



NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A quarterly publication

Issue 4

December 4, 2004

Inside This Edition..

*Austin Area Fun
(it is the holidays and
there is 4 pages of it!)*

*Keeping the
Wildlands Wild in
Austin*

*Whose got great holi-
day lights?*

*Ever wanted to be on
a Board of Directors?
Join Ours!!*

*Become a Block
Captain!*

*Join the Yard of the
Month Committee!*

NSCNA: A Time to Rebuild and Reorganize

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association has entered a period of rebuilding and reorganization. We are trying to rebuild our membership and improve the way we operate. Our main goal is to build an association where several members contribute small amounts of their time to achieve great things.

This Year's Achievements

This past year we achieved some great things for the neighborhood. Fifty trees were planted at Pillow Elementary and we held a Pedestrian Safety Workshop representing a first step to addressing traffic and pedestrian issues in our neighborhood. We are very proud of these accomplishments; however, we need to focus on getting more people involved from the neighborhood. Without more assistance we risk burning out the folks who already donate their time and effort and losing their support.

A "Block Captain" Approach

We would like to take a page from Neighborhood Watches and implement a "Block Captain" structure. The thinking being if each block had a captain or representative, neighbors would know where to check for information about future meetings and events and whom to speak with regarding questions, concerns, or interest in the association. We hope this improves the quality and frequency of communication throughout the neighborhood.

A block captain can represent a whole block or as little as 10 houses. Also, more than one neighbor can share the job as block captain.

The "Block Captain" responsibilities would include the following:

- Putting meeting and event signs in their yard
- Seeking volunteers for special events
- Encouraging involvement and membership in the association
- Passing out flyers from time to time (usually we do no more than 3 a year)
- Acting as a liaison between the association board and the neighbors they represent
- Bringing issues from their neighbors to the board

(continued on page 3)

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 thier 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 have a coordinator for the committee and now need volunteers to help locate a winner each month.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Alyssa Hedge at 380-9616 or email me at alysahedge@gmail.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. We will also list this information in the newsletter and



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	alysahedge@gmail.com
Stella Brittnacher - <i>Membership</i>	453-5046	jjsbritt@texas.net
Laura Zimmerman - <i>Pillow Beautification</i>	374-9160	lnixon@mindspring.com
Sheila Beene - <i>Web Site</i>		sheila@mobeila.com
David Watson - <i>Crime Prevention</i>	420-9037	davidallan71@hotmail.com
Tara Thronson - <i>Traffic Issues</i>	451-1010	tindab@hotmail.com

Starting over with Committees

In the past, there were several neighborhood committees that supported our various events and initiatives. As folks have gotten busy or moved on, those committees have ceased to exist. We would really like to find some interested volunteers to help get them going again. The work required by these committees can be as much or as little as the volunteers desire. It depends on what can realistically be accomplished with the time the volunteers have to give. Here are a list of some of the committees that existed in the past:

- 4th of July – puts on the 4th of July parade
- Spring Fling – puts on the Spring Fling event
- Social Committee – with enough volunteers – there can be one committee that houses all social events including the 4th of July and Spring Fling
- Yard of the Month – awards the Yard of the Month award
- Traffic – pursues our traffic initiatives
- Pillow Elementary – works as a liaison and supports projects for Pillow

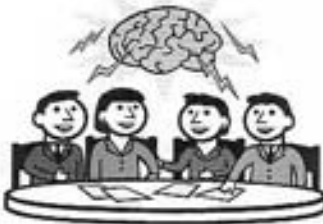


Committee Required for Special Projects

There are several ideas for special projects in our neighborhood. To complete these projects successfully requires dedicated volunteers. When an idea is brought to the board and approved, the association will help locate interested neighbors through the newsletter, Yahoo Group message board, general meetings and communication with block captains. Once a project has 4 interested neighbors (excluding the leader, board members and block captains), the project will be granted a green light and a budget (if necessary). This ensures that the project has the support it needs to be completed successfully. Larger projects might require a higher number of interested neighbors.

