



Fall 2008

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**Next Meeting
Tuesday Dec 2
6:30-8 pm**

Pillow Elementary
Cafeteria

New Library Opening Delayed

By Walter Minkel, Austin Public Library

Now that school is well underway, we here at the North Village library have been hopping. But this year, we're hopping a little faster than usual. The first day of October began the City of Austin's new fiscal year, and with it came an important change in our schedule—we're now closed on Thursdays. Because the Austin Public Library needed some additional maintenance and security staff to keep our branches clean and safe, we couldn't hire all the staff we need to keep the libraries going for our normal six days a week.

So while the Faulk Main Library at 8th and Guadalupe continues to open seven days a week, the branches are all closed on either Thursdays or Fridays. North Village Branch is closed on Thursdays, as are the Spicewood Springs, St. John, and Howson branches, while the other branches in North Austin—the Milwood, Yarborough, Old Quarry, and Little Walnut branches—are closed on Fridays. We know that these closures are a hassle, but we hope all of you will continue using the libraries on our open days.

The question we hear more and more often over the desk of our branch library as time goes on is, "When is the new North Village branch on Steck going to open?" We had hoped to open our new home the last week in January 2009, but as anyone who has ever been involved in a big capital project knows, stuff happens. In our case, problems with the paving around the building and framing the windows have pushed the planned opening date to April 25, 2009.

We're keeping our fingers crossed here. On Saturday, November 1, we'll be having a celebration for our community. We're holding a Mini-Monster Book Sale, with a ton of withdrawn but still fun and fascinating former library books and media. Build up your personal library, or your kids', at monstrously tiny prices. We'll be having children's story and crafts programs in the afternoon, and we'll also have cake for everyone (until it's gone). The sale starts at 10, so please drop by and help us celebrate the upcoming branch and the end of a couple of decades at the North Star Center.

And remember that just about every Tuesday morning, we hold a Toddler Storytime (for ages 18 – 36 months) at 10:15 and a Preschool Storytime (3 – 5 years) at 11.



Photo of the Library's entrance as of September 26th.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News

is published quarterly by the North Shoal Creek
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The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is glad to announce that Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union is our sponsor for all 2008 Newsletters.



President's Corner

By Jeff Russell

Hello neighbors. This is the last newsletter you will see before our annual meeting in January, so this is my last chance to recruit volunteers (not to be confused with "victims"). We especially need new board members for next year. The nitty-gritty details of our organization (the "business") are supervised by a board of directors. There are four officers and seven other general board members. On average, we meet once a month for either a board meeting or a general membership meeting.

The board is responsible for most "business" decisions, compared to policy decisions that are best made at a general meeting. This includes setting the schedule for general meetings, determining a budget, and generally staying on top of activities. At board meetings, we typically hear updates from active committees and decide on any action that needs to be taken. For example, based on feedback from the Social Committee, the board decided to purchase liability insurance for the Fourth of July parade to better protect volunteers (and participants). This "last minute" decision necessitated rearranging the budget for the event.

What do we expect from board members? For starters, we hold board meetings about once a month. Next year we plan to hold either a general meeting or a board meeting once a month. This should make for a more regular time commitment.

The second requirement of a board member is to help out as a first-line volunteer. Events like the July Fourth parade or activities like figuring out a budget need helpers, and we want board members who can step forward and help when needed.

The last, and probably most important requirement, is to be open-minded and neighborly. The board is a diverse group of volunteers that makes decisions for our association. Some issues require compromise, for example dividing a meager budget between committees. Having a friendly debate over a proposal can be both enjoyable and educational. (Even if you disagree with the final result.) The key for an enjoyable experience is showing respect for fellow board members.

In summary, consider running for a board position. I expect that you will learn some new things and get to know some folks in our neighborhood. (I did!)

If you are interested in getting involved, call me (415-9809) or send an email (president@nscna.org). I'll answer any questions or pass on your name to the right committee chair. Maybe even the nomination committee.

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Knowing and Growing as Neighbors—What a Blessing!

Submitted by Coleen & Rick Jacobsen, Lois & Tom McEvoy and Diane & Tom King

NSCNA families on Donna Gail and Melshire recently celebrated together at the wedding of Kristi (McEvoy) Johnson on March 28, 2008. All families have resided in the NSCNA area for over 25+ years: raising our children together, watching over each other’s homes and supporting each other through good times and bad. Yes, that “old-fashioned” neighborhood does still exist right here in NSCNA.

Celebrating our children as they have grown into adulthood:



They played together as kids - Fun splashing in a backyard pool:

(photo left to right) Vicki McEvoy, Alyss Jacobsen, Kourtney King, Kristi McEvoy, Travis McEvoy, Kyle Jacobsen and Kody King

Together again after 20 years, having fun celebrating at Kristi’s wedding reception:

(photo left to right) Kody King, Alyss Jacobsen, Kyle Jacobsen, Kristi McEvoy Johnson, Vicki McEvoy, Travis McEvoy and Kourtney King

Girl Scouts Update

By Chandi Wagner

Girl Scouts helps girls discover their potential, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. Through fun activities like horseback riding, sports skill-building, computer classes and more, girls are developing the confidence they need to succeed. More information about Girl Scouts can be found online at www.gsctx.org. Girls in grades K-5 can join one of the existing troops in the North Shoal Creek area and any girl grades K-12 and her guardian can choose to start a new troop. Interested girls and parents should contact Chandi Wagner at ChandiW@gsctx.org or (512) 490-2331.



