

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A quarterly publication

Issue 2

November 21, 2005

Focus on Safety in our Neighborhood

In the old days some small town newspapers printed a sometimes humorous column called "Police Blotter" which listed all incidents that were reported to the police department. Those days are gone, but we now have the equivalent of the old police blotter news. It's called Crime Viewer, a helpful tool on the APD website. You can now choose data by neighborhood association and see a tally of all crimes reported through APD. Click on a category such as "Burglery of a Vehicle" and you can see the block, date and time and whether it was a business or residence. This is a way for us to gauge trends of criminal activity in our area. By using this tool the safety committee will be monitoring the frequency and location of crime in our area. We will communicate our findings to the block captains and will be in contact with APD about their efforts at addressing problems in our area.

Our APD District Representative, James Hellums, has been working with certain property owners and tenants of commercial property with a higher than average incident rate in our area. For example, on October 24th there was an attempted daytime jewelry store robbery along Anderson Lane. APD had done a prior assessment of the parking lots with the property owner and tenants. Thanks to a quick response, some crucial observers and some luck, they were able to quickly apprehend both suspects and recover the jewelry. APD is aware of the problem spots surrounding our neighborhood and will be making further contacts with business owners to help them deter criminal activity close to our boundaries. The APD website can be accessed at www.ci.austin.tx.us/police. You can locate the Crime Viewer by clicking on Crime Information and then selecting Current Crime Information.

At the time this newsletter is being published we are planning a Thursday, December 1st meeting with all block captains and the Safety Committee. This is in addition to the December 6th General Meeting. At the safety meeting, we are meeting with James Hellums to discuss some recent activity in certain areas of our neighborhood, particularly the Shoal Creek area and Winding Way.

How can you contribute to making our neighborhood safer? Your block captain will be receiving a reference guide labeled APD RESOURCE GUIDE. If you need better street lighting, abandoned cars removed, graffiti removed, etc. this guide will give you a wealth of information about how to get this done with the City of Austin. Your eyes and ears are needed to report suspicious persons in the area to 311 if non emergency, and 911 if a crime is possibly in progress and get a report number. Even though APD may not be

(continued on page 2)

Next NSCNA General Meeting

Date: *Tuesday, December 6th*

Time: *6:30pm*

Place: *Pllow Elementary Cafeteria*

(continued from page 1)

able to do anything about a specific random crime, we want this information visible in the database. The key to making your call show in the database is to obtain a report number, even if you are simply reporting a suspicious person. If the 311 or 911 operator says they don't normally issue a report number, tell them you want one anyway. Keep in mind, the Crime Viewer is not a perfect database of information and APD is working on some upgrades, however, it's a step in the right direction for providing us a way to know what is happening.

Don't have a block captain? Be one! Email blockcaptains@nscna.org and we will provide you with the information and materials you need to be a block captain. It's not difficult or time consuming and we would like the whole neighborhood to be represented with block captains so that we are more connected to what's happening and you should feel more connected to resources available through your neighborhood association.

I am going to quote from an excellent article on the APD website titled "Unlocking the Mysteries of Policing".

"Achieving healthy, safe neighborhoods means building the capacity for citizens to deal with problems that erode the quality of life in their community. It means bringing to bear all the resources of a community, with each entity assuming a fair share of the responsibility for solutions to problems. Residents must unite with community institutions, police and governmental agencies to address the problems in real, "sleeves rolled up" working partnerships. One neighborhood at a time, the cumulative effect of officers and community resources solving individual neighborhood problems all over the city eventually influences the crime rate for the city at large. As individual neighborhood problems are solved, be it burglary, narcotics, youth crime, or whatever, then the level of safety for the entire city improves."

In other words, if you want something done you must be involved on some level and by working together, we can accomplish our goal of making the neighborhood a safer place to live. Hope to see you at the upcoming meetings and have a safe Holiday Season!



