
The North Shoal Creek Newsletter

www.main.org/nscna

Issue 14

A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Winter 1999

President's Corner

As the year ends, I want to take this occasion to list some of the accomplishments our neighborhood achieved in 1999. We preserved the school boundaries that allow our kids to attend Anderson High School. We worked to prevent an undesirable retail establishment, The Gas Pipe, from opening near our middle school. We improved our neighborhood's communications with the Austin Police Department. We also continued to deal with the city planning department and its mind-numbing turtle's pace in trying to control the traffic problems in our neighborhood.

Because of the demands of my business, I will not be able to continue as president of the association for the year 2000. It's been very enjoyable working with the NSCNA these past years, and I know there are others who will step up and give a little more of their time to our association's efforts next year. Thank you for letting me serve.

The most important issue affecting our neighborhood continues to be the traffic problems in certain areas. Following are my ideas about what should be done to alleviate the problems.

1. Close McCann at Thrushwood Drive. Although doing so would cause some inconvenience for us all, closing this access to our neighborhood would prevent hundreds of automobiles from cutting through our streets every day. The bingo hall alone empties 150 cars out of its parking lot every two hours in the after-

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Stillwood Residents Form Neighborhood Watch

A burglary was recently attempted on my street. I even saw the person who broke into my neighbors' home, although I didn't realize he was a burglar at the time. Thankfully, no one was hurt nor was anything stolen, but the experience made me realize how important it is to be aware of what's happening on my street.

Several of my neighbors and I decided to organize a neighborhood watch, so I called Officer Jim Riley, North Shoal Creek's police representative, to discuss our concerns. Jim is a very open, likable, and easygoing person. He is interested in helping our neighborhood maintain and improve its quality of life, and he assists residents who want to form neighborhood watches on their streets. A neighborhood watch is nothing more formal than neighbors getting to know each other in a setting where a police officer can present information on crime and safety.

It is fairly easy to set up a neighborhood watch. The person who organizes the watch contacts

See Stillwood Residents, page 4

NEXT NSCNA MEETING

DATE: TBA, January 2000
TIME: 6:30–8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Pillow Elementary
AGENDA: NSCNA Elections

President's Corner

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noon, not to mention the cut-through traffic from Highway 183 at rush hour. Most of the homeowners in this area whom I have spoken with support this idea.

2. Enforce "No Through Trucks" on Rockwood Lane, from Burnet Road to Anderson Lane. Enforce a 30-mph speed limit on Rockwood. Add more stop signs wherever possible along Rockwood. Consider any other speed-calming devices that would help to reduce through-traffic on this street.

3. Enforce a 30-mph speed limit on Ashdale Drive. Post additional stop signs along Ashdale to keep people from using this long street as a drag strip.

4. Redesign the intersection of Rockwood Lane and Crosscreek Drive to reduce the number of people who run the stop signs at this busy area adjacent to Pillow Elementary and Pillow Park.

A viable plan was presented to the city two years ago with no results or feedback.

5. Add signs at all entrances to our neighborhood that advise drivers of our commitment to street safety for our children and protection against crime through neighborhood watch programs.

I'm sure some of you may have other concerns about different parts of our neighborhood that need to be mentioned, but these are the ones that have generated the most discussion over the years. I hope that next year's leadership of our association will continue to press the slow-footed city bureaucrats who seem to be all talk and no action.

Chuck Crane
President

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: Pat Tiemann of 8303 Rockwood Lane

October: Rhonda McClellan of 8402 Daleview Drive

November: Britt and Sheri Terrell of 3024 Thrushwood Drive

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

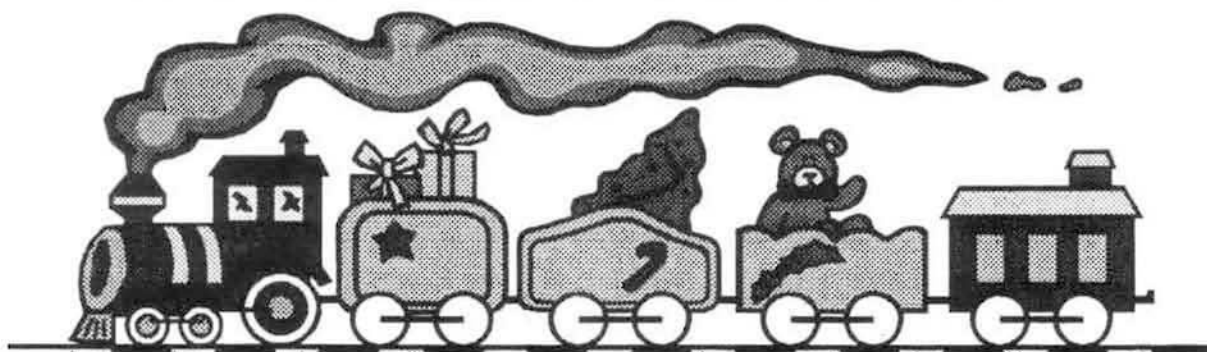
The North Shoal Creek Newsletter welcomes your story ideas and written articles. Send them to Pam Penick at 8509 Daleview Drive, Austin, Texas 78757, or email them to her at nscna@bigfoot.com.

