



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Summer 2008

Issue 3

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### Calendar

**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday Sept 2**  
**6:30 pm-8 pm**  
Pillow Elementary  
Cafeteria

**National Night Out**  
**Tuesday Oct 7**  
**6 pm-8 pm**

## *Association Updates*

**By: Jeff Russell**

Recall that at the April 1 general meeting, the Development Committee proposed a Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) zoning overlay for most of the Anderson Lane commercial properties, but suggested withholding the density bonuses to help preserve neighborhood interests in any future VMU projects. The membership passed a resolution supporting this proposal, and at the May 13 Planning Commission meeting, committee members proposed this scheme and it was accepted without significant change. By the time you read this, City Council should have adopted the commission's recommendations.

At the April 21 board meeting, a representative of the owner of 8611 Mopac (the old Harold's Clothing Barn) explained plans to ask for a permit to serve alcohol. Though no tenant is lined up, the owner wants to convert the property to a "cocktail lounge." In consultation with the development committee, the Board passed a motion generally supporting the application but stating that our neighborhood was concerned about overflow parking at properties along Shoal Creek Blvd. due to pedestrian traffic crossing the railroad tracks on the east end of the property. When the matter finally came before the Zoning and Platting Commission on July 1, the Development Committee took action to restrict the Association's support of the alcohol permit for cocktail lounge use only.

At the May 6 general meeting, Annick Beaudet, from the City of Austin Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, described the planned re-striping of Steck. The section between Burnet and Shoal Creek Blvd. will be the subject of a "road diet," resulting in one car lane and one bike lane in each direction, with a shared left-turn lane. Similar projects in other cities result in increased bicycle use without a negative impact on the road capacity for vehicles. To verify the impact of this local project, a detailed before and after study is being conducted to measure Steck, as well as surrounding streets.

The "before" study in mid-April funded only weekday measurements, so several members of the Traffic Committee helped gather statistics on bicycle and pedestrian use over the weekend of April 19-20. The "after" measurements are planned for next spring. As part of regularly scheduled maintenance, the re-striping is currently planned between September and November. A second phase of the project is to figure out how bicycle lanes can be implemented between Shoal Creek Blvd. and Mopac.

The May 6 meeting also featured Gary Kosut, from the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. Mr. Kosut talked about

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**North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News**

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

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## President's Corner

**By: Jeff Russell**

The main purpose of our neighborhood association is to promote our neighborhood. Through the hard work of volunteers, we sponsor specific projects or events in support of that goal, for example the spring garage sale and the July 4th parade. From time to time, we also adopt policies with regard to local events or proposed development. Typically, these position statements are proposed by committees or members and are adopted by a vote at a meeting. These policy positions are communicated to the City of Austin at public hearings or meetings with city staff and are represented as expressing the views of our neighborhood. If you want to help shape some of these policies, please join a committee or speak up at a general meeting.

Speaking of events, the Fourth of July parade was quite a success (see the pictures on pages 10-11). Thanks to all the volunteers who helped distribute flyers, organize the event, and set up that day. We also owe a special thanks to Brewster McCracken for sponsoring the police escort and fees for the parade. I know it was a lot of fun to work on a big event the entire neighborhood enjoyed, so consider volunteering next year.

The Social Committee also helped organize a neighborhood-wide garage sale on May 17. Watch for it next spring if you are thinking about a garage sale.

The Development Committee continued tracking area development projects and several members took time to attend public hearings for area development projects.

The Media Committee has been busy with the website and newsletter. Help is always appreciated, especially writing articles or selling ads. Ad revenue makes an event like the Fourth of July parade possible, so thank our sponsors when you visit them.

As of this writing, we are still trying to schedule the next general meeting in the fall. We know it will not be the first Tuesday in October, because this is the date of the National Night Out in Texas. It was moved to October because 6 pm in August is too hot.

Now it's time for the get involved pitch: get involved! There are committees that regularly meet and others that meet for specific issues or events. We also need new board members for next year. (There are 11 spots!) Send an e-mail ([president@nscna.org](mailto:president@nscna.org)) or give me a call (415-9809), and I'll direct you to the right committee chair.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**Tuesday, October 7 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

This year, for the first time ever, the National Night Out in Texas is scheduled at a cooler time of the year. Host a party and invite those that live on your block. These parties are usually held on the front lawn or driveway. Plan some fun things to do, watch the kiddos, and plan some refreshments. The City will provide a packet of information to help. Included will be informative literature and ideas to help with your planning. Complete an application and submit it early to have time to make your plans.

