

THE NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Winter 1997

President's Corner



October started the tree planting season, and with a lot of our ash trees beginning to die, we need to think about planting new trees.

Planting a tree takes a lot of thought, but you can find the right tree for any spot in your yard, whether you want a tall, medium, or small tree. Just remember to select the right-size tree, so that the branches will not grow into the power lines (if the lines are above-ground on your street).

Trees increase our home values, lower our utility bills, and make our neighborhood more appealing to everyone. Remember, a new tree will give all of us many years of pleasure.

Margo Courreges
NSCNA President

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: January 26, 1998
TIME: 6:30-8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Pillow Elementary
School Cafeteria
AGENDA: Elections of NSCNA officers.
Come and cast your vote!

The Grapevine

We want you!

Election Day is just around the corner. Do your part to keep the NSCNA strong and active by volunteering to serve in office for a year.

The nominating committee needs your nominations for officers by December 14. The offices are president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The committee also needs nominations for steering committee members. Give your nominations to anyone on the committee:

Larry Gorman: 467-2282

Joanne McFerren: 451-2752

Lucille Pawlak: 458-2017

Pat Sullivan: 458-4480

Carol Tschoerner: 467-7531

Elections will be held on January 26, 1998, during the next NSCNA meeting.

By-Laws Committee Proposes Change:

The by-laws committee is recommending a change to By-Laws Article VII that would reduce the number of members required to make up the steering committee from 11 (including the 4 officers) to 7 (including the 4 officers).

A Pillow PTA Announcement:

Save your General Mills box tops for education! Collect box tops from General Mills cereals, snack foods (like fruit roll-ups), and Yoplait yogurt packs and drop them off at Pillow Elementary School between now and the end of March. The money raised will go directly to Pillow. If you have any questions, call PTA president Huddie Murray at 835-1636.

Stripling Blake Quieter After Complaint

Plagued by blaring loudspeakers by day and by crashing lumber and beeping loaders by night, many residents on Millway Drive and Daleview Drive, including myself, were, until recently, so bothered by the noise from Stripling Blake's lumber yard that we couldn't open our windows in cool weather. So in mid-September I sent a complaint letter to Mr. Doug Davidson, location manager at Stripling Blake. The letter, which I had circulated among neighbors and attendees of the September 15 NSCNA meeting, was signed by about two dozen residents of the neighborhood. Mr. Davidson responded promptly and agreed to take steps to reduce the noise generated by the lumber yard.

He explained that Stripling Blake had recently purchased radio phones for its key yard operation employees, which he expected to reduce the number of pages over the loudspeakers. He also said that he asked his employees to page "only when absolutely necessary," and he lowered the volume on the loudspeakers. In a follow-up letter, he informed me that he had disconnected the main speaker closest to Shoal Creek Boulevard and that the remaining speakers that had faced east were now turned to the west.

He also explained that the lumber yard no longer operates all night, closing by 11 p.m. He couldn't say whether this schedule is permanent, but for now it has significantly reduced the noise problem late at night.

In response to my suggestion that Stripling Blake further diminish its noise levels by extending its sound-buffering fence across the length of the lumber yard, Mr. Davidson replied that doing so would create visibility problems for cars traveling south on Shoal Creek and for trucks exiting the lumber yard. But he promised that he would "certainly look at other alternatives for this stretch of property if the noise level continues to present a problem."

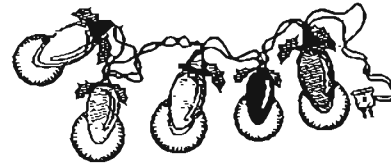
Pam Penick

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to our latest Yard of the Month winners. September's winners were Mark and Phyllis Milstead of 8705 Stillwood Lane. October's winners were Kim and Scott Taylor of 8000 Stillwood Lane. November's winners were Joe and Sharon Cayton of 8704 Millway Drive.

