

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A bi-monthly publication

Issue 1

February 25, 2002

This is Your Association!

Inside This Edition...

Austin Area Events for the family

Early Spring "Yardening" Tips

Ways to help your community

Feeling Bulky? Two ways to lighten your load!

Pillow Elementary News

Minutes from the Feb. 19th General Meeting

Save Water and \$\$

Roger Wines

WOW! I'm reminded never to put my hand in the air ever again, even to scratch the top of my head. One never knows if they might buy something at an auction, or be appointed (volunteered) for a project or position as an officer. None the less, that's what happened, and here I am. I'm it (president) for the year, so we need to help each other get through it.

Some in the neighborhood know me simply because we have lived here since 1969, and after a while you can't help but get to know a few of your neighbors. Those that don't know me have a standing invite to get to know me.

I've been reminded that the NSCNA is a 'social' group, and 'we' want to keep it that way. While doing that, we also have to continue to work as an association to make our neighborhood one in which we all agree is worth working for. We will have issues - with one another, with the neighborhood in general, with the city and all it brings before us, and other things as they come up.

Thus far, we have started the year in a big hurry, a hurry to catch up and get on with business at hand. If you hadn't noticed, the notification (signs and newsletter) of the February 19th meeting didn't make it in time. That won't happen again.

I have noted some personal goals for the organization, and hope to gain support from the board and all members in these endeavors. The board along with all members will add to the list, I'm sure, and you are invited to do so.

The NSCNA has bragging rights in that we have the largest percentage of members in the city, and we have also had the largest 4th of July parade for the past two years. We have many other things going for us as well, and you will be hearing about these other things by attending the meetings (whether you are an 'active' member or not). You are automatically a member of the association by the fact you live in the neighborhood. So come support it. Should you decide that you want to be an active participant and have voting rights, we welcome you. To become an 'active' member, it only requires dues of \$15/year/house-hold.

I am looking forward to another banner year, and with your help we will have one, and have a great time doing it.

NEXT NSCNA GENERAL MTG.

Date: Thursday, April 18th

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Pillow School Cafeteria

Thanks!



- Thanks to Suzanne Harakal and Lucille Pawlak for volunteering to serve for another year on the Yard of the Month Committee!
- Thanks to Lee Schuenemann, Jose Alejo, Ross Hise, David Boucher, James Allen, and Mark Palitza for agreeing to serve on the Entryway Committee.
- Thanks to Andreas Guehin and Joe Brittnacher for volunteering to help with the mowing!

Thank you to Zoombaz for providing coffee for our meeting at a discount. Please support businesses that support our neighborhood.



North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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

Officers

President	Roger Wines	453-2193	ro-jer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Steven Weintraub	453-6953	stevenw@chelm.org
Secretary	KC Dignan		kcd@tsbvi.edu
Treasurer	Stella Brittnacher	453-5046	jjsbritt@texas.net

Board of Directors

Traffic and Community

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Awareness	Jo McFerran	451-2752	kmcferren@academicplanet.com
Parent Group	Monical Little	773-1451	mcl6020@austin.rr.com
Pillow Elementary	Kim Longacher	452-1868	enviromaps@evl.net
Beautification	Warren Friedrich	454-3981	friedrichwc@prodigy.net
Social Committee	Catherine Cotman	374-0898	ccotman@aol.com
Membership	Stephani Kyler	454-1482	fourkyler@ev1.net
Newsletter	Alyssa Hedge	380-9616	alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com

Pillow's Page





Does your body good as well as your school!

Did you know that labels and boxtops from Campbell's and General Mills products mean cash and equipment for Pillow Elementary? Pillow has a drop box located in the front hallway of the school to collect them. Below is a list of products that participate. So, before that can goes into the recycling, don't forget to save the label! Pillow appreciates your support in this effort!

