

Celebrate July 4th at the 14th Annual North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Parade and Celebration

This year's theme is **Our Neighborhood Then and Now**. Let's celebrate our history from the '60s through today. Please email old photos of our neighborhood for display during the celebration to social@nscna.org.

Parade volunteers needed! Meetings are on Wednesdays, June 18 and July 2, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. in the Town North Nissan conference room, 9160 Research (corner of Shoal Creek and 183). Please email social@nscna.org if you can volunteer.

When and Where

- 9:00 a.m. Participants gather in the circle drive at the Pillow Elementary School entrance
- 9:15 a.m. Brief opening ceremony
- 9:20 a.m. The parade begins and marches around the block surrounding the school. If you like, come dressed in a festive patriotic outfit. Decorate your bikes, trikes, strollers, wagons and pets too. After the parade, festivities continue until 11:30 a.m.

Parade Prizes: Participate in the parade to win a prize. Categories are Best Costume, Best Dressed Bike, Best Dressed Trike, Best Dressed Stroller, Best Dressed Wagon, Best Dressed Pet, and a new prize category, Best Group Performance by a group of 3 or more. Impress us with your pots and pans band, kazoo talents, lawn chair drill team, synchronized skateboarding, or other group talent.

You'll need to register and pick up a number at the Parade Registration Table at Pillow school.

Food and Games: After the parade, the celebration moves to the tent pavilion in the playground where everyone can enjoy food, games, and fun activities including face painting, balloon twisting, and a temporary-tattoo station.

Retro Dress Up: Wear your favorite wig, bell bottoms, mod fashions, and funky jewelry from the '60s and '70s—it all goes!

**Join the fun and spend some time with new and old friends.
All festivities free**

Amelia Cobb, Social Committee Chair

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Important Dates

General Meetings

⇒ Tuesday, September 2, 2014

⇒ Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Dr.
at 6:30 p.m.

July 4th Parade and Celebration

City Council Candidates Forum, Dist. 7
September 11: Time and location TBA

Neighborhood News

Summer 2014 Issue

A quarterly newsletter for the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association (NSCNA)

Editors: Sharon Justice, Erin Poole, Debi Smith

Contributors/Volunteers: Amelia Cobb, Jerry Diercks, Celia Holm, Marc Leitman, Lois McEvoy, Elizabeth Ray, Aubrey Sanders, Ed Seymour, Kenneth Webb, Sherran Williams, Roger Wines.

Color edition of newsletter available at www.nscna.org.

NSCNA 2014 Officers & Board

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To submit an article for consideration, email it to newsletter@nscna.org. All articles are subject to editing.

NSCNA

P.O. Box 66443
Austin, TX 78766-0443

www.nscna.org

President's Corner

What a great neighborhood! What a fun year it has been already. Many thanks to Austin Gastroenterology for sponsoring the Get Your Rear In Gear 5K Run/Walk in March. How about that fabulous Spring 2014 Newsletter in April by Sharon Justice and Erin Poole, Media Committee Co-Chairs, and Debi Smith, Co-Editor?! Much applause and appreciation go to Amelia Cobb, Social Committee Chair, for coordinating the neighborhood garage sale in May. We look forward to the July 4th celebration as well.

The neighborhood association strives to make information available to residents and organize group efforts. If you have a question, concern, or a topic that you enthusiastically want to bring up, reach out to NSCNA. While NSCNA is not a homeowner's association (HOA) and as such, is not an agent for code enforcement or police matters, there are likely resources, contacts, or experience that can be shared.

There is strength in numbers. When we combine our efforts, our voice is more likely to be heard by zoning committees, city council members, developers, and

other groups that are in the position to make decisions that have major impacts on our neighborhood. As an association, we eagerly participate in neighborhood planning as we strive to sustain and renew. Would you like to have the house next to you be repurposed as a convenience store? No? Now might be a good time to get involved and find out about potential land development code revisions by the City of Austin. As part of District 7, you may find the [AustinDistrict7\(AD7\) website](http://AustinDistrict7(AD7) website) helpful: www.austindistrict7.org. AD7 favors long-term residents and small local businesses.