Special Projects / Ideas for the Neighborhood

Whenever the board meets, amazing ideas surface. We realize that in order for these ideas to become reality, we need the support and energy of the neighborhood. I wanted to list some of the ideas we have had, but never pursued in case there were interested neighbors who wanted to lead the charge for any one of these:



- Movies at Pillow Park (we would show a movie on a screen at Pillow Park and have popcorn and beverages)
- Beautification projects at Pillow (paint school, plant gardens, etc.)
- Beautify our neighborhood entrances
- Connect neighbors with volunteer opportunities at Pillow
- Create playgroups for neighborhood moms
- Volunteer landscape team that would help maintain the yards of our elder neighbors

(continued on page 9)



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

The following homes have sold from 9/1/04 through 11/16/04. 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:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Bedrooms</u>	<u>Baths</u>	<u>List Price</u>
8001 Rockwood	3	1.5	134,500
8201 Rockwood	3	2	164,500
8200 Stillwood	3	2	164,900
8615 Winding Walk	4	3	230,000
2706 Benbrook	3	2	259,900
3000 Thrushwood	3	2	229,907

Homes Sold Since Sept 1, 2004

			<u>Sold</u>
8404 Stillwood	3	2	SOLD
8504 Daleview	3	2	SOLD
3008 Crosscreek	3	2	SOLD
8202 Daleview	3	3	SOLD
3025 Thrushwood	3	2	SOLD

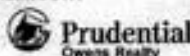
*Although deemed accurate this information is not guaranteed.

Your North Shoal Creek Realtor

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



FELICIA MORRISON, ABR, CRS, GRI
Mobile: (512) 619-0100
feliciamorrison@hotmail.com
Se Habla Español



Help Us Out - Join the NSCNA Board

We need replacements!

As with any organization, the gracious volunteers that help us have to move on to other things. Every year, we need a few new gracious volunteers to fill those slots. Very exciting things are happening in our neighborhood and we are looking for some folks who want to help strengthen and build the community in our neighborhood and school. We could use anywhere from 8 to 10 volunteers. It is very difficult to make a difference when no one is leading the charge. Can you help us?

What is required?

The main requirements are to attend board and general meetings (no more than 4 a year), share ideas, and help out with events when possible. The term of the position is 2 years. We need enthusiastic folks who want to make things a little better and have some time to put to that effort. We are in the process of rebuilding our association as are focused on keeping time commitments small and reasonable for all volunteers. We are also considering offering training for all board members that will address best practices in operating and leading a non-profit/volunteer organization.



Who to Contact?

If you are interested in joining the board, contact any board member listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Once you have contacted us, your name will go on a list of nominees. As per our association charter, the membership will vote to approve nominees during our January / February General Meeting.

We could use a few good neighbors and would appreciate hearing from you!

OPEN HEARTS ♥ OPEN MINDS ♥ OPEN DOORS

St. John's United Methodist Church

December 12 — Bring your children to morning worship at 11

Many families travel on Christmas Eve, so come enjoy our pre-Christmas children's presentation!

Also on December 12 — A Service of Lessons and Carols at 5 p.m.

All ages will delight in this candlelit celebration of seasonal music and scripture.

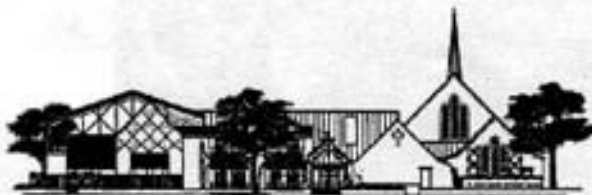
A community meal will be served immediately afterward. All are welcome.

December 24 — Candlelight Communion at 5, 7, 9 p.m.

Singing Christmas hymns and sharing Holy Communion on Christmas Eve is a gift you will long remember.

The early service is very family friendly.

Please call the church office, 452-5737, for more details about our upcoming 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

Keeping the Wildlands Wild in Austin

Taken from *At Your Doorstep, Neighborhood News from the City of Austin - October 2004*

Driving through western portions of Austin, you may have wondered when the scenic, tree-covered hills spreading across the landscape will become a new shopping area or residential development.



While growth is inevitable, it is also important to preserve land for the environmental benefits it provides. The City of Austin continues to make this a priority with its purchase of 30,000 acres of land for the preservation of endangered species and habitat and the protection of water quality. Management authority for the lands resides with the Wildland Conservation Division of the Austin Water Utility.

What are wildlands?