A Mentor's Story

By Cheri Hartmann

It took three weeks to make eye contact back when I first met Nohra, the painfully shy second grader I'd been assigned to mentor at Pillow Elementary School. When I signed up to volunteer, I'd asked for a sensitive, artistic, introverted student who I might naturally connect with, and fortunately the school counselor chose a good match. I'm grateful, since I didn't know exactly what I was doing or what to expect. I just wanted to contribute to my community and to the life of a child who might need extra attention.

Slowly over weeks and months, Nohra gained confidence. We usually sat in the Pillow library as she effortlessly drew for me an amazing cast of cartoon characters. Sometimes our sessions went by in near silence, but other times she told me stories about the cats, dogs and other animals that inhabited her complex imaginary world.

I brought a hardbound journal every week for Nohra to draw in, and over time I realized what a surprising wit this shy little girl was hiding. In addition to her obvious artistic talent—she could fill a page quickly with a dense landscape of colorful creatures, each showing an individual, vibrant expression—she could spin a seemingly endless series of stories that used a combination of clever dialogue and slapstick to lead up to punchlines that actually made me laugh. And over time, outside of our mentoring sessions, Nohra began to open up to the outside world. She made friends, became more involved in lessons, and did better in class.

That was six years ago, and I continue to mentor Nohra this year as she starts eighth grade. Her artistic skills have flourished and after a hard sixth grade roadbump, she has blossomed into an utterly amazing young woman. I made a personal commitment long ago that I would mentor her through college or art school. My initial vague impulse to give back to the community has resulted in a chance to forever enrich two lives—Nohra's and my own.

For me, mentoring became a long-term commitment, whereas most other mentors choose to meet different students every year. If you'd like to explore what it means to volunteer, it only requires a 50-minute commitment once a week to help make a difference in the life of a child. AISD's Austin Partners in Education programs include mentoring and tutoring students of all grades.

For more information about Partners in Education, please visit <http://www.austinpartners.org/> or call 637-0900 for more information.



Nohra's self portrait as a raccoon, age 13

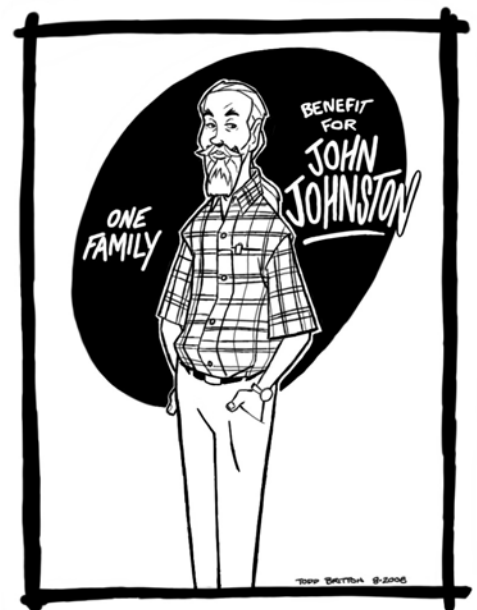
A Sad Update on Nohra and Her Family

Nohra's father has just been diagnosed with stage four cancer and her family has no insurance or way to pay for treatments. A weekend benefit in August raised some money but more is urgently needed.

Please visit the CafePress store dedicated to raising money for the family: <http://www.cafepress.com/benefitforjohn/>.

All proceeds from the store go directly to the family. Thank you!

If anyone would like to reach me for other ways to help the family, please email me at sweetpatina@mac.com or call my cell 751-1863.



Austin Farmers' Market

In the spring of 2002, the Sustainable Food Center (SFC) received a grant from the City of Austin to assess the feasibility of a large, city-centered farmers' market in Austin. A wide variety of community members were surveyed about the concept of the market, including potential consumers, farmers, vendors and community leaders. An overwhelmingly positive response resulted. The folks from the SFC recruited a broad team of people from the community and, together, they worked to make the Austin Farmers' Market a reality... on May 3, 2003, a vibrant, bustling market opened.



Located in the heart of downtown at Republic Square Park (4th and Guadalupe), and now in north central Triangle Park as part of the Triangle complex mid-week, the market is a vital part of the community and the Austin experience.

What you'll find at the Market:

Veggies in the next few weeks include tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, winter squash and green beans (end in Nov). November through March, enjoy broccoli, lettuces, winter greens, mustards, Asian greens, cabbage, turnips, carrots, cauliflower, sweet potatoes, hothouse tomatoes, spring onions, cilantro, other herbs and citrus!