Campbell's Labels

- Campbells' soup products (label)
- Campbell's Ready to Serve Soups (plastic lid)
- Pace Picante sauce (lid)
- Prego Pasta Sauce (lid on large jars; label on cans)
- Swanson broths and poulty (label or UPC code on cartons)
- Pepperidge Farm products (bag or carton)
- V8 products (label or UPC code for boxed drinks)

General Mills Boxtops

- All General Mills Cereals (Chex, Cheerios, etc.)
- Yoplait Yogurt
- Lloyd's Barbeque Buckets
- Betty Crocker products (cake mixes, frosting, Hamburger Helper, Bisquick, etc.)
- Betty Crocker Fruit Snacks



Pillow is looking for a few good volunteers

Mentors

Children today are faced with many challenges and choices. If you could spare 30 minutes to 1 hour each week, you can join Project Mentor and help provide opportunities for children to have the chance to talk to someone about the challenges they face. Mentors visit students at the school each week. They often eat lunch together. After lunch, they spend time playing games, reading a book, or simply talking to each other.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, contact Annette Hendrix, school counselor, at 414-4315. There is currently a waiting list of children in need of a mentor. The mentors need to satisfy a few requirements before beginning: Agree to a background check conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, attend a 30 minute training session with Annette, take the AISD profile and pledge, and receive and read through the mentor handbook.

Tutors and Assistants

Pillow is also looking for volunteers to act as tutors or to help out in the office of library. If you can help in one of these ways or would like more information, contact Annette Hendrix at 414-4315



Something's Afoot that you must not miss!

Something's Afoot is an original theatric dance production in which every student, 3rd through 5th grade, commits to a tough regimen of 30 weekly classes, culminating in a Braodway-style performance. Beyond the performance itself, the program is instrumental in building confidence and self-esteem in the students. The performance is March 20th at Westlake High's Auditorium. Tickets are now on sale at the Pillow School Office for \$5. Please come support this program and the kids!

Fun Family Events

Annual Zilker Kite Festival - March 3, 2002

Hundreds of kites dance in the sky in Zilker Park to celebrate spring and our 73rd annual celebration. There is no cost to participate. Hand made kites are eligible for entry. So, bring the whole family to fly your kites or watch the festivities. Each year a nationally known kite flyer - maker - artist is invited as a guest of the event. Thousands of Texans come to see their aerial art and engineering. Concession's proceeds benefit programs for abused and neglected children.

Times: 12 to 5 p.m. Location: 2201 Barton Springs Road

Admission and Parking: Admission and parking is free.

Contact Information:

Web site: http://www.zilkerkitefestival.com

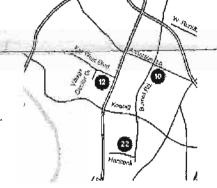
email: kites@zilkerkitefestival.com

phone: 512-647-7488



Youth Programs at nearby libraries

The New Year means new programs for many of the Austin Public Library branches. Now all 20 branch locations and the downtown Faulk Central Library will have storytimes, special events and activities for families and children. The 2002 Youth Services' plan allows the Library to spread the resources citywide allowing for an enhanced and impressive array of youth programs for all Austin families. Storytimes are scheduled through May 2002. You may visit the Austin City Connection, www.cityofaustin.org/library, for a complete schedule listing.



TODDLER STORYTIME

A program for children 18 months to 3 years old, accompanied by an adult. The 15- to 20-minute program may include stories, fingerplays, and music.

Yarborough Branch - Tuesday and Thursday, 10:15 a.m. (#22 on the map)



PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

A program for children 3 to 5 years old. Children are welcome to attend independently while the accompanying adult waits in the Library. The 30-minute program may include stories, films, or art activities.

Old Quarry Branch - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. (#12 on the map) Yarborough Branch - Thursday, 11:00 a.m. (#22 on the map)

STORYTIME

A 15- to 30-minute program for children of mixed ages with accompanying adults. May include stories, music, and other activities.

North Village Branch - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. (#10 on the map)

HOME ECONOMICS: THE SMARTMONEY REAL ESTATE INDEX

Austin? Austin, Texas? That tech-busted city, where Dell, AMD, Motorola and others have laid off tens of thousand of workers, gets the highest ranking in our survey of real estate markets? Who are we kidding?