It is important to distinguish between wildlands and parks or other types of natural areas. Wildlands are, as their name implies, land preserved in a natural or "wild" state. The land is not landscaped. It does not contain pools, picnic areas, soccer fields or any of the typical amenities that make City parks enjoyable. Rather, these lands are preserved in a manner most amenable to endangered wildlife and the natural processes that contribute water to runoff or groundwater recharge. While the wildlands appear to be left alone, the land in fact is managed to achieve specific, mandated goals for the property. Unlike some parks, access to these properties isn't available all the time, but guided educational programs may be scheduled.



Importance of wildlands

To understand the wildland management strategies, it is important to understand why the City of Austin purchased the land. Within the Division, 13,033 acres make up the City of Austin's portion of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) and 16,950 acres are set aside as Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL). The BCP is a preserve system authorized in 1996 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a joint permit to the City of Austin and Travis County. The preserve system protects eight endangered and 27 species of concern and their habitat while allowing development to occur in western Travis County. The City and County, as well as the Lower Colorado River Authority, Nature Conservancy of Texas, Travis

(continued on page 8)



RANWICK
PROPERTIES
4215 Bellvue Avenue
Austin, TX 78756

(512) 458-1700
Fax 467-7377

Email: ranwick@austin.rr.com
Website: www.ranwick.com
**"Active in Austin Area
Real Estate since 1983"**



**Chris Randall &
Carrie Garwick**
Brokers



Happy Holidays
To everyone in the North Shoal Creek
and Allandale Estates Areas.
Thank you for helping to make 2004 a
great year in real estate.
Your business is truly appreciated!

FOR SALE!

**3006 Boxdale is a spectacular remodel.
This 3/2/2 will knock your socks off!
\$189,000 Agent/Owner**

January is always a great month in Austin
to sell your home. If you or someone you
know needs real estate help, call me
to get your free market analysis.

TRUST MY EXPERIENCE

Peggy Little

JB Goodwin REALTORS

970-7349

www.realtoraustin.com



*Let Us Know Which Neighbors
Light Up Your Holidays!*



Do you have neighbors whose outdoor holiday lights knock your socks off? Is there a house that really helps you get in the holiday mood? Please let us know so we can recognize them!

Send us their address, name and why you love their lights! Submissions will be anonymous to protect the innocent! ;-)

You can email Alyssa Hedge at alysahedge@gmail.com or call at 380-9616!



1519 West Anderson Lane, Austin
TX 78757

Telephone : (512) 407-9774
"Better Taste, Delcious Pizza"

Open: Monday - Saturday 11am - 11pm
Sunday Noon - 10pm

Take Out and Delivery

Try our pizza and calzones!



*Happy
Holidays*

from the

*North Shoal Creek
Neighborhood
Association!*



Your Input

If you have ideas on how we can improve the neighborhood association, please let us know. This is the neighborhood's association and we want to do our best to represent and serve the entire community. I have listed my contact information below and you can also contact any of the board members listed on page 2. We invite you to come to a general meeting and share your ideas if you can make it or keep your eye out for the announcement of your block captain and let them know your thoughts.



How can I get involved?

There are several ways to get involved. Several ideas have been listed below and there are additional articles in this newsletter that expand on some of the opportunities mentioned.

- Become a board member
- Become a block captain
- Lead a committee
- Join a committee
- Join the neighborhood association
- Volunteer when committees call for help

We hope that you will join us in rebuilding the association. This is a wonderful neighborhood and the entire purpose of our association is to preserve and enhance the wonderful quality of life we all enjoy here. If you have any questions or would like to become involved, you may contact Alyssa Hedge at alyssahedge@gmail.com or call me at 380-9616. I just had a baby, so I may be slow to respond to you before January. I am logging all interested persons in a spreadsheet and will definitely get in touch with you prior to our first general meeting for 2005.

Become a Block Captain!!

As described in the above article, block captains will be a key ingredient to the success of our neighborhood association. The key job of the block captain is communication with neighbors. How the communication takes place is at the block captain's discretion. Some may feel comfortable hosting informal block gatherings or going door-to-door while others may prefer to hand out flyers of their own that update neighbors with the news. We want each block captain to tailor this job to their preferred style of communication and interaction.

If you are interested in helping us, please contact Alyssa Hedge at 380-9616 or at alyssahedge@gmail.com and provide the following information:

- Your Name
- Your Address
- Your Phone
- Your Email (if you have one)
- What block or segment of houses you wish to represent



We would prefer that block captains not be board members. However, if you feel that you have the time to dedicate to both posts, we have no problem with allowing that.



