



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## *Safety and Crime 2009*

**By Vicki McFadden**

You may have met our new APD liaison, Senior Officer Rolando Gutierrez at a safety meeting held by NSCNA at Pillow Elementary on September 15, 2009. Crime, especially property crime, has risen “at an alarming rate” in our neighborhood in the recent months. Officer Gutierrez addressed residents’ concerns and offered tips on how to reduce chances of becoming the thieves’ next victim.

Many of the burglaries involved entry through a rear door or window with the garage door being left open upon the burglars’ exit. If you see someone suspiciously enter a neighbor’s backyard or someone leaving a home with the garage door open, call 911 immediately. Officer Gutierrez suggested using wooden dowels or screws in all windows and patio doors. In addition, lock garage doors if possible and use three inch (3”) screws in door plates which make it more difficult for a door break-in. Always lock the door from your home into the garage and any other door access from the garage or other areas into a side or backyard.

### **Other tips include:**

Lights, lights, lights. Set motion detectors from dusk to dawn. Get an inexpensive timer and set inside lights for different times if gone for any length of time.

Alarms. Test them periodically and ALWAYS set them, even when you are home. You can use the “bypass” button to set the alarm while at home.

Solicitors. Don’t open the door. Talk to them through the door to tell them you are not interested. This is a common method to “case” your home for valuables and to see if an alarm is at the door. Report any suspicious solicitors to 911.

Shrubs/landscaping. Trim all areas around access doors and windows to eliminate any hiding places.

Garbage/recycling cans. Be neighborly and bring in any cans that have remained after pickup. This can be a signal to potential thieves that you are not home.

Newspapers/mail. Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick it up for you and make sure no flyers/advertisements are left on your door.

Garages. Even when home, do not leave the garage door open where tools, lawnmowers and other property can be seen. Lock the garage door as well as your car and DO NOT leave the garage door opener, purses, wallets or other valuables in your car, even if it is in the garage.

Blinds/curtains. Leave them closed. Potential burglars want to see what goodies are inside, especially at Christmas time.

Dogs. Dogs are a deterrent. If you hear a neighbor’s dog continuously barking, call 911 and have it checked out.

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## **Calendar**

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday Jan 5**  
**6:30-8 pm**  
Pillow Elementary  
Cafeteria

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# North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News

is published quarterly by the North  
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**EDITOR:** Chris Jones  
**AD SALES:** Sandy Perkins  
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**DIRECTORS:**  
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Chip Rosenthal

## NSCNA Contact Information

P.O. Box 66443, Austin TX 78766-0443  
[newsletter@nscna.org](mailto:newsletter@nscna.org)

## Committee Chairs

**BEAUTIFICATION:** Cheri Hartman  
**BYLAWS:** Vacant  
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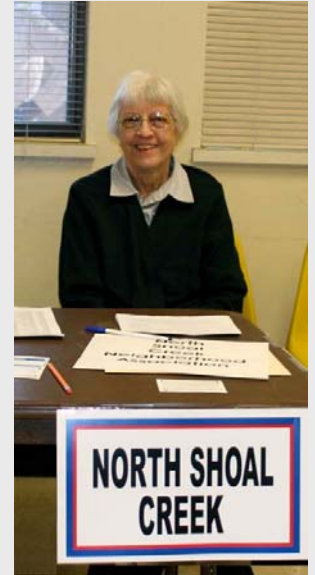
## Contact Information

**PRESIDENT:** [president@nscna.org](mailto:president@nscna.org)  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** [vp@nscna.org](mailto:vp@nscna.org)  
**SECRETARY:** [secretary@nscna.org](mailto:secretary@nscna.org)  
**TREASURER:** [treasurer@nscna.org](mailto:treasurer@nscna.org)  
**DIRECTORS:** [directors@nscna.org](mailto:directors@nscna.org)  
**BEAUTIFICATION** [beautification@nscna.org](mailto:beautification@nscna.org)  
**BYLAWS** [bylaws@nscna.org](mailto:bylaws@nscna.org)  
**DEVELOPMENT** [development@nscna.org](mailto:development@nscna.org)  
**MEDIA** [media@nscna.org](mailto:media@nscna.org)  
**MEMBERSHIP** [membership@nscna.org](mailto:membership@nscna.org)  
**SAFETY** [safety@nscna.org](mailto:safety@nscna.org)  
**SOCIAL** [social@nscna.org](mailto:social@nscna.org)  
**TRAFFIC** [traffic@nscna.org](mailto:traffic@nscna.org)

# Claudell Migl Friend and Neighbor

Claudell Migl passed away Friday, September 11. A long-time resident of our neighborhood, Claudell and husband John moved into the (then) brand-new neighborhood in 1971. Their children attended Pillow, Burnet, and Anderson High Schools.