We're not kidding, we just did the math. Our research shows that plenty of other, mostly smaller companies in that city are poised to hire the folks let go by those big names. Home prices never got as overheated in Austin as they did elsewhere, so they won't freeze up as badly. Plus: Our assessment of the nation's 65 biggest real estate markets extends to the end of 2003. Since Austin took its lumps early in this recession, it may well recover sooner. In fact, Austin's score of 76.6 in our Smart-Money Real Estate Index is head and shoulders above the nearest competitor, Nashville (71.2).

These scores were derived from detailed regional

data that affects housing prices, including stats from Economy.com, the Meyers Group and Woods & Poole. We gave each market 0 to 10 points for predicted job growth, recession resistance (how many quarters out of the next 10 will bring good employment news), the recent trend in housing affordability there and the amount of building permits that will be issued (a projection by Economy.com). A city's vacancy rate was worth 0 to 5 points, as were demographic changes in each market: Are typical 35- to 49-year-old homebuyers coming or going? Lastly, we fine-tuned for layoffs that occurred after our employment stats were generated.

An ideal city - all factors as favorable as possible - would get a score of 100. Markets with scores of 60 and above are primed for price appreciation; those below 50 may see values erode. Between 50 and 60, stability reigns.

ank	Metro Area	Median Home Price September 2001	Employment	Recession Resistance	Affordability	Building Permits	Vacancies	Population Growth/Decline	SCORE
1	Austin, TEX.	\$201,400	4	10	6	9	5	4	76.6
2	Nashville	197,800	8	6	10	5	3	4	71.2
3	Tucson, ARIZ.	194,100	6	10	7	7	3	3	70.7
4	Salt Lake City	253,000	8	10	8	3	3	2	69.3
5	Fort Worth, TEX.	169,900	6	10	7	6	3	3	68.
6	Washington, D.C.	352,500	4	8	8	8	3	3	67.
7	Dallas	177,800	4	10	7	6	3	2	65.
8	San Antonio	124,400	8	6	8	5	4	2	65
9	West Palm Beach, FLA.	180,100	3	8	10	4	2	5	63.
0	Richmond, VA	180,700	8	8	6	3	3	. 3	63.
1	Norfolk, VA	176,100	10	4	9	4	1	3	63.
2	Sacramento	292,300	5	4	. 7	8	4	4	63.
13	Indianapolis	177,800	5	4	8	7	4	3	62.
14	Las Vegas	196,800	6	6	8	5	1	5	62.
5	Orlando	182,600	6	8	6	6	1	4	62.

As you can see from the above February 2002 Smart Money magazine article, the housing market looks very positive for Austin. As your neighborhood realtor I am concerned about retaining maximum values in our neighborhood because I am too am a homeowner here. If you would like to obtain top dollar on selling your home - please call me!

My most recent sales in our area include:

2701 Benbrook	\$184,000
2707 Kerrybrook	\$185,500
8400 Flagstone	\$208,000
8312 Rockwood	\$124,000





RICHARD SMITH, REALTORS®

New Listings

I have new listings coming up on Daleview and Rockwood. If you know of someone who may be interested in living in our area, please have them contact me.

Phone: (512) 691-6707

E-mail: sandyperkins@earthlink.net

PLACING THE AMERICAN FLAG IN YOUR YARD FOR OVER 10 YEARS

A View From the Garden Window

K.C. Dignan

Gardening, or even "yardening" is a year-round activity, it's just that some times are more obviously active than others. In the deep winter, or what passes for it in central Austin, I like to garden in a chair with a cozy cup of tea or cocoa, and a good book about gardening.

In February (and early March), things can get a little more active. It is a time of transitions. We can still get a hard freeze so things must be protected. However, this is the month when I start to poke my nose outdoors, and check on things. Below is a list of activities that you can do in your garden, or "yarden" (More about "yardening" next issue.)

February is the month when "prune" is more than a fruit:

- · Prune Salvia Greggii at the end of the month
- Prune any **woody perennials** that have gotten too big or unwieldy (rosemary, lantana, salvias, etc.)
- Prune (only slightly) **Crape Myrtles**, if necessary. Then only cut back those branches which are smaller than a pencil. Don't be guilty of "Crape Murder".
- Prune ornamental grasses like Muhly, Miscanthus, Bluestems, Fountain grasses to just a few inches above the ground.
- Prune hybrid tea and floribunda roses, but not climbing roses. Prune them back about 1/3 to 1/2.
- DO NOT prune spring flowering shrubs, trees, or vines until they have bloomed or you will cut off their bloom.