In addition to the ever-changing vegetable and fruit farm offerings at the market that march through the seasons, there are special, one-of-a-kind meats and cheeses for sale year-round. This includes: *Berkshire pork from Peach Creek Farm, field-harvested bison from Thunderheart Bison, eggs from pastured or free-range chickens from several farms, goat's milk cheese from *West Wind Dairy and cow's milk cheese from *Homestead Heritage Farm's Brazos Valley Cheeses. *Only at Austin Farmers' Market.

If you have questions about the market, please contact Suzanne Santos who is the Austin Farmers' Market Director. Her email address is suzanne@sustainablefoodcenter.org

Saturday 2008 Market schedule and info

Day and Time

Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Season

2008 :: Year-round, through December 27, 2008.

RAIN OR SHINE. Now Accepting Lone Star Card and Debit Cards!

Where

4th & Guadalupe

Info. & Parking

Plenty of available free parking at top half of parking lot (don't park in other half--you'll pay), and in the convenient state parking garage at 3rd and San Antonio.

Wednesday 2008 market schedule and info

Day and Time

Wednesdays, 4 - 8 p.m. "PICNIC IN THE PARK" season

TIME CHANGES, 3 - 7 p.m. October 29th for fall/winter season

Season

2008 :: Every Wednesday, year-round! Through December 17th, 2008 (we are closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve but open up right after that in 2009!).

RAIN OR SHINE. Now Accepting Lone Star Card and Debit Cards!

Where

Triangle Park, 4600 Guadalupe (46th Street -- between Lamar and Guadalupe)

Info. & Parking

Plenty of free parking available at parking garage across the street from the market.

City of Austin Traffic Calming Program

By Jeff Russell

At a September 17 meeting of the Traffic Committee, Peter Marsh, an engineer from the Transportation Division of Public Works, explained the city's traffic calming program. Last year, the traffic calming program was restarted after a pilot program completed back in 2000. It has been slow to start up, but the next fiscal year allocates \$900,000, including three more positions for traffic calming. An internal crew in Streets and Bridges was also hired to implement calming facilities, which should accelerate the installation (compared to hiring a contractor).

Each year the top three ranked neighborhoods within a section of the city start a traffic calming process. Our "section" of the city is basically north of RM 2222, and last year, the neighborhoods of Lamplight Village, the Park at Quail Creek, and Crestview were selected. Our neighborhood was ranked 4th last year, so we expect to get the traffic calming process started soon.

Neighborhoods are ranked using an objective comparison of the number of "problem" streets relative to the residential area (in acres). The top six or so neighborhoods are identified, and data is collected on the problem streets, which is a street used by at least 300 cars per day. The number of speeding vehicles and traffic volume are measured on each problem street, and the data are used for the detailed ranking. The top three neighborhoods are candidates to start a traffic calming process.

The process to develop a traffic calming plan is very much resident driven. Each property owner and resident is mailed a questionnaire about traffic concerns. This identifies problem streets, pedestrian issues, bicycle needs, and other concerns. A meeting is held to discuss the survey results, and a working group is formed (at the meeting) of 12-16 people plus alternates. The working group is tasked with developing a traffic calming plan.

The working group starts by studying the streets identified in the questionnaire. Over the course of 3-8 meetings, and with the help of technical advisors from public works, a plan is developed. After transportation experts review the plan for feasibility, it is sent to everyone in the neighborhood. An open house is held to publicly review the plan, and then a mail ballot vote is held to approve the plan. If 60% of the votes are in favor, the plan is adopted and budget can be allocated to implement any required facilities.

Public Works does not officially work with a neighborhood association, but certainly welcomes our involvement. To insure everyone is invited to participate, staff from Public Works conducts the surveys and communicates with the neighborhood.

The next round of neighborhoods should be selected by the end of October. Hopefully our neighborhood will be selected to start the official traffic calming process.



The Village Christian Apartments will be holding its annual Bazaar on November 1 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Please show the residents your support by stopping in to see what they have for sale.

The Village Christian Apartments generously allows the NSCNA to hold meetings in its facility throughout the year, so we are glad to help promote this year's Bazaar.

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

Deadlines to receive advertisements and articles for the Winter 2009 issue is January 1.

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

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

Yard of the Month Winners

Each month, the Beautification Committee selects a great looking yard and awards the owner with the North Shoal Creek Yard of the Month. A sign is placed in the yard for the entire month to let everyone who passes know that this yard improves our neighborhood and that we appreciate their hard work. If you know of a yard that deserves this award, please contact Sandy Perkins. She can be reached via phone at 797-7375 or by email at sandyperkins@earthlink.net.



July 2008
Chris and Amy Nelson
3001 Vinewood Cove



August 2008
Eleanor Ferren
3001 Firwood



September 2008
Ann Marie Olson
3032 Thrushwood



October 2008
Denny Holt
8708 Primrose Lane

Development Committee Update

By Cheri Hartman

The Development Committee has completed the Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) project for the Village Shopping Center on Anderson Lane with what we believe are great results for the neighborhood. The Lamy Group, the developers of the shopping center, agreed to a Restrictive Covenant Agreement with NSCNA which will bind both the current developer and any future owner of the site to the terms the committee reached with the Lamy Group. A copy of the Agreement will be made available on the NSCNA website. Here is a little background on how we got to this point.