Audubon Society and a number of private entities own land designated to the BCP. Not all of those properties, however, are available for unrestricted access because of the requirement to maintain undisturbed tracts of habitat for two endangered migratory songbirds — the golden-cheeked warbler and the blackcapped vireo. Both breed in the Austin area between March and August. For more information, visit www.cityofaustin.org/water/wildlands.htm

Why cherish the wildlands?

The Water Quality Protection Lands were purchased in 1998 when the citizens of Austin passed two bonds totaling \$73 million. While wildlife certainly benefits from protection of habitat on these lands, the mission of this program is to manage the property to protect water quality and optimize water quantity recharging the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Karst aquifers such as the Edwards are dynamic and vulnerable to pollution due to their close connection to the surface through caves, sinkholes and other openings eroded through the limestone over time. Karst aquifers are rapidly recharged by rainfall and allow surface water to quickly pass underground to wells and spring outlets without underground filtration.

Preserving and managing the land above the aquifer's recharge zone establishes a zone of plants and soil that filter as well as absorb and slowly release rainfalls, in contrast to the sizeable storm water runoff from impenetrable surfaces such as roadways and parking lots.

The challenge for Austinites is to enjoy these protected wildlands from afar and to understand now and into the future their importance to the quality of the environment and our lives. Undeveloped and undisturbed, these lands function every day to provide clean and needed water for the Austin community, provide habitat for wildlife and enhance air quality by filtering it through the woodlands.



To learn more, visit the wildlands Web site at www.cityofaustin/water/wildlands.htm or call the Wildland Conservation Division office at (512) 263-6433.

MARY KAY®

Complimentary Facial & Makeover
Neighborhood Special

Eirene Chang
Independent Beauty Consultant
(512) 799-0978
echang@marykay.com
<http://www.marykay.com/echang>

Holiday Decorations Contest

My home sales were good in 2004, thanks in part to many of you who referred business to me. As a thank you I would like to give away prizes for the most festive and best decorated homes in our neighborhood during the holidays!

Winners to be notified
January 1st, 2005



Sandy Perkins, your neighbor, your Realtor

1st place winner receives a \$100 gift certificate to Lowe's

2nd place winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to Houston's

Thank you again for your continued support
and as always should you have a Real Estate
need in 2005, don't hesitate to contact me at
512-797-PERK (7375)

sandyperkins@earthlink.net

www.sandyperkins.com

Happy Holidays from Sandy Perkins, Realtor since 1989
Native Austinite, University of Texas Graduate

Coldwell Banker, United Realtors
4807 Spicewood Springs Rd. #1100
Austin, TX 78759



Austin Area Fun

Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure

Date: ends March 1st, 2005
Place: IMAX Theatre of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
Cost: \$7 Adults, \$5 Youth (18 and under), \$6 Seniors

Get a bug's eye view of the world when Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure comes to the IMAX Theatre. Discover these fascinating creatures magnified up to 250,000 times their normal size on a screen six-stories tall. For more information, call 936-IMAX or go to www.thestoryoftexas.com/imax/films/bugs.shtm



Polar Express: An IMAX 3D Experience

Date: ends January 21st, 2005
Place: IMAX Theatre of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
Cost: \$7 Adults, \$5 Youth (18 and under), \$6 Seniors



Based on the classic Caldecott medal-winning children's book by Chris Van Allsburg, this feature-length film reunites the Academy Award-winning team of Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis (Cast Away, Forrest Gump). State-of-the-art computer-generated animation and "performance capture" technology create a unique blend of realism and fantasy, allowing the actors' live-action performances to drive the emotions and movements of the digital characters.

The Polar Express tells the story of a doubting young boy who takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole and embarks on a journey of self-discovery. In IMAX 3D, snow flurries seem to whirl around movie-goers' heads, and the chugging of the train's engine resonates through 44 different speakers mounted throughout the theater for a full surround-sound effect. For more information call 936-8746 or go to www.thestoryoftexas.com/imax/films/polar.shtm

TRAIL OF LIGHTS 2004

Trails of Lights and Zilker Christmas Tree

Date: December 5th, 6:30pm - Tree Lighting; December 12th - 23rd - Trail of Lights open 7 - 10pm
Place: Zilker Park
Cost: Free

Month-long festival begins weekend after Thanksgiving with lighting of the Zilker Tree. The pedestrian Trail of Lights transforms a mile-long stretch of Zilker Park into a wonderland of lights. The Lighting ceremony for the Zilker Tree will be at 6:30pm, Sunday, December 5th. Call 974-6700 or go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/default.htm for more information.



