

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A bi-monthly publication

Issue 5

November 6, 2002

Concerning Elections

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Roger Wines

No, not the ones you just won (or lost). The upcoming elections. This one is somewhat simpler and closer to home. The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association has an election each year to fill the positions of board members. With the adoption of the proposed by-laws the board shall serve a two-year term with half serving from staggered years with the other half, to have some continuity on the board. There is no provision for not re-electing a board member. Also there shall be a chairman and a chairman-elect decided by the board as along with the secretary and treasurer. The chairman shall serve for one year, and the chairman-elect will move to chairman each succeeding year. Again helping with continuity.

The first meeting in 2003 will be the annual meeting when by-law changes will be approved and elections to the board will be held. **January 16th is the Thursday for the meeting** and baby-sitting will be available for the very young.



Most of the by-laws changes are minor. The wording of President and Vice President to read Chairperson and Chairperson-elect. The officers to be elected by the board rather than the general membership, and the Chairperson-elect will move into the Chairperson's position. (allowing for continuity) Board of directors to be elected on a staggered two-year term. (again for continuity) Change 'January' meeting to 'annual' meeting, and make the final meeting of the year the 'annual' meeting so the new board can begin with a new year. This covers most of the changes. Copies will be available at the January meeting, and a vote to accept (or deny) the changes will be taken at this meeting. Hopefully these new changes will be adopted. These changes have been worked on for several months, and discussed at length at several meetings.

A nominating committee is to be appointed and anyone can suggest names for nomination. **Please contact any board member to submit a name, and it will be given to the nominating committee for consideration.** Someone from the committee will contact the suggested person to gain confirmation of their willingness to be nominated. Anyone nominated from

(continued on page 2)

the floor at the general meeting will be asked if they will allow their name to stand in nomination, and if they are willing to serve before placing their name on the list of nominees. The newly elected will take office at the close of the annual meeting.

Before serving on the board, I personally thought it would be too much time, and energy – but I was wrong. Serving on the board is a pleasure, especially when you have other members such as we have had this year. It is up to the board members to make the association what it is, and my hope is that the neighbors we have served this year have been satisfied with our performance – I know I have been proud of your board and what they have done. More can always be done, and perhaps in another way, and that’s why we continue to have new board members, to get your neighbor’s and your ideas brought to the table in making our association a little better. The best today for a better tomorrow.

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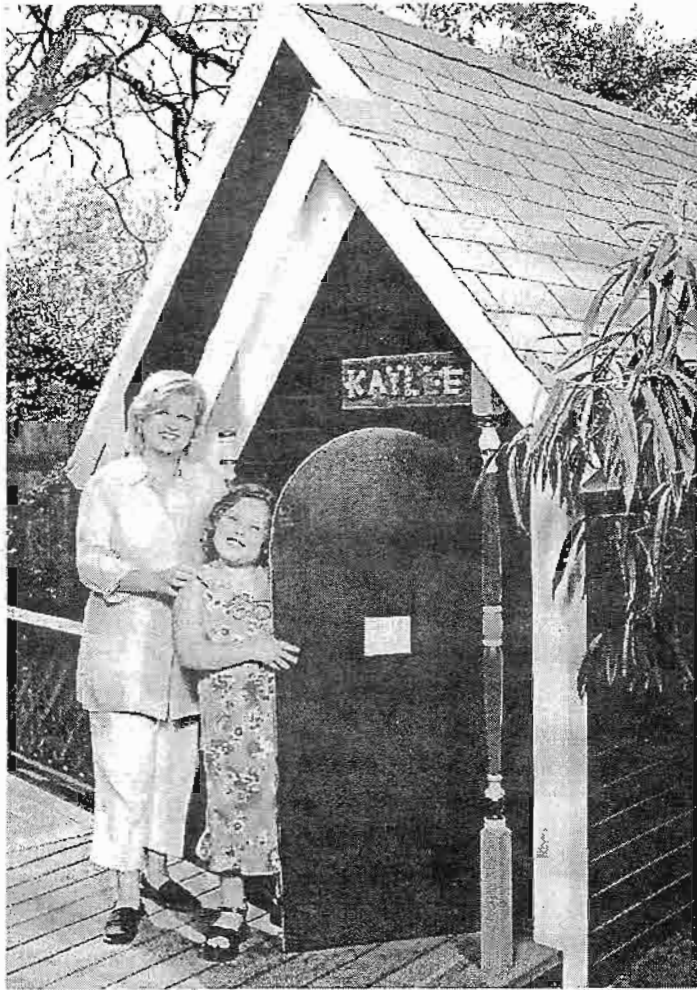
Officers

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| President | Roger Wines | 453-2193 | ro-ger@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


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



Kaylee says "My Mommy sells all sizes of houses!"

Want a \$100
Donation in
your name
to go to
Pillow
Elementary
PTA
Program ?