[www.cityofaustin.org/police/nno.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/police/nno.htm)

When submitting the application, please copy our Safety Committee chair, Roger Wines (453-2193 or [ro-jer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ro-jer@sbcglobal.net))

## *Neighbor Spotlight: the Tuccis on Benbrook*

By: Sandy Perkins

I first met Leon Tucci, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force Retired, and his wife, Jean, 18 years ago. That was the first year that I distributed flags to the neighborhood on Memorial Day. When Leon and Jean saw my flags, he called and said, “Young lady, we would like to treat you to dinner.” At that dinner, he thanked me and welled up with emotion as he told me of their only son, Major Robert Tucci, USAF, who was shot down in Laos during the Vietnam era and is still listed as Missing in Action. Robert had followed in his father’s footsteps and became a USAF pilot flying F-4 Fighters. Colonel Tucci was a bomber pilot and flew missions in Europe during World War II.

When the news came of Robert’s having been shot down, the Tuccis were stationed at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico. Jean says she was enjoying the gorgeous greenery and the colorful Flamboyant trees when she first heard the news. She says, “In an instant all that gorgeous greenery turned to a dull gray.” A week later, Jean received the news that her mother had passed away. Through all these adversities she has been able to maintain a wonderful sense of humor. I have shared many wonderful times with my good friends, the Tuccis.



They are the original owners of their home on Benbrook which they had custom built by V.G. Mann. One of Jean’s funny stories was about the temporary home they lived in while their home was being built. Mr. Mann had recommended a rental that his friend owned. The owner’s wife came often to join them for coffee and to share homebuilding stories as she and her husband also had a home built by Mr. Mann. Jean says their landlord sent his “little red-headed wife to visit with them just to keep her out of trouble.” As it turned out, I learned years later that “the little red headed wife” was my mother! Leon and Jean couldn’t believe it. We laughed so hard that the news brought about a reason to share a nice bottle of Italian Chianti.

Both Leon and Jean have many stories about the colorful people and places they have known. The way their lives have intertwined is a story in itself. They were both born in Italy in towns approximately five miles apart, but never met there. Both families migrated to Detroit, Michigan, living only blocks apart. When they met, he was nine years old and she was seven years old. They have recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary!

I have never visited the Tuccis when I was not served some Italian goodie. One of my favorites is the Italian Biscotti that Jean often makes from a recipe she has been using for years. I’ve asked Jean for the recipe and she always replied, “You must come and watch me and then I’ll gladly give you the recipe. There are some things that you must see to understand and appreciate.” I finally did go to observe the making of the Biscotti. I feel very fortunate to receive the recipe for this Italian delight and I have Jean’s permission to include it on the next page to share with our friends and neighbors.

## *Neighbor Spotlight, continued from page 3*

### ITALIAN BISCOTTI (All ingredients must be at room temperature)

3 cups all purpose flour	1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons baking power	3 large eggs, at room temperature
½ teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup butter or margarine, softened	1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease one cookie sheet. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Beat butter and sugar in mixer bowl until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add vanilla extract. Beat in dry ingredients until well combined. Stir in nuts (if desired). With floured hands, shape dough into two 12 inch logs about ¾ inch thick and 4 to 5 inches wide. Bake 25 to 30 minutes until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack 20 minutes.

With a serrated knife, slice logs approximately ½ inch thick. Place cut side down on cookie sheet and bake again for 8 minutes. Turn cookies over and bake for another 8 minutes or until the cookie is just golden. Cool again on wire racks. Store in an airtight container at room temperature up to one week or freeze up to one month.

This recipe makes approximately 3 ½ dozen cookies.

## *Association Updates, cont'd from page 1*

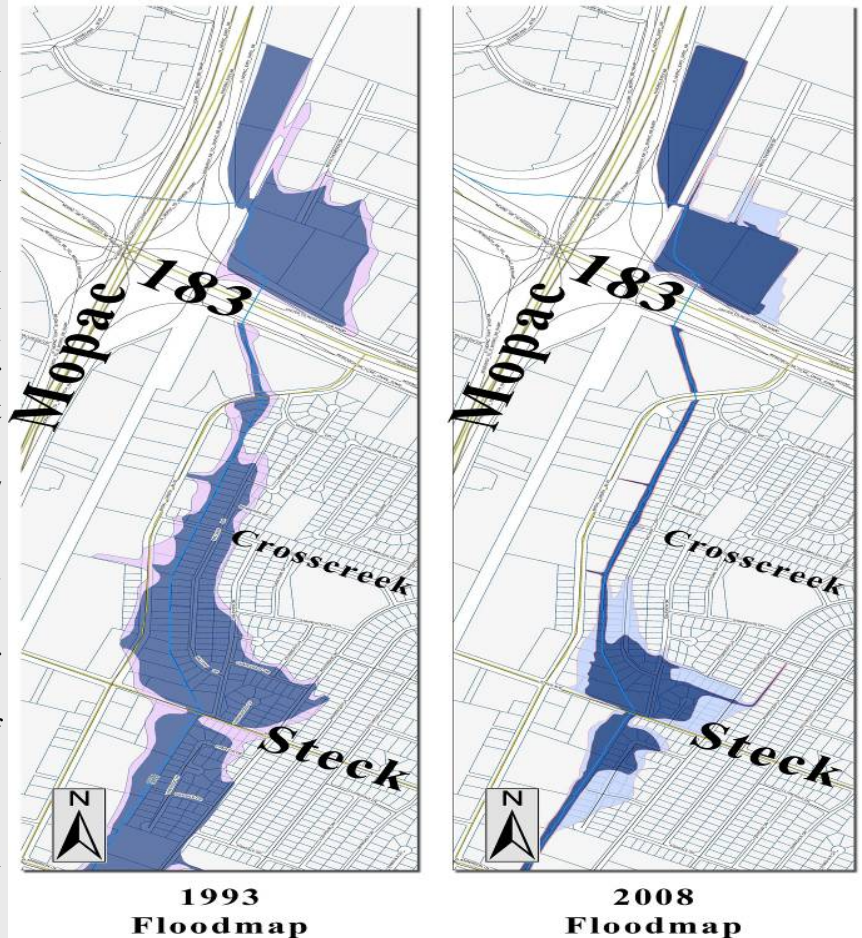
the floodplain along Shoal Creek and how the new floodplain maps become official on September 26, 2008.