Lawns

- Around March 15 is the time to fertilize your lawn. Fertilizing in early spring will provide your lawn the nutrients it needs to withstand the long hot Texas summers. In addition, a healthy lawn will require less water. Top dress lawns with 1/4 to ½ inch of **organic fertilizer**. You might want to use a fertilizer with a high proportion of nitrogen. For later applications, a good balanced fertilizer is a safe bet.
- If you haven't aerated your lawn lately, now is a good time to do so. Preferably before you spread it with compost or other organic fertilizer. This process gets air down into your soil and increases the microbial activity, making all other treatments more effective. You can rent a power aerator from your neighborhood rental place and complete the process in an hour or so. Why not talk with your neighbors and split the cost?

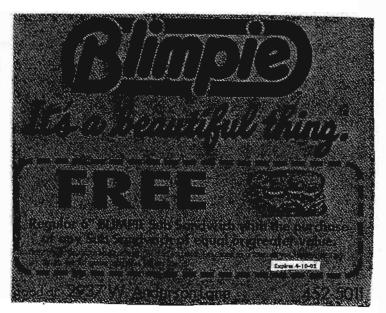


(512) 458-1700

Fax 467-7377

Email: ranwick@austin.rr.com Website: www.ranwick.com





• If you have problems with brown patch, apply a preventative such as Actinovate.



Flowering plants

• Check your plants for aphids or other pests. If you find small white or black specks, you have an uninvited guest in your garden. You can treat them with ladybugs or green lacewings, if you put them out last year. Otherwise it is time to get out the Safer Soap. I like to use a mixture with organic pyrithims. Remember, if your bottle doesn't specifically say "organic", the pyrithim comes from a conventional (non-organic) source and will contribute to contamination in the ground water. (Home garden and lawn care is amongst the largest sources to contamination in the ground water.)

• Start your favorite feeding or fertilizing procedures. I like to use a mixture that includes alfalfa pellets. You can get these at the feed store. They will break down with the rain and continue to feed your plants.

New seeds

Now is the time to start new seed, but only if you plan to use seed trays and protect them from cold.

Mulch

Now is a little early to mulch your garden. The soil needs to warm up a bit. Best to wait until the middle of March or early April.

Take time out to visit your yard. It can provide a lot of pleasure. My thanks to other local gardeners, such as Sheryl McLaughin, and John Dromgole and my fellow daylily enthusiasts for these hints.

Save Water, Both Indoors and Outdoors

Toilets are the biggest water guzzling devises in your home. And as most know, landscape watering is the No. 1 outdoor use of water. The City of Austin's Water Conservation Program offers money-saving programs for both.

Indoor water savings

If your home was built before 1992, the Efficient Toilet Program can save you money monthly. It's simply a matter of replacing old inefficient toilets. If you qualify for the program, up to three toilets may be provided per household. You also can receive a \$30 rebate per toilet if installed by a licensed plumber. It's an investment that keeps paying and paying.

Outdoor water savings

Planting trees and shrubs compatible with the WaterWise Landscape Rebate Program can save you money on your summer watering bills. You may be eligible for up to \$500 in rebates from the City of Austin. Shade from new trees and shrubs can make your house more efficient to cool. This program is available for both existing and new homes.

For more information, call (512) 974-2199 or visit the Austin City Connection, www.cityofaustin.org/watercon, for details.

Have some spare time?

Help your neighborhood association...

Now that the board members have been chosen, they need some help! Here are some of the committess that could use some members. If you would be willing to give a few hours a month, please give them a call!

Entryway Committee

An Entryway Committee is working on ideas and plans for the entryway at Steck Ave. and Daleview Dr. If you would like to have input in this project or if you would like to volunteer to help keep the area mowed and trimmed, please contact Warren Friedrich at 454-3981 or e-mail at friedrichwc@prodigy.net.