There are many ways to let your voice be heard: Join the NSCNA, attend the next general association meeting on September 2nd, and signup for the Yahoo group. Even if you can't attend the meetings, join us at the July 4th celebration and meet more of your neighbors. Reach out to one of the committee chairs and ask what you can do to help. Change is coming to all Austin neighborhoods. It will take all of us working together to make it positive.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Ray, president of NSCNA

Neighborhood Planning Delayed

Our neighborhood planning process has been delayed until June or later this summer. Once the initial meeting is scheduled, we'll post the news on the NSCNA website and our Yahoo group.

The kick-off meeting will likely be on a Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon. City staff will notify neighborhood residents and businesses by U.S. mail. They'll also contact nonresident property owners, using Travis County Appraisal District data.

Creating and adopting a neighborhood plan is important. NSCNA urges all residents to participate.

Sharon Justice, co-editor



The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce that Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union is the sponsor of our 2014 Newsletters.

Austin Code Compliance: “Preserving Austin’s Quality of Life”

What is code compliance?

Austin’s Code Compliance Department enforces city codes and ordinances that, as its website says, “[are] created to protect the health, safety and quality of life of all the citizens of Austin.” A property owner has not only legal title to a piece of property but also responsibility for ensuring that it meets the standards set out in these codes and ordinances. Failure to meet these standards is a code violation. Most code violations affecting homeowners come under the purview of the Code Compliance Department.

How to report complaints

Code violations are a major source of conflict between neighbors. If you see a code violation, first try politely discussing the issue with your neighbor. They may be unaware of the problem and, after all, it’s best to maintain good relations with neighbors. You might offer to help fix the problem. Then if your neighbor doesn’t cooperate, it’s time to call 311, the city’s non-emergency number. The 311 operator enters your complaint online and routes it to the city office that handles the type of code violation you’re reporting.

Be prepared to describe the problem briefly, provide the address of where the issue exists, and answer some questions to help staff verify the problem. Give your name and phone number if you want to be told what action was taken by the city, or you can remain anonymous.

What happens after I report the problem?

Usually your complaint is routed to a code compliance officer assigned to our area or to a specially trained volunteer. They’ll investigate the complaint within 2 business days and, if a violation is found, will issue a Notice of Violation and deadline for compliance. When code compliance staff re-inspect and “confirm compliance,” the process ends. If your neighbor fails to fix the violation, then a series of steps follow, including a possible court case and fine. Sometimes, the City fixes the violation, passes the cost on to the violator, and places a lien on the property to ensure repayment.

Does Code Compliance handle noise complaints?

Noise is a common code violation that is not handled by Code Compliance. You should still call 311, but your complaint will be routed to the Austin Police Department (APD). Austin’s noise ordinance states “a person may not make an unreasonable noise between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. or create a sound or vibration more than 30 feet from a vehicle.”* Officers issue warnings for first offenses. In some cases, officers cannot enforce the ordinance unless you, the complainant, file charges.

**From the Noise Issues section of APD’s FAQ page*

What are common code violations?

Examples include holding more than four garage sales per year (and a two day garage sale counts as two), letting grass or weeds in your yard grow more than 12” high, or building a solid fence more than 6 feet tall in a residential area (though some exceptions apply—see the Code Compliance website for details). It’s a good idea to be familiar with what isn’t allowed. To see a list of common code violations, go to www.austintexas.gov/page/common-code-violations. (A short list is also provided at the end of this article.)

What does NSCNA do about code violations?

NSCNA’s practice is to provide information on codes and not intervene in neighborhood disputes about possible violations. At the last board meeting, directors discussed this practice and decided to continue it unchanged. The board is making efforts to provide more information to residents in the following ways: including information in the NSCNA newsletter, adding links to online resources to our website, and inviting a code compliance official to speak at a future neighborhood meeting.

Online resources for code compliance:

City of Austin Code Compliance website:

www.austintexas.gov/departments/code-compliance

Austin Police Department: www.austintexas.gov/departments/police (see in particular the Noise Issues section of the FAQ page)

If you have comments, suggestions, or additional resources you’d like to recommend, please email newsletter@nscna.org.

Sharon Justice, co-editor

Common Code Violations

- Dangerous structures
- Substandard living conditions
- Accumulation of trash and debris
- Illegal dumping
- Improper storage of RVs and boats
- Illegal home businesses
- Signs in the right of way
- Tree limbs in the right of way
- Stagnant water
- Garbage carts at the curb
- Work without permit

City of Austin Code Compliance Booklet, 2010

Neighborhood Garage Sales—23 Garage Sales



Above: Neighbors Ellen Smith and Debi Smith work together at Ellen's garage sale on Stillwood.



