
The North Shoal Creek Newsletter

Issue 10

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Summer 1998

President's Corner

One of the privileges that we, as Austin residents, enjoy is the opportunity to vote on local issues. On May 2, we had the opportunity to vote for the Austin Independent School District board of trustees and 3 bond issues with a total value of about \$200 million. Our precinct, #252, had a voter turnout of 347, or approximately 11.9%. The good news is we were a little better than the rest of Austin. The bad news is 2,573 registered voters in our precinct chose not to vote. Also, it is estimated that as many as 50% of eligible residents do not even register to vote.

In November we will be voting for county and state offices and city bonds. If you're not registered to vote, it is very easy to do so. You can pick up registration forms at major grocery stores, libraries, and schools, or call 473-9703 and the county clerk will mail an application. Voting couldn't be much easier. You can vote early at malls and grocery stores and by mail.

Pick a candidate or an issue and get involved. I've never known a candidate that couldn't use more volunteers. When there is a turnout of 12% that means that 6.1% of the voters carry the election. If you are happy with the way the AISD and city, county, state, and federal governments are operating then don't vote. If you are unhappy with any of these bodies then vote and volunteer. After the last election there were only 347 citizens in our precinct who earned the right to comment on the outcome.

Dallas Maham
NSCNA President



The Grapevine



Anderson Lane Post Office To Relocate

A new post office is under construction on Northcross Drive, to the west of Northcross Mall. It will replace the Anderson Lane post office and, we hope, provide easier access for customer traffic.

Spring Garage Sale a Success

The neighborhood garage sale held on March 21 was profitable for many of us and had great participation among residents. Thanks to Felicia Morrison for organizing the sale and to the block captains who helped with signs.

Call the Test-Driving/Speeding "Hotline"

Town North Autoplex has pledged to reduce test-drives and speeding by its employees on our streets. If you see cars with dealer plates from Town North speeding in our neighborhood, call Town North employee Dick 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.

Visit the NSCNA Web Site

The NSCNA web site has been up and running for a couple of months. Check it out at www.main.org/nscna. Email your comments and suggestions to David Penick at penick@ccsi.com.

Slab Leaks May Be Covered Under Homeowner's Policy

You may have wondered what's been going on at our house at the corner of Steck Avenue and Stillwood Lane. No, that large hole wasn't dug to put in a swimming pool or a storm shelter. It was a tunnel under our home to fix an under-the-slab plumbing leak in two places. Fortunately, our insurance company took care of the \$14,000 it took to tunnel under our home and repair it.

Plumbing lines don't last forever. So if an under-the-slab leak ever happens to you, do what we did and check with your insurance agent to see if it's covered under your homeowner's policy.

Jim and Bev Vanderkolk
8201 Stillwood Lane

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to our latest Yard of the Month winners. March's winners were Roland and Myrtle Childress of 8606 Melshire Drive. April's winner was Susan Gregerson of 8707 Stillwood Lane. May's winner was Susan Singleton of 3109 Stanwood Drive. Thanks for making our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live.

We welcome nominations for Yard of the Month. Call Tina Huckabee at 453-6953.

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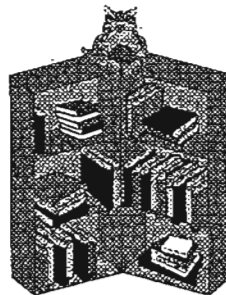
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Distribution: Quarterly; approximately 900 households. Neighborhood borders:
West-Shoal Creek; East-Burnet Rd.; North-Hwy. 183; South-Anderson Ln.

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. 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.

