

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A quarterly publication

Issue 3

October 2, 2004

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A First Step to Addressing Our Traffic/Pedestrian Issues

Traffic has long been a hot issue for several of our neighbors. We also recognize that there are other issues that affect those that walk and recreate in our neighborhood. Have you ever tried to push a wheelchair or stroller on some of our sidewalks? In some areas of our neighborhood it is a scary experience!



We had the opportunity to look at our neighborhood as pedestrians when myself, other NSCNA board members, the Pillow principal, PTA president and officer Dale Cooper participated in a Pedestrian Safety Workshop. This workshop was given by the Trans Texas Alliance, who is sponsored by TXDOT.

This workshop was four hours long and featured a presentation of state-ofthe-art traffic calming techniques and other solutions cities in Texas and elsewhere have embraced, and concluded with a walking tour (with a wheelchair) of our neighborhood that identified problem areas.

What did we learn?



One interesting thing I learned is that folks drive to the design of the road. Speed signs do not really act as a deterrent. When you have a nice, wide straight road, people will drive at a speed with which they are comfortable. It is true - I have caught myself going 40 mph down Rockwood when I am not paying attention.

continued on page 5

Next NSCNA General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 20th

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Pillow Elementary Cafeteria

We are going to discuss what happened at the Traffic Workshop and look at next steps we can take. We have lots of great information to share and hope to see you there!

Wanted: Newsletter Distribution Coordinator

Alyssa Hedge



Our very wonderful neighbor, Tracy Lirban, is leaving our neighborhood. She was an awesome support to the newsletter coordinating the distribution to our wonderful distributors. She will be terribly missed!! We will need to find a replacement for Tracy and wanted to see if you could help us out? The newsletter comes out 4 times a year. On occasion, we may distribute a flyer in between newsletters. The responsibilities of the distributor are as follows:

- Contact the distributors and make them aware that we have a newsletter or flyer to distribute.
- Separate the newsletters into bags for each of the distributor's routes.
- Have distributors pick up newsletters and/or drop them off ot their houses.
- 4.) Call/locate substitutes if a distributor is unable to distribute that issue.

The time commitment is really pretty minimal. We have an awesome base of distributors and Tracy has a great system set up, so you will not be starting from scratch. If you think you might be interested in helping out, I would really appreciate it. Doing the newsletter and coordination of the distribution is much to much for one person. It really does take a team of people to get this thing to our neighbors!!!

Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out! Contact me, Alyssa Hedge, at 380-9616 or at alyssahedge@gmail.com.

Thanks so much!!



North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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

Chairman of the Board

Eric Thronson - Neighborhood Beautification 451-1010 ethrons1@botmail.com

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

The following homes have sold from 3/13/04 through 8/29/04. Due to the new privacy laws we are no longer permitted to publish the sold properties' prices. Please welcome your new neighbors to the neighborhood.

Homes Currently For Sale:

Address	Bedrooms	Baths	List Price
8001 Rockwood	3	1.5	139,900
8504 Daleview	3	2	174,900
3105 Steck	3	1	144,444
8201 Rockwood	3	2	169,500
3025 Thrushwood	3	2	221,000
Homes Sold Since Jan 1,	2004		Sold
2703 Baubrook	3	2	SOLD
8212 Stillwood	3	2	SOLD
3004 Vinewood	3	2	SOLD
8115 Parkdale	4	2	SOLD
8014 Rockwood	3	1	SOLD
8306 Daleview	3	1.5	SOLD
3102 Charlwood	3	1	SOLD
8310 Daleview	4	3	SOLD
3104 Candelight	3	2	SOLD
8301 Millway	4	2	SOLD
8505 Millway	4	2	SOLD
8611 Meishire	*	2	SOLD -
8820 Little Laura	3	2	SOLD
8812 Little Laura	3	2.5	SOLD
8700 Little Laura	3	2.5	SOLD

[&]quot;Although deemed accurate this information is not guaranteed.

