



# NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A (typically) quarterly publication

Issue 1

June 15, 2006

***National Night Out  
Information***

***Yard of the Month  
Updates***

***Holiday Lights  
Contest Winners***

***New Website!***

***Committee and  
Other Updates***

***March Meeting  
Minutes***

***June Meeting  
Minutes***

***Draft Tree Trimming  
Policy for NSCNA***

***Austin Area Fun***

## ***4th of July Parade!!***

***Decorate your bikes, wagons, strollers,  
dogs and selves and come join our  
patriotic walk around  
Pillow Elementary!***



Pets on a leash are more than welcome!! Come be a part of one of the largest neighborhood parades in Austin and celebrate our nation's independence!

**The parade will start promptly at 9:30 AM!**

**If you are going to be in the parade, assemble at 9:15 AM in the Pillow Elementary parking lot by the gazebo.**

### **Popcorn!!**

There will be popcorn and other goodies for everyone after the parade!



### **Bike and Trike Decoration Contest!!**

There will be a decoration contest for bikes and trikes!!

*(..and there is more! See page 2 for more details!)*

## **Next NSCNA General Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 5th  
**Time:** 6:30pm  
**Place:** Pillow Elementary

(continued from page 1)

## 4th of July Parade!!

### Best Dressed Dog Competition!!

Dress up your dog in his or her best patriotic duds!!



### We need volunteers to help out the day of the parade:

- Help with **servicing popcorn and snacks** after the parade
- Being available at the event to **help with miscellaneous things** (i.e. getting folks lined up for the parade)
- Also, do you **know someone with an antique/unique car?** Would they drive it in our parade?

Please contact Sandy Perkins at 797-7375 to help out. The more volunteers, the more fun we can have!

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### **Help distributing the Newsletter**

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We are looking for someone to manage distribution of the newsletter and fliers as well as more distribution volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Sandy Perkins at 797-7375 or Meredith Hisghsmith at [president@nscna.org](mailto:president@nscna.org).

**NORTH SHOAL CREEK  
IS HOT HOT HOT!!!**

**SOLD**

**8710 Dawnridge Circle  
Listed at \$225,000**

**8302 Millway  
Buyer Assisted Sale**

**AVAILABLE**

**3005 Boxdale  
3 Bed / 1.5 Bath / 1 Car Garage  
Call for details**

Congratulations to Chris and Alyssa Hedge  
on the birth of their baby girl! Thank you Alyssa  
for your years of service to the  
North Shoal Creek Newsletter. We will miss you!

**Call Peggy Little**  
**JB Goodwin Realtors**  
**970-7349**  
**Peggy@realtoraustin.com**  
**Www.realtoraustin.com**

**TRUST MY EXPERIENCE**



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# Committee and Other Updates

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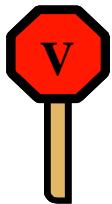
## *Beautification Committee Updates*

The Beautification Committee is looking to clean up and enhance the beauty of the Allandale Estates entrance sign at Daleview and Steck. We are looking for ideas and volunteers to help with that project. If interested contact us at [beautification@nscna.org](mailto:beautification@nscna.org).

Do you have an elderly or disabled neighbor who may need some assistance with basic yard work? Please contact us to help at [beautification@nscna.org](mailto:beautification@nscna.org).

## *Austin Police Department Updates*

The North Austin Council of Neighborhoods (NACN) is a group representing all of the neighborhoods in Austin Police Department's "Ida Sector", which constitute approximately 70,000 people. Currently, NACN is focusing on neighborhood clean-up, including vector control, mowing, yard parking, and major clean-up projects on individual homes. For more information, contact Meredith Highsmith, 533-9727 (NSCNA President), or Kay Vargas with APD at 974-5722.



## *Want to get involved? Join a Committee!!*

Beautification Committee - contact [beautification@nscna.org](mailto:beautification@nscna.org) or contact Lori Anderson at 689-8516.  
Traffic Committee - contact [traffic@nscna.org](mailto:traffic@nscna.org) or contact Jeff Russell at 452-9229.  
Social Committee - contact [social@nscna.org](mailto:social@nscna.org) or contact Sandy Perkins at 797-7375.