Plus Good Weather Make A Perfect Day for Neighbors and Crowds



Right: Father and son duo Karl (left) and Bob (right) Cadenhead get help from neighbor Lori Kline at a Penny Lane sale.

Volunteers Needed for NSCNA Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee becomes active in the fall and selects candidates for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and seven board of director positions. If you're a member of NSCNA and are interested in serving on this important committee, please contact

treasurer@nscna.org prior to July 1.



Sandy Perkins

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Since
Austin City Limit Arrived
Combined
With New Owners
Revitalizing Ideas
An Overall Mosaic
Including
Wildflowers
Rock Gardens
Other Forms Of Ingenuity
Anchors
Of Business
Supporting Go Local
Sporting Welcome Smiles
Always On The Go
Recent 5K
Got Our Rears In Gear
Thanks To Austin Endoscopy North And Others

By Ed Seymour

Volunteer Spotlight— Newsletter Delivery Team

Each season the NSCNA newsletter is written, prepared, and delivered by volunteers who are your neighbors. Each person takes time from their schedule—whether super busy, just busy enough, or leisurely—to help provide information to you about your neighborhood.

One key part of this process is the newsletter delivery team. As the “outside” group, the delivery team has the opportunity to enjoy all phases of Austin weather, whether hot, cold, or just right, as they quietly place a newsletter at your door four times a year. It’s a productive way to get some exercise.

This is a good time to recognize the work of all the delivery team volunteers. Here’s a list of everyone who has contributed their time over the past 2+ years. (By request, a name or two is not included.)

Randy Alexis	EC Gee	Vannezsa Smith
John Anderson	Dellene Hornsby	Rima Starr
Michael Bellow	Coleen Jacobsen	Lindsey Stifflemire
Levi Bullock	Sharon Justice	Erinn Tapp-Allison
Yvonne Cathcart	Lois McEvoy	Betsy Todd
Amelia Cobb	Zach Mansour	Evelyn Vorzimmer
Jim & Jan Cornett	Jon Menegay	Kenneth Webb
Donna Eager	Kate Powers	Jason Werchan
Margaret Flaniken	Elizabeth Ray	Lauren Werchan
Kristine Flood	Tomas Rodriguez	Matt Williams
Susan Galbreath	Ed Seymour	Sherran Williams
Ernie Garcia	Montie Simpson	Jeri Wines

The delivery team always welcomes new members. If you are available to make regular deliveries or can substitute when delivery folks are unavailable, please contact Donna Eager at rubygooch@aol.com or 512-467-9046.

Donna Eager



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Fun Activities at North Village Library

Summer Reading Program June 8-August 23

Both children and teens are encouraged to pick a goal for the number of books or pages they plan to read. After June 30, once they reach their goal, they can come to the library and choose a free book.

Weekly summer reading activities for children 5 and up start in mid-June on **Wednesdays at 4:00 pm:**

- June 11 Glow in the Dark Dance Party
- June 18 Board Games
- June 25 Super Hero Training Camp
- July 2 Air Power!
- July 9 Literature live! Presents *Strega Nona*
- July 16 Doodle Mania
- Aug. 1 Lego Lab

Additional Activities

North Village's annual **Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament** will be held on **Friday, June 13 at 2:00 p.m.** It's rated T for Teen but is open to all ages. It's a seed tournament for the **Championship Finals** at the **Yarborough Branch** on **August 11.**

June and July Storytimes*

- Toddlers: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:15 a.m.
 Spanish storytime/
 Cuentos en español: Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.
 Preschool: Fridays 11:00 a.m.
 *Note: Storytimes return at the end of August

The Library will be closed Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day and August 30 through September 1 for Labor Day.

Celia Holm and Aubrey Sanders, North Village Library



Summer Safety Tips

Although life changes things daily, we can be happy that our neighborhood is one of the safest in Austin. If you examine the ongoing activities in the bordering commercial areas, things do happen close to home. While at home or out shopping, there are times situations come up and we all should be watching and listening regularly.

Should you know of anything that is out of the ordinary, unsafe or otherwise needing attention, you should notify me so we know about it. If action is needed, we can help direct attention to the situation.

