



NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A quarterly publication

Issue 1

March 1, 2004

NSCNA Board Decides on 2004 Priorities

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The NSCNA Board has met and has decided on four important priorities for 2004:

1. Crime Prevention
2. Neighborhood Beautification
3. Pillow Beautification
4. Traffic Issues

The name of the committee chair is listed with the priority. Please contact them if you are interested in sharing ideas, thoughts, concerns or volunteering your time to further the cause. If you have some time, come to our General Meeting March 10th and meet the board members who are championing each effort. We would really appreciate just a little of your time to hear your ideas and get your support!

Inside the newsletter you will find details on how the board plans to address each area.

Next NSCNA General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 10
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Pillow Cafeteria

It is our first meeting of the year! For this meeting, we have our very own Troy Zimmerman who will talk to us about the maintenance of our trees and how to deal with a tree that may be dying. We will also talk about our social calendar as well as the 4 priorities that we will be focusing on for the year.

Please come and meet the board members, bring a beverage and spend a little time with your neighbors! Woo-hoo!

Advertise with us!

The newsletter is distributed quarterly 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 3 advertisements for the price of 2 (rates have been adjusted since there are only 3 issues remaining). Advertising deadlines and other information can be found at www.main.org/nscna. Additionally, contact Alyssa Hedge at 380-9616 or at alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com for more information.

Rates:	Per Issue	One-Year
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1/2 page:	\$70	\$210
Full Page:	\$110	\$300
Insert:	\$130	\$390



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Please support businesses that support our neighborhood.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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

Chairman of the Board

Eric Thronson - *Neighborhood Beautification* 451-1010 ethrons1@hotmail.com

Board of Directors

Alyssa Hedge - <i>Newsletter</i>	380-9616	alyssa_hedge@hotmail.com
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David Watson - <i>Crime Prevention</i>	420-9037	davidallan71@hotmail.com
Tara Thronson - <i>Traffic Issues</i>	451-1010	tindab@hotmail.com

Get Ready for Springtime!



Win \$100.00 gift certificate

to Lowe's for your springtime gardening project! Compliments of your neighborhood Realtor! Just send your name, address & phone number with 'Spring Contest' to me at the office address or email address below - no later than 03/25/04. Winner to be chosen and notified on 04/01/04.

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NSCNA Board Priorities - Get Involved

Do you have good ideas you would like to share about our neighborhood priorities? If so, please contact our committee chairs and let them know. Your involvement doesn't have to be time consuming - we just want to hear from you! If you have a couple of hours, we would appreciate any time you have to help the neighborhood! Contact information for the chairs is on page 2.

Crime Prevention - David Watson

The Crime Prevention Action group's primary purpose is to keep our neighborhood safe. This year's initiatives focus on getting to know our neighbors and banding together as a neighborhood to protect it. The goals are to:

- Limit solicitation in the area
- Institute a Neighborhood Watch Program
- Focus on a "Know Your Neighbor" initiative



Neighborhood Beautification - Eric Thronson



The neighborhood beautification committee is designed to raise the standards of our community to reflect our pride in where we live. We hope to instigate a number of programs from a procedure to alert owners of a renter's neglect to perhaps "adopting" a neighbor's front yard who can't otherwise maintain it. Additionally we are interested in protecting and/or replacing our neighborhood's old-growth tree population. Principally the goal of this committee is to keep our neighborhood as attractive as possible, benefiting all in terms of property values.

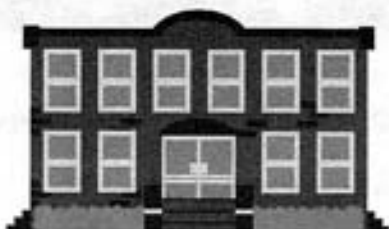
Traffic Issues - Tara Thronson

This committee will work with the City of Austin to explore options to slow down traffic on the busiest streets in our neighborhood, Steck Ave and Rockwood Ln. We also plan to coordinate a workshop with the Pedestrian Safety Program through the Trans Texas Alliance in order to improve neighborhood safety.