Your North Shoal Creek Realtor

If you want to know about home values in our neighborhood, CALL THE EXPERT! 1 know what it takes to market these lovely vintage homes to their best advantage. Let my champagne taste on a beer budget work for you!



FELICIA MORRISON, ABR, CRS, GRI Mobile: (512) 619-0100 feliciamorrison@hotmail.com So Hidda Expand Prudential

Leaves are falling but home prices are not!



Sandy Perkins, your neighbor, your Realtor

No one can promote a neighborhood like a homeowner who lives in and loves the area! I MOVE FAMILIES!

My recent sales have included:

2703 Benbrook (2 offers!)

8301 Millway (3 offers!)

8310 Daleview

As you can see, I have buyers left over who want to live in our neighborhood! If you are thinking of selling now or in the near future, please give me a call and I'll bring the buyers!



sandyperkins@earthlink.net

www.sandyperkins.com

512-797-(PERK) 7375

Sandy Perkins, Native
Austinite, University of Texas
Graduate (class of 1988) celebrating my 15th year with
Coldwell Banker, United Realtors and 15 years living in and
marketing our neighborhood!

You can't beat my experience!

continued from the front page

One of the attendees told me that he looks at our streets a little differently now. He noticed that during soccer games at Pillow when there are several cars parked on both sides of the street, cars were driving very slow – even slower than on school days.

We learned several strategies that can be employed such as traffic circles, speed humps and painting stripes down the road. Our instructor pointed out that there is no paint on Crosscreek to narrow the lanes. He also mentioned that paint is one of the cheapest remedies out there – which means city approval might be easier to gain.

We saw places where traffic signs were hidden behind trees and sidewalks that stopped suddenly or were dangerously uneven. We walked along Steck and experienced how short the crosswalk lights are and how close to the traffic you must walk. We saw "desired" lines in grassy areas where there was no sidewalk, but pedestrians clearly needed one.

How do we make change?

At a high level we need to form an action plan with the help of a city traffic consultant/engineer. We then take our plan to the city and see what the timeline will be to get some of the proposed changes accomplished. Crucial to the success of this project is strong support from the neighborhood, support of the folks at Pillow, and the involvement of surrounding area business.

Where do we start as a neighborhood?

The group at the workshop identified some short, medium and long-term priorities for our neighborhood.

These need to be validated by our neighbors. We then need interested neighbors to work with us developing a detailed action plan. We have a planning matrix worksheet from our instructor for this very purpose. We need to list each step that needs to be taken in order to accomplish each priority.

If you are interested, come to the general meeting and help us work on the action plan. This will not be a quick project. But if we are persistent and resilient, change and improvement will come. The benefits of our efforts will be an improved community with better quality of life for all our neighbors, great streets and attractive public spaces.

If you are interested, but cannot make the meeting, please contact David Watson at 420-9037 or by email at davidallan71@hotmail.com



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An Editorial: Toll Roads a Good Idea

Eric Thronson

Everyone has an opinion on the toll road issue facing Central Texas, but I think it's important that everyone has all the facts before drawing any conclusions. For those of you not aware of the situation, here is a quick recap: In July, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) approved a \$2.2 billion plan to create seven new toll roads in the Central Texas area. The rationale behind the decision is that the State of Texas has indicated it will withhold road funding from metropolitan areas that refuse to install toll roads. Major cities all over the state are facing the exact same issue. However, three of these seven roads that will become toll roads in the Austin area are already in the process of being built with gas-tax dollars. The controversy lies mainly in these roads being built with tax dollars and then drivers being taxed to use them, thus resident are being "double taxed".



Now here are some facts: regardless of what Steve Simmons, deputy executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation, says, the only way roads are going to be built in the Central Texas area soon is if we implement the toll road plan. On September 14th Simmons is quoted in the Austin American-Statesman as saying TxDOT's contributions to Central Texas are principally secure regardless of toll road implementation. This may be true, but the fact is the funds are not promised with any given time frame. Central Texas will certainly have the funds to expand roadways some time in the future, but the area cannot afford to wait 15 years to expand its infrastructure. It must start now. And to do so, it must implement toll road plans—this is the only way to get roads built in the immediate future, the only way to alleviate the growing traffic problem in this region right now.