Although we have a better than average record, something can happen any time, any day, and we all need to be aware of our surroundings, know our neighbors, and help keep the neighborhood safe for all.

Schools take a vacation over the summer months, and during that time childlike, unsafe, and criminal activities may rise.

Call 911 to report an immediate or ongoing situation requiring help or investigation.

Call 311 to report a situation that is no longer an immediate threat.

Stay observant and enjoy a safe summer.

*Roger Wines, NSCNA Safety Committee
safety@nscna.org*

Online Safety Resources

www.austintexas.gov/department/police: Fine traffic and crime reports, bicyclists' information, and online crime reporting (nonemergency).

www.austintexas.gov/department/crime-information: View crime reports by zip code.

www.spotcrime.com: See a map of local crime reports

www.krimelabb.com: Search for crimes by zip code, street address, or offense; includes case numbers.



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Bird Watch in Your Yard: North Shoal Creek Home to Many Species

Nestled in the trees and treading quietly near our feet are the creatures of North Shoal Creek—a parade of birds, squirrels, possums, raccoons, even an occasional fox. Cardinals, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, mockingbirds, blue jays, finches, and more species can be seen.

Although they leave signatures on our cars and patios, birds also treat us to daily concerts, including dove cooing. And they contribute to our ecosystem, for example pollination.

Nest architect

From spring to late summer, a parade of feathered babies come to life. Species nest-making styles vary. Finches use everything from plastic bits to clothing tags, while white-winged doves stack loose twigs.

Have you ever seen a baby bird? For the first few days, they look like small Cornish hens crossed with miniature dinosaurs, topped with a bit of fuzz. With their cartoonish eyes closed they open their beaks hungrily, waiting for their next meal.

What do I do if I find a baby bird?

Contrary to popular belief, you can touch a nestling to put it back in its nest, and the mother will feed it. Nestlings have few or no

feathers. Compare that to fledglings—they have most of their feathers and may develop on the ground before their first flight; avoid touching them. Smart dove mothers hide their ground fledglings from predators among plants, although they may fall victim to savvy cats. It's best to contact a local wildlife rescue group if you find an injured bird. Some can be

Bird watch continued on pg. 9

Finch nest with four-egg clutch. Photo by Jerry Diercks.



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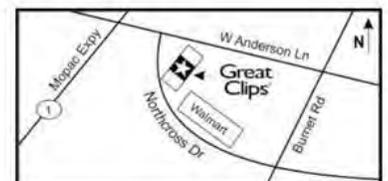
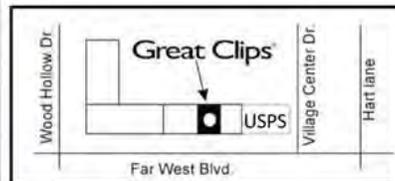
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rehabilitated. The Carolina Wren may make nests in unusual spaces. One year one transformed a wreath on my door into a comfortable nest! Wren nestlings leave the nest flying.

Even grackles and pigeons have their place

While often considered pesky, grackles are intelligent and adaptable. Their young are “expressive” and awkward with long legs. Pigeons’ necks are flecked with magenta and green. They have excellent navigational skills, are fast and high fliers, and carried messages during World Wars I and II.

Sharing our environment

During summer months, birds and other creatures appreciate fresh water for a drink or bath, and enjoy a variety of seeds. After a spring rain or a surprise summer storm, creatures flock to our creek to bathe and get cool sips of water.

Bird and Wildlife Resources

Note: many rescue groups rely on private donations so please consider making a donation.

- www.austinwildliferescue.org or call 512-472-9453.
- www.austinareawildlifererehab.org or call 512-709-6335.
- <http://travisaudubon.org>
- http://web4.audubon.org/bird/at_home/bird_feeding/
Tips on selecting seeds, suet and nectar recipes, and more.

Erin Poole, co-editor

New Website Promotes Collaboration Between NSCNA Members and Other Neighborhoods

MyNNA.com, a national website for neighborhood associations, is now online. NSCNA members Kevin and Mary Jane Wier started working on this project several years ago. MyNNA centralizes most all association activities, providing one site for everything from email, calendars, and committee communications to file sharing, archiving, and polling. It also allows each association to conduct its online business in privacy.