Pillow Beautification - Laura Zimmerman

The Pillow Beautification project focuses on giving a complete "facelift" to Pillow Elementary. The initiative began with a tree drive to plant trees at Pillow. This planting will take place on March 27th. Other projects that need to be completed include:



- Planting gardens on the grounds
- Lining the track area
- Painting parts of the school building
- Cleaning up and building out the gazebo area
- Getting a sign for Pillow

Join the Yard of the Month Committee!!



The Yard of the Month Committee needs a new set of volunteers!! The responsibility of the committee is to select one neighbor each month who should be commended for their hard work on their front yards. The committee selects the neighbors by entertaining nominees from the neighborhood and driving around the neighborhood to see who should receive an award for that month.

Our neighborhood wants to maintain its value and beauty. This committee demonstrates how important this is to us. Many neighbors who have won the award in the past have really enjoyed the pride of having the "Yard of the Month" sign in their yard and are usually sad to see it go!

Won't you consider joining this committee? We need a coordinator of the committee as well as volunteers to help find a winner each month. If you are interested in forming or joining this committee, please contact Eric Thronson at 451-1010 or email him at ethronsl@hotmail.com.

For information on how to nominate a neighbor, keep your eye on the web site. Once the committee is put together, information on who to contact for a nomination will be posted there.

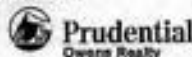


Your North Shoal Creek Realtor

If you want to know about home values in our neighborhood, **CALL THE EXPERT!** I 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!



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If you know someone who would like to live in
our wonderful neighborhood, please have them
pay us a visit!



Christmas Light Commendations



We wanted to recognize some of the folks in the neighborhood who had some great Christmas decorations this past year. This is in no way a complete list of all the fabulous decorations, but just some that were sent in from some of our neighbors. Thanks for all of your hard work in creating great holiday scenes that lit up the neighborhood!

8105 Briarwood

8420 Briarwood

2700 Clarkdale

3103 Charwood

2703 Steck

3018 Crosscreek

8401 Stillwood



Pillow News

Ann Smalley - Pillow Teacher



Pillow Receives Texas Blue Ribbon Recognition!!!!

Pillow Elementary recently received Texas Blue Ribbon state recognition. Out of 7600 schools in Texas, Pillow is one of only 27 schools nominated by the Texas Education Agency for the National Blue Ribbon award. Outstanding state assessment scores in third, fourth, and fifth grade are major factors in this achievement. **Of the 74 elementary schools in Austin, Pillow ranks in the top quartile** in percentage of students commended for high scores on the newly designed and challenging TAKS test. Data analysis reveals no significant performance disparity among the various student groups. This is a remarkable accomplishment.

12 Science Fair winners head to Regionals!

In February, the Pillow Science Fair produced 12 schoolwide winners who will compete in the Austin Energy Regional Science Fair. All students and classes including PreK to 5th graders participated in creating entries for the exhibit.



Kindergarten student present annual Pillow Circus!

On February 19, Kindergarten students presented the annual Pillow Circus performance. With clown acts, acrobats, tightrope walkers, and trapeze artists, the evening was full of laughter, thrills, and chills for the young at heart.

Time for the "Something's Afoot" Golf Tournament!

Pillow's Third Annual "Something's Afoot" Golf Tournament and Auction is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 11, at River Place Country Club**. An entry fee of \$100 includes green fee, cart, and dinner. Prizes will be awarded and the day includes a reception and silent auction. Donations are needed for the auction along with your support and participation. Please help make this event a tremendous fund raiser for "Something's Afoot", our special musical program that offers an incredible performance experience for Pillow students. If you need more information, call Pillow at 414-2350.



Can you donate something for the silent auction?

Do you love to play golf?

Something's Afoot is yet another quality that makes our very own Pillow Elementary special.

If you can help by either participating in this event or donating an item, please do. Call the school at 414-2350. Thank you!!!

Our Ash Trees are Dying.... What You Should Do

Dick Peterson - City of Austin Xeriscape Coordinator

"A great deal on Ash trees"

A local resident who is also a landscape architect commented that when they developed our neighborhood, they must have gotten a great deal on ash trees. These trees have a lifespan of approximately 40 years, so many of the ash trees in our neighborhood are dying. This is a great opportunity to replace your ash tree with a heartier tree such as a cedar elm or a live oak. The following article give you a great bit of information on how to choose a tree, a location and plant your tree.