If you or someone you know (perhaps a friend, relative, co-worker or someone you socialize with) is in the market to buy or sell a home - give me a call! When the transaction closes I will donate \$100 in your name to the Pillow PTA!
It will be great for our children and our community!

Sandy Perkins, 797-PERK (7375) 
Coldwell Banker, Richard Smith Realtors

Sandyperkins@earthlink.net

Placing the American Flag in your yard on Memorial Day for the past 11 years!

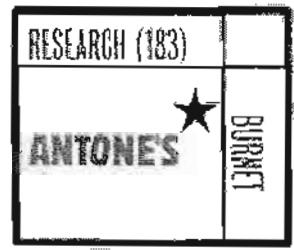
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Pillow's Page

Pillow's Panther News



"Practice for Pillow's annual showcase program SOMETHING'S AFOOT is off to an energetic start. In complying with new state legislative mandates, preparation for this production offers Pillow's third, fourth, and fifth graders a meaningful avenue in meeting increased physical activity requirements during the school day. Song and dance numbers are practiced weekly by each student in the upper grades. SOMETHING'S AFOOT's spectacular results are displayed every spring at UT's Bass Concert Hall.



This October, all Pillow Kindergarten classes journeyed to Crowe's Nest Farm in Manor for hands-on experiences with livestock and native Texas animals. This field trip provided an introduction to the needs and contributions of our areas' ecology. A highlight of the trip is the class selection of their own perfect pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. What a way to adopt a friendly Jack-o-Lantern for the season's holiday!



Friday morning assemblies featuring classroom learning are a weekly event at Pillow during the year. Not only does each child participate in a winning team effort with their presentation, but the assembly offers other students the opportunity to demonstrate and practice appropriate audience conduct. Outstanding student behavior is one of the many attributes of which Pillow is justifiably proud."

Slowing Down Saves Lives: drive home the message

With school in full swing, motorists have already seen an increase in traffic. City officials remind motorists to slow down and watch out for pedestrians.



A few facts and figures drive home the point. Speeding in residential neighborhoods represents the single greatest complaint issue to police departments and city council representatives throughout the United States. Typically, most speeders in your neighborhood live in your neighborhood. It's not unusual for speeders to be clocked in excess of 40 mph in 25-mph zones.

The effectiveness of restraint devices like air bags and safety belts and vehicular construction features such as crumple zones and side member beams decline as impact speed increases. Speeding — exceeding the posted speed limit or driving too fast for conditions — is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic crashes. The economic cost to society of speeding-related crashes is estimated by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to be \$28.9 billion per year. On average across the country, a pedestrian is killed in a motor vehicle crash every 99 minutes, and one is injured every 7 minutes.

Speeding extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle.

- At 20 mph the total stopping distance needed is 69 feet.
- At 30 mph the distance needed is 123 feet.
- At 40 mph the distance needed is 189 feet, which may not be enough distance and time for you to avoid hitting an object or person in the road.

Austin Area Fun

Thundercloud Subs Turkey Trot - Nov. 28th, 8:30AM

Benefiting Caritas of Austin, the 12th Annual ThunderCloud Subs Turkey Trot in 2002 will continue to offer fun events for the entire family, including a 5 mile run, a 1 mile walk and a Kid's K. It's a Thanksgiving day tradition for thousands, raising tens of thousands of dollars for Caritas of Austin! This year it will be held at Waterloo Park (on the corner of Trinity and E. 15th). Entry Fees are \$16 for early registration and you will receive either a long-sleeve T-shirt or \$10 gift certificate to Thundercloud Subs. You can get more information at any Thundercloud Subs location or go to www.thundercloud.com and click on "Turkey Trot".



Victorian Christmas on 6th Street - Nov. 30th - Dec. 1st

Entry to this event is FREE and features 150 booths of handmade arts and crafts, Christmas carolers, choirs, and handbells in our Christmas Village, two parades each day, a civil war encampment with Indians & Mountainmen, falconry shows & elephant rides, barbershop quartets, banjo groups, and fiddlers, hot roasted chestnuts & mulled wines, Victorian costumes & decorations, a handmade wooden carousel, and much more! The event will take place along several blocks of 6th street.



Trail of Lights, Zilker Park



Lighting of the Zilker Christmas Tree - The Lighting ceremony will be at 6:30pm, Sunday, December 1st. The public is invited to attend the celebration and participate in the lighting ceremony.

Trail of Lights 5K - For the 9th consecutive year, a nighttime fun run will feature a premiere viewing of the Trail of Lights. The Trail of Lights 5K will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 6:30pm. Registration forms and packets are available from Run-Tex, 422 W. Riverside Dr., and at the north location at 9607 Research Blvd. #140 or on line at www.runtex.com. Fees for registration are \$18 by December 7th and \$23 on the day of the 5k. The registration fee for children ages 11 and under is \$15. A commemorative t-shirt is included in the entry fee.

