



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Winter 2009

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Calendar

Next Meeting
Tuesday March 3
6:30-8 pm
Pillow Elementary
Cafeteria

Library Grand Opening Scheduled

By Walter Minkel, Austin Public Library

At last! The new, 11,000-square-foot North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library on Steck will open – barring unforeseen circumstances – on Saturday, April 25. If you’ve driven by on Steck near Burnet, you’ve probably seen the new library’s distinctive, rounded sign... that you can only read while you’re driving by!

The new North Village will be different from other libraries you may have visited. First, it will be “green,” with solar panels on the roof, water-sipping native landscaping, and a design that takes advantage of the Central Texas climate. Second, because although the new library is about twice the size of the former branch in the North Star Center, the book collection actually will be smaller.



Why will there be fewer books in a larger library? Because the new North Village Branch will be disguised as a bookstore. It will encourage its users to visit more often with newer, shinier, popular books, more books on CD, MP3 recordings, and lots of DVDs. They’ve been carefully selected to interest library users in 2009. We’ll also have, for the first time, a bank of computers for young people, and twice as many Internet stations for adults. The way people use libraries is changing, with more emphasis on digital materials, and the new North Village reflects that fact in its design.

Here’s one example of Austin Public Library’s new emphasis on things digital: we will be offering books in a new format, too, called PlayAway. These are inexpensive MP3-style players about the size of a deck of cards, each holding one audiobook. Folks who check them out will need to supply a battery and their own headphones, and they can carry them around and listen to the book anywhere.

For the first time, the branch allows users to check out their own materials, which will speed things up, but our staff will still be there to help folks find what they need, or to help them with their concerns.

Long-time North Village Branch users (and lots of new folks, too, we hope) will be impressed by how attractive and spacious the new library looks on the inside.

(Continued on page 3)

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 our Newsletters.



RANDOLPH★BROOKS

Federal Credit Union
www.rbfcu.org

President's Corner

By Jeff Russell

Our January meeting was a bit uneventful—dare I say boring? Since the Nominating Committee recommended eleven people for officer and board positions, and there were no floor nominations, the “elections” were not contested. Officer and committee reports were given, and we all went home.

A big “thank you” goes out to the Nominating Committee (Kevin Weir, Ernie Garcia, Jerry Horn, and Betsy Todd) and the Election Committee (Randy Alexis, Julia and Jon Menegay, and Ken Moyer) for all the hard work to find nominees and run the elections. The article on page 9 describes the new election procedure.



For the upcoming year, we have several volunteer opportunities. The newsletter funds over half our budget, and help is needed to sell ads and write articles. Help is needed with neighborhood-wide events, like the spring neighborhood-wide garage sale and the July 4th parade. Committees like traffic and development are involved in the planning process for traffic calming and our official neighborhood plan. Or, maybe there is some new issue or event you want to advocate---our neighborhood association is ready to lend support. Give me a call or email (below), and I'll pass on your name.

The schedule for general meetings is listed on page 7. Most meetings will feature a guest speaker of general interest before we take care of any “business”. The agenda and speaker topic will be published on the website, so check there when the meeting dates is upon us. (Rumor has it the March 3 meeting will feature a speaker about the City's 311 service.) In other happenings, Cheri Hartman is working with other neighborhood associations to sponsor a candidate forum in mid-April.

I encourage you to contact a committee chair or board member, or feel free to call me (415-9809) or email president@nscna.org. It's fun to work on neighborhood projects, and it's a great way to get to know people in the area.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for people interested in writing reviews of local businesses, such as new restaurants in our area. Have you dined at the new Cover-3 restaurant? Tell us about your experience. What is your favorite takeout food restaurant?