After the Development Committee and then the NSCNA Board had met with the developer's representatives in late 2007, the developers presented their proposal to the neighborhood at a forum held at the old bridal shop in the Village Shopping Center in February of this year. After the developers' presentation, the committee members met with the neighbors who had attended the forum to discuss neighborhood priorities as they related to the upcoming VMU proposal for the Village Shopping Center space which was due to go to the Austin City Council for approval. (As a refresher, VMU is a combination of commercial and residential spaces. Planners essentially want to build retail space on the lower floors and residential and office spaces on the floors above. The goal is to live, work and play all in the same area.)

As a neighborhood, we voted the following as our top priorities:

1. Increase the buffer space from the back of the development to the adjacent houses on Ashdale from 25 feet to 45 feet;
2. Require a minimum amount of green space for public gathering that is roughly equivalent to the space currently at the Village Shopping Center;
3. Create a barrier to parking garage noise and light; and lease a certain percentage of retail units to locally-owned businesses.

With those priorities in mind, the Development Committee was given the authority to negotiate the best deal possible with the developer.

After our negotiations, here is what we signed into agreement:

1. Trees and shrubs will be planted as a buffer between any building within 100 feet of the Ashdale property line. We were not able to negotiate an increase greater than the required 25 foot buffer but were able to negotiate this vegetation buffer as well as the fencing and balcony concessions you will see in items 3 & 5 below.
2. We will have considerably more green space than is currently at the Village Shopping Center (32,000 square feet). There will be "public space," to include parks, plazas, courtyards, water features and pedestrian walkways, of at least 36,000 square feet. A third of that space must be "green," or non-imperious cover (landscaping, trees, grass). Throughout the development, there must be an additional minimum of 25,000 square feet of "green space" in addition to the "public space." Total green space for the entire development will be at least 37,000 square feet, as compared to the 32,000 square feet currently in place.
3. Whenever the developer builds any new structures within 100 feet of the Ashdale property line, he will replace any fencing with an 8 foot wooden privacy fence (assuming the property owner agrees).
4. Any parking garage located within 100 feet from the Ashdale property line will be screened by climbing vines and trellises and design features will be included to prevent car lights from shining into our neighbors' backyards and homes.
5. Any residential units located on the north/Ashdale side of the development are prohibited from having balconies facing into our neighbors' backyards.

Prohibited uses for businesses in the development include auto repair, sales, or rental services; pawn shops; group homes; residential treatment facilities; and bail bond services, among others.

In other VMU news, after receiving approval at the general meeting, the Development Committee went before the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council with the recommendation to opt-in five properties along Anderson Lane but to withhold the “density bonuses” for those properties. Our rationale was that most developers interested in a VMU project would then engage the neighborhood in a dialogue to obtain the additional bonuses, thus giving us an opportunity to negotiate in the best interests of our neighborhood.

Both the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council adopted our recommendations for those properties without change.

What’s Next for the Development Committee?

Now that we have completed our neighborhood VMU projects, the Development Committee is busy working on other developments that will impact our neighborhood.

- We are revising our committee processes and creating a standard checklist to better track business developments in our area.
- We are updating the Development page on the NSCNA webpage (<http://www.nscna.org/>). The webpage will include a list of helpful resources, updates on current development projects and links to City notices.

What is the best way to keep up with the latest development news?

- Visit the Development page on the NSCNA webpage and look for announcements on the main NSCNA page.
- Join our neighborhood listserv <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NSCNA/> (to date, this has been the fastest way to get updated development information plus it’s a great way to talk with your neighbors, report a lost dog and keep up with what’s going on in the neighborhood.)
- Or come to our Neighborhood General Association Meetings.

I REMEMBER THOSE DAYS

By: Carolyn Gifford, NSCNA Member

I remember those days with you--
 Each day was loving each other,
 Touching and knowing what to do
 As we pressed our lips together.
 Gentle strokes that woke my desire
 Wanting you, only you for my love.
 Holding you close in arms of fire
 Taking all you could give, my Love.
 Craving your warm body next to mine
 So our hearts beat in time to become one.
 The rhythm of the tune was in rhyme
 Blending every sound into our own sum

Of melodies of love that were our song.
 In perfect fit of each to the other one.
 We became that love for all life long
 Our love continues ’til this time is done.
 It goes beyond the here and now of living
 Beyond our known space of our abode
 It soars across the universe to each, giving
 A timeless portion of our essence in code
 That only we know in our hearts and soul.

November 17, 2007
 Editor’s Choice Award Poetry.com

Pillow Elementary School News

By Huddie Murray

It's hard to believe that it's been more than six weeks since school started! Students came back to the fantastic news that Pillow earned "EXEMPLARY" status from the Texas Education Agency. There was also a significant change in the administration as Dr. Webb took a new position as Principal at Garza High School. Ms. Tonya King was named Interim Principal at Pillow. Ms. King has taught at Pillow and also served as Assistant Principal for the past few years.