Grand Opening Parade - The Trail of Lights Festival Grand Opening, Parade and Balloon Glow begins at 7pm on Sunday December 8th. Prior to the grand opening parade guests may go to the rugby field "Family Photo Zone" for interactive photo opportunities. The Austin Fire Department will have their aerial ladder truck to add the the view. The Central Texas Balloon Association will host their annual balloon glow as part of the Trail of Lights Celebration.

For more information on the Trail of Lights call the Austin Parks and Recreation Department at 974-6700 or go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/default.htm



Fire Safety and Prevention



As the temperature begins to drop, many of us will be turning on heaters and lighting fires to stay warm. These actions pose a great fire danger as well. Below are safety tips from the Austin Fire Department to keep us safe during the fall and winter. If you have any questions, you call the AFD at 477-9982 or check out their web site at www.ci.austin.tx.us/fire/default.htm

SMOKE DETECTOR MAINTENANCE CHECK LIST

- Test your smoke detector at least once a month by pressing the test button.
- Replace weak or worn-out batteries at once.
- Never borrow smoke detector batteries for other uses.
- Keep extra batteries on hand.
- Change batteries at least twice a year.
- Dust and vacuum smoke detectors at least twice a year.
- Make sure smoke detectors are working when you return home after an extended absence.

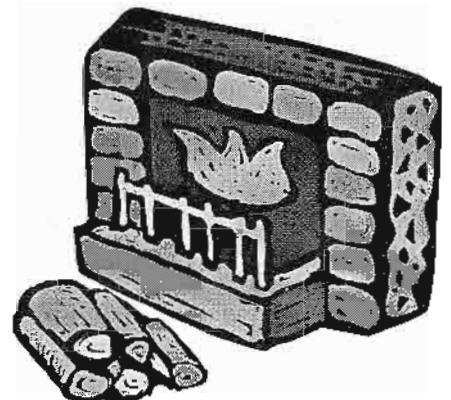


HEATERS

- “Space heaters need space.” Heaters should be at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including the walls, curtains, and bedding.
- Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.
- Electrical and kerosene heaters should be equipped with a cutoff device that will automatically shut off if the unit is tipped over or over heats.
- Kerosene and natural gas heaters should not be used in an enclosed area unless they are vented or a window is partially opened to let fresh air in. This prevents the possible buildup of carbon monoxide. If you choose to install carbon monoxide detectors, choose models that are UL-listed, with a digital readout. Follow manufacturer’s directions for proper placement.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Have a professional inspect and service your central heating unit each year. Keep the area around the unit clear and clean filters regularly. Never use heater/AC or water heater closets for storage.

FIREPLACES

- Make certain that you open the flue in your fireplace before lighting a fire.
- Fires should not be started on the floor of the fireplace. Use a basket-type grate to actually hold the logs.
- Only burn hardwoods such as oak, maple, or ash in fireplaces. Soft woods such as pine or cedar generate too much heat for most residential fireplaces. Use only dry wood; wet wood causes excess smoke and leaves creosote deposits. If synthetic logs are used, burn only one log at a time. Due to their construction, these logs produce a hotter fire than most firewood.
- Christmas trees and holiday greenery should not be burned in the fireplace.
- Do not burn paper in the fireplace. Newspaper or giftwrap burns too quickly and can overheat the fireplace. Burning paper can be carried up the chimney, possibly igniting any creosote deposits that are in the chimney.
- Never use lighter fluid, gasoline, charcoal or any flammable liquids to start or enhance a fire. Use wood or fan the embers to revive a fire.
- Chimneys should be professionally inspected each year and cleaned after burning approximately one cord of wood or at least once a year. Fires generate creosote, which can lead to a chimney fire if allowed to build up.
- Outside fires can be caused by sparks flying up the chimney. A spark arrestor is simply a metal screen that covers the top of the chimney and prevents sparks from escaping. It also will keep birds from building nests in the chimney.
- Use a metal fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying out.
- Make sure fires are out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Avoid wearing loose, flowing clothing near the fire.
- Keep children away from the fireplace at all times.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force carbon monoxide into the house.
- Always cool the ashes before you take them out of the fireplace. Place the ashes in a metal container and allow them to sit for several days or wet down thoroughly before putting them into a trash container or dumpster.

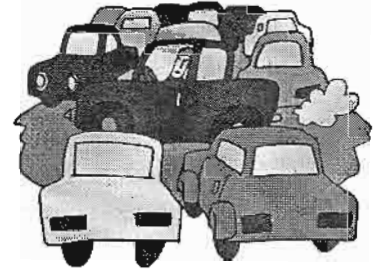


Parking, Parking, Where to Park?