We welcome nominations for Yard of the Month. Nominations for January are due December 15, February's are due January 15, and March's are due February 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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Coming Soon . . . New Construction

A Zoning Committee Report

Louis Shanks Furniture: At the September 27 zoning committee meeting, Amor Forwood, president of Louis Shanks, presented his company's plan to more than double the store's current display space. By extending the display space over the parking garage, Louis Shanks intends to expand without increasing the impervious cover (e.g., pavement), and it will comply with all city codes regarding on-site parking.

In response to concerns raised by committee members, Mr. Forwood promised to limit construction traffic to Anderson Lane. The committee recommends supporting Louis Shanks's request for a zoning variance.

Lucas Tract: The zoning committee is currently negotiating with developer Robert Ohler and with Randy Ross, general manager of Town North Imports. They have requested that the NSCNA allow an expansion of the dealership to the adjacent undeveloped portion of the Lucas tract facing Highway 183.

Anderson Lane: Construction is pending on Anderson Lane between MoPac and Brockman Street. The road will be reinforced and resurfaced, sidewalks and curb ramps will be installed, and drainage will be improved. Long portions of Anderson Lane will be closed to traffic to accomplish this work. In addition, there will be lane closures on intersecting streets to facilitate the movement of traffic through the construction zone. Construction is expected to begin March 1, 1998, and end June 30, 1998.

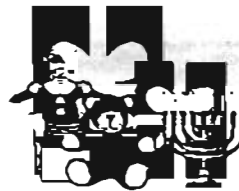
Dallas Maham
Zoning Committee Chairman

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Neighborhood Garage Sale, Part 2?

Due to a lack of interest, there will not be a neighborhood garage sale this winter. But if you are interested in putting on a spring sale, call organizer Felicia Morrison at 451-2552. Let's do some spring cleaning!

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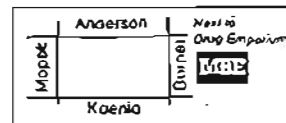
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Sat. 9:00 AM-5:00 PM



ADVERTISE WITH US

Distribution: Quarterly; approximately 883 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.



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Peggy



Traffic Planners Talk About Speed Humps: Minutes of the September 15, 1997, NSCNA Meeting

Presiding: Dallas Maham, Vice President

Treasurer's Report: Harold Anderson, Treasurer. Membership now includes 71 households, 30 of which are new members for 1997. Current balance in the association's account is \$1,585.

Secretary's Report: Lynda Oakes, Secretary. Minutes of the May 5, 1997, meeting were presented in the Summer 1997 issue of the NSC Newsletter.

Pam Penick announced that a petition was being circulated by the residents in the Daleview Drive area regarding the noise generated by Stripling Blake during the night. Attendees were given an opportunity to sign the petition at the end of the meeting.

Guest speakers Joan Hudson and Rafael Cruz, engineers from the city transportation department, presented the city's newly adopted Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. This program has been under evaluation throughout the city since the speed hump program was placed on hold because of concerns about slowing emergency vehicles and about the effects of diverting traffic.

A focus group was formed in June 1997 to review "calming devices," which are intended to slow down traffic rather than divert it. Representatives from EMS, the fire department, City Planning, and neighborhood organizations are participating in the review.

Ms. Hudson and Mr. Cruz showed slides and passed out printed material illustrating the calming devices, which include landscaped traffic circles, curb extenders, diagonal dividers, and traffic diverters. A question-and-answer period followed the presentation.

Q: Are these devices being planned according to the shape of the affected neighborhood?

A: Yes, patterns and flows of adjacent streets are being studied, boundaries and arteries identified.

Q: What is the cost of these devices?

A: Speed humps are the cheapest, but are not attractive. The cost of landscaping must be considered in traffic circles and curb extensions.

Q: The presence of parked cars on many streets seems to preclude the use of anything but speed humps. How can other devices help such areas?

A: Each street is unique, and it will take a combination of several types of solutions.

Q: What are the criteria for funding?

A: A potential area must meet criteria for throughput and the speed of passing cars. The current effort is to develop a ranking criteria and to determine how much funding will be available.