Buying
or Selling?
call

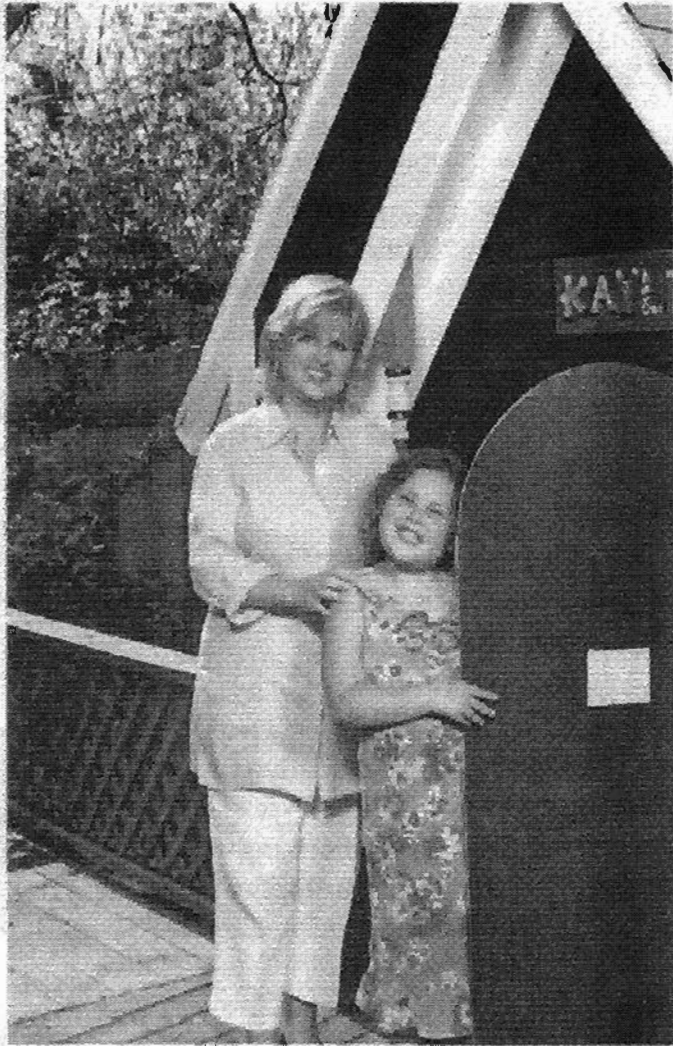
Felicia Morrison
Certified Residential Specialist

Cell: (512) 619-0100

Email: feliciamorrison@hotmail.com

www.feliciamorrison.com

Our neighborhood is on the move!



Sandy Perkins, your neighbor, your Realtor

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

If you are thinking of selling now or in the near future, call me first—I have buyers

My most recent sales include:

8701 Melshire (2 offers!)
8410 Daleview (2 offers!)
8702 Primrose—sold in 4 days!
8717 Primrose
8614 Millway (sold 1st day!)
8407 Daleview (sold 1st day!)

And I found the buyer for:

3000 Thrushwood

sandyperkins@earthlink.net

www.sandyperkins.com

512-797-(PERK) 7375

***Sandy Perkins, Native Austinite,
University of Texas Graduate
(class of 1988) celebrating my 16th
year with Coldwell Banker, United
Realtors and 16 years living in and
marketing our neighborhood!***

No one can match my experience in selling our neighborhood!

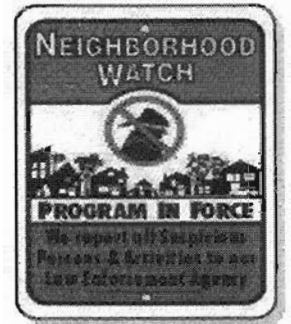
Committee Updates

Safety Committee Sets Goal and Objectives for 2006

I. The Safety Committee will stay informed about incidents in our neighborhood through data maintained on the APD web site and through the Block Captain network. We will work with APD to identify trends and strategies for making our neighborhood safer.

II. We will actively expand and support the Block Captain framework of our Neighborhood Association and strive for a high percentage of representation. We will utilize that framework for educating, informing and gathering information.

- Educate residents about resources available to them through APD including National Night Out in August, the Neighborhood Watch program, the Crime Viewer data, and Commanders Forums.
- Inform interested residents of trends, critical incidents and other types of information so that they make take the appropriate actions.
- Encourage communication with block captains so that the safety committee stays informed about what is happening at the block level and we can communicate back.



III. Establish relationships with other governmental entities such as AISD Police dept, City Council members, other neighborhood associations as well as local businesses and commercial residential property to have an ongoing dialogue about safety issues that affect our neighborhood and schools.



With these ambitious goals, the Safety Committee could use some great volunteers who are concerned about the safety of our neighborhood. If you would like to assist the Safety Committee in its efforts, please send an e-mail with your information to safety@nscna.org and please place Safety Committee in the subject line.