This was her third year serving as Secretary of North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association. She worked hard for our association, cleaning up the past-due paperwork and reinstating our status as a non-profit corporation. The Migls were involved in the initial organization effort of the neighborhood association back in 1978, and again in 1998 when it was incorporated. She will be greatly missed as a vital part of the NSCNA.



## Next NSCNA General Meeting

The next NSCNA general meeting will be held on January 5, 2010 from 6:30 to 8:30PM in the Pillow Elementary School cafeteria. We will be electing new Board of Directors for the 2010 year.

## Join the North Shoal Creek Parents' Group

Join our online group for parents who live in the North Shoal Creek neighborhood. We welcome parents who have children of all ages and look forward to creating friendships that move beyond the computer and into real life.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthShoalCreekParents>

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is glad to announce that Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union is our sponsor for the 2009 Newsletters.



**RANDOLPH\* BROOKS**

Federal Credit Union

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

## President's Corner

By Jeff Russell

This is the end of my second year as president, and our wonderful new bylaws give me the perfect excuse to step aside for some new folks to run the show. (I've reached my "term limit") I want to thank some of the standout members for their efforts the past few years.



First, I want to thank Sandy Perkins for the newsletter. A few years ago, she revamped the newsletter into this more polished format and set-up US postal delivery to all the homes in our neighborhood boundary, including condominiums and apartment complexes. And, most important, Sandy has single-handedly sold the ads to fund the newsletter and our organization since I've been president.

The newsletter net revenue has also supported the July 4th parade the last two years. We spend almost \$1,500 to hire entertainment, provide snacks and water, and buy the fabulous prizes for decorated parade "vehicles." A sign of our times, a big part of the parade cost is liability insurance. So please tell the newsletter advertisers their money is well spent, and consider volunteering to help with the 2010 parade. Thanks again, Sandy, for organizing the parade and selling the ads to pay for it. (And thanks to Ken Moyer for organizing this year's parade.)

An equally big thank you goes out to Chris Jones. He built an awesome website, and has also served as the newsletter editor the past year. The website is a treasure trove of information about our neighborhood, including an archive of the neighborhood newsletters over the past decade. Building a web site is a thankless job—no one seems to notice until things are broken! So, thank you Chris for all the hard work in producing the website and editing the newsletter.

I also want to thank our treasurer for the past four years: Helene Maham. She has done a great job of safe keeping our money. (I get an earful whenever I spend more than 4 cents a copy!) She has also spent considerable time deciphering our tax status and filing paperwork to receive tax refunds from the years past.

Another person who deserves a big thanks is Claudell Migl. She also served as secretary the past four years, and did a wonderful job reinstating the association's nonprofit corporation status. The charter had been revoked for lack of paperwork, and Claudell worked hard to bring everything up to date. She also studiously listened to recordings of our meetings to accurately write up minutes. Sadly, Claudell passed on this fall. We miss her and wish her husband the best.



This column is short, but I want to thank the directors over the past two years for serving on the board. And the committee chairs. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, and I'm sure many of them will be running the show in the upcoming years.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call me (Jeff) at 415-9809 or send an email ([jeffry@austin.rr.com](mailto:jeffry@austin.rr.com)). I'll answer any questions or pass on your name to the right committee chair. Maybe even the nomination committee.

## *2010 Board of Directors Candidates*

The NSCNA Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2010 NSCNA Board of Directors. Elections will take place at the January 2010 meeting. Any NSCNA member is welcome to nominate candidates from the floor during the election meeting; however, the following candidates expressed interest in advance and are officially recommended by the Nominating Committee.

If you're an NSCNA member who would like to run in 2010 and would like to submit a candidate statement to the Nominating Committee, please contact Committee Chair Juliette Kernion at (512) 451-6929 or [jkernion@gmail.com](mailto:jkernion@gmail.com). You will also be able to nominate yourself during the election meeting with or without a candidate statement.

This year's NSCNA Nominating Committee: Kate Brien, Juliette Kernion, Helene Maham, Lynda Oakes, and Sandy Perkins.