Submit articles to newsletter@nscna.org or mail them to:
NSCNA Newsletter, P O Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766

(Continued from page 1)

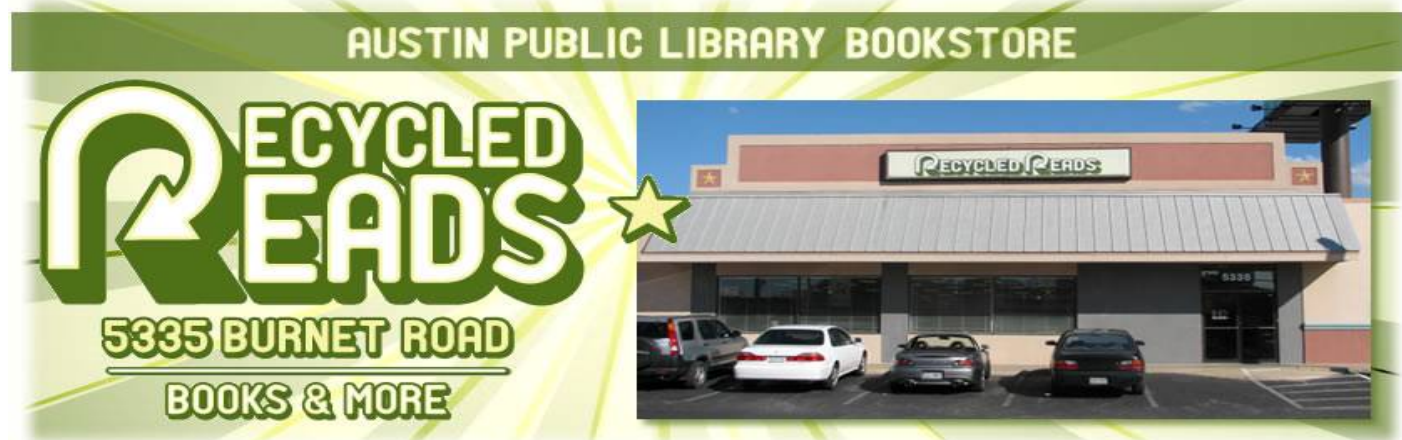


There will be lots of natural light, provided by clerestory windows on the north and south sides of the building that are designed to limit the glare of direct sunlight. One corner of the library, away from the computers and the main desk, is called the “Living Room,” because it encourages users to sit on a sofa, relax, read a magazine, and have a cup of coffee – yes, there will be a coffee machine. The new meeting room features a stained-glass window created by a local artist.

Part of the “green” design of the new building is a rainwater collection system. Pipes from the roof will carry rain down to a water retention pond under the parking lot, which not only saves water for the landscaping but allows more space for parking.

Even at a time when Austin, like the nation in general, faces economic problems, and the Library, like many City departments, struggles with budget cuts and shorter hours, we at Austin Public Library continue to do our best to help folks find the information and recreational materials they need and want. We’re all about literacy, for all ages. Please, come by and see us in our new home, and say hello. We think you’ll be impressed.

You may also be impressed if you travel down to 5335 Burnet (just north of North Loop) and visit the Library’s new bookstore, Recycled Reads. You can’t beat this deal: books and other materials no longer needed in the libraries, along with books donated by Austinites clearing out their bookshelves and garages, are on sale for \$2 per hardcover and \$1 per softcover. (There are a few “Better Books” that cost more, but some specials that cost less.) The “recycled” in the name is no joke; the Library and the City are trying to keep all the books it can’t use out of the landfill, and all books that don’t sell will be donated to an organization that sends books to schools and libraries in the developing world.



Because Recycled Reads is primarily staffed by volunteers, it will be open only the following days and hours: Tuesday 10 AM – 4 PM; Thursday 3 PM – 9 PM; Saturday and Sunday Noon – 5 PM. I’ve been helping set up the bookstore while the North Village Branch has been closed, and no lie: if you’re a fan of books, it’s definitely worth a visit.

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 are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1

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

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

Committee Information

Beautification Committee

Purpose: Organize projects that improve the appearance of our neighborhood and select Yard of the Month.

Chair: Cheri Hartman, Email: beautificationchair@nscna.org or call 751-1863

It's the beginning of the new year and the Beautification Committee would love to hear from you. Do you have a neighbor who keeps a lovely yard? We are always looking for recommendations for Yards of the Month. Are you interested in a community garden? Composting? Planting more trees or replacing Ash and Hackberry trees as they near the end of their life cycle? Are you interested in reclaiming open spaces? Adding improvements to Pillow Elementary School and Park? Applying for grants? Or just getting together and sharing ideas. Let's put our collective minds together and create a beautiful vision of our neighborhood. We're planning a meeting within the next month to get to know each other and discuss our goals for the new year.

Bylaws Committee

Purpose: Recommend changes to the Association Bylaws that improve the operation and organization.