Tech/Communication Committee Looking to Create a "High-Tech" Website

The tech committee has just acquired the domain name nscna.org for our association. Our new website will be hosted here and we will be able to have e-mail addresses with the nscna.org extension. We are hoping to create a website that is dynamic and always up to date. We would like to create the ability for members to pay dues on line and comment on issues that are posted to the website. The new website will not be fully functional until next quarter, but we look forward to showing it off!!



The tech/comm committee could use some tech savvy members, especially folks that may be familiar with PHP. If you are not tech savvy, but have some ideas on how the website should look and function, please let us know as well. Additionally, the newsletter falls under this committee. If you have interest in writing articles, editing the newsletter, or helping to distribute the newsletter, please contact us. You can get a hold of the tech/comm committee at tech@nscna.org. Please put "Tech Committee" or Newsletter in the subject line. Alternatively, you can call 380-9616 and leave your information.

Committee Updates

Beautification Committee is Making the Neighborhood Look Great!

Below are the 2006 goals for the Beautification Committee. As you will see in the article on page 9, this committee is wasting no time in getting going. They have already made great strides by resurrecting our Yard of the Month award and planting a garden for a long-time resident of our neighborhood.

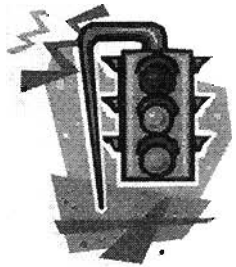
1. Award Yard of the Month. Sign will appear in yard for 1 month and owner will receive a written certificate from NSCNA.
2. Beautification of Pillow Elementary. We will discuss wishes and concerns with teachers and parents and would like to help with an herb and vegetable garden.
3. Clean up and enhance beauty of Allandale Estates entrance sign. Planning on adding flowering plants to the area.
4. Assist elderly and disabled neighbors with yard work.
5. Coordinate annual Christmas decoration contest.

If you are interested in these objectives, please considering volunteering for the Beautification Committee. The article on page 9 has the safety committee contact information.



Traffic Committee Assembling Traffic Concerns

The traffic committee is assembling a list of traffic concerns and issues, primarily through e-mail discussion. Anyone is welcome to participate in the process (contact Jeff Russell at traffic@nscna.org). We want to have a consistent "story" about the traffic problems in our neighborhood whenever NSCNA members talk with city officials or other associations.



Social Committee Has Fun at Movie Night!

Movie Night on October 14th was a huge success! Pillow Elementary was the scene of a screening of "Casper The Friendly Ghost." As darkness fell, and the evening turned spooky, Roger Wines bravely, and quite professionally projected the movie onto a brick wall. The 65 neighbors and friends in attendance were spellbound! They sat on their chairs & blankets, bug-eyed with amazement, following the film's adventures. When hunger struck, Kaylee Perkins and the adult volunteers provided popcorn and drinks. A great time was all and we hope to have more events like this in the future. But to do so, we need your help!

Come join the Social Committee... We need volunteers who like to have fun! E-mail social@nscna.org with "Social Committee" in the subject line or call one of the committee coordinators listed below.

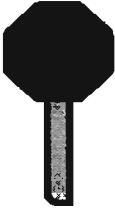
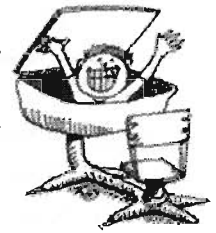


Margaret Murray Miller 320-0718
Sandy Perkins 452-6860
Trish Ryan 452-7049



Pillow News

Ann Smalley - Pillow Teacher



Make a Difference! Mentor a Child!

Pillow Elementary, your neighborhood nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School, would love to have you as a mentor. Each year volunteers from local businesses, civic groups, and the surrounding community generously offer their services to Pillow students for supplemental tutoring and role model support. Your gift of time can touch a young life now and have positive benefits far into the future. Please call Pillow's school counselor Annette Hendricks at 414-4315 for more information.

Pillow Grounds May Get Much Needed "FaceLift"

Pillow Elementary is hoping to partner with the Travis Community Education Foundation to give Pillow grounds a "face lift". The TCEF, along with volunteers from schools and surrounding communities, is responsible for beautifying campuses throughout Austin I.S.D. Some of the surrounding schools that have benefited from its efforts are Anderson H.S., Lanier H.S., Burnet M.S., and Murchison M.S. Pillow is most appreciative of the neighborhood's efforts to plant dozens of trees two years ago. We hope that you will once again step forward to assist your Pillow family to help this partnership flourish. If you have questions, contact Dr. Linda Webb, principal, at 414-2350.