Name: **Chip Rosenthal** Position Sought: **President**

Thank you for electing me to the NSCNA Board of Directors in 2009. I am running for president of our association in 2010, and I'd like to ask for your support. I live on Franwood Lane with my wife, Juliette Kernion. As of January 2010, I will have lived in this neighborhood for six years. I work as a computer and information technology contractor/consultant. I serve the City of Austin as a member of the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission, which my fellow commissioners elected me to chair. This past year I chaired the NSCNA Development Committee. I also have served on the Safety Committee and acted as a block captain for my street. My accomplishments this past year include contributing to the new charter and guidelines for the NSCNA Yahoo Group, working with five surrounding neighborhoods to produce the successful City Council Candidate Forum (April 13) that every major candidate attended, and coordinating with Sustainable Neighborhoods on open space and pedestrian improvements for our neighborhood. My current number one concern for our neighborhood association is the association itself. We've seen a marked drop in membership and enthusiasm. I hope next year we can rebuild support and interest. There is a lot our association can do, but only if we have active, engaged members. So I think it's important that our board works next year to make association membership more valuable ... and more fun. I hope we are successful at building support, because there is important work to be done. The top item on my list is neighborhood crime. We've seen a troubling increase in crime, primarily property crime. There have been 137 incidents of "burglary of residence" in zip code 78757 so far this year, compared to 96 for all of 2008. The increase can be attributed to the bad economy, but the answer isn't just wishing for a better economy. We can take steps to address this, such as rebuilding the block captain network, working with APD to ensure we get the resources we need, and educating our neighbors on things that can be done to make our area less attractive a target. I could list further interests, but the truth is we are only going to accomplish that which volunteers step up to do. So, as president, I will make a special effort to ensure that our committees are all staffed with strong leadership, and anybody in the neighborhood who wants to participate has an opportunity to have a say. Thank you, and I look forward to a productive, fun, and neighborly 2010 for our association.

Name: **Ken Moyer** Position Sought: **Vice President**

My wife Bonnie and I have lived on Kerrybrook Lane since 1969. I have been a member of the NSCNA for most of that time. I have enjoyed serving on the board and was pleased to be involved with the 4th of July activities and to continue to serve on the Traffic Committee. Past service included Block Captain for Kerrybrook Lane for several years and hosting National Night Out events for my block. Previous neighborhood service included being an active member of the Pillow PTA, and working on behalf of the neighborhood in the past, including the successful effort to keep Holiday Inn from building a multi-story hotel on the property now occupied by Town North Nissan and, for the past 4 years, actively serving on the NSCNA Traffic Committee. I served as VP for 2009 and am willing to continue in that capacity, or as a board position for 2010. If elected I will continue my service on the Traffic Committee. My professional background includes 13 years in Radio Broadcasting in Austin, as well as 28 years in Advertising, Marketing and Printing. I am willing to be in-

## 2010 Board of Directors Candidates

involved in the planning and execution of the 4th of July Parade and Activities if the Board pursues that event again this year.

Name: **Kate Brien**

Position Sought: **Secretary**

I am interested in serving as the Secretary for NSCNA. I have lived on Winding Walk for almost 2 years and have been a member of NSCNA since the spring of 2008. I try to attend meetings whenever possible and do participate in discussions and votes at the meetings. Currently, decreasing crime and expanding our neighborhood involvement should be the top priorities for NSCNA. These priorities go hand-in-hand since the best way to reduce crime is to come together as a community. In order to achieve these goals, I would like to be part of the Safety, Membership, and Social committees. Members of NSCNA should know that I'm passionate about this neighborhood. As a Board Member, I will support NSCNA through friendly debates that consider all sides of an issue. I know that we can work together to maintain this great neighborhood.

Name: **Lois McEvoy**

Position Sought: **Treasurer**

My name is Lois McEvoy. I have been a resident on Melshire Drive since January 1984. I am interested in the position of Treasurer of the NSCNA. I have been a member of the NSCNA since we moved into the neighborhood, but have not taken an active role in the association. I have a BBA in Accounting from Texas Tech University. I have spent the last 20 years working directly with organizations that were youth orientated. I was the Treasurer for the Capitol Area Youth Soccer Association for 5 years and the Registrar for River City Rangers Soccer Club for 7 years. I have also been active in the church serving as the General Board Chair, Stewardship & Finance Committee Chair, Constitution & By-Law Committee, and on the Personnel Committee. The top priority of the Association should be helping police fight the dramatic increase in crime we have experienced in the last year. Our neighborhood is not as static as it once was and I think the best way to fight crime is getting neighbors to know neighbors and working together. With this goal in mind, I would like to work on the Membership/Social committees.

Name: **Andreas Guenin**

Position Sought: **Director**

My name is Andreas Guenin and I am volunteering to serve as a general board member of the Board of Directors of the NSCNA. I have lived on Rockwood for about 10 years. I joined the neighborhood association shortly after moving here and have helped deliver newsletters and announcements for many of those years. As someone who lives on Rockwood my biggest concern is traffic. I'd like to see our neighborhood association stay involved with the city and developers in the area to make sure our concerns about traffic and safety are taken into consideration as upcoming projects move forward. As such I would like to be involved with the development and traffic committees. I'm also concerned about crime in our neighborhood and I think that's something we'll have to work together on to stay on top of. As for me, I've been here for 10 years and I really like our neighborhood. I've met some great people here and plan on sticking around for a while. I've watched others put in their time with the board and think it's time for me to help out a little more. Thanks for your consideration.