The time to plant is Now

Winter is one of the best times to plant a tree. Many excellent varieties are available at your local nursery, with some of the best trees available in the winter. Your new tree will use the winter dormant season to establish new roots. When spring arrives, your tree will be on its way to providing shade for generations to come. While it may seem obvious that planting a tree is a good thing, here are some reasons which may not have occurred to you. Well-placed trees can save you money on your utility bills. In the summer trees shade your roof and windows and also cool the air around your house as they breathe. In the winter, evergreens can block cold north winds. By using less electricity you help cut down on emissions from power plants that contribute to the "green house effect." Trees of course clean the air by creating oxygen, and they also keep our cities cooler by reducing the "heat island" effect. This is caused by concrete and asphalt storing and reflecting heat, making urban areas hotter.

Choosing a Tree

Ask your nursery professional to recommend a tree that is native or adapted to this area. Don't ask for the fastest growing tree such as an Arizona ash, cottonwood, Chinese tallow or poplar. Their fast growth results in weak, brittle wood. They are also prone to freeze and insect damage, leaving you with the expense of tree removal just when you expect to be receiving shade. Excellent deciduous trees for this area include Chinese pistache, cedar elm, Drake elm, pecan, Texas ash, and bald cypress. These trees will lose their leaves in the winter and provide access to the winter sun to warm your home. Two of the best choices in this category are the bur and chinquapin oaks. Recommended evergreen selections include live oak, Afghan pine, deodar cedar, and cherry laurel.

(continued page 10)



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The NSCNA WebSite Is Up!

Much thanks to our newest board member and volunteer Sheila Beene for revamping the NSCNA web site! The site is now updated with the latest news and contact information for the neighborhood association. You can go to the website to find out when the next meetings are, get information on projects and happenings in the neighborhood, find volunteer opportunities in the neighborhood, view the newsletter and much more!!



You can also subscribe to the NSCNA newsgroup. This tool will allow us to send important updates and information to you. This will be done on a need-only basis. For instance, the "Allendale Estates" sign was recently hit with graffiti. This forum will allow us to email members to seek volunteers to help in the cleaning up and repair of the sign. Please join the newsgroup!!



Please check out the site when you have a chance!!

<http://www.main.org/nscna/>

NSCNA Calendar

March 10th - General Meeting

April 17th - Neighborhood Garage Sale

May 2nd - Spring Fling

June 9th - General Meeting

July 4th - Parade and Celebration

August 4 - National Night Out

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or call the office 459-0027

Tree Planting - Con't

Choosing a site

Survey your site and decide the best location for your tree. Choose the variety based on mature size compared to the space you have available. Most planting mistakes are made by placing a tree that will become very large in the wrong place; under a power line or too close to the house, driveway, or walkway. Don't place the tree near water, gas, cable TV, telephone or sewer lines. In Austin, phone One Call at 472-2822; they will locate and mark all underground utility lines in the digging area. In other locations, call your utility or service supplier. Now dig a test hole. Be sure your location is not one large limestone boulder with a thin layer of soil over it. If you hit a large rock, move over a bit and try again. When you are sure you can dig an adequate hole, then purchase the tree. When you know the size of the hole you can dig, your original plan for a large balled and burlaped tree may change to a five gallon size. The smaller size is easier to plant, less expensive, and may grow more rapidly than the larger tree.

Planting the Tree

Dig your hole three to five times as wide as the container or root ball. The hole should be no deeper than the container. If you disturb the native soil below the root ball, the tree may settle and sink too low. The sides of the hole should not be smooth. Dig an ugly, ragged hole or even a square hole. Use a pick or shovel to break up the vertical soil surface. This gives the roots a chance to grow into the native soil. Carefully remove the tree from its container and place it in the hole. Large trees may require the aid of several helpers to avoid damaging the roots. If the roots have begun to circle inside the container, straighten them out from the root ball as you refill the hole.