Most of the current FEMA floodplain maps in Travis County are based on out-of-date technical data prepared up to 29 years ago. In October 2003, FEMA initiated the Travis County Floodplain Map Modernization project that resulted in new digital floodplain maps and models. These maps show the 100-year and 500-year FEMA floodplains and the 25-year and 100-year City of Austin fully-developed floodplains in Travis County. The FEMA floodplains will be used for insurance rate purposes and are based on existing watershed land-use conditions. The City of Austin floodplain maps are used for land development regulation and floodplain management purposes and are based on fully developed land-use conditions.

Due to the City of Austin's flood control program that made improvements to Shoal Creek, many homes in our neighborhood are no longer in the floodplain. To find out if your property is affected, call your insurance agent or look at the new maps on the city web site ([http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/floodplain\\_newmap.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/floodplain_newmap.htm)).

Mr. Kosut observed that with the new maps, some homeowners might not be required to carry flood insurance (based on their mortgage requirements). However, it is always a good idea to have flood insurance if you are near waterways.

The "old" floodplain map based on a 1993 study and the new floodplain map are shown on the right.



# Changes Coming for Austin Curbside Recycling

By: Shannon Jones

Today, we are bombarded by going “green” and recycling is one of the easiest ways to be more “green.” Chris and I have been married for eight years and I am the “environmentalist” in our house. I peel the paper off packaging to recycle and check for the appropriate 1 or 2 on the plastic products before we purchase them. I hate seeing how much stuff we throw away and knowing that the landfills are reaching their limits. I have done some research and found that you can “recycle” almost anything, including electronics and paint.

Currently in Austin, we recycle any plastic with the 1 or 2 symbol, aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, paper, and steel or tin cans. Beginning in October, the city will be delivering blue, 90 gallon recycling carts to residential customers. We won’t have to sort items, because all the recycling will go directly in this cart. (The current blue bins will no longer be used for curbside recycling.) The collection crews will pick up the recycling using an automated truck and recycling collection will be picked up every other week.



A list of things that **can** be placed in the new recycling carts:

1. Paper: (newspaper, office paper, junk mail, cereal and soft drink boxes, corrugated cardboard)
2. Aluminum and metal cans: food cans (labels left on OK), soda cans
3. Glass: Jars and bottles
4. Rigid plastics: #1 through #7, including yogurt and margarine tubs. See chart below.

• Plastic bags and styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, take-out containers) **cannot** be placed in the recycling cart.

There are many places in Austin to drop off your unwanted household items. Our area has several accessible Goodwill and Salvation Army locations. If your items are in excellent or good condition you can donate them to places like Assistance League of Austin. They sell your donated items in their thrift store to raise money for programs that benefit our community. Listed below are websites that discuss different ways to recycle and be more “green.”

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/singlestream.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/singlestream.htm)

[www.lime.com/features/limes\\_guide\\_to\\_recycling](http://www.lime.com/features/limes_guide_to_recycling)

[earth911.org/recycling](http://earth911.org/recycling)

[www.greendimes.com/](http://www.greendimes.com/)

At **earth911.org** you can type in the item you want to recycle and your zip code and the website gives you a list of places to recycle those items.

At **greendimes.com** you can pay someone else to take you off junk mail mailing lists to reduce your incoming waste paper.

<b>PETE</b>	<b>HDPE</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>LDPE</b>	<b>PP</b>	<b>PS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Polyethylene Terephthalate	High Density Polyethylene	Vinyl	Low Density Polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other

## *Join Scouting Nights This September*

By Charles Mead

Scouting reinforces the character development, ethics, and values you teach in your home. Research shows that 91% of men who were in Scouts five or more years graduated from high school and 35% of them graduated from college. Plus, Scouts have fun going camping, learning about the outdoors, and making new friends.