Chair: Vacant, Email: president@nscna.org

Past Members: Julia Menegay, Vicki McFadden, Chris Jones, Jerry Horn, Dallas Maham

In 2008, the Bylaws committee worked diligently to improve the bylaws. These changes were presented to the Association and ratified at the October 14th general meeting. There are still some loose ends that need to be fixed in our current Bylaws which will require attention to fine details. If you are interested in helping make our bylaws a strong foundation for the Association, please contact Jeff Russell at the email address above. We are currently looking for someone to chair this important committee and look forward to another year of bylaws improvements.

Development Committee

Purpose: Monitor development activity around the neighborhood and provide recommendations to the board. Work with neighbors, developers and the city on development issues.

Chair: Chip Rosenthal, Email: developmentchair@nscna.org or call 573-5174

Austin continues to grow, which means new development will be happening all around us. The Development Committee looks at the development going on around our neighborhood, identifies issues of concern, and works to address them.

We learn about development issues in several ways. The city sends notifications about some activities, which we review and identify areas that should be addressed. We try to foster good relationships with property owners and developers. We also work to pick up news through the neighborhood grapevine.

The work is sometimes technical, poring over city codes and procedures. But the committee includes great people who would be glad to help you learn the ropes. We work mostly by email. We typically meet every couple months to stay in touch, more frequently when an issue requires action. New members can help monitor and research issues, as well as provide opinions and ideas on development activity. If this sounds interesting, we could use your help.

Media Committee

Purpose: To effectively communicate news and events affecting the residents of the neighborhood.

Chair: Sandy Perkins, Email: mediachair@nscna.org or call 797-7375

Current Members: Chris Jones, Cheri Hartman, Alyssa Hedge, Carol Holmgren

This committee is tasked with improving the communication between NSCNA members. This involves maintaining the NSCNA website as well as publishing a quarterly newsletter. Over the past year, we have added a number of useful content items to the website including Deed Restrictions, flood plain maps, as well as an archive of past meeting minutes and newsletters. We are currently looking for help from people interested in collecting sales ads for our newsletters. This is a job currently performed by Sandy Perkins and she welcomes any help available. We are also looking for authors for articles of interest to our members. If you would like to contribute to the success of the website or newsletter, please contact Sandy.

Committee Information

Membership Committee

Purpose: To increase membership of the Association.

Chair: Alyssa Hedge, Email: membershipchair@nscna.org

Our committee is tasked with growing the membership of the association. This year our focus is going to be first and foremost to build community among our neighbors through gatherings and neighborhood projects. We will be polling neighbors with various ideas in this newsletter such as helping interested neighbors start composting and veggie gardens, starting monthly park breakfast gatherings, starting weekly evenings strolls and trying to get together a craft group. We will also be spearheading a membership drive later this year. If you are outgoing and love meeting people and building community, this is the committee for you!! If you would like to join this year, please contact us.

Safety Committee

Purpose: Interact with the Austin Police Department, communicate incidents that occur in the neighborhood, and promote crime prevention techniques and information.

Chair: Roger Wines, Email: safetychair@nscna.org

The Safety committee works to educate residents of our neighborhood on crime prevention as well as keep us up to date on recent criminal activities in and around our neighborhood. Members of the committee attend APD sponsored events such as the quarterly Commander's Forum to voice our neighborhoods concerns and learn more about what we can do to help us keep our neighborhood safe. The committee also organizes the annual National Night Out event that occurs in October as well as setup Crime Watch groups. If you are interested in volunteering on this committee, please send a message to the email address above.

Social Committee

Purpose: To encourage a spirit of community by organizing several fun events throughout the year

Chair: Vacant, Email: socialchair@nscna.org

The Social committee organizes, coordinates and hosts neighborhood-wide social events. Our wish is to promote camaraderie throughout all of North Shoal Creek and welcome new neighbors' participation. This year we are planning many smaller events to try and peek the interest of as many people as possible as well as our annual events including the Fourth of July parade and the Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale. We really need volunteers to help with the planning and execution of these events. If you are interested in serving on this committee and meeting more of your neighbors, please contact us at the email address above.

Traffic Committee

Purpose: Identify traffic problems associated with vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians and work with the City on solutions.