Name: **Cheri Hartman**

Position Sought: **Director**

My name is Cheri Hartman and I am running for a seat to be a Board Member of the NSCNA. I live on Millway Drive and have lived in the neighborhood with my husband, Jeff, for the past seven years. I have been an active volunteer for the NSCNA for the past two years. From 2008-2009 I have been a member of both the Development and Media Committees. In 2009 I served as a member of the Board and the Chair of the Beautification Committee. I would like to continue my membership in the Development and Beautification Committees and I hope to Chair the Media Committee next year. My top two priorities for NSCNA are fostering an active community of neighbors and friends who know and care about each other and monitoring development within and adjacent to the neighborhood. I became active in NSCNA after my son was born. I want to help create a neighborhood for my son that has as many good memories for him as the one where I grew up – a neighbor-

## *2010 Board of Directors Candidates*

hood where people know each other, children play together, streets are safe and our collective voice is involved in city affairs.

Name: **Alyssa Hedge** Position Sought: **Director**

Where do you live, and how long have you lived in the neighborhood? Millway Drive, since May of 2001. What is your past involvement in NSCNA? I have served on the board for 5 (non-consecutive) terms. I was responsible for the newsletter from 2002-2006 and have run the Membership and Social Committees. What things should be a priority for NSCNA? At this time, I think we need to do more to increase our membership, increase our volunteers - especially for the Safety Committee, and have more dedicated liaisons with city-related organizations (ANC, Commander's Forum, Sustainable Neighborhoods, etc.). What committees do you want to be involved in? Media (website), Social, and would be happy to help with Membership. What do you want the membership to know about you? I love this neighborhood and plan to be here for a very long time. I am energetic and am always looking for different ways to bring neighbors together.

Name: **Don Jones** Position Sought: **Director**

I am Donald (Don) Jones, and I am interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the NSCNA. My wife, Penny Nicoll, and I live on Benbrook Drive where Penny bought in 1991. I officially joined her there when we were married in 2003. From the end of 2005 through the beginning of 2007, we lived on Millway while our house was being remodeled into a home. We have been members of the Association for a couple of years after talking about joining for 2 or 3 years. The safety and communication within the neighborhood and association are of most importance. Safety was a significant part of my working life with AT&T before I retired in 2001. I worked with power systems involving high voltage electricity and with computers that had several levels of safety concerns. Regarding the neighborhood, I view safety mostly from the point of view of traffic and the security of homeowners' and renters' properties. I have held office in a local organization called the Computer Club of Austin which I joined in 1986. Positions held included Special Interest Group Leader, Recording Secretary, President and currently Membership Secretary, all for several years each. I look forward to being able to contribute positively for the NSCNA.

Name: **Vicki McFadden** Position Sought: **Director**

In 1995, I fell in love with this neighborhood and purchased a home at the corner of Briarwood and Stillwood Lane. I lived there for a very happy ten (10) years and when the need arose for a larger space, I looked no further than a couple of blocks for my new home where I have resided since 2005. My past involvement with NSCNA includes being a member of the social committee responsible for the Fourth of July Parade. In addition to acquiring donated prizes from various retailers, I was also responsible for locating, hiring and negotiating costs related to the children's entertainment and refreshments for the parade, including necessary permits. As a member of the 2007 Bylaws Committee, I contributed months of legal research and writing to bring NSCNA bylaws in compliance with state law. One of my goals as a board member would be to revisit and finalize this very important document which is the foundation of our association. In the last year, crime, especially property crime in our neighborhood, has increased dramatically; thefts and assaults have also risen. I have recently been in contact with our APD liaison and he has requested directed patrols for all APD shifts. I believe this is still one of our most difficult challenges that must be addressed by our community as a whole. Protecting the safety of our children and families, homes, property values and sense of community remains a top priority for me and is a fundamental tenet of the NSCNA. Let's see. What would I want the membership to know about me? I am very proud to be the first person in my family to go to college. I supported myself through UT undergrad and UT Law and graduated with honors with a BA in Sociology and a Doctor Of Jurisprudence Degree. I also received a certification in mediation from UT Law School.