### **Cub Scouts (first-fifth grade)**

Pack 1 – First Presbyterian - David Murray 258-6719

Pack 89 – St. Louis Catholic – Charles Orrison 260-3860

Pack 511 – St. Matthews Episcopal – Christopher Holtkamp 349-0764

### **Boy Scouts (completed fifth grade but isn't 18)**

Troop 1 - First Presbyterian – Hilton Beckham 302-4938

Troop 89 – St. Louis Catholic - Damien Gray 795-9210

Troop 511 - St. Matthews Episcopal – James Miller 342-7074

### **Venturing (if your son or daughter is older than 14 but isn't 20)**

Crew 7 - St. Louis Catholic – Greg Ruhl 346-1297

Crew 111 - First Presbyterian – Mark Barnett 694-3429

Crew 511 - St. Matthews Episcopal – Tim Saunders 219-8021

## *Girl Scouts: Discover, Connect, and Take Action*

By Divina Ormsby

Girl Scouts is a fun and educational program for girls, grades K-12, to enjoy while making new friends and having new experiences. In Girl Scouts, girls have the opportunity to discover themselves, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. Outcome-based leadership opportunities allow girls to define leadership and perfect their leadership styles. From leading songs and games to creating entire program curriculums, girls develop the confidence and courage they need to succeed. To learn more or join Girl Scouts visit [www.gsctx.org](http://www.gsctx.org) or call (512) 453-7391.

### *Neighborhood Garage Sale Thank You!*

*The NSCNA would like to thank Aleda Johnson and Sandy Perkins for all of their efforts in making this year's garage sale a success.*

If you would like to submit an article of interest or advertise with us, please contact the editor at [newsletter@nscna.org](mailto:newsletter@nscna.org).

Deadlines to receive advertisements and articles are: January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1

Personal ads are free for NSCNA residents. Limit 30 words.

Business classifieds are \$45 and the limit is 40 words.

# North Village Library Update

By Walter Minkel, Austin Public Library

Hi, everyone, and I hope you're having a great summer. Those of us here at the North Village Branch Library are hoping that you've driven by the soon-to-open North Village Branch site on Steck, between Rockwood and Burnet, and seen the workers swarming all around. We're talking about roofers, masons, plasterers, electricians, plumbers, door and window installers, framers, steel workers, mechanical installers, and other tradesmen who have kept going, right on schedule.

Lately we've been seeing the new rock and stucco outer walls going up and, by the time you read this, the entrance canopy and the parking lot lights should be installed. The target date for opening the doors remains January 24, 2009.

Meanwhile, in our cozy store front here in the North Star Home Center, we're seeing new adult and children's books and DVDs arriving in big shipping boxes daily. Despite the stereotype of libraries as a tired, fusty kind of place, don't believe it; we're always changing what's on the shelves. And the new branch will have all kinds of new, fascinating stuff for you to borrow.

But lots of these new materials are already here and ready for you to look at and check out. No matter what you're interested in, the Austin Public Library has materials you'll enjoy, and we hope you'll come by and pay us a visit. We're open 10 am to 9 pm Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 6 pm on Friday, and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. Have a question? Call us at 458-2239 and we'll do our best to help you. We're here to get the right stuff – be it book, CD, online information, or DVD – to the people of Austin.

And don't forget that just about every Tuesday morning we hold a Toddler Storytime (for ages 18–36 months) at 10:15 am and a Preschool Storytime (3–5 years) at 11:00 am.

## Thank you for making our Annual Fourth of July Parade a big success:

Robert Garcia of <b>Cavender's Boot City</b> for donating 4 tote bags	Bobby Torres of <b>Olive Garden</b> for four \$5 meal coupons
Cindy McNeil of <b>Petsmart</b> for a \$25 gift card	Graham Willis of <b>Sonic</b> for 10 meal deal coupons
Dan Harrington of <b>Texas Rib Kings</b> for two \$10 meal coupons	Mercy Nwonye of <b>Jack in the Box</b> for 10 free smoothies and 1 free salad coupons
Heejim Moon of <b>Chili's</b> for 100 free kid's meal coupons and 11 free chips & salsa coupons with the purchase of an entrée	Marissa Cortez of <b>Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union</b> for 144 bottles of water and hand fans
Mike Orr of <b>Paramount Theaters</b> for 12 free tickets to Summer Movies	Marie Paulina Gallegos of <b>Panda Express</b> for 13 free Panda Kids Meals coupons
Tina Spradling of <b>Marie Callenders</b> for 2 free pie gift cards	Molly Robertson of <b>Texadelphia</b> for 4 free sandwich coupons
Jeff McDermott of <b>Mr. Gatti's</b> (and a resident) for 8 free pizzas	Roy Smith of <b>Denny's</b> for four \$10 meal gift cards.
Ken David and Alfonso Vasquez of <b>Dairy Queen</b> for 60 tokens for free sundaes	

Virginia Horn (9 years old) for kicking off the Parade by singing the National Anthem for us!