Most times a newly planted tree will stand on its own. If necessary, drive a sturdy stake at the edge of the root ball. Use an old nylon stocking to loop a loose figure eight around the tree and the stake. Fill the hole with the removed soil, not peat moss, compost, or bagged soil. It's best to get the tree immediately accustomed to the soil in which it will be grow-

ing. Otherwise the roots tend to stay in the amended soil and never grow into the surrounding native soil. As you fill, compress the soil with your foot several times to prevent air pockets. Use the extra soil to build a dam around the edge of the hole. Water thoroughly and deeply. A liquid root stimulator may be used, but is usually not necessary.

Cover the area inside the dam with 3-4 inches of organic mulch. In the absence of rain, a good soaking every two weeks is sufficient during the winter. For more information on appropriate landscaping for Central Texas, call Dick Peterson, with the City of Austin Xeriscape Program at 499-3514. The City of Austin Green Builder Program is a voluntary home-rating system that encourages environmentally sound building, remodeling, and home maintenance. For more information, call 499-7827



You can find more information including the Sustainable Building Sourcebook compiled by the City of Austin's Green Builder Program at the [Sustainable Sources](#) website.

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JB Goodwin Realtors
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realtoraustin.com
peggy@realtoraustin.com

Neighborhood Meeting and Groups

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 Sweet Andelines

Ladies of all ages: Discover the unique thrill of singing barbershop harmony! Texas Star Chorus invites you to a Guest Night on Tuesday April 13th beginning at 7:00 PM. Parmer Lane Baptist Church, 12424 Scofield Farms Dr Austin 78758. For more information call Gail at 626-5969 or visit our web site at www.texasstarchorus.org

Ever wanted to be a weather spotter?

The SKYWARN Program at NWSFO Austin/San Antonio is the primary means of educating and training the public on severe weather safety and spotting. If you are interested in becoming a trained spotter for your area, or are just interested in browsing through some of the Skywarn Links, go to their web site at www.srh.noaa.gov/ewx/html/skywarn.htm.

Pillow Tree Planting

We are ready to plant the trees that were purchased with money from the Sit N Shade tree drive. We are hoping to do this March 26th in the afternoon. We still have to confirm this date with the school.

If you are interested in attending, please go to our website and join our Yahoo Group. You will receive an email once the date has been confirmed.

www.main.org/nscna



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What is the Status of the New Library?

About a year ago, a community meeting was held to discuss construction of a new North Village Branch library at Steck Avenue. We hadn't heard any news in a while, so we contacted the Austin Public Library's Facilities Coordinator, John Gillum, to get the scoop. Here is his update:

"I am afraid that an update on the North Village Branch Library Replacement Project will not be heartening for any of us, but as the City of Austin finds itself in difficult budgetary times, I suppose we must face that reality.

During the budget formulation process for the current year (Financial Year 2004), the City Council voted to delay the construction and opening of a number of building projects approved by voters in the 1998 Bond Election. The North Village Branch Library Replacement Project was among those projects delayed by two years by that particular Council action. The new North Village Branch Library (at the previously purchased 2505 Steck Avenue site) is now scheduled to open its doors to the public on January 26, 2008 rather than at its earlier due date of January 21, 2006.

I am sorry that my report could not be more cheerful, but rest assure that when the City allows us to move forward on this project once again, we will do everything in our power to expedite the construction of this important neighborhood library facility. If there should be any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to let me know so that I may do my best to answer them."



John Gillum's contact information is: john.gillum@ci.austin.tx.us



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"We would like to thank all of the residents of the North Shoal Creek Community for their continued support of Zinger Hardware & General Merchant. Thanks to our neighbors, we are a successful alternative to the box retail world".

NEW ARRIVALS

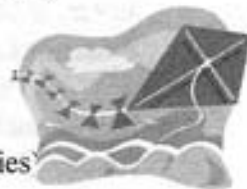
Nigella Lawson's Living Kitchen
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10% Off any
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price items between March 1,
2004 and April 1, 2004.
Coupon required

Austin Area Fun

Information is from the Austin Visitor's and Convention Bureau at austintexas.org

Zilker Park Kite Festival



Date: March 7th, 11 - 5pm
Place: Zilker Park
Cost: Free (concessions available - all proceeds go to various Austin children's charities)

One of the nation's oldest kite-flying events draws thousands of professional and amateur kite-flyers. There will be various competitions all day long such as 50 yard dash, highest kite, steadiest kite, smallest and largest kite, and most unusual. For those that want to compete, registration is free. At 5pm, the mass ascent will begin where everyone is invited to fly a kite of any kind (store bought, etc.) For more information, go to www.zilkerkitefestival.com or call 647-7488.