The loudest objections are coming from the southwest Austin area concerning the tolling of the William Cannon overpass onto Mopac. First, this is only the beginning of a longer toll road planned there in the future. It is unreasonable (and inconvenient) to toll the road built before the overpass, not the overpass, and the road built beyond the overpass simply because the overpass was built with separate tax dollars. Second. if CAMPO was to remove this overpass from the plan, it would be violating its own social equity principle-basically that there can be no plan to toll roads "over there" and not "over here". To be equitable, roads across the area must be tolled evenly.

Finally, those opposed are missing the most salient point of the toll road system: the tolls are voluntary, and anyone choosing not to use them will have nothing but less traffic as a result of their presence. Nowhere are toll lanes going to be the only alternative. The same roads in place today will be available free of charge in the future. The only difference will be they will have fewer vehicles on them, as many will opt to pay the toll and drive on separate lanes.



Toll roads benefit everyone; they create alternative routes to alleviate traffic congestion. They create revenue that stays in the area and allows for the further development of traffic infrastructure as Austin grows. And they are only one of many tools planned for the future travel of Austin area residents. They are to complement a multi-modal transportation design including commuter rail among others. For more information, visit the CTRMA website at www.ctrma.org. Capital Metro's website at www.capmetro.org, or Envision Central Texas at www.envisioncentraltexas.org. Austin is going to continue to grow and expand, and if traffic issues are not addressed immediately, it will be to the detriment of us all.

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City of Austin Resources: Did You Know?

You can get recycle bins at your local fire station?

Austin fire stations have recycle bins available for pick-up by Austin residents. Citizens should bring a copy of a utility bill with them to prove they reside in the City. At times, stations run out of bins and must reorder them, but the supply should be replenished within a few weeks. To learn where the nearest fire station is to your home, call AFD Headquarters during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. -4:45 p.m.) at (512) 974-0130.



There is a place that will dispose of hazardous household products for free?



Residents of the City of Austin and Travis County can bring limited quantities of hazardous waste free of charge to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Residents can bring a variety of items including: Latex paint, oil-based paint, furniture strippers, paint thinners, fertilizers, pesticides, pool chemicals, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, bleach or products containing bleach, ammonia or ammonia-based products, all-purpose cleaners, furniture polish, spot removers, scouring powder, oven cleaner, bathroom cleaners.

bug spray, motor oil, oil filters, gasoline, anti-freeze, lubricants, car batteries, brake fluid, transmission fluid, car wax, metal polish, thermometers and fluorescent lights.

Staff at the facility will ensure that products are safely disposed of. Pouring chemicals down the drain, dumping them on the ground or putting them in your trash is dangerous!

The facility is open to residents of Austin and Travis County from noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The facility is located at 2514 Business Center Drive. To get to the facility from downtown, take I 35 south to Ben White. Go east at Ben White. Make a right hand turn on to Todd Lane, the second traffic light after I-35, before the McDonald's. Business Center Drive is the first right, after the railroad tracks. The facility is the second building on your right.

Who to call when a streetlight is out or to request a streetlight be installed?

Austin Energy provides street lighting for the City of Austin. If you think you need more light in your neighborhood, you can request street lights from Austin Energy's Illumination Group. They will survey the area to see if it requires more lighting. They also will determine the best location for the lighting.