Child Care at General Meetings

The NSCNA would like to offer child care at the general meetings. If you would be interested in helping to care for the children or would like to take advantage of the child care, please contact Monica Little at 773-1451 or mcl6020@austin.rr.com.

Announcement of new business coming to our neighborhood

The NSCNA would like to make the neighborhod aware of plans by Lowe's hardware to build a store in what is currently the Hart Graphics space at Steck and Mopac. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about this development, please contact Roger Wines.



Newsletter Distribution

In order to save on postage, we ask for volunteers to help distribute the newsletter. There will be 5 issues to distribute. Think of the great exercise! If you would like to help, please contact

Alyssa Hedge at 380-9616 or alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com.

Spring Fling Picnics Volunteers

Do you have ideas or suggestions for the "Spring Fling" coming in May? What about the 4th of July parade? We want children and their families to get to know one another. We can make our neighborhood a special community by getting together and socializing. If you want to be part of the planning for our social events, get involved. Do you have a contact for entertainment? Do you own or know of a local business that would like to contribute to our functions? Please contact Catherine Cotman at 374-0898 or ccotman@aol.com.

A Note about our Advertisers

Without our advertisers, this newsletter would not be possible. Please thank them with your patronage. So that they will continue to advertise with us, please mention to them that you saw their advertisement here.

Please support businesses that support our neighborhood.

Minutes from Recent NSCNA Meetings

Feb. 12th Board Meeting Minutes

The Board met on February 12. Roger had an active agenda which was completed in short order. In summary the following motions were made and passed:



- 1. A motion was made and passed to use bulk mailing to distribute the February newsletter. Alyssa was certain that she would be able to get enough advertising to pay for the additional costs.
- 2. A motion was made and passed to use Association funds (\$30) to offset the cost of a luncheon meeting with the owners of the properties near the Daleview entrance. The purpose of the meet is to encourage them to pay for a portion of the cost of the maintenance of that property.

Multiple topics were discussed, including board meeting dates, issues related to traffic and the application by the Lowes Corporation to move into the neighborhood, the membership drive, garage sale, and social committee activities. More a more complete review of the Board activities contact KC Dignan.

Feb. 19th General Meeting Minutes

The general meeting was held at Pillow Elementary on February 19. Roger Wines presided over the meeting. Alyssa Hedge stated that the newsletter will be mailed the end of February, using a bulk mailing service. Due to costs, it will be delivered in the future. Volunteers are urged to get in touch with Alyssa.

Monica Little, from the Parent Group announced that there will be <u>babysitting at the future general meetings</u>. The meetings will be held on Thursdays so that we may use the Pillow Elementary Library for babysitting.

Roger stated that he had met with Ms. Linda Webb, principal of Pillow. They discussed a variety of ways in which the Association may assist the school. More information will be forthcoming in the future. Roger and Monica stated that tickets to **Something's Afoot** are on sale now. Tickets have been sold out in the past, so people are encouraged to get their's soon.

Catherine Cotman, of the Social Committee stated that a group of people met to begin planning events. A date for the **Spring Fling** has been selected: **May 5** (Rain date: May 11). She outlined some of the upcoming activities and encouraged people to **contact her to volunteer** with this annual event.

Stephani Kyler and Roger have set April as the preliminary month for the membership drive. They will be meeting to determine the specifics. Their plan is to increase membership by 10%.

Roger shared more information on the application by Lowes to the city for approval to move into the neighborhood. The amount of increased traffic and large trucks is of concern to many in the neighborhood. Roger has spoken to a City official about this issue. Roger, Jo McFerrin and 2 others are needed to write a letter explaining our concerns. Please contact Roger if you can participate in developing the letter.

The meeting was adjourned. An informative program about the Star of Texas Rodeo was presented by Callie Calahan.