## *2010 Board of Directors Candidates*

I've served on several boards including March of Dimes, Texas State Bar Disabilities Issues Committee, the Arthritis Foundation; chaired the Travis County Juvenile Issues Committee on Domestic Violence and continue to volunteer through SafePlace/Project Options teaching a criminal justice class to female victims of domestic violence. Last year was my first volunteer experience at Pillow Elementary in the Reading Program and it was a blast! You may recognize me and my little dachshund Sadie riding our three wheel bike around the 'hood! If so, stop and say hello. I would appreciate your vote of confidence for the position of Director with the 2010 NSCNA Board of Directors. Thank You.

Name: **Mary Jane Wier**

Position Sought: **Director**

Hello. My name is Mary Jane Wier. I have been nominated for a position on the Board of the NSCNA. I have lived in this neighborhood on Stillwood Lane since 2004. Since then I have represented our neighborhood as a board member for two years. I have also served as a Block Captain and have been on the Safety Committee, Traffic Committee and the Development Committee. I have enjoyed working with our neighbors and the members of our board to improve our neighborhood and have tried to carry out the decisions of the membership. My desire remains to serve and help make our neighborhood the best it can be for all who live here. I think as a neighborhood we need to stay informed of the issues and make plans for our vision of how our neighborhood is to grow and develop. I also think continuing to address issues like traffic, safety and crime are important. I think it is important to help provide a sense of community and to encourage all residents to become aware of and involved in the neighborhood association. I also have an interest in working on beautification in the neighborhood. Thanks for your consideration.

Name: **Sherran Williams**

Position Sought: **Director**

Residence: 39 years in North Shoal Creek Neighborhood

Involvement in NSCNA: My family and I have been members of NSCNA over the past few years. After my retirement from IRS, I became more involved in the activities of the association. I served as a Board Member in 2008, acting secretary for five months in 2008, and provided support and participation in recent July 4th celebrations.

NSCNA Priorities: NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY should be a major focus of the BOD in 2010. As stated in our NSCNA Bylaws, the goal of our association is to: Promote the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics, and property values of the neighborhood. I think it is important to keep this goal in mind as decisions are made about issues impacting our neighborhood. This past year our neighborhood's quality of life has been put in jeopardy. Residences are being broken into, possessions stolen, and property damaged. These crimes have made many of us who live in the neighborhood feel that our safety and property values are more at risk than ever before. We must work together as a community to restore our safety so that we no longer have to be concerned about leaving our homes "alone" when we are away at work, at the grocery store, or on vacation.

Committee Interest: Safety and Membership

Background/Experience: I am retired with 38 years of public service, 37 as supervisor, manager, and director of education. I have experience in human resources management, performance improvement consulting, and educational program design and development. I served on the Austin Community College Business Advisory Board four years. Over the years I have enjoyed many special times at Pillow Park with my children and grandchildren. My children also attended Burnet Junior High and Anderson High "several" years ago! They often talk of the good times they had riding their dirt bikes in the bluebonnet covered vacant lot where the Little Laura homes now reside. I love this neighborhood, intend to live here the rest of my life, and want to help make our "zip code" one where people enjoy living, playing, visiting, and walking. BTW, I tap danced in Vegas last year and still do cartwheels and splits to amuse my grandchildren... Don't let the age fool you!!!

## *Pillow Elementary School News*

**By Huddie Murray**

It's nearly impossible to believe that the holidays are upon us. It seems that school just started! Pillow is larger than usual this year- by nearly 100 students — and is “busting at the seams.” Four new teachers have been hired, and there is not one inch of extra space to be had. Our new Assistant Principal, Bill Creel, began in mid-October.

Pillow has been humbled by earning several awards this fall. The year began by TEA announcing Pillow as one of Austin's Exemplary schools. Soon after, the Texas Business and Education Coalition named Pillow to its Honor Roll. Most recently, the non-profit, non-partisan group, Children at Risk, named Pillow the number one elementary school in Central Texas. On a more personal note, Pillow won one of the weekly \$500 “i Care” awards, thanks to votes from neighbors, school staff and families. We also wish to thank NCSNA for its \$500 donation to Pillow in memory of Claudell Migl, who recently passed away. Claudell was active in Pillow's PTA when the school first opened 40 years ago.

As usual, there is lots going on at Pillow. Two Family Lunch days, numerous Parent Coffees on topics such as nutrition, attendance, and character development, a presentation from SafePlace called “Expect Respect,” Literacy Night, National Night Out, Reading Rock Stars from the Texas Book Festival, and Fall Festival. Coming up soon is our CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) Family Night, our Multicultural Celebration, another Family Lunch Day, additional parent coffees, and Thanksgiving and winter holidays. We thank our many supporters, including you neighbors, Anderson PAL's, our dedicated mentors, the Seedlings Foundation, Schlotzsky's (Anderson Ln.), Firehouse Subs, Office Depot (183 at Braker and Anderson Ln), Starbucks Coffee, The Olive Garden, Pok-e-Jo's, Half Price Books, Harcourt, Mr. Gatti's Pizza, and the many small generous acts of parents and friends. We thank you!