Contact the Austin Energy Illumination Group at (512) 505-7617 of by e-mail at lightingrepair@austinenergy.com to report a streetlight or request streetlights. It takes three working days or less to complete repairs. Provide the following information with your request:

- Name
- Address
- Daytime phone number or e-mail address
- Location of the streetlight in need of repair
- Location of the area in need of additional lighting.
- Pole number (if available)



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Neighborhood Groups and Resources

Join a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

These volunteers will provide emergency management support to the community before, during and after an emergency or disaster. For more information or to request a packet in the mail, call Amber King at 974-0469. You can also download the packet and get more information at www.cityofaustin.org/oem

Join the Texas Star Chorus / Sweet Andelines

Or maybe you haven't even thought about getting on stage since your high school or college days. Well, if you'd like to add a little excitement to your regular routine, Texas Star, a women's show chorus, is looking for new members. Women of all ages who enjoy singing are invited to attend rehearsals on Tuesdays at Parmer Lane Baptist Church at 7:00 PM. No formal music training is required, any woman of average singing ability, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her voice range. The chorus provides a community service, offering its talent for entertainment at civic events and charitable functions, in addition to promoting harmony and friendship among women. Rehearsals for the Holiday Chorus, which will perform at several venues including the Capitol Rotunda, begin on October 5th. For more information call 689-0034 or visit our web site at www.texasstarchorus.org.

ParentWise: A great resource for parents

Parent: Wise Austin is a free, advertiser-supported, monthly magazine for parents of children birth to 17. They seek to create a warm community of informed, thoughtful parents who appreciate serious journalism, sharp writing, and intelligent discussion about matters pertaining to parenthood. Parent: Wise Austin informs and educates Central Texas parents with solid news and feature acticles; an extensive calendar of events, storytimes, classes and support groups; reviews of quality books and music; and a variety of select advertisers who specialize in goods in services important to parents. We print 32,000 copies of Parent: Wise Austin each month and distribute them to 500 family-friendly locations in and around Austin, Round Rock, Pflugerville, Westlake, and other Central Texas locales. For more information, contact Parent: Wise at 699.5327 or go to their website at www.parentwiseaustin.com

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Landscaping and Your Neighborhood

From Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening, 2nd Edition.

We Texans are known for being good neighbors, and there is no place where that shows more quickly than in the way we landscape our homes. In the hopes that your interest in landscaping will spread to all who surround you, here are ways you can be a better neighbor through landscaping.



- Take extra pride in the way your landscape looks. Teach by example. Gardening can become quietly competitive. Before you know it, others around you will start fixing up their surroundings.
 - Clean up the debris. Most of us have parts of our gardens where old things are stored. Get rid of the weeds, old lumber, even the old cars. Nobody will come onto your property to do it for you. Cleaning your space in your job.
 - Keep your landscape safe. Watch for low-hanging branches. cracked sidewalks, and sharp-pointed shrubs. Trim away limbs that obscure intersections.

Editor's Note: During the Pedestrian Workshop, we did notice limbs obscuring signs. In one case, a sign informing drivers of a crosswalk was not visible until we were at the crosswalk. Also, we have learned that you can call the city about repairing cracked sidewalks. When we get more information on whom to contact, we will publish that information.



- Be careful when you plant trees near property lines, or near your neighbor's houses. Be sure their roots and limbs won't cause harm.
- If you're putting up fences, check with your neighbors first. Agree on style
 and the placement. They might even share the cost.
- Keep your weeds, your pests, and your pets under control. Nobody wants to live next door to a yard full of invaders.
- 7. Co-op your gardening costs whenever it's possible. Buy in bulk in your can. It may be unnecessary for everybody on the block to own a power spray rig. Buy as a group, then use that sort of specialized equipment as needed. Assign the block's best mechanic the responsibility of storing and maintaining it. in return for his share of the use. Use the same technique for other expensive and seldom-used pieces of equipment.
- Be careful your sprays don't drift. You might end up ruining a valuable tree or garden crop, and that certainly makes for poor neighborly relations.
- Grow plenty of plants flowers, fruit, and vegetables. You'll be the most popular neighborhood around when you start passing out surplus garden-fresh produce.

1000007400



National Night Out Wrap-Up

Alyssa Hedge

The neighborhood held various National Night.
Out parties in early August. These parties are a
great opportunity to meet neighbors and catch up
with those we haven't seen or talked to in a
while. On our block it was great to talk about
issues that neighbors were concerned about. I
was also excited because we had such a great
turnout at our party!

