
The North Shoal Creek Newsletter

Issue 12

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Spring 1999

President's Corner

It looks like we're off to another great year in North Shoal Creek! We have already seen our neighborhood pull together over the proposed AISD school boundary change from Anderson to Lanier High. It's always exciting to see how our neighborhood can effect change. Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to keep our kids in Anderson. Also, a big thank-you to the AISD school board for listening to the majority voice of our neighborhood.

We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood with so many positive qualities. Our central location is convenient to shopping, hospitals, schools, churches, and major traffic arteries. We are also lucky enough to have neighbors who take pride in the appearance of their homes and yards. Not only does this allow us to enjoy a good quality of life, but it also shows up in our ballooning property values. If you haven't noticed, central Austin has become a very desirable place to live. Properties in neighborhoods such as Tarrytown, Allandale, and Crestview are selling at all-time highs. A realtor recently told me that our neighborhood is the next central Austin area waiting to be discovered.

To make our neighborhood an even better place to live, I believe the NSCNA should focus on the following issues this year:

Traffic. Several areas in our neighborhood are badly affected by outside traffic patterns. We need to continue pushing the City of Austin

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Neighborhood Rallies to Keep Anderson High

Protesting a proposed AISD boundary plan that would have sent neighborhood high school students to Lanier instead of Anderson, residents of North Shoal Creek banded together with the Pillow Elementary PTA to convince school officials to return the neighborhood to Anderson High. Their efforts were rewarded on February 25, when the school board formally voted to readjust the boundary plan for our neighborhood, allowing Pillow students to remain at Anderson.

Many people in the neighborhood, even those without children in the AISD school system, were alarmed by the change to Lanier, and some were convinced that it would lower property values. The most vocal objections, however, were based on considerations of distance, tradition, and diversity. Dozens of people spoke at the Town Hall meeting held at Anderson High on February 2, pointing out that Lanier is farther away from our neighborhood and more difficult to reach than Anderson; that our neighborhood has attended Anderson for more than 20 years, and many parents who graduated from Anderson bought homes in North Shoal Creek so that their children could also attend; and that removing Pillow, one of the more economically and racially diverse schools in NW Austin, from Anderson would decrease diversity at Anderson, which is predominantly white. Moreover, protesters argued, AISD's own numbers showed that, under the new plan, Anderson would be under-enrolled while Lanier would be overcapacity.

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President's Corner

Continued from page 1

for help in traffic control measures. We also need people to help with the traffic committee on these problems.

Crime. We need to re-institute the Crime Watch program in our neighborhood with education and new signs.

Zoning. We should continue to monitor all zoning requests for businesses surrounding our neighborhood. We do have a say in what types of businesses operate in our area.

Over the years our neighborhood association has benefited everyone who lives here. It can continue to help ensure a good quality of life, but we need your help to make that happen. Please contact me if you can spare a little time to serve on any of our committees.

At our next neighborhood meeting we will meet our new Austin Police Department representative, Officer Jim Riley, and discuss ways to implement a Neighborhood Watch program. I look forward to seeing you then.

Chuck Crane
NSCNA President

Neighborhood Rallies to Keep Anderson High

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The strong showing at the Town Hall meeting, coupled with a letter-writing and phone-call campaign to school board members and the display throughout the neighborhood of numerous signs reading "Keep Our Kids In Anderson," helped convince the board to undo the change. Pam Penick

Yard of the Month



Congratulations to our latest Yard of the Month winners, and thanks for making our neighborhood a more beautiful place to live.

September: Gerald and Kimberly Costello and family of 8406 Daleview Drive

October: Craig and Melissa Russell of 8608 Millway Drive

November: Terre Price and Marshall Grimes of 8808 Little Laura Drive

December: Harold and Bernice Anderson of 2802 Benbrook Drive

January: Gary and Dot Davis of 8210 Rockwood Lane

February: Janis and Alton Blackburn of 7930 Rockwood Lane

March: Carl & Eunice Erickson of 8700 Little Laura Drive

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

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Distribution: Quarterly; approximately 950 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.

The Stats Are In!

Here are the 1998 Austin Multiple Listing Statistics for the North Shoal Creek Area.

	1998	vs.	1997
• Number of homes sold	24		37
• Avg. price per sq. ft.	\$78.62		\$74.23
• Avg. days on the market	24		45
• Highest resale price	\$141,500		\$153,500
• Lowest resale price	\$79,500		\$80,000

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

So far this year (Jan. 1 - Feb. 28) we have had 5 homes close at an average of \$82.23 per sq. ft., with an average of only 14 days on the market.

Inventory in the Austin area is at a 4 year low!



REMEMBER To Keep Your Foundation Watered In Drought Conditions!

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The Grapevine

New Playscapes for Pillow Delayed Again

For the second time since last fall, the replacement of Pillow's aging playground equipment has been delayed. Frank Hodges, of the Austin Parks and Recreation Dept., attributes the latest delay to a fire at the factory that was to have supplied the playground equipment. He estimates that construction will start in late April or May and will be completed in approximately 60 days.

Dumpster Noise in the Wee Hours

Are you being awakened by dumpster noise or parking lot vacuum cleaners between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.? Call Ms. Vera Bruce, City of Austin Noise Ordinance En-

forcement, at 499-1955. Or fax your complaint to her at 499-1999. Chuck Crane says she's a nice lady who gets results.

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.



"Call Before You Dig" Is the Law

State law now requires that, prior to digging, a homeowner or contractor must give utilities owners a minimum of 48 hours notice, excluding Saturday and Sunday. A state-wide toll-free number is available, and your call will notify all utilities that provide electricity, gas, telephone, or cable television that digging is to take place. The phone number is **1-800-545-6005**.

It will then be the utility owner's responsibility to locate all buried lines in the area specified by the excavator.