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# New NSCNA Website

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## *[www.nscna.org](http://www.nscna.org)*

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association has a new website - [www.nscna.org](http://www.nscna.org). This is where you will find all the up-to-date information on what is happening with the neighborhood and the association. We are very fortunate to Chris Jones, a true webmaster, maintaining our site. He has just taken over and will be spending some time revamping the site as well as adding some really exciting new features. We thank him for volunteering his time and talents to our association!

*Thanks Chris!!*



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# March 21st General Meeting Minutes

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1. **Membership Note: Pay your dues for 2006 if you haven't already**

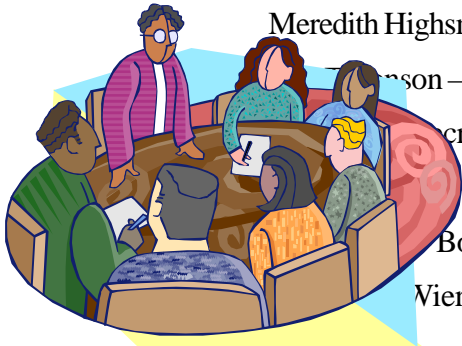
2. **Treasurer's Report**

- We have \$1,293.90 in our bank account
- The CD is now valued at \$28,475.24

3. **Meredith (President) discusses contents of a recent APD email**

- There was only 1 incident reported for January. Meredith attributed this to neighbors being much more vigilant about closing garage doors, locking vehicles and taking valuables out of vehicles.
- Auto-theft Awareness week is this coming weekend. There will be free VIN-etching at a location on North Lamar from 10am to 1 pm
- The APD is looking to form a coalition with neighborhood groups to focus on safety issues that will meet once or twice a month.

4. **Elections are held – the following are the new officers and board members for 2006-07**



Meredith Highsmith – President

son – Vice President

cretary

– Treasurer

Board Member

Vier – Board Member

Barry Galloway – Board Member

Liz Haltom – Board Member

Stella Brittnacher – Board Member

Roger Wines – Board Member

Alyssa Hedge – Board Member

5. **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

Volunteers to put together the Neighborhood Garage Sale are requested. Names and phone are collected. Alyssa Hedge will coordinate this committee.

6. **Guest Speakers**

- Ian T. Brown – US Census Jobs for Austin Census 2006
- Vincent Torres – running for AISD Board of Trustees, District 4
- Ray Henning – Austin Energy regarding line clearance and tree trimming

7. **Next Meeting – May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm, Pillow Elementary**

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# National Night Out 2006

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On Tuesday, August 1, 2006 neighborhoods across Austin will turn on porch lights for National Night Out, an annual, nation-wide event designed to promote neighborhood safety.

## **National Night Out is designed to:**

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for crime prevention;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!

## **You can get involved in a variety of ways:**

- Get all of your neighbors to turn on their porch lights.
- Meet your neighbors by attending a block party or hosting a barbecue.
- Encourage your kids to get involved. Ask them to make posters and yard signs for the event.
- Invite local law enforcement to talk about crime prevention.
- Distribute a neighborhood block list, phone numbers, etc.
- Plan a fall clean-up or bulb planting.

## **Hosting and Registering a Party**

If you would like to host a registered National Night Out Party, complete the Registration Form and return it to APD.

### *Are you interested in hosting a party for your block or street?*

If you are interested in throwing a party, please fill out the Registration form on the next page and send it to the address listed. We would also appreciate it if you would contact Claudell Migl at 452-3482 or email her at [nno@nscna.org](mailto:nno@nscna.org) and let her know you are throwing a party. She is going to keep a list of parties taking place in the neighborhood that day. Also, we are going to list the addresses\*\* of the parties on our website so neighbors know where to find their National Night Out party.

\*\* We will list only the addresses of those throwing a party on the website, not names or phone numbers.