September saw Back to School Night, Grandparents' Lunch Day, and two Parent Coffees, as well as a field trip to Crowe's Nest Farm for a lesson in agriculture. October is full of activity, including Literacy Night on October 28, a Parent Coffee on October 24 discussing Reading Tips for Home, and Author Day and Family Lunch Day, both to be held on October 31. As part of a weeklong celebration of Literacy (October 27-31), our students are encouraged to dress as their favorite book character for our Fall Fest on October 31.

Our Parent Coffee on September 26 was on the topic of Traffic Safety around Pillow. Officer Stovall of the AISD Police came to share his expertise with us. We know that this is an issue of concern. Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up are busy times each day. In the morning, seven buses drop students off at our campus; in the afternoon, there are eight buses! This is in addition to cars and daycare vehicles. Officer Stovall's best advice is to be patient and courteous, allowing plenty of time to get to your destination. We especially appreciate the observance of the school speed limit of 20 mph on Crosscreek. Thanks for your support in this matter.

We are all aware that Tuesday, November 4, is Election Day. The Pillow community is happy to host this important civic event. If you come to vote between 7:00 - 8:00 am or from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, you are advised not to park in the school parking lot. You may get delayed behind a school bus and/or run into lots of school traffic. We love having our neighbors in the building and ask that they abide by Pillow's daily procedures and safety rules. Safety is always the first concern. Thank you for understanding our need to keep 560 children secure.



As always, we welcome you to become involved at Pillow as mentors or volunteers. You may contact me, Huddie Murray, at 841-4837, if you wish to find out more.

"Pillow Panthers, we're # 1, caring, sharing, learning is fun!...." (Pillow school song)

Well, the Pillow family certainly showed its caring, sharing spirit when it collected a carload of food and water for victims of Hurricane Ike. Representatives from the Capital Area Food Bank gratefully accepted the gifts from our students and families. Our children made a difference to folks in need. We are stressing the importance of giving.

And in the continued spirit of sharing, The Seedlings Foundation led a Beautification Day at Pillow on Saturday, October 4. About 15 volunteers from Seedlings and Pillow pulled weeds, planted and painted around the school. The improved campus appearance contributes to the quality of learning that goes on INside the building!

Date to remember – Monday, October 13, 2008, is Parent Teacher Conference Day

 <p>susan g. komen race FOR THE cure</p>	<p>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008</p> <p>8 AM AUDITORIUM SHORES RAIN OR SHINE</p> <p>KOMEN AUSTIN RACE FOR THE CURE® 5K COED RUN/WALK & 1-MILE KOMEN KIDS & FAMILY RUN/WALK</p>	 <p>7739 Northcross Drive, Suite K Austin, Texas 78757</p> <p>tel: 512 458.4162 fax: 512 459.7611</p> <p>garbo@texas.net www.garboasalon.com</p>
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Burnet Middle School News

By Nancy Owens

Burnet MS students are making a difference! Last year, Burnet MS Boys and Girls Club participated in the Tents of Hope project. Students designed and painted a simulated refugee tent with messages of hope and displayed it throughout the Austin community to create awareness and support for the people of Darfur, Sudan. Burnet is proud to announce that the tent will be displayed on the National Mall in Washington D.C. with 300 others from around the world on November 7–9. After the weekend in Washington, the tent will be sent to either Chad or Sudan to be used in a classroom or home.

Burnet MS Refurb Program is in full swing. Students are participating in a refurbishment lab working to refurbish discarded computers which will go to qualified students in need. The program has been featured on KEYE News and in the Austin American Statesman. Over 350 computers were sent home with Burnet students last year.

Support BMS Fine Arts! On December 4 the Burnet Band will host its Winter Concert and on December 9 the Burnet Choir will host its Choir Concert. Burnet MS Theatre Arts department accepts donated items for costumes and props. Please contact the Theatre Director, Mrs. Owens, at 841-8230.

Burnet MS students can participate in LifeChangers - Project H.O.P.E. Saturday Camp, on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. Enjoy fishing, rock climbing, hiking and other fun events all while learning how to be a better person and student. Please contact Mr. Howie at 841-6275.



Burnet MS would like to thank Mr. Steve Rogers for his outstanding service to our community. Congratulations on your tenth year as a Burnet MS volunteer! Mr. Rogers volunteers once a week in an eighth grade math classroom, acting as a tutor or teaching assistant. Mr. Rogers is also a volunteer for Communities In Schools, a member on the Burnet MS Campus Advisory Committee and a member of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for AISD. He says "Committees? They're OK. The fun part is being in class interacting with the students." If you are interested in volunteering or mentoring, please call 414-3225.