## *Burnet Middle School News*

**By Nancy Owens**

The 7th grade Team is participating in the Create Research Study in collaboration with The University of Texas Meadows Center to gather information on effective strategies with English Language Learners. The intervention strategies begin this month with Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies and will be completed in April 2010.

The Burnet Science Department received a TELLAS Grant (Texas English Language Learners Achieving in Science) from the Science and Technology for English Language Learners Achieving Results (STELLAR) office at Texas State University to use to improve instruction and student performance in Science. Through the grant, Burnet teachers participated in a vertical team training with science teachers from Wooldridge Elementary on Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies. The science department has also participated in various professional development programs regarding Science Interactive Notebooks, Inquiry and Literacy, and Issues of Equity. The grant funding will last through December 2010.

Congratulations to the Burnet Middle School Theatre Arts department on its participation in the AISD middle school One-Act Play contest. Students performed a short play for other middle schools in the district at a 2-day event at Bowie High School. Four Burnet students received special recognition for their efforts in technical theatre and acting. We are very proud of our Sailors!



## Anderson High School News

By Julie Cowan

Great things are happening at Anderson High School this first semester of the 2009-10 school year! The fall started off with a varsity football win over McCallum and ended with victory over Austin High!

In between those two wins, we hosted the first annual Trojan Spirit Fest on September 12. More than 1000 community members came together on a very wet afternoon to celebrate the success and camaraderie among our feeder schools, including Pillow Elementary. Athletic booster and academic clubs sold food, hosted fun activities for kids of all ages, sold spirit wear, and provided entertainment. A pep rally featuring the band, Belles, and cheerleaders concluded the wonderful evening.

Anderson was one of five comprehensive high schools in the state of Texas to be named to the 2009 Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll. Principal Donna Houser traveled to San Antonio November 9 to receive the award, which recognizes commended TAKS performance over the past three years. And speaking of academic recognition, 29 seniors have been named National Merit Commended Scholars for their high PSAT scores. Of those 29, 13 are currently semi-finalists, hoping to receive finalist status in the final round of the competition. We also have one National Hispanic Recognized Student.

The Trojan Speech & Debate program last year placed in the top 10% of the National Forensic League nationwide to qualify for the NFL "100 Club," while our Robotics team recently won the VEX robotics tournament. The Little Theater Club produced "Our Town" and a large group of students are beginning preparation for the musical "Footloose," which will take place in January 2010.

## Girl Scouts News

By Chandi Wagner

### Did you know?

Girls don't have to be part of a troop to be a Girl Scout. They can attend council events and camps, earn badges, and sell cookies just like any other girl, but on their own!



**Girl Scouts®**

Calling all Kinder & 1st graders...

A new troop is forming for you! The troop meetings will be on Sunday afternoons near Anderson & Burnet.

Call Chandi Wagner at  
490-2331 or [chandiw@gstcx.org](mailto:chandiw@gstcx.org)  
for more info!  
[www.gstcx.org](http://www.gstcx.org)

## *Safety Tips, continued from page 1*

Crime Watch Programs. Report any suspicious activity, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Be aware of your surroundings and familiar activity on your street. Have an email or call list to alert other neighbors to unusual activity. Organize and participate in a crime watch program.

There are a number of websites to track crime reports for the neighborhood and get further safety tips. Two of my favorites are [crimedoctor.com](http://crimedoctor.com) and [spotcrime](http://spotcrime.com) on the Austin American Statesman website. The [crimedoctor.com](http://crimedoctor.com) website is a very lengthy national website offering tips on every imaginable scenario and has great tips on holiday safety. [Spotcrime](http://spotcrime.com) located at [www.statesman.com/spotcrime/](http://www.statesman.com/spotcrime/) allows you to enter a street address and pull up crime reports for the neighborhood during the last week or month. It provides a street block address, what type of crime was reported and the time and date. It also allows you to log in to the APD website. APD also has a relatively new program called the Austin Police Department Citizen Observer at [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com) where you can sign up for email and/or text message crime alerts.



Paramount to reducing crime in any neighborhood is community involvement; neighbors watching out for neighbors. Officer Gutierrez urges residents to call 911 upon observing any suspicious activity, whether it is a solicitor, a strange or unfamiliar car parked too long or just something out of place in the neighborhood.