guadalupe arts center

1705 GUADALUPE | AUSTIN, TEXAS

Guadalupe Arts Center Tenant Show


Date: November 26 - December 18
Place: 1705 Guadalupe
Cost: Free

The Guadalupe Arts Center Tenants Show of over 35 artists opens November 26 in the gallery with an array of work. Tenant based artists work in various styles of painting, photography, jewelry, sculpture and ceramics. The Guadalupe Arts Center is the home of many multi talent people, visual as well as musicians, theater and film. For more information, call 473-3775 or go to www.guadalupearts.com/gallery/dec2004/dec_tenant_show.html

Johnson City Lights Spectacular

Date: November 26 - January 1st
Place: Johnson City
Cost: Free

Johnson City, known for one of the largest lighting displays in Texas, lights up their town! Displays include the courthouse with more than 100,000 lights. Call 830-868-5700 for more information.



All in One Bake Shop

everything to make and decorate

Cakes • Cookies • Candy

Peanut Butter Balls

1 cup peanut butter
1 stick butter, softened
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/4 cup corn syrup
1 pound Guittard Milk Chocolate A'Peels

Combine all ingredients other than milk chocolate and mix well. Roll into balls. Place balls on parchment lined sheet pan and refrigerate for about 1 hour. Melt milk chocolate candy. Dip balls in melted candy using fork or candy dipper. Allow excess candy to drip off and place back on the sheet pan. Refrigerate to set candy.

8566 Research Blvd • Austin
southbound side of 183 • south of Ohlen Road • across from Target
512-371-3401 • www.allinonebakeshop.com

Rockin' Christmas Party

Date: December 2nd - January 2nd
Place: Zachary Scott Theatre
Cost: \$35



Zach's award-winning cast will shake, rattle and roll down Santa Claus Lane with new songs guaranteed to lift your spirits. A glossy, glitzy sleigh ride through MoTown in YoTown for the holidays! Call 476-0541 for more information about tickets and showtimes or go to www.zachscott.com



The Nutcracker

Date: December 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 at 2:00 p.m.
December 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Bass Concert Hall
Cost: \$17 - \$61

Ballet Austin is proud to present Central Texas' most beloved holiday tradition, The Nutcracker, choreographed by Mills, and set to the timeless music of Pyotr Tchaikovsky, with live accompaniment by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. For more information, call 476-9151, x. 102 or go to www.balletaustin.org.

A Timeless Christmas in Johnson City

Date: December 11th
Place: LBJ Boyhood Home and Johnson Cabin
Cost: \$35

Relive a 1920s small town Christmas with an open house at Lyndon Johnson's boyhood home and then experience an 1860s pioneer holiday at LBJ's grandparents' cabin. Call (830)-868-7128 x244 for more information.



Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist, Christmas Edition

Date: December 12th
Place: Gruene Hall, New Braunfels
Cost: Not Posted

New Orleans-style gospel brunch serving up awe-inspiring gospel music coupled with a mouth-watering buffet catered by Gristmill River Restaurant and Bar. For prices and more information, please call 830-629-5077.



A Christmas Carol

Date: December 1 - December 19th
Place: State Theatre
Cost: Adults \$34 - \$39; children's discount tix available for 18 & under

It's Dickens' words and nothing but, in this thrilling new version of the holiday classic. Join a super-charged ensemble of Austin's favorite actors, ready to conjure up the Yuletide world of Victorian London, home to Scrooge and Marley, the Cratchits and Fezziwigs, Tiny Tim and that immortal trio of Christmas spirits. It's a festive family feast of pure theatrical invention — and carols, too. Bring the kids! Call 469-SHOW for tickets and showtimes.

Victorian Christmas

Date: December 12th
Place: O. Henry Museum, 409 East 5th Street
Cost: Not Posted

Enjoy the decorations in O. Henry's home while sipping hot mulled cider. 3-5 p.m. Call 472-1903 for more information.



Looking for a new place to call home?



Call for our fall rent specials!

451-7328

**Shoal Creek Arms
Apartments
8515 Shoal Creek Blvd**

*Gas and water are included in the rent
Gas cooking and heating*

We have been locally owned and managed for over 30 years and our proud to be a part of this neighborhood!

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: _____ 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?