Upcoming Pillow Elementary Events

Thursday, December 1, 7:45am - Parent/Principal Coffee at Pillow

Topic: Street Safety at and around Pillow Elementary.

We welcome community input at this gathering!



Wednesday & Thursday, December 7 & 8. Annual Science Fair!

Science Fair judges are still needed for Thursday, December 8.

If you are interested, contact Cheryl Drozd, Fifth Grade teacher, at 414-2350. All welcome to visit the Fair.

Winter Vacation Dates

Pillow will observe Winter Vacation from December 16th through January 2, 2006. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3. Please check the new PTA billboard located near the front drive of the school building for current informational updates. Have a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the halls of Pillow as a new mentor in 2006.

lucretia  strings

"Making memories with elegant harmony."

Music for weddings,
corporate & private functions,
holiday parties

Contact: June Rhee
512.293.7544
www.LucretiaStrings.com
June@JuneRhee.com



Get 'Yer Holiday Decorations Ready! We're Having a Contest!

The Beautification Committee is hosting a holiday decoration contest! So decorate your house to the hilt for the holidays and make sure you get noticed!! Wouldn't you love to have the title "Best Holiday Decorations" and a big, beautiful first place ribbon hung in your yard to let everyone know? Well, get 'yer decorations ready because the contest is on!

How do I enter?

Enter the contest for your house or nominate a neighbor by emailing the address to holidaylights@nscna.org with "Holiday Lights" in the subject line. Alternatively, you can call 450-0316 and leave a message with the address to be entered.

Would you like to be a judge?

The beautification committee will take all the entries and will create a list of addresses that need to be judged. Would you like to help judge the holiday lights contest? Please email your name and phone number to holidaylights@nscna.org with "Holiday Lights Judge" in the subject line. You can also call the phone number listed above and leave your information.

How do you know who won?

Winners will have ribbons placed in their yards and will be recognized on the website and in the next newsletter. We will also try to get photos of the winner's fabulous displays. Good luck!



Christmas is coming and you are invited.

Sunday December 11, 4:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti

Dinner between services, \$10/adult
(call 452-5737 to make a dinner reservation)

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00pm Service designed with young children in mind
7:00 and 9:00pm Candlelight Communion Services

Sunday, December 25

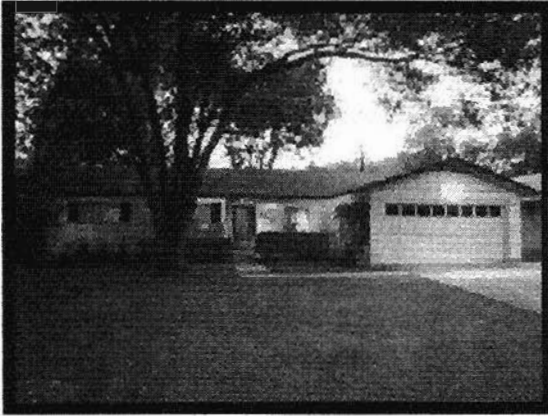
11:00 am Christmas Day Service

St. John's United Methodist Church



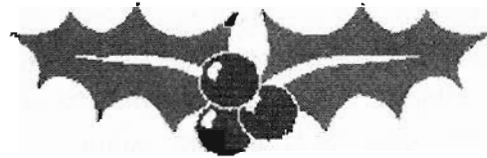
Sunday Morning Services at 9 & 11
Loving childcare / Active Youth Group
Ellobi Kaye Jones, Senior Pastor
2140 Allandale Road
452-5737

SOLD!