### *Is Someone Already Throwing a Party on your Street?*

If you want to make sure that someone hasn't already volunteered to throw a party on your street or block, you can check [nscna.org](http://nscna.org) or call Claudell Migl at 452-3482 or email her at [nno@nscna.org](mailto:nno@nscna.org) and ask.

# NATIONAL FIRE-CHIEF PARTY

## 2006 Application NNO is Tuesday, August 1, 2006



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization / Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete Mailing Address (for packets & updates):

STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Party Location Address:

STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION DETAILS: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinating Agency: *Austin Police Department*

1. Size of area you hope to organize (i.e. population, number of communities or blocks): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you like to have emergency personnel/equipment visit your party?

Police:  yes  no      Fire:  yes  no      EMS:  yes  no

Will your NNO Party take place in a secured gated area or community? If yes, please contact us with gate entry information so Police, Fire and EMS can enter your party.

**NOTE:** APD, AFD and EMS will make every effort to fulfill your request. Please be aware, unforeseen circumstances the night of the event may limit the number of personnel available to attend scheduled parties.



Application deadline for visits from the APD, Fire and EMS is July 1, 2006. Please return ASAP to: Austin Police Department  
Office of Chief of Police  
Attn: Rosie Salinas  
P. O. Box 689001  
Austin, Texas 78768-9001  
Phone: 974-4900 Fax: 974-6222

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This form must be returned in order to:  
(1) Officially register in your area in Austin and  
(2) Receive organizational material and updates.





## **New Coffee Shop/Art Gallery**

The Connexion Café & Gallery is now open. Come check out the newest neighborhood specialty coffee spot. Enjoy coffee, latte, tea, chai, smoothies or cappuccinos. Free WiFi. Local artists showcased each month in the gallery – free live music on the weekends.

**Monday–Friday: 4:30PM to 9:00PM**  
**Saturday–9:00AM to 9:00PM**

### **Exhibiting artists:**

**Now thru June 24<sup>th</sup> – Stacy Sakoulas – Floral oils on linen**

**June 26 thru July 22<sup>nd</sup> – J. Ralph Mayes – Western oils**

### **Learn and Make Connexions**

in a Community Class – New Classes Starting in July  
(cardio-kickboxing, yoga, guitar, cooking, and more)

see: [www.crestview.net](http://www.crestview.net) for details/registration

**7600 Woodrow Ave. 454-6641**  
(Café entrance corner of Woodrow & Dartmouth)



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# June General Meeting Minutes

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Minutes from Last Meeting were approved. Treasurer's Report was not given.