Q: In 1994 there was a petition for speed humps on Thrushwood and Primrose. The study was not comprehensive enough, and the area was not considered

eligible to receive city funding. What kind of feedback will there be for the current process?

A: The process must be ongoing and involve community cooperation. The city has received approximately 900 petitions for speed humps, and many streets do not meet the minimum criteria.

Q: How can we get accidents recorded? Many accidents have occurred which have not been recorded.

A: Only accidents that are recorded by the police department are available for consideration for speed hump planning. They must show up in the city computer. Accidents stay on the computer for 3 years.

Q: What about the use of signs and traffic restrictions during certain hours?

A: These methods have been used in the past but are ineffective and very hard to enforce.

Q: Can an individual pay for a speed hump in front of his or her home?

A: Such an installation would have to meet the city's minimum requirement for speed hump installation.

Q: Why doesn't the city just pay for speed humps now?

A: Because of a lack of funding. The original funding for the trial speed humps last year was \$100,000. All of the cities we have studied as examples have had considerably more to spend. Portland had a million dollars in funding.

Q: What about private funding from local businesses?

A: Such requests must still meet the criteria: traffic traveling at 30 mph, signatures from 67% of the residents, and evaluation by the city.

Q: How can we get the process started for our streets?

A: Petitions can be circulated: 67% of the residents on the affected street must sign the petition.

End of the question-and-answer session.

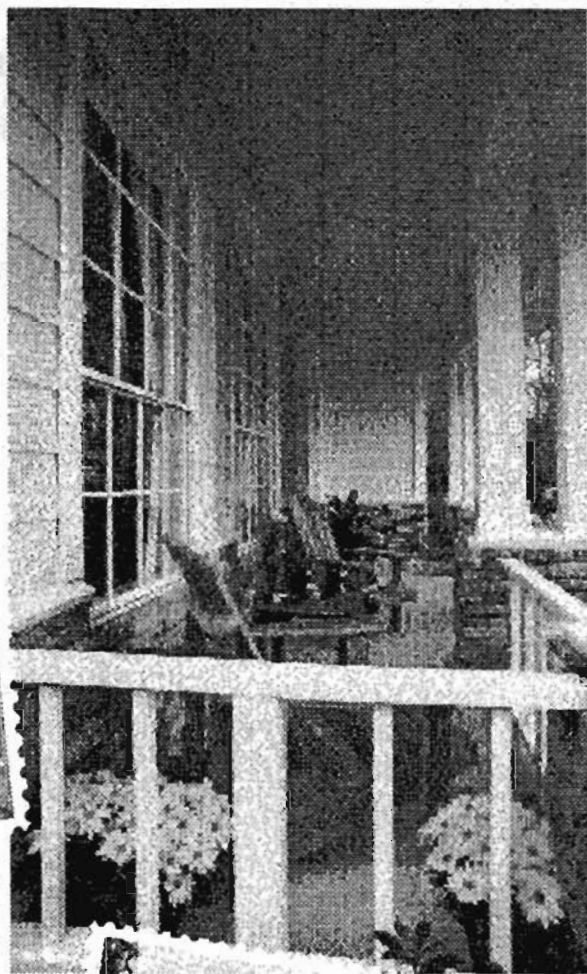
[Secretary's note: A petition form for speed humps is printed on the reverse side of this page. Residents may circulate a petition for their immediate streets. The city requirement is that 67% of the houses on each target street must sign. Signed petitions should be given to Lynda Oakes (call me at 467-7781), who will forward them to the city transportation department.]

Old Business: The request for a sign variance in excess of the standard height has been withdrawn by the requesting party. Residents on Ashdale would have been affected by the change.

By-Laws Committee: Three people have agreed to serve on the By-Laws Committee. They are Donna Eagle, Phyllis Milstead, and John Migl. They will have an organizational meeting within the next 2 weeks and will provide a short review at the next meeting.

Lynda Oakes
Secretary

Remember the neighborhood where you grew up - where kids played hide-n-seek on balmy summer nights while neighbors visited one another on their front porches? Now you can relive those special memories in The Cottages, the newest neighborhood to open in North Shoal Creek Estates.



