers who will help us through the complicated paperwork of filing for nonprofit status and who can educate us on these requirements.

In summary, becoming a nonprofit has two distinct advantages. All incoming money and donations become tax-deductible, and the NSCNA will save money on purchases and mailing costs. This comes at the expense of some extra minor governmental bureaucracy.

Steven Weintraub
Treasurer

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to our latest Yard of the Month winners: December's winners were Michael and Nancy Leathers of 8706 Melshire Drive. January's winners were Thomas and Dorothy Fuller of 8701 Millway Drive. February's winners were Jerry and Jean Graves of 2703 Kerrybrook Lane. Thanks to all for making our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live.

Last December, many residents dressed up their yards for the holidays. The following homes particularly dazzled us with their light displays:

8406 Flagstone Drive
3005 Charlwood Drive
3003 Vinewood Cove
8410 Daleview Drive
8000 Stillwood Lane
8105 Briarwood Lane
8401 Stillwood Lane
8615 Winding Walk
8508 Millway Drive

We welcome nominations for Yard of the Month. April's are due March 15, May's are due April 15, and June's are due May 15. Call Tina Huckabee at 453-6953.

Late-Night Dumpster Noise

Are you having problems at night with noise from dumpsters or parking-lot vacuums? If so, call city employee Vera Bruce at 499-1955 or fax a complaint to her at 499-1999.



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John Hopkins 836-5310

How To Pay Less With Pay-As-You-Throw

The Austin City Council has authorized some changes in the Pay-As-You-Throw program. The council passed a variable base rate for 30-, 60-, and 90-gallon garbage carts. The promotional Extra-Garbage stickers that were mailed to all customers last year are valid for use indefinitely even though they carry an expiration date.

The variable base rate will allow customers who use a 30-gallon cart to receive a reduction in their garbage collection bill. All customers will continue to be required to use an Extra-Garbage sticker for any garbage that exceeds the capacity of their city-issued container.

The Pay-As-You-Throw program is designed to discourage excess garbage and encourage recycling. When the new airport opens in 1999, the city will no longer be able to accept residential garbage at the city landfill. The city will pay private landfills for garbage disposal. Recycling more will help keep landfill costs lower.

Households can reduce their need for Extra-Garbage stickers by recycling more at the curb. You can recycle glass bottles and jars; aluminum, tin, and steel cans; #1 and #2 plastic bottles; newspapers, catalogs, and magazines; and junk mail, office paper, and corrugated cardboard. If you need another bin, pick one up at any Austin fire station.

For more information call 499-3556.

William Rhodes
Solid Waste Services

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 1998

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Pillow Elementary School

AGENDA: Joint meeting with Pillow PTA to address the deterioration of Pillow's playground

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

To run an ad, please call Pam Penick at 302-3467. Ads must be camera-ready and paid for in advance of publication. The newsletter reserves the right to request changes, reject an ad, or label an ad as such. The advertiser, not the newsletter, is responsible for the truth and content of the ad.

NSCNA Signs Deal With Town North Imports

The NSCNA has signed an agreement with Town North Imports and developer Robert Oler in which the association allows an expansion of Town North's automotive sales business in exchange for a \$25,000 contribution toward "neighborhood traffic calming efforts or any other neighborhood project."

Town North's proposed expansion onto a portion of the Lucas tract (adjacent to Hwy. 183, near McCann Dr.) had snagged on a restriction prohibiting automotive businesses. This restriction was placed on the property in 1997 in order to prevent an increase in cut-through traffic in our neighborhood. Last winter Town North and Oler asked the association to agree to remove the restriction in a proposal that offered the association \$10,000.

After more negotiations and discussions at the NSCNA meetings of November 17 and January 26, the association agreed to a

revised proposal that provides \$25,000, plus legal help in obtaining speed humps and nonprofit status for the association, as well as specific actions by Town North that promise to reduce test-drives on our streets.

Town North has agreed to designate one of its employees as the liaison with our neighborhood. His name is Dick Grimes, and he will receive and address all neighborhood complaints about test-driving on our streets.

To enable residents to identify its cars, the dealership will place magnetic signs on them. If a resident witnesses one of these cars speeding in the neighborhood, he or she should call Mr. Grimes immediately to file a complaint, noting a description of the vehicle and the date, time, and nature of the infraction. His phone number is 832-1430. If he cannot be reached at this number, try him at Town North's main number, which is 451-7411.