*Announcements:*

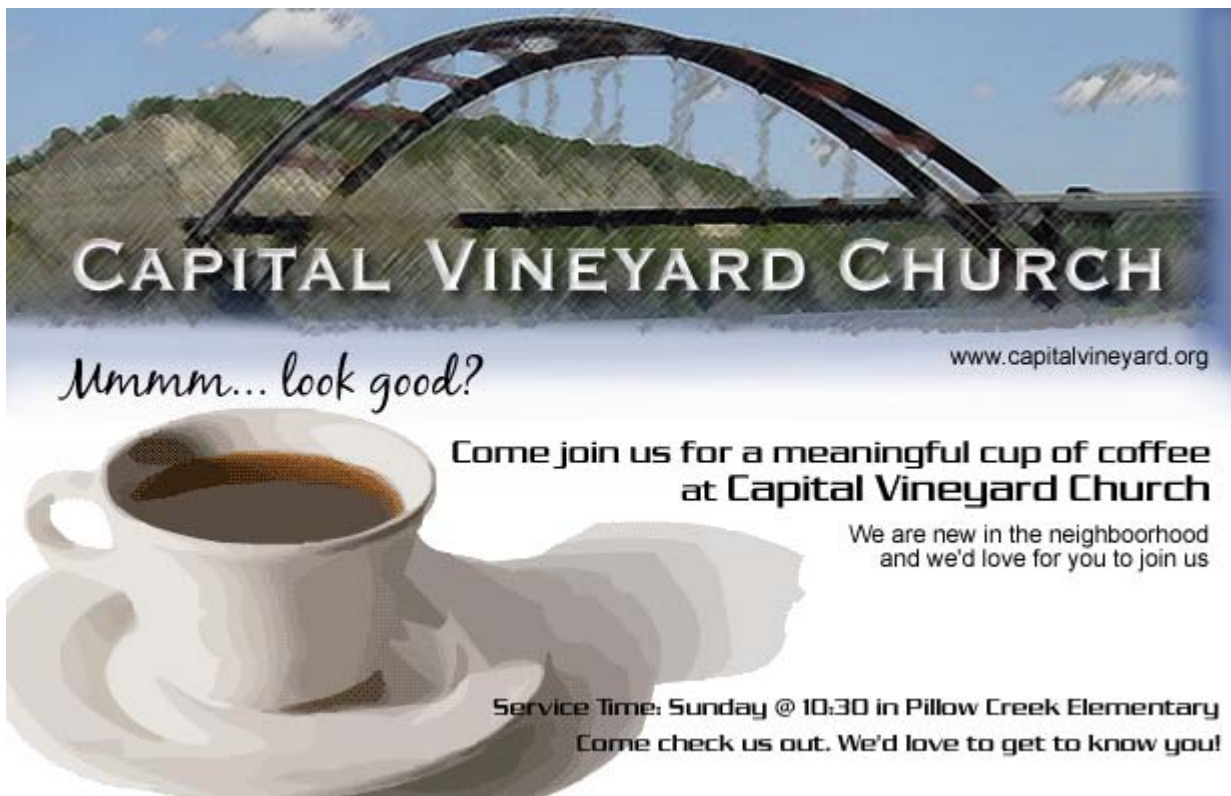
- APD's North Austin Council of Neighborhoods Project
- COA's Traffic Calming Measures Pilot Project for NSCNA---in the next few months, the City of Austin will begin traffic studies in North Shoal Creek to establish the streets that will receive the new lower 25mph speed limit
- McMansion Hearing Coming up, check with Meredith for Dates
- National Night Out, August 1st
- Library Project; City of Austin architects will have an open house soon to display plans for our neighborhood library

*4th of July Parade* - • Social Committee is working on this • Time of Parade

*Speaker* - Speaker from Austin Community College, Allen Kaplan, explained ACC goals for enrollment, and their desire to work with neighborhoods, such as NSCNA, to reach out to those who have an interest in attending.

*Other Business* - --Austin Energy & Tree Trimming Concerns—Kevin Weir spoke on designing a tree-trimming policy for Austin Energy

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**CAPITAL VINEYARD CHURCH**

*Mmmm... look good?*

[www.capitalvineyard.org](http://www.capitalvineyard.org)

**Come join us for a meaningful cup of coffee  
at Capital Vineyard Church**

We are new in the neighborhood  
and we'd love for you to join us

**Service Time: Sunday @ 10:30 in Pillow Creek Elementary  
Come check us out. We'd love to get to know you!**

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# Austin Area Fun

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## Blues on the Green



**Date:** Every other Wednesday, June 14th to August 23rd; 7:30pm - 9:30pm  
**Place:** Zilker Park Rock Island (on the north side of Barton Springs Road)  
**Cost:** FREE

On alternate Wednesdays, free music from some of Austin's best musicians fills the summer night from an outdoor stage. The outdoor stage faces Town Lake, with Rock Island as a backdrop (audience will be facing south). Folks can bring their own food or purchase food or soft drinks from vendors on site - Glass and Alcohol are not allowed in Austin Parks. Also, bring sunblock, a blanket & chairs, and pets on leashes. There is a fee for parking of \$3 (even motorcycles).