Chair: Dallas Maham, Email: trafficchair@nscna.org or call 452-3673

Meetings: As needed every 2 to 3 months

Current Goals:

- Monitor Buell Commercial Traffic problems. Work for solution
- Monitor Steck re-striping project.
- Support traffic improvement attempts by individual committee members.
- A long-term goal is to produce a graphical summary of sidewalk and traffic problems.
- Monitor neighborhood status for City's Traffic Calming Program

Mine is *Chateau Millway*. What is Yours?

By KC Dignan

Exploring businesses in our neighborhood

“Chateau Millway”.....doesn’t that conjure up a lovely old mansion, or “family seat”, one covered with ivy in the front, and fields of grapevines in the back? Does it bring thoughts of wines noted for their flavor and ability to make even the simplest meals taste better? Well, if you’re reading this and have walked down Millway, you know that the first part of the image, the vine-covered mansion is wrong. However the allusion to wines isn’t. Chateau Millway is the name of our winery here on Millway Drive.



I’ve always liked wine, but didn’t start to seriously explore it until about 12 years ago. Then about 8 years ago, I started meeting people who made their own wines and thought I’d give that a try. Much to my surprise, it can be easier than you think. There are many, many ways to make wines. You can make wines from fruits and vegetables, from native and vinifera grapes. You can also make wine from juices that have been sourced from vineyards all over the world. I started with juices.

My journey began at **Austin Homebrew** (7951 Burnet, or just north of Anderson on Burnet). The “fine and friendly lads” got me started with the necessities, and advice when I had questions. It is easy and fun, and Austin Homebrew has everything you need. I divide “the necessities” into 2 groups: “Hardware” and “Software”.

The Hardware is the equipment and other supplies that either doesn’t change or you will use over and over again. This includes all the food-grade materials you will need, such as a primary fermenting bucket, glass carboys, basic chemicals, tools to ensure that wine is on the right track. I also put corks into this category, even though they are only used once.

The Software is the juice that you will turn into wine. There is a startling array of juice options. I have made wine from juice that came from New Zealand, Chile, and France. We have shared wine with friends that started in California, Spain, and British Columbia. The options are amazing. I’ve been making between 20 and 25 types of wine for about 8 years, and still haven’t run out of new options.

Each box of juice will make 6 gallons, or between 28 and 30 bottles of wine. There are multiple price-points for the juice; some even come with a packet of crushed grapes. Regardless of the level selected, when you follow the directions, you will end up with a wine that you can be proud of, which will be “as good as” or “better than” commercial wines.



The process is simple, and the juice comes with detailed instructions. The first step is to mix the grape juice with the yeast, and then let fermentation begin. Then, over the next 6 weeks, the directions will help you turn your wine into something you can be proud of. It will take as little as 15 minutes to start a batch and to complete each step up to bottling.

Wine is a special thing. It grows and changes. Next comes a hard part, your wine will then need to age. This can take between 3 months and a year, depending on the wine and *your* particular preference. Mist-style wines are ready in as little as 4 weeks. One caution is advised here. Over and over again, I have talked to people who have tasted their wine early and thought it tasted terrible. 99% of the time it is only a matter of the wine being young, and the tasters not realizing that it was too soon to expect it to be fully de-

veloped. I encourage people to try their wines when young, to really learn about *their* wines. It is important to know what a young wine tastes like *and* to give it time to mature. Also, wine goes through “dumb” periods when aging, especially just after bottling. Just give your wine a bit more time. You will be amazed at YOUR wine.



The next hardest part is deciding on your name, and labels. Don't worry. Austin Homebrew can help you there. They have labels and even colored “shrink caps” to make your wine look professional.

Making wine is also economical. The per-bottle cost of the juice ranges from \$2.50 per bottle for a wine that can be equivalent to a \$10 - \$15 bottle, to just over \$5. for a \$20-\$25. bottle of wine. It is a great and affordable way to have custom made wine for an event, such as a wedding, family reunion, or anniversary. Who wouldn't like gift of a bottle of wine with a personalized label, perhaps with a picture of that new car, or the new graduate? Or a bottle with a personalized holiday label from your family to theirs?

Additionally, I can make wines that would be far beyond my purchasing power. For example, it is hard to even think about a Barolo, Amarone or French Bordeaux-style wine for less than \$50. Yet, for \$80-\$100, I can have 30 bottles.