## *Message from Officer Gutierrez*

“In some cases there were neighbors who actually observed the burglary suspect/suspects at the scene of the victim residence but, only thought of the situation as being suspicious at the time and never called police to check it out. Only after the homeowner reported that the residence had been burglarized did a neighbor come forward and explain that they had seen suspicious activity at the victim residence prior to its being reported. The police should have been called at the time the suspicious activity was observed.

I’m sending this information out in order for the neighborhood residents to begin taking more precautions in securing their homes and to tell you that if you observe any activity which seems to be suspicious, no matter how insignificant you may think it is, call 911 immediately so that officers can investigate. Better to be safe and report it rather than ignore it and have it be something that probably could have been prevented. Don’t leave curtains and windows open where prying eyes can easily look into your home and see what valuable belongings you have ready to be stolen. When you leave your home lock everything.....doors, windows, garage overhead doors and those doors which lead from the garage into your home. If you have home alarm systems please use them both when not at home and even when you are home, especially at night when you go to bed. Use your home alarm systems always! Don’t open the door to solicitors. You can simply tell them, through the door, you’re not interested and that you want them to leave your property. The first line of defense to preventing or lowering your odds of becoming a victim of a crime begins with you. Be aware of your surroundings, take security precautions and report ALL suspicious activity to the police by calling 911.”

Join the Austin Police Department Citizen Observer:  
[www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com)

Senior Police Officer  
Rolando Gutierrez Jr. #4404  
Central West District Representatives/District 3  
Office (512) 974-5998



## National Night Out 2009

This year's National Night Out was held on Tuesday, October 6. The NSCNA moved back to the block party format that encourages neighbors to hold informal gatherings to promote safety and crime prevention discussion.



Neighborhood Night Out on Millway Dr. hosted by Joe and Sharon Cayton. (counterclockwise - Joe Cayton, Alyssa Hedge, Quinn, Tyler, Beck, Cheri Hartman, and Delene Hornsby)



Neighborhood Night Out on Mossrock Dr. hosted by Mary Arnett.

### Message from Pillow Elementary:

**Please help keep Pillow and the park clean**

**Please clean up after your pets**

**Please do not use the school's dumpsters**

### ***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

We are looking for people interested in writing reviews of local businesses, such as new restaurants in our area. What is your favorite new restaurant? Tell us about your experience. What is your favorite takeout restaurant?

Submit reviews to [newsletter@nscna.org](mailto:newsletter@nscna.org)

or by mail:

NSCNA Newsletter, P O Box 66443,  
Austin, TX 78766

## ***NSCNA Yahoo Group—Join Us!***

**By Cheri Hartman**

On June 24, 2009, the NSCNA Board of Directors adopted the NSCNA Yahoo Group User Guidelines. These guidelines were created with input from the neighborhood and the Board to help ensure that our Yahoo group is a friendly, open and useful resource for everybody in the neighborhood. The Yahoo group now has a team of three administrators: Alyssa Hedge, Juliette Kernion, and myself, Cheri Hartman. The Administration Team was approved by the Media Committee and it is our job to keep an eye on the Yahoo Group. We approve new members, monitor the group to make sure the guidelines are being followed, and step in to guide the group back on track if any guidelines are not followed.

We are pleased to announce that since the adoption of these guidelines in June, the Yahoo Group has run smoothly and respectfully. If you haven't visited our NSCNA Yahoo Group in a while, we'd like to welcome you back. If you're new to the neighborhood, please join us. Please help us create a better community one neighbor at a time.

To join the NSCNA Yahoo group, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NSCNA/> and click the "Join This Group" button on the upper right side of the page.

To view the NSCNA Yahoo Group User Guidelines, visit the Files section after signing into the Yahoo group. We will also post the guidelines to the main [nscna.org](http://nscna.org) site.



## ***Grow Green Workshop***

**By Cheri Hartman**

Thank you to everyone who showed up to the Beautification Committee's Grow Green workshop last month. I was pleased to see so many neighbors attend. Some of you asked our speaker, Denise Delany of the City's Watershed Department, for advice about landscaping in the Austin area. She asked me to pass along the following information.