## Splash Party Movie Nights

**Date:** Every Saturday night from June 17th to August 5th, movies start at dusk  
**Place:** Deep Eddy Pool, 401 Deep Eddy Ave.  
**Cost:** Adult (\$3), Senior (\$1), Junior aged 12 - 17 (\$2), Children 11 and under (\$1)

Float in the spacious spring fed pool, picnic on the lawn, enjoy refreshments from our concession stand and watch a feature film at dusk, every summer Saturday night. Splash Party Movie Nights has been a popular family destination for years. This family oriented program brings people of all ages together. Come join our staff, enjoy family movies and take a dip in the pool on a hot summer night. The regular pool entrance fee covers the movie and pool entrance fee. For more information and a movie schedule, go to [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/pools\\_special.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/pools_special.htm) or call 472-8546.

## Nature Nights

**Date:** Every Thursday July 6th to July 27th, 6 to 9pm  
**Place:** Deep Eddy Pool, 401 Deep Eddy Ave.  
**Cost:** \$1 per person after 5pm, free for members



Lady Bird Johnson

Wildflowercenter

Cool down and enjoy family friendly nature topics and live animals during extended hours. Thursday evenings in July, all Center facilities open till 9 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.wildflower.org> or call 292-4100.



## Zilker Summer Musicals - "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers"

**Date:** July 8, 2006 to August 5, 2006, at dusk  
**Place:** Zilker Hillside Theatre, across from Barton Springs Pool  
**Cost:** FREE, Parking for the musical is \$3.00 per car.

This free outdoor musical production depicts the classic story of newlyweds who tame the groom's six rowdy bachelor brothers in the wild Oregon backwoods. The Zilker Musical is the longest running outdoor production of its type in the US. For more information go to [www.zilker.org](http://www.zilker.org) or call 512-479-9491.

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# Austin Area Fun

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## First Thursday

**Date:** Every 1st Thursday of the month through December 7th  
**Place:** South Congress Ave., South of the Congress Ave. Bridge  
**Cost:** FREE



Merchants of the historic, pedestrian-friendly strip keep their doors open until 10 p.m. with music, arts, crafts and food vendors creating a street-party atmosphere the first Thursday of every month. For more info, see [www.firstthursday.info](http://www.firstthursday.info).

## Bat Watching

**Date:** Now through November 1st  
**Place:** Congress Avenue Bridge at Congree Ave and Cesar Chavez St.  
**Cost:** FREE



The 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats that live beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge take flight in a mass exodus each night at dusk. For more info, call 512-416-5700 x3

## Austin Symphony Concerts in the Park

**Date:** Every Sunday through August 20th at 7:30pm  
**Place:** Wooldridge Park, Ninth and Guadalupe Sts.  
**Cost:** FREE



Each Sunday, a different ensemble will be featured under the gazebo, performing arrangements by composers from Mozart to Ellington to Rodgers & Hammerstein. Concert goers are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and blanket and make it a family affair. For more information and a schedule of ensembles, go to [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org) or call 476-6064.

## Children's Day Art Park

**Date:** Every Wednesday, June 7th to July 26th (except July 5th) from 9:30am - 11:30am  
**Place:** Symphony Square, 11th and Red River Sts.  
**Cost:** 50 cents a child, adults free when accompanied by a child.

Children can experience the magic of the arts at Children's Day Art Park. This exciting summer program features local musicians, dancers, storytellers, magicians, mimes and crafts people. Youngsters can visit the Instrument Petting Zoo (where they can see, touch and try to play the instruments), talk to symphony musicians and hear them play their instruments, see a Ballet Folklorico, hear a Latin jazz band, follow a real Pied Piper along the Lemonade Trail to the Magic Oak Tree and try their hands at different art projects under the Art Tent. For more information, go to [www.austinsymphony.org](http://www.austinsymphony.org) or call 476-6064.

## 4th of July Events

In addition to the NSCNA 4th of July parade, there are several events going on around town. Check your newspaper for listings or go to [www.austintexas.org/visitors/events.php](http://www.austintexas.org/visitors/events.php).

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# Yard of the Month

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Lori Anderson- Beautification Committee Chair



Congratulations to our neighbors who have received the Yard of the Month award in the past months. We applaud all the time and hard work that helps to contribute to the beauty of our community. Each month the sign will be displayed in the yard and the recipient will receive a written certificate. To nominate your neighbor for the award, please contact us at [beautification@nscna.org](mailto:beautification@nscna.org).