Sandy Perkins, Social Chair would like to give thanks to the Social Committee members (Trish Ryan, Vicki McFadden, Candy Swindall, Vicky Enos) and to fellow Board Members (Jerry Horn, Chris Jones & wife Shannon, Helene Maham & husband Dallas, Ken Moyer, Jeff Russell, Sherran Williams, Roger Wines & wife Jeri) for their help in the gathering of the above prizes; their efforts to set up, decorate, clean up, and help in judging contestants; their donations of tables, chairs, ice chests, microphone, speakers, extension cords, and the taking of photographs; and for making it all run smoothly!

## *NSCNA Donations to Pillow Elementary*

By Chris Jones

In 2002, Pillow Elementary asked NSCNA if they would be willing to donate \$500 to help pay for a new marquee sign outside the school. This donation was approved by the Board at the time, but it seems to have slipped through the cracks and the check was never presented to Pillow. Earlier this year, Sandy Perkins was speaking with Huddie Murray, the Pillow PTA liaison, when this topic was brought up. It turns out that the NSCNA requested the sign contain a message to help calm traffic and, for the longest time, there was a message asking people to "Drive Slow - school is in session" or something to that effect. Surprised to hear that our group seemed to have dropped the ball, the issue was brought up at a recent board meeting and our Secretary, Claudell Migl, was asked to look through past meeting minutes to verify that this donation was approved by a past NSCNA Board.

In the meantime, Pillow started a donation drive to help pay for new Elmo projectors. These digital projectors would replace their overhead projectors and help improve the classroom environment. The Board was made aware of this new request from Pillow and voted to donate \$532 to Pillow to pay for one new Elmo projector. A check was cut and issued to Pillow. A few months later, we received a number of Thank You cards from the Fourth grade class letting us know how happy the students are with the new Elmo projector. On the opposite page, we have scanned in a few of those Thank You cards for you to read. Some are insightful, some are down right funny. In the photo below, you can see the school's marquee with a message to the NSCNA thanking us for the Elmo donation.

Claudell was able to locate meeting minutes from 2002 that verified the approval of a \$500 donation to Pillow to help pay for a new marquee sign. This information was presented to the Board and we voted to cut another check for \$500 to honor the past promise. It is always a good thing to support our local schools and we look forward to a continued good relationship with our friends at Pillow Elementary.







Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students want to thank you for our ELMO.  
 What I like about the ELMO is that there are other things on it instead of having an overhead that you can only write on. Also, why I like it is because you can look it up on the computer.  
 Whoever made the ELMO is very smart and I thank you again for the ELMO.  
 Sincerely,  
 Kiana



Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 MA,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students want to thank you for our ELMO. They work great, I like how they are like a mirror, except for learning instead of looking at yourself.  
 Sincerely,  
 Eliamas Ramirez  
 P.S. Thank You very much.



Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 All of the Pillow Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade students want to thank you for our new ELMO(s). Things I like about the ELMO are confusing to say, but I like that you don't have to write anything on overhead paper. You just type something or actually write something on a piece of paper. It's an incredible creation. All of us think it's easier to use the ELMO than the projector. I like that you can zoom it in or out, and there is a button that could focus it. That's pretty cool compared to a light that just turns on and you write with an overhead pen.  
 Your gift is very cool, and it has helped us a lot so far. I just want to thank you again for the wonderful ELMO!  
 Sincerely,  
 April Blackburn



Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students want to thank you for our Elmo. It is very helpful, and I think our teacher deserved it. The Elmo is a lot better than the overhead projector. Our class is really thankful for it, but our teacher is still learning how to work it. Using the Elmo is like such a blessing. We needed one pretty badly, and now we have one! Like I said, thank you for the Elmo! ☺  
 Your friend,  
 Jamie B. Jones



Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students want to thank you for the ELMO.  
 What I like about it is that it shows the picture and you can see better, and you can zoom in. If we copy something or read it, it will be easier.  
 Sincerely,  
 Your friend,  
 Mack

Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> grade students want to thank for our ELMO. We have been using an overhead, but now we are using the ELMO, and I feel grateful to have it.  
 Thanks again for helping get our class an awesome piece of equipment!  
 Your friend,  
 Daniel Han

Dear North Shoal Creek N.A.,  
 Pillow 4<sup>th</sup> grade students want to thank you for our ELMO. The ELMO helps my teacher. My teacher is sort of old, so she won't have to use her hands a lot.  
 What I like about ELMO is that you can see yourself, pictures, homework, classwork, and to make funny faces.  
 Love,  
 JJ  
 P.S. Love the ELMO and It's the ELMO's world, Da Da Da, Da Da, la la la la da da!