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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 (\$)
3—2	8704 Dawnridge Cir.	128,000
3—2	8307 Stillwood Ln.	94,500
3—2	8009 Rockwood Ln.	109,900

Homes Under Contract:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
3—2	3200 Crosscreek Dr.	109,500
3—2	8411 Millway Dr.	124,900
3—2	8614 Millway Dr.	124,900
3—2	8709 Donna Gail Dr.	114,900

Homes Sold, Aug. 2—Oct. 28, 1997:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
4—2	8101 Parkdale Dr.	111,500
3—2	8602 Millway Dr.	106,000
4—2	8303 Briarwood Ln.	124,500
4—2	8001 Stillwood Ln.	99,000
3—2	8613 Stillwood Ln.	105,000
5—2	8403 Briarwood Ln.	118,000
3—2	8708 Melshire Dr.	153,500



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Minutes of the November 17, 1997, NSCNA Meeting

Presiding: Dallas Maham, Vice President

Treasurer's Report: Harold Anderson, Treasurer. Current balance in the account is \$1,931.24.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the September 15 meeting were not read because they appear in this issue of the *NSC Newsletter*.

Tomas Rodriques presented a draft proposal for allowing traffic around Pillow Elementary. It includes an avenue of trees planted down the middle of Crosscreek and Rockwood to divert and slow traffic, enhancing the safety of children and residents. Tomas motioned that the zoning committee look into his traffic plan. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dallas Maham announced that Town North Imports wants to expand onto the Lucas tract. Town North and developer Robert Ohler have offered the NSCNA \$10,000 to be used toward traffic calming devices if the association will accept the removal of zoning prohibitions against automotive businesses on the Lucas tract. They have also offered the services of attorney Richard Suttle to help the neighborhood obtain traffic calming devices, and they proposed measures to keep Town North employees from test driving cars through our streets.

Dallas said that Town North was still test driving on Melshire, despite promises to stop. He suggested, too, that \$10,000 wouldn't go very far toward buying speed humps at \$2,400 a hump (the city's estimated price). On the other hand, he allowed, the city might give priority to a neighborhood that could afford to pay for some speed humps, and Mr. Suttle has a lot of contacts and might be able to help us get approved for speed humps.

Much discussion followed. It was pointed out that we'd still have to get city permission to install speed humps. Margo Courreges said that it's difficult to register a complaint with Town North about the test driving because there's no way to identify the cars or the salespeople. Developer Robert Ohler answered some questions and pointed out that he recently installed 2 speed humps in

the new housing development on the Lucas tract, which he was able to do before turning the streets over to the city. The humps cost him only \$1,700 each.

Dallas motioned that the Town North proposal go back to the zoning committee for further discussion. The motion was seconded and passed.

The janitor at Pillow Elementary has asked residents either to pick up after their dogs or not walk them in the areas around the school that get a lot of foot traffic from students.

Phyllis Milstead gave a report on the by-laws committee. She explained that it has been hard to get 11 members together for the steering committee meetings. Thus the by-laws committee recommends a change to the by-laws, reducing the steering committee from 11 to 7 people, including the 4 officers. This proposal will be up for vote at the January 26 meeting.

It was noted and appreciated that someone had mowed the grassy area at the Daleview/Steck entrance to the neighborhood.

Dallas handed out the city's petition form for speed humps. Residents who want a speed hump on their street are encouraged to fill a petition with 67% of their neighbors' signatures. [See page 6 of this newsletter for a sample petition.]

Pam Penick
Acting Secretary



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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

Steering Committee

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

By-Laws Committee

Phyllis Milstead: 459-6014
 Donna Eagle
 John Migl

Zoning Committee

Dallas Maham: 452-3673
 Randy Alexis Tomas Rodriques
 Chuck Crane Pat Sullivan
 John Migl

Newsletter

Editor- Pam Penick: 302-3467
 Production- David Penick

Yard of the Month Committee

Tina Huckabee: 453-6953
 David and Shelley Boucher
 Pam Penick

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