ADVERTISE WITH US

Distribution: Quarterly; approximately 950 households. Neighborhood borders: West-Shoal Creek; East-Burnet Rd.; North-Hwy. 183; South-Anderson Ln.

Rates per issue: Business card: \$25 1/2 page: \$80
1/4 page: \$45 Full page: \$150

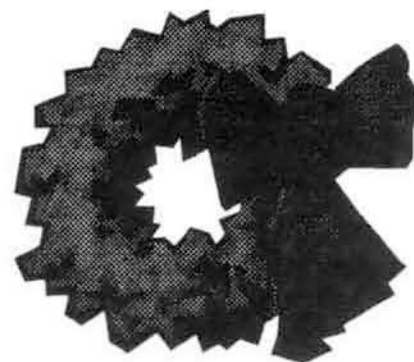
To run an ad, please call Pam Penick at 302-3467. Ads must be camera-ready and paid for in advance of publication. The newsletter reserves the right to request changes, reject an ad, or label an ad as such. The advertiser, not the newsletter, is responsible for the truth and content of the ad.



I would like to thank all the folks that helped to make 1999 a wonderful year in real estate for me. I value and appreciate your trust and confidence, and promise to continue to strive to provide excellent real estate services. I would like to wish all North Shoal Creek residents, from my family to yours...

*Happy Holiday Season
and a
Safe and Prosperous
2000!*

Peggy Little
JB Goodwin Realtors
502-7833
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Stillwood Residents Form Neighborhood Watch

Continued from page 1

only those residents who live on his or her block. The neighborhood watch training consists of two short, informal meetings with Officer Riley at the home of someone on the street. This does not have to be an elaborate affair. We held our two meetings in a neighbor's front yard.

At the end of the second meeting, Officer Riley will suggest (but not require) that the neighbors share information such as home, work, and cell phone numbers; email addresses; and descriptions of the cars usually parked at each house. At our meeting, I asked my neighbors to complete a form with this information and turn it in to me. I then

compiled that information into a chart and gave all the participants a copy. Officer Riley received a copy as well.

I've lived in North Shoal Creek for 14 years and believe it is a very safe neighborhood. Having neighbors who watch out for one another is part of what makes it safe. If you have any questions about starting a neighborhood watch on your street, please call me at 453-6953, or, better yet, contact Officer Riley at 834-7977. He wants to help make our neighborhood an even safer place to live.

Tina Huckabee
Stillwood Lane

Show Me the Money . . . and Other Treasurer's Notes

Please act now to renew your membership in our neighborhood association. Annual membership costs only \$13 and is due on January 1, or at the first meeting of the new year. Annual dues are the association's only regular source of income. Please rejoin in order to keep the organization fiscally viable. We welcome anyone who lives in the neighborhood, not just homeowners. The NSCNA currently has 120 members (not all of whom are up-to-date on their dues).

Speaking of fiscal viability, the NSCNA is doing fairly well. I have just spent several months restructuring our bank accounts with the help of Bank of America. The association now has an interest-bearing account with no monthly charge, so we actually earn money each month. Currently we have \$2,610.03 on our checking ledger; in addition, we have the \$25,000 we received from the Town North auto dealership for traffic improvements.

This is tucked into a short-term CD that is earning interest. It will grow to about \$25,700 at its next maturity date (we are on a 90-day cycle). We hope to use this money when the city resumes its traffic-calming programs early next year.

Finally, a word about our newsletter. I recently helped find some new advertisers for the newsletter. In the process I discovered a fascinating variety of shops around our neighborhood. Part of what makes our neighborhood special is the diversity of businesses within it. I encourage you to visit them, especially those who advertise in the newsletter, and tell them you saw their ads. If local shops and restaurants don't have our business, we may lose their ads. Without ads we have no newsletter.

Steven Weintraub
Treasurer

Neighborhood Home Sales

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—1	8200 Briarwood Ln.	95,454

Homes Under Contract:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
3—1	8103 Briarwood Ln.	96,500
3—2	8005 Stillwood Ln.	104,890

Homes Under Contract (continued):

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
5—4	8312 Stillwood Ln.	135,000
3—1.75	8505 Rockwood Ln.	99,500

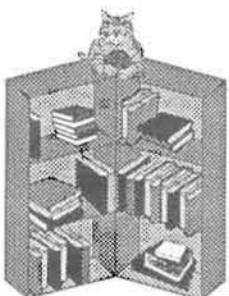
Homes Sold Aug. 5—Nov. 4, 1999:

BD—BA	Address	Price (\$)
3—2	8606 Primrose Ln.	133,500
3—1.5	8306 Daleview Dr.	138,695
4—2	8704 Melshire Dr.	155,000
3—2	3201 Benbrook Dr.	140,500
4—2	8115 Briarwood Ln.	109,000
3—1.5	8206 Briarwood Ln.	116,500

Happy
Holidays!