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	8608 Melshire Dr.	124,900
3—1.75	8412 Millway Dr.	135,000
3—2	8711 Dawnridge Cir.	139,250

Homes Under Contract:

<u>BD—BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
3—2	2511 Ashdale Dr.	129,250

Homes Sold Feb. 17—May 8, 1998:

<u>BD—BA</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price (\$)</u>
3—1	8308 Franwood Ln.	88,500
4—2	8115 Parkdale Dr.	103,000
3—2	8710 Primrose Ln.	134,900
3—2	8707 Primrose Ln.	141,500

Xeriscape for Summer Savings

Tired of high water bills in the summer? Fifty percent of water used by homeowners gets swallowed up by their landscape. You can save 30% to 80% of this water through xeriscaping. Xeriscaping uses the following water-wise concepts:

- ✓ Limit turf areas. Replace turf with ground covers and plants that demand less water than lawns.
- ✓ Water turf with sprinklers; water trees, flowers, and shrubs with low-volume drip or spray emitters.

- ✓ Mulch. Mulches cool the soil, minimize evaporation, reduce weed growth, and slow erosion.
- ✓ Improve the soil with organic matter like mulch and compost.
- ✓ Use plants that demand less water. Native or adapted plants generally thrive better than non-native plants in Austin's heat and frequent droughts.
- ✓ Regular maintenance like weeding and pruning keeps your xeriscape attractive and saves water.

If you need to sell your home and buy a new one, call me about my step-up program. I'll save you money.



Felicia Morrison

Marketing and Relocation Specialist

(512) 606-3399

(512) 451-2552

email: felicia@prismnet.com

The Prudential 

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New Playscapes Planned for Pillow

Minutes of the March 31, 1998, NSCNA Meeting

President Dallas Maham called the meeting to order and summarized the March 4, 1998, meeting of the steering committee as follows:

1. The association is in the process of becoming a nonprofit organization. The steering committee has recommended that the NSCNA hold only two membership meetings a year, in addition to the annual meeting in January, unless special issues make other meetings necessary.

2. The neighborhood garage sale had good participation among residents.

3. The NSCNA will receive \$25,000 from Randy Ross/Town North as part of an agreement in which the association approved a change in zoning to allow automotive uses on the commercial parcels of the Lucas tract.

It was also noted that the zoning change will include an exclusion of any adult-oriented businesses and that the money will be invested until it can be used for traffic-calming devices. Because the city has indicated that it will need to study traffic patterns in pilot neighborhoods for the rest of this year, no action is anticipated until 1999.

There being no further NSCNA business, the membership then joined a Pillow Elementary School PTA meeting in progress for a report on the school's playground. PTA president Huddie Murray introduced Sandra

Chipley, who is with the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Chipley discussed the changes that are planned for the playground, which include removal of the existing playscapes and the construction of two new playscapes (one for schoolchildren and one for toddlers), two new swing sets (including one for toddlers), new curbing, new pea gravel, and a new water fountain. The renovations to the park will cost \$97,000 and will be financed mainly through bond money allocated to Pillow. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall.

Ms. Chipley then answered questions from members of the NSCNA and the PTA. The end of her presentation concluded the meeting of the neighborhood association.

Phyllis Milstead
Secretary



The Cat's Nanny

374-1467

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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.



City's Speed Hump Project Halted Again

As we are all aware, cut-through traffic and speeding in our neighborhood have gotten worse during the past year. We recently contacted Joan Hudson, of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, to talk about the problems in North Shoal Creek. Ms. Hudson was very informative about the future of traffic control in Austin.

At present, she told us, the speed hump project is canceled. The transportation department is currently installing the final speed humps that were approved with last year's budget. After those speed humps are installed, the department and the city council will evaluate traffic control on a whole-neighborhood basis, rather than street by street.

The department is also working with 5 neighborhoods on a pilot project for traffic

control. Some of the devices they are trying as alternatives to speed humps are street closures, one-way streets, cul-de-sacs, medians, and landscaped traffic circles. This year's budget has been devoted to this project.

Upon completion of the pilot project the department and city council will determine whether to proceed with any of these new types of traffic control or look into other options. At present they have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Our final correspondence from the department stated, "Don't call us; we will contact you when there are any changes." Let's hope those changes arrive soon so that safety can return to our neighborhood streets.

Pam and Chuck Crane
Traffic Committee



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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

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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 Rodriguez: 454-2131
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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