Pam Penick

A TESTIMONIAL

I've been a television news anchor and reporter since 1979. Since returning to Austin in 1987, I've had only one Realtor -- Peggy Little.

Because of my job I can't do commercials. So please consider this a personal recommendation. Peggy has guided me through four separate real estate transactions. Because of her knowledge of the local market, negotiating skills and hard work all the deals went smoothly.

I know buying or selling a home can be a stressful experience. But please be assured you are in good hands with Peggy Little.

Sincerely,



Robert Hadlock

Peggy Little
JB Goodwin Realtors
502-7833

Scooping: It's a Courtesy and the Law

Walking your dog can be fun for both you and your pet. However, allowing your pet to defecate on neighborhood lawns, streets, or public places is rude and violates city code.

City Code 3-3-7 states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat being handled by that person on property public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat." Fines for violation of the code run from \$10 to \$500 and are enforced by the Health Department.

Let's all make our neighborhood a better place to live by picking up droppings while walking pets. And please don't empty your scooper into a nearby storm drain; doing so pollutes the Shoal Creek watershed.

Your neighbors thank you!

Heather Turner

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Local Library's Fate Undecided

Once slated for closure, the North Village Library now has a chance of becoming a permanent, city-owned facility. That is, if it is included on a bond election ballot and if it is approved by voters in the election this September.

Located in the shopping center on the southeast corner of Burnet Road and Anderson Lane, the North Village Library has been a rental facility for more than 25 years. It ranks 8th out of 19 branch libraries in terms of usage—remarkable given its small size and limited resources.

The library commission has recommended that the city planning commission include North Village on the bond ballot. The planning commission will hold a public hearing and then forward its recommendations to the Citizens Bond Committee and the City Council. North Village needs volunteers to help make its dreams a reality. If you can attend public hearings, write letters, make phone calls, or be involved in any other way, please call Chip Harris at 458-2488.

Chip Harris

Friends of the North Village Library

Visit the NSCNA Web Site

The NSCNA now has a web site! We hope it will inform residents and direct advertisers to our newsletter. Check it out at www.main.org/nscna. Email your comments and suggestions to David Penick at penick@ccsi.com.

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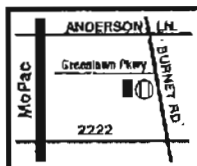


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Don't Ignore Graffiti—Erase It

Graffiti is gang advertisement—a newsletter for the streets. Graffiti is used to make a public announcement about the presence of gangs, their members, and their agenda for future criminal activity.

Do not ignore graffiti or fail to understand its significance. It lets you know that a gang is trying to take control of your neighborhood. Left unabated, graffiti diminishes our quality of life. It perpetuates the feeling of fear and crime. And it decreases property values and discourages business in your area. If graffiti is not removed, gang members will interpret this as a sign of low neighborhood pride, and they will assume that they can take control of your neighborhood.

Studies show that graffiti has less of a chance of reappearing if it is removed quickly. The City of Austin's Graffiti Abatement Program can assist property owners in removing graffiti. In some cases, the program may be able to supply paint or other graffiti removal materials to assist property owners.



A City of Austin ordinance passed in March 1995 establishes offenses for parents of minors convicted of defacing property with graffiti. The ordinance also establishes offenses for property owners who continue to allow graffiti to remain on their property. The main focus of the ordinance, however, is to get the community involved in helping to eradicate graffiti. Since the ordinance was passed, for example, the Graffiti Abatement Program has averaged at least one volunteer clean-up effort a week by neighborhood groups, civic organizations, businesses, and others willing to pitch in to clean up graffiti.

City crews also have cleaned up more than 7,000 sites, and the program has answered more than 3,000 calls to the city's Graffiti Hotline. To find out more about how you can get involved in the citywide effort to eradicate graffiti, call the Graffiti Hotline at 473-4125.

Source: *Austin Police Department Gang Suppression Unit Resource Handbook*

It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the Neighborhood Association Annual Dues Are Being Collected Now

Please complete this coupon and mail it with a check for \$13.00 (made out to the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association) to Steven Weintraub, Treasurer, 8709 Stillwood Lane, 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.