Issues on McCann Drive

Roger Wines

Sunday night, October 27th, I was just settling down for the evening after a nice dinner with my wife, son and his friend. A telephone call came with some news of what was going on in our neighborhood. Because I live on Steck, I seldom venture to the northern portion of the neighborhood, and didn't know we were having a serious traffic/parking problem. As it turns out, the building that originally housed a roller skating rink on McCann near 183 has in recent times been sold again, this time to an entrepreneur that brought to us a Roller Derby.



The result was an over-whelming response by approximately 600 attendees with a parking lot that can accommodate about 200 cars. Needless to say, we caught the overflow in our neighborhood which caused cars to be parked anywhere they could squeeze in. The overflow reached to Rockwood on the south and all the streets in-between. This caused quite a disturbance for our neighbors.

I tried driving through the maze to do some discovering of the situation. As a result of my findings, I met with representatives from the police department, the fire department and the owner. Some things can change for future events, but it could continue to be a difficult situation.

The building can accommodate 1000 persons of which there were only 600 in attendance this night. The parking lot cannot accommodate the anticipated number of cars, and at present there is no easy alternative solution to the parking problem. The police officers cited the illegally parked cars they found or were made aware of. The fire department personnel drove the area examining the possibilities of routes being blocked or hampered. They also checked for blocked fire hydrants.

These events are scheduled again beginning in March, and will continue every few weeks. The schedule has not yet been made available to me.

The follow-up will be 1) to visit with the fire department office to determine the impact and discuss the direction to move forward. They have shown their concern. 2) to also visit with the police department to discuss the possibilities of curtailing traffic in our neighborhood for this and perhaps other similar events.

My hope is that the departments will take action to remedy this in the future, and I believe we can find solutions, but it may take some sacrifice from all of us to keep peace. Perhaps we could gain from this by creating a parking lot and charging for parking. Anyone have a large back yard that could accommodate 300 cars?



MARY KAY

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NORTH SHOAL CREEK REAL ESTATE NEWS
BY: FELICIA MORRISON ABR, CRS, GRI

TEL: 512-619-0100

HERE'S WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The following homes have sold from 08/21/02 through 10/30/02. For more information or a FREE ESTIMATE of your home's market value give me a call.

Homes Currently For Sale:

| <u>Address</u> | <u>Bedrooms</u> | <u>Baths</u> | <u>List Price</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 8109 Rockwood Ln | 4 | 2 | \$149,900 |
| 2901 Ashdale | 4 | 3 | 165,000 |
| 8204 Sandalwood | 4 | 2 | 179,900 |
| 8006 Logwood | 3 | 2 | 159,900 |
| 8612 Little Laura | 3 | 2 | 259,900 |
| 8300 Daleview | 3 | 2 | 159,000 |
| 8308 Millway | 3 | 2 | 184,900 |
| 8612 Winding Walk | 3 | 2 | 175,500 |
| 8604 Melshire | 4 | 2 | 217,500 |

Homes Sold Since Aug 21, 2002

| | | | <u>Sold Price</u> |
|-------------------|---|-----|-------------------|
| 8210 Briarwood | 3 | 1.5 | 132,500 |
| 8202 Sandalwood | 4 | 2 | 142,000 |
| 8200 Sandalwood | 3 | 1.5 | 174,500 |
| 2604 Clarkdale | 3 | 2 | 134,000 |
| 2705 Kerrybrook | 4 | 2 | 200,000 |
| 2704 Benbrook | 4 | 2 | 202,000 |
| 3100 Candelight | 3 | 2 | 179,900 |
| 8406 Millway | 3 | 2 | 183,500 |
| 8809 Little Laura | 3 | 2 | 208,300 |
| 8709 Little Laura | 4 | 2 | 225,000 |
| 3012 Thrushwood | 3 | 2 | 222,000 |

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Featured Condo: 2425 Ashdale #54 Darling one bedroom one bath SOLD IN 18 DAYS!

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Yard of the Month!

Warren Friedrich

The coveted Yard of the Month award has been presented for July and August. The recipients were:



September - *Chris Mitchell* of 8115 Parkdale

October - *David Triplett and Katie Winter* of 8707 Melshire Dr.

November - *C.V. & Ernie Garcia* at 8412 Briarwood

The YOM committee members congratulate and thank Chris Mitchell, David Triplett, Katie Winter and the Garcia's for all their hard work and effort required to keep their yard and the neighborhood looking its best!

Get Involved in Your Community!

If you are interested in becoming a board member or joining a committee for next year, please contact Roger Wines or any of the current board members. It does not take that much time, but does help make this neighborhood a stronger community. Think about it and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask us!

Advertise with us!

The newsletter is distributed every other month for a total of 6 editions a year to approximately 850 households. North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association borders Shoal Creek, Burnet Road, Hwy. 183 and Anderson Lane. Contact Alyssa Hedge at 380-9616 or alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com if you are interested.

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