THE NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

Apublication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Fall 1997

President's Corner



I hope you all had a great summer. As you can see, our neighborhood is changing as the Lucas tract development becomes a reality.

School is starting, and I hope everything soon gets back to what parents call "normal."

During the summer the NSCNA dealt with several issues affecting the neighborhood.

- The zoning committee met to discuss the Whit Hanks tract at Steck Avenue and Burnet Road. Committee members will bring a report to our next meeting.
- Randy Ross, general manager of Town North Imports, invited the neighborhood to a meeting on July 9 to discuss his interest in the Lucas tract and to better the communication and relationship between Town North and our neighborhood.
- The by-laws committee attempted to meet, but scheduling during the summer proved impossible. Now that summer is over and activities are slowing down, we will try again and hope to have something to report in the near future.
- I am forming a nominating committee, which will handle nominations for the upcoming NSCNA elections.

We will discuss these and many other issues at upcoming meetings. I hope to see you there.

Margo Courreges NSCNA President

Pillow Grads to Continue Attending Burnet Middle School for Now

Students who graduated from Pillow Elementary's fifth grade in May are continuing at Burnet Middle School for sixth grade this fall. No action has yet been taken on a proposal requesting that Pillow students "track" to Murchison Middle School, in anticipation of their move to Anderson High School for ninth through twelfth grades.

The proposal, originating with and circulated for signatures by the Pillow PTA last spring, outlined the reasons why many in the Pillow community believe our children should attend Murchison. The proposal was delivered with more than 150 signatures, but there has not yet been a response.

According to Jeri Gamble, who has a son at Anderson, and whose younger son, Justin, graduated from Pillow last spring, Pillow students have not always attended Burnet exclusively. In the past, some students went to Burnet and then on to Lanier High School, while others tracked to Murchison and then to Anderson High.

After the opening of Davis Elementary in 1992 and the loss of the Balcones Woods students who, prior to Davis's opening, had attended Pillow, an effort was made to keep the remaining Pillow community together through middle and high school. When the PTA was told that there was no room at Murchison (which is what we are being told today as well),

See Pillow, page 2

Pillow Grads to Continue At Burnet

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it was decided that Pillow students would track to Burnet and then back to Anderson High. With each passing year, we realize that this is a disservice to our children.

The "vertical team" to which Pillow belongs includes Murchison and Anderson. Our teachers plan curricula and methods of testing together with teachers from this middle school and high school. To remove our students for the crucial sixth through eighth grade years sets them up for difficulty once they reach high school.

In the PTA's first meeting to discuss this issue on April 15, we felt encouraged to write a proposal, though we were not promised any results. When a copy of the proposal was shown to AISD board member Liz Hartman, she expressed concern that this was an issue that would require board approval. She later explained that the school district is in the very initial stages of redistricting discussions. The board will proceed deliberately and will obtain as much information as needed before they even begin talking about adopting a process for boundary assignment. The whole procedure may take until 1999 or 2000. Sounds far away, but it isn't!

Another factor to consider with a middle school move is cost. Since Murchison is more than two miles from Pillow, buses would be required for the North Shoal Creek neighborhood, at a cost of anywhere between \$12,500 and \$45,000. (The children who live in the Parmer Lane and Metric Boulevard area already ride buses to Burnet.)

An educated guess tells us that no major changes in school tracking patterns will likely take place in the next year or two if AISD is already contemplating redistricting. Nevertheless, we will continue to request that our children attend Murchison.

Huddie Murray Pillow PTA President



Congratulations to our latest Yard of the Month winners. June's winner was Jean Mengers of 3004 Vinewood Cove. July's winners were Lee and Margaret Schuenemann of 3112 Stanwood Drive. August's winner was Betty Carpenter of 3114 Crosscreek Drive.

We welcome nominations for Yard of the Month. Let us know whose yard tickles your fancy. Nominations for October are due September 15, November's are due October 15, and December's are due November 15. Call Tina Huckabee at 453-6953.

In December, we'd also like to hear which yards have the best holiday light displays. The winners will be mentioned in the spring newsletter.



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City Jump-Starts Speed Hump Program

Construction of new speed humps was temporarily suspended by the city early last summer pending an evaluation of the effectiveness and cost efficiency of strict speed limit enforcement. In July, however, the speed hump program was reinstated as part of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (NTCP). The NTCP plans to move ahead with the installation of speed humps on pre-approved streets, none of which are in our neighborhood.

City staff are also developing a program to approve additional NTCP devices. According to an outline of the program, city approval of a new speed hump would require 67–70% of residents on a particular street to sign a petition requesting an NTCP device. Once the signatures were verified, city staff would determine which surrounding streets would be affected by the speed hump. The proposal would then be submitted to all residents in the area, along with ballots, and 51% of all ballots returned would have to approve construction of the speed hump.