Bob Hope: An American Patriot

Date: March 6th - April 25th
Place: LBJ Library and Museum - open everyday 9 am to 5pm
Cost: Free

The exhibit showcases Bob Hope's work during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Also on display are highlights of his career and friendships with the last eleven presidents. Other items on display include priceless photographs spanning five decades of service to the nation; programs and scripts from various USO Camp Shows, radio and television; prestigious awards and medals and signature pieces used by Bob Hope to entertain our troops. For more information, call 721-0200 or go to www.lbjlib.utexas.edu



Austin Farmer's Market

Date: Every Saturday from March 20 through December, 9am - 1pm
Place: Republic Square Park, 4th and Guadalupe St.



The Austin Farmers' Market opens for its second year. Visitors can find locally grown produce, cut herbs, and potted plants. Cheeses, eggs, meats, breads, ready-to-eat foods, and local artisan crafts are also for sale. The Farmer's Market is known for its fun and educational chefs' demos, garden workshops, children's activities and great variety of local bands. For more info, call 236-0074 or go to www.austinfarmersmarket.org.



Monster Book Sale (benefiting Austin libraries)

Date: March 27th - 28th
Place: Crockett Center, 6301 Hwy 290 East

The Friends of the Austin Public Library's Monster Book Sale is an annual fund raiser that offers more than 65,000 books, magazines, videos, CDs, and computer software for readers of all ages. Most items are \$1 to \$2. Call 250-0105 or go to www.austinlibrary.org for more information.

An Artisan's Festival

Date: March 20th - 21st
Place: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Lady Bird Johnson

Wildflowercenter

From fine art to folk art, the best in natural forms are on display. Artists and artisans showcase their nature-related work including metal work, painting, photography, pottery and more. This also marks the beginning of "Wildflower Days" and many exciting events at the center. Call 292-4200 or go to www.wildflower.org for more information.

Austin Fine Arts Festival

Date: April 3rd - 4th
Place: Republic Square, 5th and Guadalupe

Nearly 200 national artists, top local restaurants, two music stages and hands-on art activities for adults and children. For more information, call 458-6073



SPAMARAMA

Date: April 3rd, Noon to 6pm
Place: Waterloo Park
Cost: Not clear if there is an admission.

This potted pork party celebrates with events such as a SPAM cook-off and the SPAMALYPICS. The festival has a full days line up of some of Austin's favorite local bands, the Spam Cook-off featuring Celebrity Judges with trophies, prizes, and free samplings for the public, and The SPAMALYPICS - with events such as the SPAM Cram, SPAM Toss and SPAM Relay. For more information, call 441-2012 or go to www.spamarama.com.

Art Car Parade

Date: April 24th, 11:30 am
Place: Downtown Austin
Cost: Free

Lavishly decked-out cars glitter the streets of downtown Austin in the State parking lot just north of the Governor's Mansion. The procession heads south on Congress, over the Congress Bridge, west on Barton Springs Road at South 1st Street, to the parking lot at One Texas Center. Call 459-4070 for more information.



Eeyore's Birthday Party

Date: April 24th, 11:30 am until dark
Place: Pease Park
Cost: Free

Eeyore's is a fund-raiser to benefit non-profit groups in Austin. Please wear a costume. There will be costume contests and other games with prizes for children of all ages. Artists will be doing face painting. Musicians playing non-amplified instruments are invited to play. There will be Maypoles for the young and young at heart. Come join us and wish Eeyore a Happy Birthday!

It Is Time to Renew or Join NSCNA

Dues are now due at the beginning of every year. Your dues help us produce this newsletter, hold events for our neighbors and resolve issues affecting the neighborhood. Please send your dues in as soon as possible -preferably by **March 31, 2004**.

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: _____ Phone: _____

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?