# Fourth of July Parade 2008

By Chris Jones

This year's annual Fourth of July Parade was a great success. Thanks to all of the members of the Social Committee for their hard work. The weather was much better than last year's rain, with clear skies and temperatures in the low 90s. The event began at 9:40 am with a great rendition of the National Anthem by 9 year old Virginia Horn, granddaughter of Board member, Jerry Horn. Next, our APD motorcycle escorts began the parade, taking the very large crowd on a trip around Pillow Elementary. A menagerie of dressed up dogs, well-decorated bicycles, strollers and wagons, as well as a large crowd of patriotic neighbors sporting their best red, white, and blue outfits enjoyed a brisk trip around the school and park. The parade ended next to the east side of the elementary school where the Neighborhood Association had a number of attractions set up. This year, we enjoyed free snow cones, a moonwalk, an amazing balloon artist, and a talented face painter. We were fortunate to have a cool breeze under the trees and plenty of water to keep us all hydrated. A prize walk game was also a big hit, with many winners receiving prizes donated by local businesses as well as a number of prizes purchased by the Social Committee. Kids were encouraged to join in the sidewalk chalk art contest and prizes were given out to the best artwork. Many prizes were given out in a number of categories including best dressed dog, best decorated bicycle, best decorated stroller, etc. It was a fun way to start the holiday weekend as well as a good way to mingle with our neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there next year.



Photos by Chris Jones



## Pillow Elementary School News

By Huddie Murray

Pillow Elementary students and staff are enjoying a well-deserved summer break after a very full and successful spring. We hope to return to campus with the news that our students' excellent TAKS scores have earned Pillow an Exemplary rating.

Since the beginning of April, activity at Pillow has been nonstop, with Learning Walks, Family Lunch Days, Read Across Pillow Book Fair, Children's Book Week, the Golf Tournament, Parent Coffees, PTA Meetings, Track and Field Days, a CPR class, AISD Youth Art Show, Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation events, Dance to the Beat Square Dancing performance, Award Assemblies, and our Fifth Grade Celebration.

Pillow wishes to thank The Seedlings Foundation for continued beautification of our campus, Lowe's for material donations, Whole Foods for track and field donations, and Sam's Club for choosing Pillow as its Partner in Education over the past year. Your support is appreciated!

We could use the help of our neighbors over the summer to keep the flower beds in shape. If any Pillow area residents would be willing to tend these areas, please contact Huddie Murray at [hwmswim@yahoo.com](mailto:hwmswim@yahoo.com). Thanks very much! We'll see you back at Pillow on Monday, August 25.

## Burnet Middle School News

By Dr. Antonio Medina, Principal

Dear North Shoal Creek Association,

I would like to thank you and Ms. Sandy Perkins for your interest in supporting Burnet Middle School in its quest to become a Recognized Campus for the 2008-2009 school year. Let me tell you about our school, its students, and plans for the upcoming school year.

Burnet is the third largest school in the middle school district; we averaged 1,054 students the 2007-2008 school year. Our students' ethnicities are: 68% Hispanic, 18% African American, 9% white, and 5% other (this constitutes over 37 countries represented at Burnet).

Academic Status for the 2007-2008 School Year: Academically Unacceptable

Academic Status for the 2008-2009 School Year: **Academically Acceptable.**

**This is a remarkable feat considering Burnet had a first year principal and 27 new staff members in the 2007-2008 school year.**

**Math scores increased from 41% to 71%.**

**Reading scores increased from 63% to 89%.**

Burnet was awarded a grant from Intel and the Dell Foundation. Through the grant Burnet was given 1,000 computers, which were refurbished by our students and then given to needy households throughout the Burnet neighborhood. KEYE 42 covered the story on June 5, 2008.

Open House is slated for September 2, 2008, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Homework Harbor is set as follows: Monday – Social Studies, Tuesday – Math, Wednesday – Language Arts, Thursday – Science. This specialized tutoring takes place in the teachers' classrooms from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm.

Daily Tutoring is done Monday – Friday from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm in the Library.

In-house Tutoring takes place from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm and is facilitated by ex-teachers and volunteers.

So many great changes are happening at Burnet MS. In fact, due to the bond elections, Burnet will be receiving new windows, upgraded bathrooms, new gym lockers, a new roof, tennis/basketball courts, and a new stage for our theater arts' students. These are just a few of the improvements and we welcome our community members to take part in the transformation of our campus. Again, thank you and have a safe and happy summer!