From At Your Doorstep,
City of Austin Newsletter

Free Map Promotes Bicycling in Austin

The City of Austin is offering the Austin Bicycle Map free to the public to encourage residents to ride bicycles as a form of transportation. The map rates bicycle routes on the ease or difficulty of bicycling on certain streets. People who aren't comfortable riding in heavy traffic can use the ratings to locate routes that utilize neighborhood streets to get to most parts of the city.

The map includes a number of safety tips, including riding tips for beginners and how to use signal detector loops at intersections. State and city rules for bicycling also are included.

The map is available at bicycle shops and at the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program office at 505 Barton Springs Road, Eighth Floor in One Texas Center. For more information, call 499-7240.

From At Your Doorstep

The NSC Newsletter


Use Your Head: Wear a Bicycle Helmet

I took a spill a few months ago while riding a bicycle and met the pavement up close and personal. I bruised a shoulder, cracked some ribs, and felt my head bounce off the pavement.

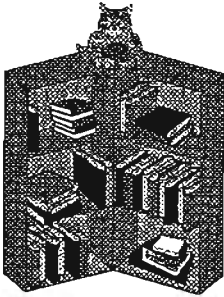
Fortunately, however, I was wearing a properly fitting helmet. The helmet cracked upon impact, but I escaped without even a headache. If not for the helmet, I'm sure I would have suffered a concussion, at the least. It could have been much worse.

Some riders think it's not cool to wear a helmet. The reality is that not wearing a helmet is a very dumb move. Don't bruise your head; use it. Wear a helmet and make sure it fits.

Dallas Maham

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North Village Library's Future Uncertain

Last November citizens approved Proposition 4 on the bond ballot, which included replacing North Village Library (which has been a rental unit and subject to closure for 27 years) with a permanent, city-owned building. That's the good news.

Unfortunately for the neighborhoods that use this library, the city manager recently postponed construction of the new library until at least 2006. In fact, the city manager, while moving forward with land purchases for other libraries, recommended delaying the purchase of land for North Village.

North Village patrons protested his decision, arguing that 27 years has been long enough to wait for permanent library service. City council members Gus Garcia, Jackie Goodman, Beverly Griffith, Willie Lewis, and

Bill Spelman agreed. Accordingly, the city council has directed the city manager to start looking now for a permanent location.

However, the city manager has a backup plan. He is recommending that, even if land is purchased, the North Village Library not be built until 2006 or later. This sounds crazy until you realize that the city hasn't yet broken ground on the Windsor Village Library rental replacement, which the voters approved in 1992, seven years ago.

It may take a decade to get North Village built, if it's built at all, unless its supporters rally now and convince the city council to approve funding this summer for the design work to be done in the coming year. If you would like to help out, contact Chip Harris at 458-2488.

Chip Harris
President, Crestview Neighborhood Assoc.

**THANK YOU,
NORTH SHOAL CREEK,
FOR RALLYING TO
KEEP OUR KIDS IN ANDERSON!**

Thanks also to the Pillow PTA and to the AISD School Board



Working together, we made a difference.

Paid for by the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Officers Elected; NSCNA Opposes School Boundary Change

Minutes of the January 28, 1999,
NSCNA Annual Meeting

Outgoing president Dallas Maham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked officers Chuck Crane and Steven Weintraub to give brief reports, which they did. Dallas said there were no pending or proposed zoning changes that would affect our neighborhood. John Migl, head of the nominating committee, presented the candidates for the 1999 election of officers. Elections were then held for the new officers, all of whom were running unopposed.

The membership voted to elect the following officers:

President: Chuck Crane

Vice President: Mark Palitza

Secretary: Jo McFerren

Treasurer: Steven Weintraub

Board of Directors (formerly known as Steering Committee):

Margo Courreges Pam Penick

Donna Eagar Beverly Schlegel

Margaret Flaniken Monte Simpson

Felicia Morrison

The new officers were introduced.

Dallas announced that AISD had redrawn the high school attendance boundaries for our neighborhood, resulting in a change from Anderson High to Lanier High.

He introduced Susan Johnson and Julia Menegay, of the Pillow Elementary PTA, who stated that the PTA opposed the change from Anderson to Lanier. They explained why and asked people to sign their petition against the change. Phyllis Milstead and Steven Weintraub, interested members of the NSCNA, also spoke on this issue.

After a general discussion, Mark Palitza motioned that the NSCNA officially oppose the boundary change. The motion was seconded by numerous members. The membership voted, and, by an overwhelming majority, the motion passed.

The membership also voted to reimburse Steven Weintraub for \$200 he had spent on yard signs (and given away throughout the neighborhood) opposing the change.

New president Chuck Crane then asked members to become involved in the neighborhood by volunteering to serve on a committee. A brief discussion about traffic problems and noise pollution followed.

Chuck called for a meeting of the board of directors after the general meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Phyllis Milstead
Outgoing Secretary

Join the Neighborhood Association Today!

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: _____

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Dues may be paid in the middle of the year, but they will be due again the following January.

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North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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Vice President - Mark Palitza: 459-1036
Secretary - Jo McFerren: 451-2752
Treasurer - Steven Weintraub: 453-6953

Board of Directors

Margo Courreges: 454-6654
Donna Eagar: 467-9046
Margaret Flaniken: 459-5522
Felicia Morrison: 451-2552
Pam Perick: 302-3467
Beverly Schlegel: 419-1053
Montie J. Simpson: 459-0595

Committee Chairpersons

By-Laws - John Migl: 452-3482
Newsletter - Pam Perick: 302-3467
Traffic - Donna Eagar: 467-9046

Yard of the Month - Tina Huckabee: 453-6953
Zoning - Dallas Maham: 452-3673

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