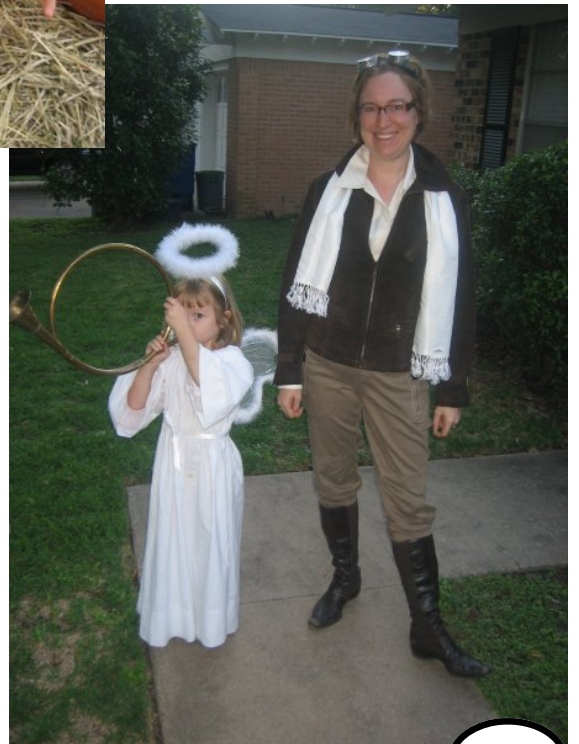
Here is the link to the landscape professionals who have been through the Green Garden Certification training. It also has a section on suggested questions to ask:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/certified.htm>

These are some great templates to get folks started:

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/design\\_temp.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greengarden/design_temp.htm)

# Halloween 2009



## *Yard of the Month Winners*

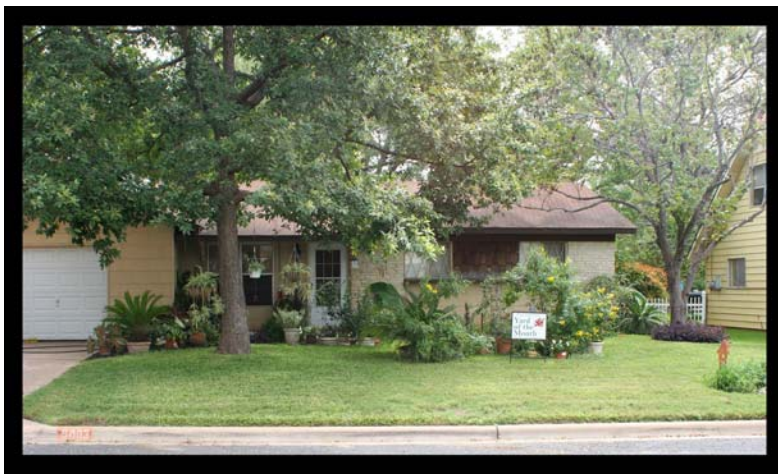
**August 2009**  
**Jeff & Judy Ballard**  
**8308 Rockwood Lane**

Congratulations to Jeff and Judy Ballard of 8308 Rockwood Lane for winning August's Yard of the Month! Judy has lived in the neighborhood for years and her son, Jeff, recently joined her. Jeff is the gardener in the family. He cultivated a passion for landscaping while growing up watching his parents garden. Continuing the family tradition, Jeff travels all over Austin visiting local nurseries with his six year old son. He truly enjoys landscaping yards and gardens for people. If you're interested, he'd love to hear from you.



**September 2009**  
**Bruce & Shirley Townsend**  
**8003 Briarwood Lane**

Congratulations to Bruce and Shirley Townsend of 8003 Briarwood Lane for winning September's Yard of the Month! Their yard is a lovely mix of potted plants and an airy, well groomed lawn with lush islands of shrubs and flowers. The Townsends are long time residents and have lived in the neighborhood for 41 years.



**October 2009**  
**Mark Yeagley & Mark Detlefsen**  
**8501 Rockwood Lane**

Congratulations to two Marks, Mark Yeagley and Mark Detlefsen, of 8501 Rockwood Lane for winning October's Yard of the Month! Mark Detlefsen grew up in the neighborhood and has lived on Rockwood for the past 16 years. Mark Yeagley has lived here for 10 years. Mark D. was surprised to find a Yard of the Month sign after our hot and brutal summer, but with the lovely landscaping and obvious care they show their lawn, Mark and Mark are deserving winners.



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## Join the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

Support your neighborhood by joining the NSCNA. Your \$15 membership fee will be used to improve safety and traffic, sponsor social events as well as print this newsletter. It also entitles all adults in your household to voting privileges at NSCNA meetings.

Just fill out this form and mail it along with your \$15 check (made payable to NSCNA) to:  
NSCNA Membership  
P.O. Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766-0443

*Names of all Residents over 18 :* \_\_\_\_\_

*Street Address:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Interested in being a Block Captain? (Yes/No)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Contact Phone Number:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Years you have lived in the neighborhood:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Your biggest concern for the neighborhood:* \_\_\_\_\_

***Circle the name of any committees you are interested in joining:***

**Beautification**

**Bylaws**

**Development**

**Election**

**Media**

**Membership**

**Nominating**

**Safety**

**Social**

**Traffic**