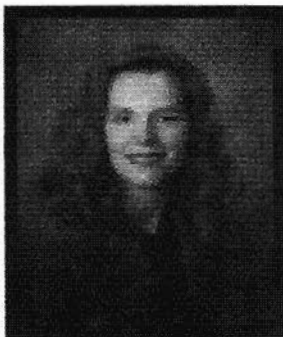
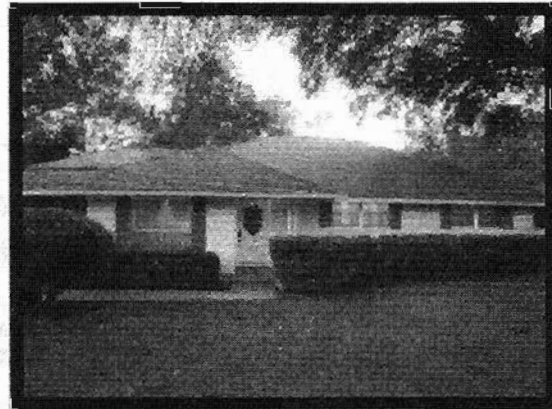
8612 Stillwood
3 Bedrooms / 2 Baths
Formal Living & Dining
Tile / Carpet / Hardwoods
2 Car Garage
Multiple Offers
Listed at \$232,000

PLUS!
Two Buyer Assisted Sales
8614 Millway & 8203 Millway



AVAILABLE!

7708 Shoal Creek
3 Bedrooms / 2 Baths
Over 2400 sq. ft. (TCAD)
HUGE 20' x 30' Studio
Plus Home Office
Massive Stone Fireplace
\$340,000



Happy Holidays to Everyone
& Hook'em Horns!



CALL ME FOR A FREE NO – HASSLE
MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR HOME TODAY!

970-PEGGY

PEGGY LITTLE
UT GRAD. '82

PEGGY@REALTORAUSTIN.COM
ALLANDALEESTATES.COM

JB Goodwin
Company

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!

Mary Arnett - Beautification Committee Volunteer

Your inner gardener need not go into hibernation this winter. If you are willing to cover the tender plants and pull in some pots during those few nights below 32 degrees, you can maintain some color in your garden all winter. Searching for some landscaping ideas? Look no further than your own neighborhood. Take a stroll or drive and be inspired by some beautiful beds and borders. It's a great family activity.

Yard of the Month Winners!

October's Yard of the Month went to Tina Huckabee at 8709 Stillwood. We applaud their efforts at maintaining this display through a very brutal summer and note that they have included many water-wise plants and methods. November's Yard of the Month went to 8501 Daleview. This display was simple but very aesthetically pleasing.

A New Garden for Neighbor Flossie Sweat!

The Neighborhood Beautification Committee has committed to working on several projects during the coming months. Our first project this year was to recognize a venerable and longtime neighbor in our midst, Flossie Sweat. She is 98 years old, a retired teacher and continues to contribute to the profession. She and another retired teacher and neighbor, Zora Mae Hise, met with lobbyists and lawmakers this summer to help quash some not-so-friendly teacher retirement legislation. We wanted to honor Flossie with a "flower bed makeover" compliments of the Neighborhood Beautification Committee and Lowes Home Improvement Store on Shoal Creek. Thank you, Flossie, for your years of service to the children and teachers of our state.



Got ideas? Got some time to donate? Contact us at beautification@nscna.org. We could use your help no matter your level of landscaping expertise. **Happy Gardening!**

NSCNA Board and other Vacancies

The Association is still attempting to fill a few board vacancies that exist. The volunteers for these positions will be confirmed at the first meeting of 2006. The following are the positions for which we still need volunteers:

Vice-President

The Vice-President would serve as a back-up to the President and would also help represent the organization in various capacities. If you have any questions or are interested in this position, please contact Meredith Highsmith at president@nscna.org with "Vice President" in the subject line or call 380-9616.

Block Captain Liaison

This job can go to an existing block captain. This person would be responsible for communicating with and supporting the block captains and would act as a liaison between the block captains and the board. If you are interested in this position, please contact blockcaptains@nscna.org with "Liaison" in the subject line or call 380-9616 and leave your information.

Membership

We need a board member to assist in maintaining and increasing our membership. This person would need to organize an annual Membership Drive. If you have any questions or are interested in this position, please contact Meredith Highsmith at president@nscna.org with "Membership" in the subject line or call 380-9616.