It is sometimes hard to find creative outlets in the winter. I find wine suits the need. I think of it as “indoor gardening.” Right now I am planning the wines I'll want next summer and gifts for next Christmas. Give it some thought, and then stop by and visit with our neighbors at **Austin Homebrew**.

KC works at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She has been making wine for 8 years and is a charter member of the Central Texas Wine Guild. She has taught classes on making wine and seminars on food and wine pairing. Her wines have won multiple medals in national wine competitions.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association Calendar of Events 2009 (Subject to Change)

	Events	General Meetings (1st Tuesday)	Board of Directors Meetings (4th Wednesday)	Newsletter
January		January General Meeting (Jan 11) 1:00 pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria	Board of Directors meeting (Jan 4) Board of Directors meeting (Jan 26)	
February			Board of Directors meeting (Feb 25th)	deliver Winter issue of Newsletter
March		General Meeting (March 3) 6:30pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria		
April			Board of Directors meeting (April 22)	
May	Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale	General Meeting (May 5th) 6:30pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria		deliver Spring Issue of Newsletter
June			Board of Directors meeting (June 24)	
July	4th of July parade			
August			Board of Directors meeting (August 26)	deliver Summer issue of Newsletter
September		General Meeting (September 1) 6:30pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria		
October	National Night Out		Board of Directors meeting (October 28)	
November		General Meeting (Nov 3) 6:30pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria		deliver Fall issue of Newsletter
December			Board of Directors meeting (Dec 23)	
January 2010		January General Meeting (Jan 5) 6:30pm Pillow Elementary Cafeteria		

Neighborhoods Unite to Host Candidate Forum

By Cheri Hartman

North Shoal Creek is partnering with other north central neighborhoods to host a Mayoral and City Council Candidate Forum Monday, April 13th at 6:30pm at Wozniak Hall, St Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd. Our area is rapidly growing, and it is important for us to have a clear voice in the developments affecting our neighborhood. By joining together with the Wooten, Allandale, Crestview, Highland and Brentwood neighborhoods, we hope our united voices make an impact on the candidates that will last long after the votes have been counted. Our aim is to let the candidates know what are important priorities for our neighborhoods and have them speak directly to these specific issues. Other forums exist to tackle city-wide issues—the goal of this forum is to strengthen the voice of north central Austin neighborhoods.

Questionnaires will be distributed to each candidate prior to the forum. The candidate's responses will be posted online and made available at the forum itself. We are looking for community input to better shape our voice. What neighborhood issues are important to you? What would make our area more neighborhood-friendly? Some issues relevant to our neighborhoods might include 1) code enforcement, 2) open space, 3) Neighborhood Plan follow through, 4) support for creek side trails and green belts, 5) traffic and transportation, and 6) overall responsiveness of City Council (and Staff) to our neighborhoods.



We are looking for each candidate's response to these issues to establish their accountability and commitment as we move forward. Please forward your questions and concerns to me, Cheri Hartman, either via email sweetpatina@mac.com or my cell 751-1863. I will be relaying the issues important to our neighborhood to the forum planning committee so we can gather our questions for the candidates.

And mark your calendars for the candidate forum... Monday April 13 at Wozniak Hall, St Louis Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd. The forum is from 6:30 to 9:00 PM, with the first half hour devoted to mixing with candidates and presentations explaining our neighborhood issues of concern. Candidate questioning will begin at 7:00 PM sharp.

Did You Live in this Neighborhood in 1996?

Over the past three years, the media committee has collected, scanned, and placed on the NSCNA website, past newsletters of the NSCNA. To date, there have been 44 newsletters published by the Association since starting the newsletter in 1996 and we are only missing 3 issues. It just so happens that the three issues we are missing are from the inaugural year of publication, Issues 1, 3 and 4 from 1996. If you have any of these issues, please let us know by calling Chris Jones at 587-5193 or emailing him at newsletter@nscna.org

**NORTH SHOAL CREEK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Issue 1
A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
July/August 1996

President's Corner

I need your input. As you know, the NSCNA has been serving the Neighborhood for the past two years. We have been successful in many ways, but we need your input to better shape our voice. What neighborhood issues are important to you? What would make our area more neighborhood-friendly? Some issues relevant to our neighborhoods might include 1) code enforcement, 2) open space, 3) Neighborhood Plan follow through, 4) support for creek side trails and green belts, 5) traffic and transportation, and 6) overall responsiveness of City Council (and Staff) to our neighborhoods.