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NORTH SHOAL CREEK REAL ESTATE NEWS BY: FELICIA MORRISON CRS, GRI TEL: 512-619-0100 YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIALIST

The following homes have sold from 12/15/01 through 02/20/02. Although deemed accurate this information is not guaranteed. For more information or a <u>FREE</u> <u>ESTIMATE</u> of your home's market value contact me at: 512-451-2552 or 619-0100 Homes Currently For Sale:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bedrooms</u>	<u>Baths</u>	<u>List Price</u>			
8015 Rockwood Ln	3	1	\$134,500			
8210 Briarwood Ln	3	1.5	139,777			
8412 Stillwood Ln	3	1.5	139,850			
3000 Boxdale	4	1	139,900			
2901 Ashdale	4	3	199,000			
8604 Millway	3	2	176,900			
8113 Parkdale Dr	4	2	179,900			
3000 Thrushwood	3	2	204,900			
3005 Thrushwood	4	2	214,900			
3001 Thrushwood	3	2	219,900			
Homes Contract Pending:						
2701 Benbrook Dr	4	3	188,200			
8203 Vallydale	3	2	167,000			
2703 Ashdale	3	2	156,000			
8821 Little Laura	3	2	212,900			
8400 Flagstone	4	3	209,900			
Homes Sold Since Dece	<u>mber 15, 2001</u>		Sold Price			
8312 Rockwood	3	1.5	124,000			
8313 Stillwood	3	1 .	137,000			
8112 Stillwood	3	2	149,000			
3008 Crosscreek	3	2	143,300			
8610 Millway	3	2	165,000			
2707 Kerrybrook	4	2	185,500			
8706 Melshire	4	3	199,000			

Interest rates are down! If you have been thinking of refinancing or buying a new home do it now. Call Cindy Swannack, President of C.S. Mortgage and she will take care of you. 512-483-6093



NSCNA Garage Sale

Sometime in the April/May timeframe, the NSCNA will be announcing a neighborhood garage sale. The NSCNA will place an ad in the Austin American-Statesman advertising the garage sale. The idea is that by holding several inidividual garage sales on the same weekend, we will attract more shoppers! Woo-hoo!

Keep your eyes open for the April edition of the newsletter which will announce the date.

Feeling a Little Bulky?

You have two upcoming opportunities to lighten your load!

City Bulky Collection

Our neighborhood's bulky collection will be **March 4, 2002**. Your bulky items need to be at the curb by **7:30am**. Place your items at least 5 feet fromy our garbage cart and seperate them into these three piles for collection:

- 1. Metal: appliances (remove doors); mowers (gas/oil removed); water heaters; rolled fencing
- 2. Other: furniture, carpeting, nail free lumber, railroad ties, tree trunks 8" in diameter or larger
- 3. Tires: up to 8 passenger tires (with the rims removed)

DO NOT set out brush or limbs, sheet glass, construction or remodeling debris, plasticgarbage bags, cardbaord, household garbage or hazerdous household chemicals such as paints, solvents or pool chemicals.

Depending on volume, it may take a week to collect all the bulky items in the area. For more information, call 494-9400.

Join the Neighborhood Associatio	n Today! Renew your Membership!			
Please complete this coupon and mail it with a check for \$15 (made out to the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association) to Stella Brittnacher P.O. Box 66443 Austin, TX 78766-0443				
Name:	Phone:			
Address:				
E-mail Address:				
 Please check one: Renewal Nev	v			
Interests: Pillow Elementary Social Co	mmittee Neighborhood Beautification			
Other:	<u> </u>			

Advertise with us!

The newsletter is distributed every other month for a total of 6 editions a year to approximately 950 households. North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association borders Shoal Creek, Burnet Road, Hwy. 183 and Anderson Lane. If you purchase a one-year subscription, you will receive 5 advertisements for the price of 4 (rates have been adjusted since there are only 5 issues remaining).

Rates:	Per Issue	One-Year
Business Card:	\$30	\$120
1/4 page:	\$50	\$200
1/2 page:	\$70	\$280
Full Page:	\$110	\$440
Insert:	\$130	\$520

2002 NSCNA Meeting Schedule

Board meetings

Wednesdays - two weeks prior to the general meetings. Commons area - east end of Pillow School - 6:00pm - April 3; June 5; September 4

General meetings

Thursdays - 6:00 in Pillow School Cafetorium - Baby sitting available in the library - April 18; June 20; September 19

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association News

P.O Box 66443 Austin, TX 78766-0443