## Anderson High School News

By Anne Gomez Sterrett

Anderson High School Principal Donna Houser invites all incoming freshmen to the traditional freshman welcome called Trojan Charge. It will be held on Friday, August 15, 2008, from 9 am to 11 am at the high school. Check-in begins at 9 am with free refreshments for the Class of 2012. You can drop your student off at the Steck entrance, in the student parking lot on the south side of the school. Students can follow the walkway from there to the registration tables. AISD buses will also run. The actual program begins at 9:30 am. Students should not miss this opportunity to orient themselves before school starts. Here's what incoming freshmen will receive during Trojan Charge:

- \* Class of 2012 Anderson High t-shirt
- \* Introduction to the student's assigned counselor
- \* A guided tour of the school campus
- \* The student's locker assignment and a chance to put a lock on the locker.  
Bring any lock you want. There are no school-provided locks for lockers.

Please register for Trojan Charge by August 1. There is no charge for the program, but, if you want to make a tax-deductible donation of \$5.00, you can include a check made out to Anderson PTSA to help defray the costs of t-shirts and snacks. Complete the information below and mail it to:

Anderson PTSA c/o Anderson High School  
8403 Mesa Drive  
Austin, TX 78759

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend Trojan Charge on August 15.

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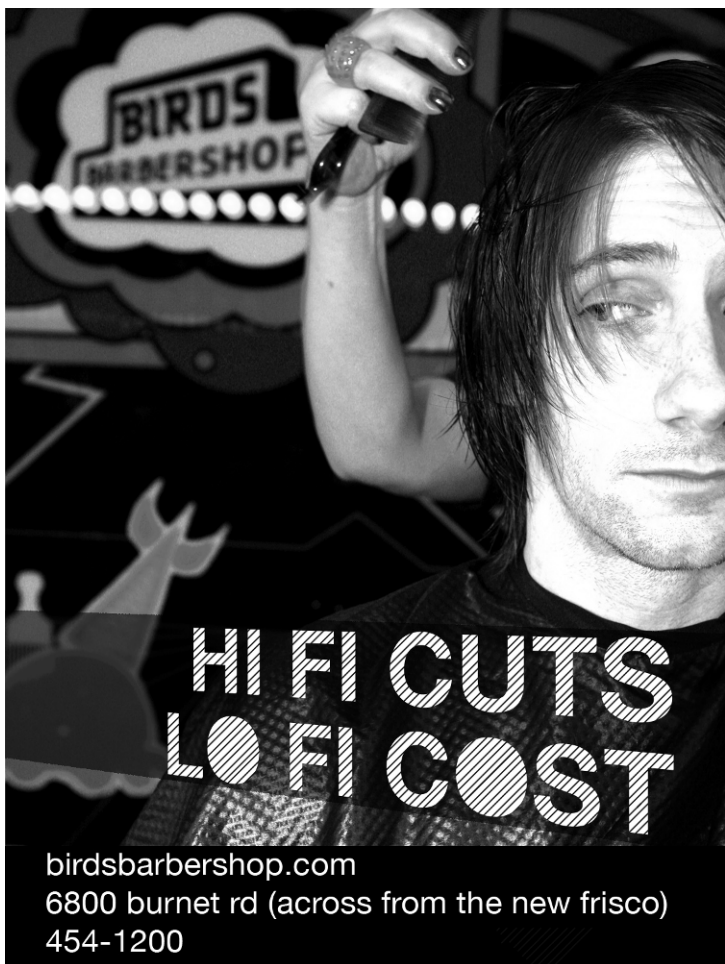
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## Birds Barbershop opens on Burnet Road

Just over a year after opening its doors on South Lamar Boulevard, Austin's Birds Barbershop has opened its second location at 6800 Burnet Road, between Anderson Lane and 2222/Koenig Lane. The new shop takes the original "Walk In, Rock Out" mentality north of downtown, with a look and feel all its own.

With men's Shortcuts at \$19 and women's Ladybirds at \$39, Birds Barbershop offers salon-quality cuts at an affordable price. Since the shop doesn't take appointments, Birds entertains clients with great music and the good times of old school arcades.

Birds North features murals evoking the dawn of the digital age, vinyl and pinball glass throughout, and an arcade game in the lobby featuring forty classic titles. There is an outdoor patio, a built-in booth for guest DJs to spin on the weekends, and a bigger stage for live music performances. Like Birds South, the new shop offers free wi-fi and Lone Stars to clients and a rock 'n' roll experience worthy of a mayoral loyalty.

"I've been a regular at Birds Barbershop since Day One. My daughters enjoy the foosball table while I enjoy a cold one and get my hair cut," Austin Mayor Will Wynn said.

Birds Barbershop is the winner of the Austin Chronicle's "Best Barbershop" honor and Best of Citysearch, Look Hot Feel Good Winner by the Citysearch Austin Editorial Team. The shop has also been featured in *Elle*, *Newsweek*, and Reuters and was recently named by MasterCard as one of the nation's most "Priceless" experiences.