Help Lower Crime in Our Neighborhood

According to a recent article in the Austin American-Statesman, the crime rate in Austin has increased by 10% in the last year. This is a significant increase, and we need your input to better shape our voice. What neighborhood issues are important to you? What would make our area more neighborhood-friendly? Some issues relevant to our neighborhoods might include 1) code enforcement, 2) open space, 3) Neighborhood Plan follow through, 4) support for creek side trails and green belts, 5) traffic and transportation, and 6) overall responsiveness of City Council (and Staff) to our neighborhoods.

Next NSCNA Meeting

DATE: September (exact date to be announced)
TIME: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: To Be Announced
AGENDA: Neighborhood Watch

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LOCATION: To Be Announced
AGENDA: Neighborhood Watch

**North Shoal Creek
Neighborhood News**

Issue 1
A publication of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
July/August 1996

President's Corner

I need your input. As you know, the NSCNA has been serving the Neighborhood for the past two years. We have been successful in many ways, but we need your input to better shape our voice. What neighborhood issues are important to you? What would make our area more neighborhood-friendly? Some issues relevant to our neighborhoods might include 1) code enforcement, 2) open space, 3) Neighborhood Plan follow through, 4) support for creek side trails and green belts, 5) traffic and transportation, and 6) overall responsiveness of City Council (and Staff) to our neighborhoods.

Help Lower Crime in Our Neighborhood

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Evolution of the Cover page for the NSCNA Newsletters from 1996 to 2008

NSCNA New Election Procedures

By Jeff Russell

Our association adopted a new revision of the Bylaws last October, and one new change is the procedures for elections. The previous rules basically called for an “election by ballot”. Now, we have a whole Election Committee to preside over the election. But let’s go back to the beginning.... Article IX of our Bylaws states the four officer and seven director positions are elected at the January meeting, and the term for each position is one year. The Nominating Committee consists of five members who are elected by October 1, so look for these committee elections at the September general meeting. The Nominating Committee does their arm twisting, and comes up with at least one candidate for each position. The only restriction is that the nomination for president needs to have been a member the previous twelve months.

The Election Committee is created by the Board of Directors at least sixty days prior to the January meeting. There are four committee members. The chair presides over the elections, and the other three members handle the ballots.

The election procedures spelled out in the Bylaws are rather detailed. Upon entering the January meeting, the eligibility to vote is verified by the Election Committee. (Previously, the Treasurer did this work.) There are eleven elections, one for each position. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee reports the committee’s recommendation for each position. The meeting chairperson hands the chair to Election Committee chair for each election, and floor nominations are called. If there is more than one candidate, a ballot election is held—otherwise the single nominee wins by acclamation.

Prior to casting ballots, each candidate is giving equal time to speak. The candidate names are posted, and blank ballots are disbursed by the Election Committee. Ballots are collected in a ballot box, and the results are tabulated. The Election Committee chair hands the meeting back to the President, and the election results are reported. The President declares the winner if there is a majority of votes for a candidate, otherwise the top two vote receivers participate in a run-off election.

It’s that easy. Actually, in real life, things proceed quite smoothly because several individuals are running things. Sort of like a well-oiled machine—especially when there are no floor nominations like our last January meeting.



2009 NSCNA Board of Directors

Left to Right: Chip Rosenthal, Jeff Russell, Candy Ellard, Lynda Oaks, Claudell Migl, Cheri Hartman, Alyssa Hedge, Helene Maham, Kelly Vaccaro, Sandy Perkins, Ken Moyer

Pillow Elementary School News

By Huddie Murray

The second semester here at Pillow is already speeding by, and many activities have taken place since school resumed on January 6. First, another Pillow success story! Candy Ellard, Fifth Grade teacher here at Pillow, and a North Shoal Creek neighbor, is one of five finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). These awards recognize teachers whose innovative methods bring teaching to life in the classroom. We are so proud of Candy's achievement!