Real Estate News

The data below was provided by Alamo Title Company and represents real estate data for the North Shoal Creek area. North Shoal Creek lies within Austin's Area 2 of the MLS which also contains a small part of Wooten, Crestview and Allandale. All of the 78757 zip code resides within Area 2 as well as a small portion of 78752.



Alamo Title
512.483.6710
www.alamotitle-austin.com

Statistical Data April to June 2007 Vs 2008

MLS Area	# of Homes Sold Apr - Jun 2007	# of Homes Sold Apr - Jun 2008	% of Change in # of Homes Sold from 2007	MLS Area	Avg Sales Price for Apr - Jun 2007	Avg Sales Price for Apr - Jun 2008	% of Change in Average Sales Price from 2007
2	152	122	-19.74%	2	239,715	247,857	3.40%

"Based on information from the Austin Board of Realtors® (alternatively, from ACTRIS) for the period 1/1/2007 through 6/30/2008. Neither the Board nor ACTRIS guarantees or is in any way responsible for its accuracy. All data is provided 'AS IS' and with all faults. Data maintained by the Board or ACTRIS may not reflect all real estate activity in the market. Copyright 2006 Austin Central Texas Realty Information Services, Inc."

Area 2 MLS Statistics from September 2007 to August 2008

Provided by Alamo Title Company

Month	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08	Aug 08
Sold Volume	\$7,198,200	\$5,166,256	\$7,386,367	\$8,545,699	\$5,129,192	\$8,001,600	\$7,968,516	\$8,069,605	\$10,741,086	\$11,427,880	\$9,705,450	\$8,308,027
Number of Sales	29	21	29	34	21	35	37	32	46	44	39	34
Average Price	\$248,214	\$246,012	\$254,702	\$251,344	\$244,247	\$228,617	\$215,365	\$252,175	\$233,502	\$259,725	\$248,858	\$244,354
Ownership												
Individual	28	20	27	33	19	34	32	29	43	39	34	33
REO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Relocation	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Owner/Agent	0	0	0	1	2	0	5	0	2	4	5	1
Builder	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	29	21	29	34	21	35	37	32	46	44	39	34
Sales by Price Range												
0-99K	2	1	0	1	0	5	3	1	4	1	3	3
100K-149K	2	2	5	4	2	1	4	5	9	5	3	3
150K-199K	3	3	6	4	2	6	8	4	4	3	3	4
200K-299K	15	11	9	18	13	16	18	13	20	23	20	16
300K-399K	6	3	7	4	3	7	4	6	6	10	8	8
400K-499K	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	2	2	1	0
500K-749K	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
750K-999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	21	29	34	21	35	37	32	46	44	39	34
Percent of List Price												
0-99K	100.0%	95.7%	0.0%	97.1%	0.0%	95.4%	99.7%	100.0%	96.0%	94.7%	99.4%	93.4%
100K-149K	101.4%	101.5%	100.2%	98.9%	102.5%	96.9%	96.1%	97.7%	98.8%	98.8%	97.6%	96.3%
150K-199K	101.2%	98.4%	96.4%	97.1%	96.2%	96.4%	98.9%	98.2%	99.7%	98.4%	97.2%	100.8%
200K-299K	96.3%	97.6%	96.0%	96.8%	96.2%	96.6%	97.9%	97.8%	98.0%	97.4%	98.2%	98.6%
300K-399K	97.5%	97.8%	96.7%	96.3%	96.5%	98.0%	97.4%	98.3%	98.6%	96.6%	96.5%	99.0%
400K-499K	88.8%	0.0%	0.0%	97.8%	93.8%	0.0%	0.0%	95.8%	97.5%	96.9%	100.0%	0.0%
500K-749K	0.0%	98.4%	97.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	99.3%	0.0%	95.4%	0.0%
750K-999	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

General Meeting Summaries

By Jeff Russell

September 8 General Meeting—Pillow Elementary Cafeteria

The September 8, 2008, general meeting featured guest speakers describing the new City of Austin single-stream recycling and the Partners in Education program. As of the meeting, there were 157 member households. The Treasurer reported that the July 4th parade was under budget by \$3! The Development Committee reported on the Village agreement, and the Bylaws Committee announced a proposed bylaws revision to be voted on at the October 14 general meeting and handed out copies after the meeting.

By now, most of us who are Solid Waste Services customers received the new blue (and big) carts. All our recyclables, including plastics 1-7, get thrown into this one cart for pickup every other week—no more sorting! Remember, your old recycling bin is yours to keep, or place it empty at the road and it will be recycled. Note also that people with disabilities or other special needs that prevent them from hauling the 90 gallon recycling container (or the garbage container) to the road can call the hotline (974-1945) to sign up for special help.

The Austin Partners in Education program connects people in the community to classrooms. Study group volunteers help groups of 3-4 students, and the goal of a mentor is to serve as a role model for a particular student. Students that participate in the program do better in math and reading: 5-10% more students in the program test on grade level. Volunteers receive training and are only sent to classrooms for which the teacher has requested the help. More information can be found at <http://www.austinpartners.org/>.