# To Your Health

By Nader Mdeway, Keystone Insurance

The government estimates that one out of every six people is uninsured. Even more alarming, 11% of children do not have health insurance. Texas is one of 10 states that has higher than average uninsured rates (>20%). Close to 77% of small business owners do not offer health insurance benefits to their employees, citing cost as the primary reason. Many people don't realize the importance of maintaining continuous insurance coverage. The best time to qualify for health insurance is when you're healthy. Wait until you need it and you may not be eligible.

If you are one of the many who are uninsured, if you are not satisfied with your current coverage, or if you aren't sure if you qualify for coverage, there is hope. The options available to individuals and small businesses have multiplied significantly over the past few years. From low-cost major medical plans to short-term and high deductible options, there are many opportunities for the uninsured to obtain coverage. The next obstacle is wading through the options to find the best one for you or your employees.

Keystone Insurance Services, Inc. can help you identify quality plans that meet your needs and budget by providing multiple competitive quotes from top-rated insurers. We are a client-focused independent insurance agency offering life, health, property, and casualty insurance services for individuals and businesses. We created this business on the basis of a simple, but very powerful premise. This premise is to create an organization that treats its clients the way we want to be treated. Let us help you secure your health, life, and property. We work for your benefit.

To find out more information about our services and to benefit from our FREE resources please visit our website at [www.mykeystoneins.com](http://www.mykeystoneins.com), email at [info@mykeystoneins.com](mailto:info@mykeystoneins.com), or call us at 512-257-8000.

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# Yard of the Month Winners



**May 2008**

**Gary and  
Dottie Davis  
of 8210  
Rockwood**

**June 2008**

**The Rollings  
family of  
8201 Sandal-  
wood Cove**



## Sandy Perkins

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**8015 Rockwood Lane – Sellers, Eric & Tara Thronson** said: “Sandy is a fantastic agent! She advised us in staging techniques and provided professional help every step of the way. Thanks to her help, we had a contract in 10 days and were very pleased with our sale price.”

**3200 Crosscreek – Sellers, Joseph & Stephanie Conway** said: “Sandy was such a joy to work with. Not only was she completely honest, kind and approachable, but she had the added knowledge & expertise of a true professional – especially for our area. She was always responsive and available with the advice that we needed, and I know we couldn’t have sold our home without her! She is a dear person who really cares & knows what she’s doing. All of the best qualities wrapped up together.”

**8706 Dawnridge Circle – Seller, Julie Stokes** said: “I couldn’t have asked for better service and I made a new friend!”



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## DAVID WEEKLEY HOMES TEARDOWN & REBUILD SEMINAR

Want a new home but love your current neighborhood? Everyone is invited to attend a FREE Central Austin Teardown and Build on Your Lot seminar where David Weekley Homes will explain how they can help make that dream a reality. The seminar is at the Model Home Center Sunday, July 27, 2008, at 2:00 pm. Weekley offers the ability to tear down an existing home and build a new home from a collection of floor plans that mimic the look and feel of traditional Central Austin home designs. Floor plans are available in a variety of sizes and square footages to accommodate the specific building guidelines of Central Austin. Homebuyers will learn about David Weekley Homes' popular Teardown and Build on Your Lot process where they can customize their dream home. This is also a great educational opportunity to learn about the six simple steps of how to build a home on your own home site or how to work with David Weekley Homes to find the perfect home site. Attendees can also visit the homebuilder's Design Center to browse through the thousands of options that ease the building process.

David Weekley Homes' Build on Your Lot seminar is FREE and features discussions about the teardown and new construction process, building within the McMansion guidelines, David Weekley's Green Home program, financing, customizable floor plans, and much more. A David Weekley representative will discuss the Weekley home building process. There will also be a representative from Weekley's preferred lender to discuss financing options with homebuyers. Homebuyers will also learn how to find the floor plan that's right for them.

Be sure to attend David Weekley Homes' FREE Build on Your Lot Seminar Sunday, July 27, 2008, at 2:00 pm. The seminar will be at David Weekley's Model Home Center, located at 9000 Waterford Centre Blvd., Austin, Texas 78758, near 183 and Burnet Road. RSVP to 512-821-8836 or [austinboyl@dwhomes.com](mailto:austinboyl@dwhomes.com).

## Weekley's Now Building Urban!



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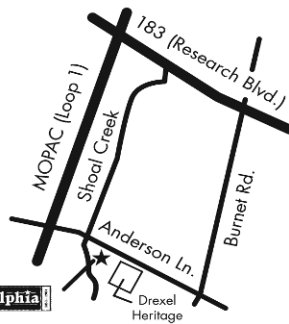
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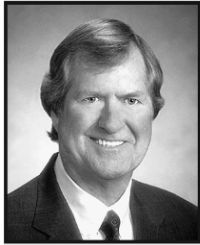
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