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:

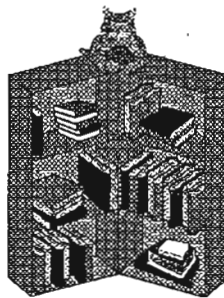
<u>BD—BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
3—2	8009 Rockwood Ln.	109,900
4—2	8115 Parkdale Dr.	105,000

Homes Under Contract:

<u>BD—BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
3—2	3006 Boxdale Dr.	96,000
3—2	8308 Franwood Ln.	88,500
3—2	8710 Primrose Ln.	134,900
3—2	8707 Primrose Ln.	144,900

Homes Sold Oct. 29, 1997—Feb. 16, 1998:

<u>BD—BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
3—2	8704 Dawnridge Cir.	125,000
3—2	8307 Stillwood Ln.	90,000
3—2	3200 Crosscreek Dr.	95,500
3—2	8411 Millway Dr.	115,900
3—2	8614 Millway Dr.	120,000
3—2	8709 Donna Gail Dr.	107,500
3—2	3100 Candlelight Ct.	120,000



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Minutes of the January 26, 1998, NSCNA Meeting

Presiding: Dallas Maham, Vice President

Treasurer's Report: Harold Anderson, Treasurer. Membership now includes 76 households. Current balance in the association's account is \$1,595.56.

Secretary's Report: Lynda Oakes, Secretary. Minutes of the meetings held September 15 and November 17, 1997, were not read because they appeared in the Winter 1997 *NSC Newsletter*.

Guest Speaker: Chip Harris, from the Crestview Neighborhood Association, spoke for the Friends of the North Village Library. This group is trying to place the North Village Library, on Anderson Lane, on the proposed September bond election for change from a temporary to a permanent facility. As a rental unit, the North Village Library is currently subject to closure. For further information, contact Friends of the North Village Library at 458-2488.

Annual Elections: Tomas Rodriques presented the list of candidates that had been prepared by the nominating committee. A motion was made from the floor that the members accept the proposed slate of officers and steering committee members. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The 1998 officers are as follows: Dallas Maham, President; Chuck Crane, Vice President; Phyllis Milstead, Secretary; and Steven Weintraub, Treasurer. The 1998 steering committee members are Margo Courreges, Donna Eagar, Margaret Flaniken, Dora Hall, Felicia Morrison, Claire Palitza, and Montie J. Simpson. Standing committees and chairpersons are as follows: Zoning, Dallas Maham; By-Laws, John Migl;

and Traffic, Chuck and Pam Crane.

Old Business: Dallas presented a written proposal for the NSCNA from North Shoal Creek Commercial, Ltd., NSC Management, and Town North Autoplex. The proposal described a proposed change to some of the restrictions on lots 49 and 50 of the Lucas tract, adjacent to Hwy. 183. It also included a pledge by the developers to give \$25,000 to the NSCNA and to reduce test-drive traffic through the neighborhood. The terms of the agreement would allow for the case to be filed with the city zoning commission as a consent/consent case.

A lengthy discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded that the agreement be rewritten to contain some revisions and the names of the new officers, and then presented to those officers for final review and signatures. The motion was unanimously carried.

New Business: John Migl, representing the By-Laws committee, moved that the members authorize the officers to take the necessary actions to incorporate the NSCNA as a nonprofit organization, and that a new incorporation committee, headed by Tomas Rodriques, be established to support the officers in this effort. The motion was unanimously carried.

Lynda Oakes
Secretary

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North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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Vice President - Chuck Crane: 451-1644
Secretary - Phyllis Milstead: 459-6014
Treasurer - Steven Weintraub: 453-6953

Steering Committee

Margo Courreges: 454-6654
Donna Eagar: 467-9046
Margaret Flaniken: 459-5522
Dora Hall: 452-2314
Felicia Morrison: 451-2552
Claire Palitza: 459-1036
Montie J. Simpson: 459-0595

Committee Chairpersons

By-Laws - John Migl: 452-3482
Incorporation - Tomas Rodriques: 454-9851
Newsletter - Pam Penick: 302-3467
Traffic - Chuck and Pam Crane: 451-1644
Yard of the Month - Tina Huckabee: 453-6953
Zoning - Dallas Maham: 452-3673

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