October 14 General Meeting—Pillow Elementary Cafeteria

The October 14 general meeting focused on a proposed revision to the bylaws. The proposal brought to members was the culmination of approximately 300 hours of research into the existing bylaws, state law, Robert's Rules and other neighborhood association bylaws. Weekly meetings ran from April through September of this year, resulting in careful thought being put into each word in the proposal. After a few amendments, the new bylaws were adopted by the required 2/3 vote and become effective November 1, 2008.

Congratulations to the hardworking Bylaws committee: Dallas Maham (chair), Jerry Horn, Chris Jones, Vicki McFadden, and Julia Menegay. They worked together to clarify our previous bylaws and creating, where needed, new sections addressing the growing issues facing our organization.

Letter from the Editor

By Chris Jones

As of this issue, I have officially taken over as Editor of the NSCNA newsletter. Over the last two years, I have helped our past Editor, Sandy Perkins, get each issue organized and printed. I want to thank Sandy for all of her hard work. Although Sandy has stepped down as Editor, she will continue to work on the newsletter by handling the procurement of ad revenue.

I would like to briefly discuss what goes into creating this newsletter. First, it is the ad revenue that makes this newsletter possible. We typically generate anywhere from \$1000 to \$2000 per issue from ad sales, depending on how many ads we place per issue. From this, our cost of printing and mailing the newsletter to your home is around \$900 per issue. The remaining ad revenue goes into the NSCNA general fund and is used to fund a wide range of projects and events.

One of the most difficult parts of producing this newsletter is adding original content that is interesting to you. We are always looking for general topics for articles to write, as well as searching for residents who are interested in submitting an article for publication. If you would like to help by writing an article, please let me know.

The businesses that pay us for ad space in our newsletter range from large companies like banks and colleges, to small companies like local restaurants and realtors. Due to the wide range of businesses we get ads from, we find that most of our time is spent fixing or creating ads to the specifications they request.

Once we collect the ads and articles, we lay out the content using Microsoft Publisher. Drafts of the newsletter go out to the Media Committee, the NSCNA president as well as our official proofreader, Carol Holmgreen. Carol catches all of our grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes and we really appreciate her work. Everyone sends their comments to me and I finalize the issue.

We then create a final PDF file that we take to Republic Print. They prepare their printer and a few days later, ask us to come in and proof the issue one last time. Once everything looks good, it goes to print and in about 6-12 days, it shows up in your mailbox.

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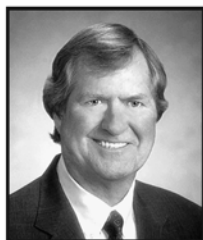


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How We Found Family in Austin

By Beth Anderson, Bridge Church Member

When my husband and I moved to the Austin area eight years ago, we were leaving a city where we'd had relatives just a few hours away. We knew it would be different in Austin with no family close by. Everyone needs family! That's one of the main reasons we've loved The Bridge Church. They are our family, here in town. They love and support us, and we know we can count on them.

When I've had doubts about my faith (and I've had a lot!), our church family members haven't ever turned me away or made me feel guilty. They've supported me, and getting so much love from a church makes it easier to believe in a loving God.

When we had both of our kids, our church family members brought us meals to help us with the transition. Our kids have found surrogate grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins at The Bridge Church. Whether they're in the great children's classes, or just hanging out with church friends, it's so great knowing they're growing up around people who will treat them as family.

Life tends to present us with unexpected crises! My husband and I definitely didn't expect him to be having brain surgery in his mid-30s. But during that incredibly stressful time, our church family gave us so much support. I'd never felt more loved. With all the meals, childcare offers, innumerable hospital visits, and powerful prayers, we came through that time with a greater appreciation for our church family than ever before.

Whether your family is in the next room or half a world away, I hope you'll consider checking out The Bridge Church. We're a pretty low-key place, so you can visit without any pressure. Maybe you'll find family there too.



Mmmm...Look good?