The publication of this newsletter is dependent upon the support of our neighborhood advertisers. Please thank them for their support when you patronize their businesses.



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North Central

↑ N	Anderson		
	Greenlawn	*	MBE next to Drug Emporium
	Koenig	Burnet	Justin

Traffic Complaints May Lead to City Aid

The NSCNA traffic committee is working hard to get our neighborhood selected by the City of Austin for its Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. At our association meeting last May, we asked residents to identify traffic problems on their streets. Thirty problem areas were identified, and we reported those problems to the city.

For the purposes of traffic safety, the city has divided itself into 5 sectors. Every year, one neighborhood in each of the 5 sectors is selected to participate in the Traffic Safety Program. Residents in the selected neighborhoods work with city staff to develop a comprehensive plan to address their traffic problems.

The next neighborhoods will be selected early next year. We hope North Shoal Creek



will be one of them. To assist in this effort, I'd like to ask you to file reports of your traffic concerns. It appears that the most complaints per square mile may aid in selection. Please write to Joan Hudson, Supervisor, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program, Transportation Division, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767-8839, or call 499-7129. You need to tell her the specific location and nature of the problem.

Please also call me at 467-9046 with any questions, suggestions, or thoughts about the city's program. This looks like an opportunity for us to address the long-standing problems with traffic and road safety in our neighborhood. Your input and interest are important.

Donna Eagar
Traffic Committee

Cash Rebates Available for Energy Improvements

Austin Energy offers cash rebates for specific energy improvements made to your home. This investment helps customers use energy efficiently and reduce consumption and energy costs. Studies show that most homes 10 to 15 years old or older can reduce their air conditioning consumption by as much as one-third through higher-efficiency air conditioning and full weatherization.

To be eligible for the cash rebates, the following guidelines must apply:

- ✓ You must be an Austin Energy customer.
- ✓ You need to have a home energy audit conducted to identify which measures are needed.
- ✓ You must choose enough weatherization measures to total a minimum \$150 rebate.
- ✓ Only work completed by a professional

contractor registered with Austin Energy is eligible for a rebate.

- ✓ An Austin Energy representative must verify the recommendations of your energy audit and approve the bid before work begins. An Austin Energy representative also must verify that the work was completed.

To receive a weatherization bonus, you must fully weatherize your home and replace your air conditioner and heater or heat pump with units that meet minimum energy-efficiency guidelines.

Funding is limited. Programs are offered to Austin Energy electric customers on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 499-7827.

Reprinted from At Your Doorstop, Aug. 1999

APD Officer Offers Tips on Fighting Crime in Our Neighborhood

Minutes of the September 21, 1999, NSCNA Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the president, Chuck Crane. He welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for their coming to the meeting.

The secretary briefly reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, which had been published in the newsletter.

Chuck read information supplied by the treasurer, Steven Weintraub, who was unable to attend. The NSCNA has \$2,597.96 in the regular checking account. There is a CD in the amount of \$25,000, which is earmarked for traffic problems. He announced that 25% of the people who signed up for association membership have not paid their \$13 dues.

Chuck spoke briefly about the impending purchase of water from the LCRA by the City of Austin. A neighborhood planning public meeting was announced, and brochures about it were available.

The guest speaker was Officer Jim Riley from the Austin Police Department. He spoke about neighborhood safety and crime and outlined how he can help our neighborhood. He asked residents to report to him any cars that are parked and not used. He highly

recommended that we form neighborhood watch groups. He also provided crime statistics for our neighborhood and suggested using the city's web site (www.ci.austin.tx.us/police) to obtain further statistics (crime statistics for our neighborhood should be available online by early 2000). Finally, he offered to come to another meeting in order to etch vehicle identification numbers (VIN) on people's cars, which can aid in the recovery of a stolen car. A list was circulated for signatures of those interested in having their cars etched. (In a follow-up email, Officer Riley wrote that Diane Amaro from the APD's Auto Theft Interdiction Unit may be contacted at 480-5291 about the VIN etching.)

There followed a discussion of traffic-calming devices, and someone asked about the rules for businesses that are operated out of a residence. Chuck mentioned that The Gas Pipe, the head shop that owns land on Burnet Road near Burnet Middle School, will not build a retail store there at this time as it lacks adequate space for parking.

Jo McFerren
Secretary

Membership Dues Are Being Collected Now for the New Year.

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: _____

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.*

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North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

www.main.org/nscna

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Vice President - Mark Palitza: 459-1036

Secretary - Jo McFerren: 451-2752

Treasurer - Steven Weintraub: 453-6953

Board of Directors

Donna Eagar: 467-9046

Margaret Flaniken: 459-5522

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

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

8509 Daleview Drive

Austin, Texas 78757