It occurred to me that to have a strong neighborhood, you have to have strong blocks. That is not to say that you have to become the best of friends with your neighbors, but that you know who they are. At a basic level, you watch out for each other and your dwellings. The better you



know your neighbors, the better able you are to know when there are strangers loitering in the area or when something just doesn't seem right at a neighbor's house. When going out of town, it is great if neighbors

know, so they can keep an extra close eye on your house and collect your mail and newspapers.



I highly encourage neighbors to throw an occasional driveway party. To keep things easy you can invite neighbors to bring a chair, their favorite beverage and a snack to share with everyone. Just put flyers on your neighbors' doors – and you have an instant get together! With the weather getting cooler, it is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and relax with your neighbors. Another idea is to do a recipe or cookie swap with the holidays around the corner!



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Chris Randall & Carrie Garwick

You may also want to circulate the idea of forming a Neighborhood Watch with your neighbors. This is really not very time consuming and simply formalizes what you would do informally for your neighbors. It also establishes a contact system such as a phone tree that can be used in times of emergencies or when important news needs to be disseminated. We are surrounded by areas with fairly high crime rates and the only way to keep it out of our neighborhood is to be vigilant in protecting it. If you would be interested in forming a neighborhood watch, you can contact our APD North Central District Representative, Officer James Hellums, at 974-5554 or at james.hellums@ci.austin.tx.us.



Some Useful Numbers

Animals Running Loose - 972-6060 (dispatcher)

Creek Drainage Complaints - 974-3366

Report overgrown/trashed creeks and drainage areas to the Watershed Protection Department. The exact location is needed. An inspector will be sent to investigate. If the location is the responsibility of the private property owner, the owner will be contacted.

Street and Bridge Repair - 440-8444

Citizens can report when street surfaces or pothole conditions are considered dangerous and a possible threat to public safety. Hazardous conditions are defined as: items in the street, oil spills, guard/bridge rail damage of any kind or excessive rocks on the street. A supervisor will inspect the site and estimate when it will be cleaned up. Minor repairs are usually done in within 5 days. Major repairs may take months.



HARDWARE & GENERAL MERCHANT

"For all of our neighbors in the North Shoal Creek area, the staff at Zinger Hardware wither you a fabulous holiday reason."

NEW ARRIVALS

As we approach our third holiday season, our heartfelt thanks to you for shopping locally. Stop by to see our new line up of products and gifts that are perfect for that special someone on your shopping list.

The U. T. Yard Gnome is here along with Jelly Belly Candies, Old Fashion Taffy, Bertie Botts, Groovy Candy...Salt Lick BBQ Sauces, Devil Pickles and an Austin classic - Margarita Mixes.

10% Off any regular priced stem between October 1, 2004 and November 19, 2004. Coopen required

Editor's Note: The shopping center where Zinger is located is about to get a face lift. There are also several new stores that have opened: a shoe place, a plus-size women's clothing store, a baby clothing store, and a place that carries used baby furniture as well. If you haven't been there is a while - you should visit and check out all the new merchants!

Austin Area Fun

Austin Film Festival

Date:

October 14 - 21

Place:

Paramount Theatre and other locations

Cost:

Can purchase tickets to screenings or a film pass for \$42.50

Recognized as one of the top film festivals in the country, this cinematic event shines the spotlight on top-billed films and indies alike. The schdule of screenings has not yet been posted. For more information closer to the date, go to www.austinfilmfestival.com or call 478-4795.





Old Gruene Market Days

Date:

October 16 - 17

Place:

New Braunfels

Cost:

Free

Nearly 100 vendors offer uniquely crafted items collectibles and packaged Texas foods. Market opens at 10 a.m. To get to the market, take exit 191 West from I-35 and travel 1.5 miles. Take a left on Hunter Road and go a half mile.

Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival is a statewide program that promotes reading and literacy highlighted by a two-day festival featuring authors from Texas and across the country.