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TEXAS BASKETBALL

2008-09 MINI PLANS

<h3 style="margin: 0;">MEN'S BASKETBALL</h3> <p>WEEKEND WHITE</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>SUN., NOV. 30</td><td>RICE</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., DEC. 13</td><td>TEXAS ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., JAN. 10</td><td>IOWA ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., JAN. 24</td><td>TEXAS A&M</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., JAN. 31</td><td>KANSAS ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., FEB. 21</td><td>OKLAHOMA</td></tr> </table> <p><small>-DEADLINE TO ORDER: NOV. 29 OR UNTIL ONE OF THESE GAMES SELLS OUT</small></p> <p>ORANGE</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>THURS., DEC. 4</td><td>UCLA</td></tr> <tr><td>FRI., JAN. 2</td><td>APPALACHIAN ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., JAN. 10</td><td>IOWA ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>WED., FEB. 4</td><td>MISSOURI</td></tr> <tr><td>TUES., FEB. 10</td><td>OKLAHOMA ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>WED., FEB. 25</td><td>TEXAS TECH</td></tr> </table> <p><small>-DEADLINE TO ORDER: DEC. 3 OR UNTIL ONE OF THESE GAMES SELLS OUT</small></p>	SUN., NOV. 30	RICE	SAT., DEC. 13	TEXAS ST.	SAT., JAN. 10	IOWA ST.	SAT., JAN. 24	TEXAS A&M	SAT., JAN. 31	KANSAS ST.	SAT., FEB. 21	OKLAHOMA	THURS., DEC. 4	UCLA	FRI., JAN. 2	APPALACHIAN ST.	SAT., JAN. 10	IOWA ST.	WED., FEB. 4	MISSOURI	TUES., FEB. 10	OKLAHOMA ST.	WED., FEB. 25	TEXAS TECH	<h3 style="margin: 0;">WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</h3> <p>WEEKEND WHITE</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>SUN., DEC. 14</td><td>TENNESSEE</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., JAN. 3</td><td>LAMAR</td></tr> <tr><td>SUN., FEB. 8</td><td>TEXAS TECH</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT., FEB. 28</td><td>BAYLOR</td></tr> <tr><td>SUN., MAR. 8</td><td>OKLAHOMA</td></tr> </table> <p><small>-DEADLINE TO ORDER: DEC. 13 OR UNTIL ONE OF THESE GAMES SELLS OUT</small></p> <p>ORANGE</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>THURS., DEC. 18</td><td>ARIZONA ST.</td></tr> <tr><td>WED., JAN. 14</td><td>NEBRASKA</td></tr> <tr><td>WED., JAN. 28</td><td>TEXAS A&M</td></tr> <tr><td>SUN., FEB. 8</td><td>TEXAS TECH</td></tr> <tr><td>WED., FEB. 18</td><td>OKLAHOMA ST.*</td></tr> </table> <p><small>*WBCA Pink Zone - Wear Pink!</small></p> <p><small>-DEADLINE TO ORDER: DEC. 17 OR UNTIL ONE OF THESE GAMES SELLS OUT</small></p>	SUN., DEC. 14	TENNESSEE	SAT., JAN. 3	LAMAR	SUN., FEB. 8	TEXAS TECH	SAT., FEB. 28	BAYLOR	SUN., MAR. 8	OKLAHOMA	THURS., DEC. 18	ARIZONA ST.	WED., JAN. 14	NEBRASKA	WED., JAN. 28	TEXAS A&M	SUN., FEB. 8	TEXAS TECH	WED., FEB. 18	OKLAHOMA ST.*
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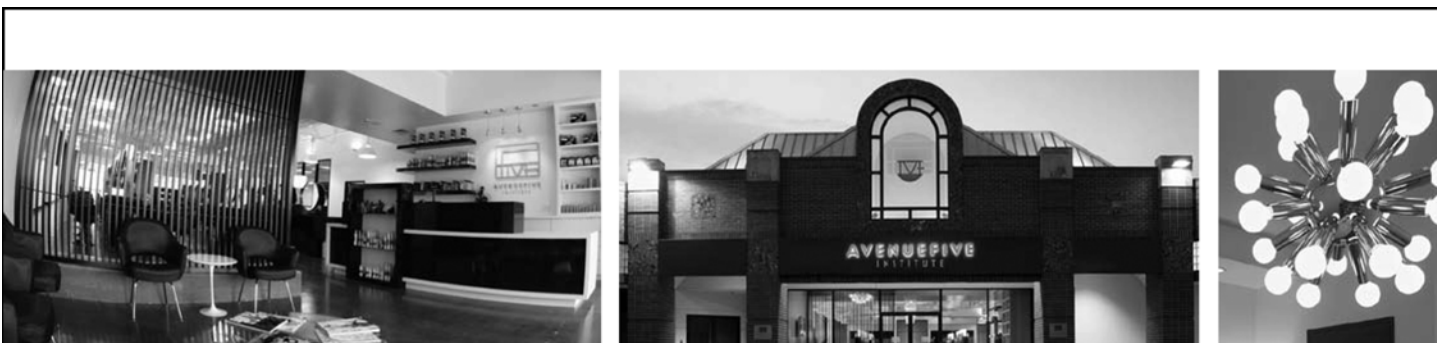
Avenue Five Institute's Seasonal Competition

By Brandon Martin, President, Avenue Five Institute

Although the students at Avenue Five Institute love providing the local community with high quality salon and spa services, they always look forward to competing in the school's seasonal hair and makeup competitions. Last month, this meant it was time to prepare for the Big Hair Ball! The judging criteria for this oversized competition are height, originality, theme and execution. Deklynd Channing, recently deemed "Best Colorist in Austin" by *Austin Monthly Magazine*, was on sight to judge the contest. The creative juices were flowing as the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat sipped tea atop one contestant's head in an Alice In Wonderland themed entry. Another team used hair products and color to recreate the scene of an erupting volcano spewing lava down the head of a student. Ultimately, nobody could top the Marie Antoinette's towering column of heavily decorated hair. Congratulations to the winners!



Photo of the winning team at Avenue Five Institute's Big Hair Ball.



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