The cost of the NTCP program may or may not be paid by the city. City staff say that a speed hump costs between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Dallas Maham NSCNA Vice President

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PEGGY LITTLE & S JB GOODWIN REALTORS

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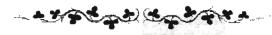
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Traffic Headaches at Lucas Tract

Construction is well underway on the Lucas tract (north of Crosscreek Dr., between Melshire and Dawnridge). Robert Ohler, the developer, has said that the current phase of construction — which includes streets, sewers, utilities, and the drainage pond—should be completed by August 31. The home builder will be David Weekley Homes.

In spite of an agreement between the NSCNA and Mr. Ohler to route all construction traffic to and from the site via Highway 183, traffic has been moving through our neighborhood streets. According to Mr. Ohler, this is because one of the city's environmental regulations prohibits traffic from crossing an undeveloped tract to access a work site.

Dallas Maham



Zoning Committee Chairman

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John Hopkins

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Town North Offers to Fund Speed Humps

Wooing residents of the neighborhood with soft drinks and sandwiches at a meeting he called "to better the communication and relationship between Town North Imports and the NSCNA," general manager Randy Ross acknowledged the traffic problems neighbors have experienced with the car dealership.

Located at Research Blvd. and McCann, the car dealership has often been the source of speeders test-driving on our neighborhood streets, particularly on Primrose, Thrushwood, Melshire, and Donna Gail. At the meeting with the NSCNA on July 9, Mr. Ross said that he has repeatedly told his salespeople and managers not to use our streets; beyond that, he said, he doesn't know what else he can do.

Several residents spoke up to express their frustration with the continuing problem of speeders, caused in part by the dealership. Mr. Ross replied that he would be willing to fund an unspecified number of speed humps and Children At Play signs for our neighborhood to reduce the speeding.

He also spoke of his interest in expanding the dealership onto part of the Lucas tract along Research Blvd. However, zoning restrictions agreed upon by the NSCNA and developer Robert Ohler preclude additional auto sales. Mr. Ross hinted that perhaps the NSCNA would consider removing that restriction, explaining that his business may expand up if it cannot go out (the dealership, according to Mr. Ross, is zoned to allow up to four stories).

After the meeting many residents seemed pleased with the offer of speed humps. There was speculation, though, that the offer may have been more than just a show of goodwill, considering Mr. Ross's interest in the Lucas tract.

Pam Penick

Steering Committee Member

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.

	,				
			3-2	2603 Steck Ave.	89,900
Homes Currently Listed for Sale:			4-2	8115 Parkdale Dr.	102,000
BD—BA	$\underline{\text{Address}}$	<u>Price (\$)</u>	3—2	8012 Logwood-Dr.	118,000
3—1.5	8200 Briarwood Ln.	89,500	3—2	8406 Daleview Dr.	105,000
3—2	8307 Stillwood Ln.	99,500	3-2	8203 Millway Dr.	112,000
4-2	8001 Stillwood Ln.	98,950	3—2	3104 Crosscreek Dr.	112,500
4—2	8002 Stillwood Ln.	134,000	3—2	8506 Flagstone Dr.	112,500
4—2	8400 Rockwood Ln.	119,800	4—2	2709 Benbrook Dr.	137,000
4—2	8303 Briarwood Ln.	124,950	32	8205 Briarwood Ln.	87,100
3—2	8602 Millway Dr.	109,900	3—1	8009 Briarwood Ln.	80,000
3—2	8709 Donna Gail Dr.	114,900	3—2	8608 Stillwood Ln.	118,000
			43	8311 Rockwood Ln.	110,000
Homes Under Contract:			3—1	8015 Rockwood Ln.	88,900
BD—BA	$\underline{ ext{Address}}$	Price (\$)	3—2	3006 Firwood Dr.	92,000
3—2	8613 Stillwood Ln.	109,900	42	2708 Clarkdale Dr.	120,750
			4—2	2705 Kerrybrook Ln.	127,900

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5—2

3-2

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Minutes of the May 19, 1997, NSCNA Meeting

The special meeting of the NSCNA was called to order by president Margo Courreges. The meeting was then turned over to zoning committee chairman Dallas Maham, who announced that the purpose was to address the zoning of a tract of land on Steck Avenue, near the corner of Steck and Burnet Road. Current zoning of the tract is MF3.

The developer, Whit Hanks, was present to request the association's approval of a zoning change to GR-CO (general retail—commercial). He was accompanied by his lawyer, who presented an artistic rendering of the retail center Mr. Hanks has in mind. The parcel of retail property would allow for approximately 17,000 square feet of retail development (a small shopping center).

After much discussion about the proposed development, John Migl moved that the neighborhood association recommend a zoning change for the property with a conditional overlay (making development subject to specific restrictions) to be decided upon by the zoning committee in conjunction with individuals who reside near the property. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Claudell Migl

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: September 1997 (exact date to

be announced on signs around

the neighborhood)

TIME: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Pillow Elementary

School Cafeteria

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Yard of the Month

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