Money raised from the Festival is distributed as grants to public libraries throughout the state. The Festival has contributed \$1.52 million to public libraries throughout the state, enabling them to expand their book collections and reading programs. The Texas Book Festival is currently the largest private funding source for Texas libraries.

BOOK FAIR

Date:

October 30 - 31 (Sat. 9 - 5pm, Sun 11 - 5pm)

Place:

Colorado & 11th Streets

Cost:

Free

Book signings and sales by featured authors, 100 plus vendors providing food and entertainment as well as The Children's Chapter, featuring book-related crafts, activities, children's authors and entertainment by such notables as Tish Hinojosa and Joe McDermott.

OTHER EVENTS

There will be free reading and panels open to the public taking place at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. State Capitol, and Capitol Extention. There will also be featured writers and kid's programs taking place. The exact times and places have not yet been determined. For more information, you can go to www.texasbookfestival.org or contact 477-4055.

Halloween Children's Concert

Date:

October 24th, 2 shows (1:30pm and 3pm)

Place:

Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress

Cost:



What Austin tradition is creepy and crawly yet not too spooky for the little-bitties (and still exciting and enlightening for the whole family)? It's fun-filled, educational, and classical music that will leave you shakin' in your boots: The Austin Symphony's Halloween Children's Concert. This concert is a wonderful chance for you to introduce your children to the wonders of live music and also a great opportunity to wear costumes and have tons of fun. For more information go to www.austinsymphony.com or call 476-6064.

Austin Powwow and American Indian Heritage Festival

Date:

November 6, 10am - 10pm

Place:

Tony Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd.

Cost:

Celebrates Native American culture with dance, food, arts and crafts, music and storytellers. Call 448-1960 for more information or go to www.austinpowwow.org

Austin Celtic Festival

November 6 & 7, 11am - 10pm

Place:

Fiesta Gardens

Cost:

\$10 per day; children under 12 are free (Dell worker are free with badge)

The festival features four musical stages of Irish and Scottish music from local, regional and national acts, Celtic dance troupes, over 50 Celtic craft vendors, musical and historical workshops, storytelling and much more. Call 431-6290 for more information or go to www.austincelts.org.

OPEN HEARTS



OPEN MINDS



OPEN DOORS

St. John's United Methodist Church

Beginning August 15 — New interactive and dynamic Sunday School program! Kids, come and join us each Sunday morning at 9:45 as we learn Bible lessons through music/movement, art, games, drama and more! We hope to see you!

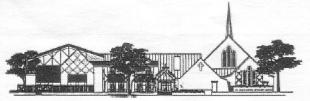
October 24, 2:30-5:00 p.m. — Pumpkinfest

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy pumpkins, costumes, games, food and fun! No cost!

November 13 - Bless the Pets Service

Bring your pet for a special blessing, Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.

Please call the church office, 452-5737, for more details about our upcoming family programs and activities.



Sunday Morning Services: 8:30 & 11:00 Loving childcare / Active Youth Group Bobbi Kaye Jones, Senior Pastor 2140 Allandale Road 452-5737

It Is Time to Renew or Join NSCNA

Dues are now due at the beginning of every year. If you have not paid your 2004 dues, please do so. Your dues help us pay for the production of this newsletter, events for the neighborhood and to pay for resources that assist in solving issues affecting the neighborhood.

Join the Neighborhood Association 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 Membership P.O. Box 66443 Austin, TX 78766-0443 Name: Address: E-mail Address: (with your email address we will add you to our Yahoo Group where you will receive meeting notifications and other important neighborhood information. This group is NOT a discussion group and is used to simply communicate information to our neighbors. This group will NOT exceed 30 messages a year.) Please check one: Renewal ____ New Would you be interested in volunteering a few hours on the following committees? ☐ Pillow Beautification ☐ Traffic Issues ☐ Neighborhood Beautification ☐ Crime Prevention ☐ Yard of the Month Committee Would you be interested in volunteering at any of our events? Spring Fling (May 2nd) □ July 4th Parade □ Halloween / Fall Carnival Do you have any comments or suggestions for NSCNA?