Because NSCNA has joined, all NSCNA members can have an individual account by enrolling in the NSCNA group. The site is free. To sign up, go to www.mynna.com, click the Associations tab, select North Shoal Creek, then click the Signup for this NA button. For security purposes, you’ll need to complete a brief profile because everyone must be verified as NSCNA members. Once you get an email confirming your sign-up, you’re ready to start using MyNNA.com.

I’ve been impressed by its ability to do polling of membership plus its potential as an archive for association documents and procedures. For more information about MyNNA.com, contact the Wiers directly at contact@mynna.com or call Kevin at 512-731-8832.

Sharon Justice, co-editor

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Water-wise Landscape Draws Inspiration From Homeowner's Native Arizona

“Tucson East” on Parkdale

Our current drought and higher water rates have led some neighbors to remove or reduce lawns and replace turf with rocks, also known as permeable hardscape. Donna Eager at 8002 Parkdale Drive has made the transition.

Most of the lawn sprinkler system has been replaced with targeted drip irrigation to each plant and tree in the yard. Plants requiring low to very low water are scattered among the rocks. A small patch of grass remains in the backyard to accommodate pets or children. It provides a nice contrast to the hardscape which is named “Tucson East.”

Donna selected all the plants from “Native and Adapted Landscape Plants,” a free City of Austin booklet available from some local nurseries or the City of Austin. For a searchable or downloadable version of the booklet, go to www.austintexas.gov/departments/grow-green-resource.

Donna Eager and Sharon Justice



Purple spikes of Majestic Sage along with multi-colored Lantana provide contrast with grasses. Photo by Marc Leitman.

Jerusalem Sage and Red Yucca are among the xeriscape plants Donna selected for “Tucson East.” Photo by Marc Leitman.



Save Resources And Dollars— Water Conservation Rebate Programs

Austin Water offers several rebate programs to help residential customers conserve water. Find a complete list at www.waterwiseaustin.org. Click the Conservation tab, then Rebates.

“**Drought Survival Tools for Your Yard**” is a pilot program that includes the following rebates:

- \$30 rebate—Buy/install at least 1.5 cubic yards or 40 cubic feet of compost.
- \$40 rebate—Buy/install at least 3 cubic yards or 80 cubic feet of mulch.
- \$50 rebate—Aerate your entire front and/or back lawn. (Rent the equipment and do it yourself or hire someone.)
- Buy and install the minimum amounts of compost *and* mulch, and you’re eligible for a \$70 rebate.
- Do all three and you’re eligible for a \$180 rebate (which includes a bonus of \$60).

To apply, submit an application along with your receipts and photos of the completed work one of two ways:

- Mail to Austin Water Conservation/PO Box 1088/Austin, Texas.
- Email signed and scanned copies to AWUlandscapeconversion@austintexas.gov.

If you have a turf grass lawn you’re thinking of converting to native plants or permeable hardscape, the application period for a fall **WaterWise Landscape Rebate** runs from June 1 -September 30. Get a \$25 rebate per every 100 square feet of converted grass, up to a maximum \$1,250. For details go to www.austintexas.gov/department/waterwise-landscape-rebate.

Free Water-Wise Resources:

Want a free soil moisture meter or treegrator? Stop by the Water Conservation Office, located at 625 E. 10th St., 6th floor, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Also, digital hose meters and sunlight calculators are available for checkout at all Austin Public Library locations. These are handy for determining how much water you’re using on your yard and how much sunlight an area of your yard gets. Match plants to your yard’s light conditions.

Drought Restrictions

Please don’t forget Austin is in Stage 2 drought restrictions, so most outdoor watering is limited to certain hours one day a week. However, drip irrigation is exempt from the schedule due to its increased efficiency.

For details, go to www.austintexas.gov/department/stage-2-watering-restrictions.

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Interested in Joining NSCNA?

Dues are only \$15.00 per household per calendar year.

Here are three ways to join:

- ⇒ Visit www.nscna.org and pay with Paypal (\$16.00, including \$1.00 processing fee)
- ⇒ Mail your completed form and check for \$15.00 to NSCNA, P.O. Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766.
- ⇒ Join at any of our general membership meetings or sign up at our membership table at the upcoming Fourth of July celebration.

Hope we'll be hearing from you soon!



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