The Seedling Foundation has again graced the front grounds of the school with beautiful flowers and will soon install a sprinkler system, partially funded by Pillow's PTA. The Seedling Foundation also provides several mentors to Pillow students each year, and again this year, they funded a Zach Scott Theater performance at Pillow in January.

Speaking of planting, you may notice the expansive WILDFLOWER beds that have been planted along the west side of the school property near Flagstaff and Crosscreek. They are marked with a wire border. Our Art teacher, Ms. Swingle, gathered materials, and with Candy Ellard's Fifth Grade students and Allan Shropshire's First Grade class, as well as other students, planted them in January.

Some of our Special Education students have been serving as Library Helpers daily. With the assistance of our exceptional Teaching Assistants, students travel to classrooms and daily gather books from around the school and deliver them back to the Library to be checked in. This prevocational activity has provided many opportunities for our students to practice some basic social and educational processes.



Partners in Reading, an innovative program through Partners in Education that brings reading volunteers into our Second Grade classrooms each week, is a popular and successful effort. Teachers are so grateful for the extra reading help for their students! We thank you neighbors who have gotten involved as volunteers!

Looking back into late '08, Pillow hosted a Multicultural Night on December 9. What a fantastic turnout we had, with potluck dishes representing countries all over the globe! This event was so well received that we've committed to making it bigger and better for next year! We welcome the participation of the neighborhood.

Our Gifted and Talented students led two generous drives in November and December. A school wide contest led to hundreds of non-perishable food items being donated to the St. Louis Church Food Pantry just before Thanksgiving. Before the winter break, our families again donated generously; this time it was over 500 children's books given to Operation School Bell! The GT Committee and students have gone on to establish a Pillow Student Council, with one representative from each class. They are staying very busy!

Our annual Literacy Night was a success and Math Night will be complete before you read this. The Fourth and Fifth Grade students took part in the F.I.T. program on February 24. This is part of our campus CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) initiative. Parent Coffees on the topics of Sleep and Nutrition Needs for Children, TAKS testing, and the new Parent Connection resource from AISD have been held, as well as the popular Family Lunch Days and the annual Book Fair. The first TAKS test of this year will take place on March 3. Most of the tests will take place in late April. Teachers and staff have been busy tutoring (for free!) students who may have difficulty on the tests....Other activities include the Kindergarten Circus on March 12. It's difficult to believe that Spring Break will be here March 16-20!

Schlotsky's on Anderson Lane has been hosting a monthly fundraiser for Pillow. Eat at Schlotsky's on the second Tuesday evening of each month, between 5 and 9pm, mention that you are a Pillow par-

ticipant, and they will donate 10% of the evening's proceeds to the school. Feel free to take part! The second Tuesday of the month, 5-9pm. Thanks so much for being great neighbors! We welcome you at Pillow and encourage you to visit and get involved!

Burnet Middle School News

By Nancy Owens

BMS Sports have faired very well this fall season beginning with Football, which saw both 7th and 8th grade teams claim North Zone Championships. Girls Volleyball also competed well making the playoffs. In Girls Basketball both 7th and 8th grade teams made the playoffs, which saw our 8th graders finish 2nd in the city. Our 7th grade Girls did very well falling in the semis of the city tournament. Boys Soccer finished the regular season undefeated and were headed to the city championships as a top contender. All athletes represented Burnet well. Great job players and coaches!

BMS Fine Arts are alive and well. The Theatre Arts Department competed in the district One-Act Play Festival contest and won 1st place for best overall production. Burnet was also honored with the contest Best Actress award for student Mionne Featherstone. Burnet's Lauren Anderson honored herself and BMS by making the TMEA Region Band. 6th grader Deandre Stiles not only made the Rhythmic Force Drumline, but was given a position on the Snare Line which is one of the hardest to make. Great job! If you would like to donate time or talent to the BMS Fine Arts Department, please contact Mrs. Owens at 841-8230.



Burnet Middle School is improving its campus! Construction started last fall on many projects to improve the BMS campus. Projects include new locker rooms for the gym classes, improved roofs and windows, repaved tennis/basketball court area, dressing rooms and storage for the stage area, and a new elevator for the 2nd floor. Our school's new look promises to be really exciting and will help us to achieve our goals in all areas of endeavor.

Mark your calendars for Burnet Middle School's carnival May 9th. This is a great way to support BMS and have some fun too. Food booths, games, prizes, and more. All proceeds go toward various clubs and groups. See you there!