## Yard of the Month 2005

December 8210 Briarwood, Chad Byers & Amanda Jones

## Yard of the Month 2006

None given in January

February 8708 Primrose Lane

March 8817 Little Laura, Darwin Dunson

April 3112 Stanwood, Lee and Margaret Scheunemann

May 8310 Millway, Karen and Kevin Henderson

June 8501 Rockwood, Mark Detlefsen & Mark Zeagley

**Holiday Lights Contest  
Winners!!**

1st Place 8401 Stillwood

2nd Place 8306 Stillwood

3rd Place 8619 Winding Walk

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

# SAINT JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Morning Services @ 9 & 11

452-5737  
2140 Allandale Road  
[www.stjohnsaustin.org](http://www.stjohnsaustin.org)

Grace Garden Child Development Center  
371-5822  
[www.gracegardenaustin.org](http://www.gracegardenaustin.org)

**AN OPEN HOUSE**





Your Neighborhood Real Estate Specialist



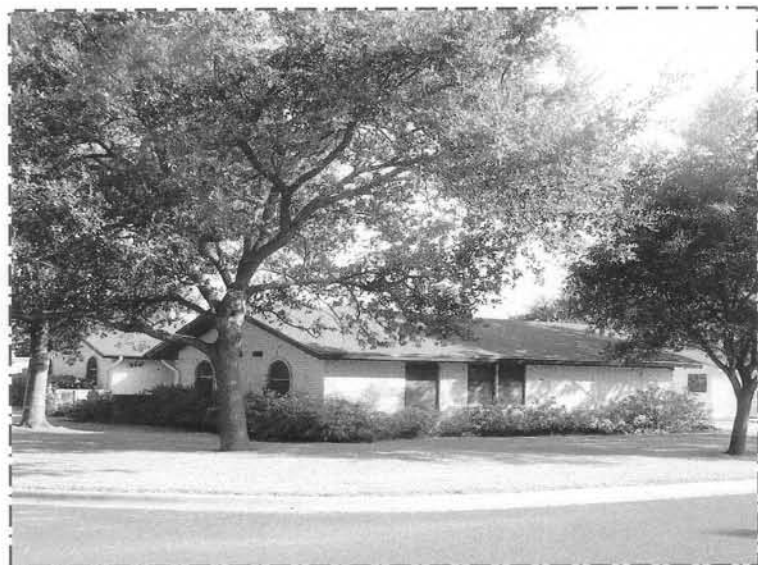
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**3 more sales!**

*8110 Stillwood (PENDING)*

*8605 Primrose (SOLD)*

*2703 Benbrook (SOLD)*



★ ★ ★ ★

**1 more listing!**

*8717 Little Laura (JUST LISTED)*



*If you are interested in buying or selling, call me first!*



**Cell # 797-PERK (7375)**

*Office 691-6707*

**Email:**

*sandyperkins@earthlink.net*

*www.sandyperkins.com*

**Sandy Perkins,**

**Your neighbor**

**Your Realtor**

**Coldwell Banker United Realtor**

*Decorating your yard with the American*

*Flag on Memorial Day since 1989!*

*Don't forget to bring your flag to the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade!*



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# NSCNA Tree Trimming Policy

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Hello, my name is Kevin Wier and I wanted to share a concern some of your neighbors have. I live at 8207 Stillwood Lane. As most of you have noticed, Austin Energy has been in our neighborhood trimming and cutting down trees through its contractor, Asplundh (the big orange trucks). They are cutting trees to provide a certain radius of clearance around the top three lines on the power poles that run through our neighborhood.