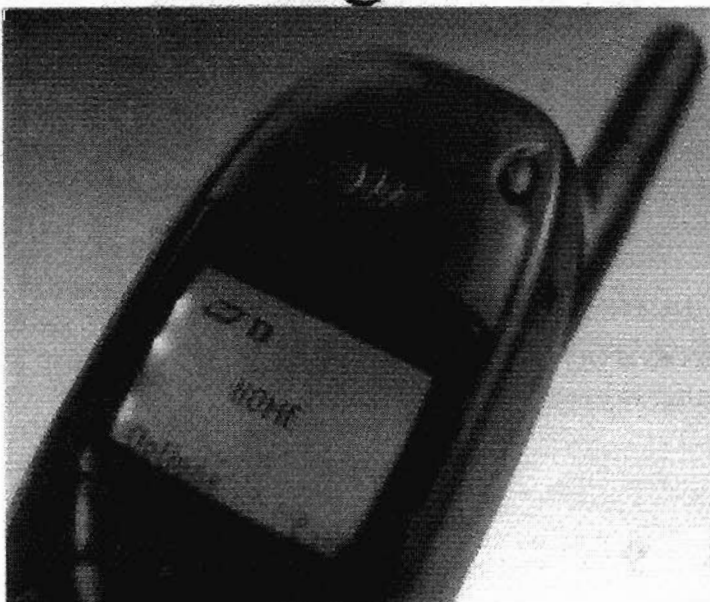
Newsletter Distribution Coordinators

The newsletter is no good if it doesn't get to our neighbors. This job requires you to contact the newsletter distributors and find substitutes if necessary. The newsletter comes out four times a year with occasional fliers in between. We would like two people for this job. If you are interested, please contact Meredith Highsmith at president@nscna.org with "Newsletter Distribution" in the subject line or call 380-9616.

Garage Sale Committee

Every year, the neighborhood holds a neighborhood-wide garage sale. The board has decided to turn this task over to a "Garage Sale" Committee whose sole purpose would be to put together the garage sale. At this time, there is no one on the Garage Sale Committee. If you would be interested in being on this committee, please contact garagesale@nscna.org or call 380-9616.

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!*

Austin Area Fun

Noche de Fiesta Navidena

Date: December 5th
Place: Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress Ave.
Cost: Not Posted



The 6th Annual Noche de Fiesta Navidena celebrates Mexican Christmas traditions with folk art, flavorful foods and seasonal music

Ansel Adams: A Legacy

Date: Now through January 9th
Place: Harry Ransom Center, UT Campus
Cost: FREE

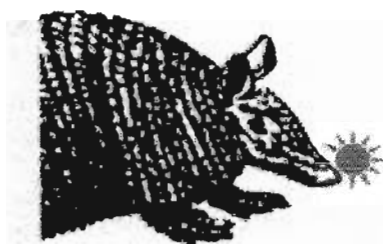
The exhibition of 138 photographs, printed by Adams toward the end of his career, is the largest known collection created by Adams himself. The images are not just a series of landscapes, but a panorama of the unmanipulated style to which Adams adhered.



Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

Date: December 10th through December 24th
Place: Austin Music Hall
Cost: \$3 weekdays before 7pm, \$5 evenings and weekends

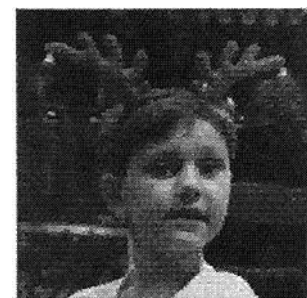
For nearly 30 years the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar has attracted some of the region's best artisans to this eclectic market of arts, crafts, music and food. The event features an extensive schedule of musical entertainment as well as last-minute shopping options at the Austin Music Hall.



Austin Symphony Orchestra's Christmas Sing-a-Long

Date: December 13th
Place: Riverbend Centre
Cost: FREE

Come sing Christmas favorites with the Austin Symphony at the spectacular Riverbend Centre. This concert is FREE, **but tickets are still required**. Tickets may be obtained in-person only at our box office beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, December 1st.



Candlelight Tours of the Texas Governor's Mansion

Date: December 26th through December 27th
Place: 1010 Colorado Street
Cost: FREE

A piece of Texas history is showcased during Candlelight Tours of the Texas Governor's Mansion. Call 512-463-5516 for more information.

It Is Time to Renew or Join NSCNA

Dues are now due at the beginning of every year. If you have not paid your 2005 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.)

Please check one: Renewal _____ New _____

Would you be interested in volunteering a few hours on the following committees?

- Beautification Traffic Safety Social Events Newsletter
 Technology Committee

Would you be interested in becoming a block captain or serving on the board?

Yes No Which Position: _____

Do you have any comments or suggestions for NSCNA?