My wife, Mary Jane, and I received a notice that our trees needed to be trimmed and cut down in January. We disagreed with this assessment and contacted Austin Energy. We had to go through two levels of protest before we got someone to actually talk with us in any meaningful way. The first two levels we talked with told us they were following policy and there was nothing they could do. The third level person we talked with agreed that the trees didn't actually need to be cut down, just trimmed. They started talking to us about trees on our neighbors' property (one residential, one commercial) that were also marked to be cut down to the ground. So, we began talking with our neighbors and they didn't want their trees cut down either and also disagreed with Austin Energy's assessment that the trees needed to be cut down.



To keep this note short I'll jump ahead 6 months to present date. We have been talking with Austin Energy, the City Manager's office, the Mayor's office, and City Council. Overall, we have not had much success to-date in getting anyone to address our concerns. One hundred and eighty two trees on our block have been cut down to the ground. It's tragic. Most of these trees provided a much needed buffer between the residences on our block and the commercial buildings that share our block.



We are still working to create a dialog with city leadership about this issue. We also are working in partnership with members of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association who have the same problem. We have been told by Austin Energy that until our neighborhood association has a policy statement on this subject, they won't address our issue as a whole; they will only address it on an individual residence basis. We need to address this issue as a neighborhood to have enough political power to make them listen and address our concerns—namely, to stop cutting down trees that don't need to be cut down.

To this end, I have created a draft of a tree trimming policy. I read this at the June 6th neighborhood association meeting. Our next step on this is to get the statement improved through editing. Jean Armstrong, a professional supervising editor, and Liz Haltom, an attorney, have both generously volunteered to review and edit the policy statement. The statement is written below.

**If you have any input into this issue that you'd like to share or suggestions/changes to the policy statement, please contact me.**

**Kevin Wier - [kwier@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwier@austin.rr.com), or cell phone: 731-8832.**

## **DRAFT**

### **Policy Statement regarding Tree Trimming and Cutting Down in our Neighborhood**

#### *Guiding Principle:*

Trees add value to our neighborhood and are desirable to have. Trees increase property value, keep temperatures cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, save money and save energy by requiring less energy to cool and heat homes and businesses, add shade, add aesthetic beauty and well-being, add privacy, create a barrier to noise, including traffic noise, add security, and create a physical barrier or buffer to commercial areas adjacent to our neighborhood.

Trees in Austin create an urban forest. This is desirable and should be protected. Trees are an important part of our lives as energy is. Providing energy can be balanced with other elements of our lives such as trees and the urban forest.

1. Austin Energy should suspend all tree cutting in our neighborhood until the Tree Task Force's recommendations (URL) are adopted by the City of Austin.
2. Austin Energy shall notify our neighborhood via the NSCNA at least 90 days in advance of cutting in our neighborhood. This notice shall include a detailed and specific description of their plans and the extent of their cutting plans. This notice shall include a physical meeting/discussion at one of our regular neighborhood association meetings.
3. Austin Energy recognizes that our neighborhood association must have time to respond to and if necessary oppose their plans before Austin Energy begins cutting.
4. We do not want our trees cut down. We recognize that reasonable trimming of branches may be required from time to time. Again, our policy is we do not want our trees cut down.
5. If Austin Energy believes there is no other reasonable option but to cutting down a tree, then Austin Energy will notify our neighborhood association and affected property owners and owners of adjacent properties and give all time to respond. If interested parties disagree with Austin Energy's assessment, the issue will be taken to the Austin Environmental Board and the Austin Urban Forestry Board for arbitration/ruling. If any interested parties disagree with this ruling, then the issue will be taken to the Austin City Council for a final resolution.
6. Austin Energy will provide appropriate large trees—not seedlings or saplings—or money to purchase large trees for planting to replace any and every large tree that Austin Energy cuts down.
7. Before Austin Energy cuts down any tree, they will abide by and follow all City of Austin rules and policies that aim to protect trees, such as policies regarding the issuance of permits to cut down larger trees with a certain trunk diameter. (Note from Kevin: we need to find specifically what these policies are, who issued the policies, etc. I've been told of these policies and heard them discussed at an Austin Forestry Board meeting, but need more details. This web site helps:  
[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/preserve\\_code.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/preserve_code.htm))



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# *It Is Time to Renew or Join NSCNA*

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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?

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