Anderson High School News

By Ida Berlingeri

When Diana Fairbrother and Kim Squier accepted the job as co-chairs of Project Graduation 2009 at Anderson High School they had MANY families promise their support for this wonderful graduation celebration for our Anderson HS seniors. For the past 2 months, they have had very FEW donations and commitments to attend the dinner and silent auction. Graduating seniors at Anderson High School need YOUR financial donations and we need PARENTS to join us at the dinner and silent auction on February 22.

The Project Graduation Mesa Ranch Dinner/Silent Auction will be 6-9 p.m., Sunday, February 22, 2009. We will have great food, live entertainment, and a great silent auction including getaways to the beach and to the lake.

Please send an email to Betsy Hall Bender, bhb@swbell.net, or Jill Henderson, Jill_Henderson@dell.com, to confirm your attendance. Tickets are \$50 per person, and you may send a check made payable to "Anderson PTSA Project Graduation" to Carrie McKinney, 10610 Sierra Oaks, Austin, TX 78759. Any financial donations should be sent to Carie McKinney 10610 Sierra Oaks Austin, TX 78759 Please make checks payable to Anderson PTSA.

Thank you so much for your support!

Real Estate News

The data below was provided by Suzanne Jacobs of Gracy Title 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.

Travis County

January 2009

Residential MLS Area Statistics

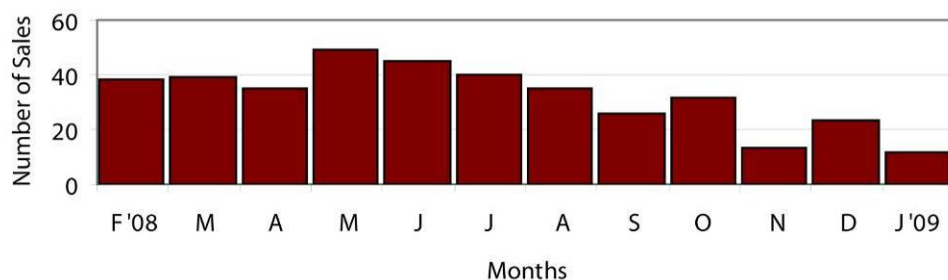
Area
2

	High		Low		Average		Median	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
Beds	3	5	1	2	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0
Baths	2.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0
SqFt	1671.0	3282.0	651.0	792.0	1204.9	1453.1	1202.0	1482.0
List Prc.	\$379,800	\$458,500	\$69,000	\$110,900	\$239,100	\$253,581	\$242,450	\$259,900
LP/SqFt	\$257	\$274	\$106	\$98	\$198	\$182	\$202	\$175
Sold Prc.	\$360,000	\$430,000	\$65,000	\$116,500	\$228,325	\$244,247	\$236,500	\$250,000
SP/SqFt	\$239	\$263	\$100	\$94	\$188	\$176	\$188	\$171
SP/LP	101.9%	105.0%	87.5%	90.0%	95.6%	96.7%	94.9%	96.3%
DOM	272	228	3	3	77.3	61.0	47.5	52.0

Total Sales Volume:	
2008	\$5,129,192
2009	\$2,739,900

Price Range	Quantity
\$149,999 or under	1
\$150,000- \$199,999	3
\$200,000- \$249,999	4
\$250,000- \$299,999	2
\$300,000- \$349,999	1
\$350,000- \$399,999	1
\$400,000- \$449,999	0
\$450,000- \$499,999	0

Residential Sales 12-Month View



Gracy Title
— a stewart company

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General Meeting Summaries

By Jeff Russell

December 2, 2008 General Meeting

The December general meeting at Pillow Elementary focused on two resolutions somewhat related to development in our area. The main presentation featured Steven Zettner with Sustainable Neighborhoods, who requested support for a resolution calling for more open space in mixed use districts. Since Anderson Lane and Burnet Road (south of Anderson) are designated Core Transit Corridors, they are targeted for mixed use redevelopment. Steven used pictures to illustrate open spaces that are pedestrian friendly, emphasizing the need for such open spaces when the Anderson-Burnet area is redeveloped. Open spaces are pedestrian friendly, and encourage people to use them (on foot).

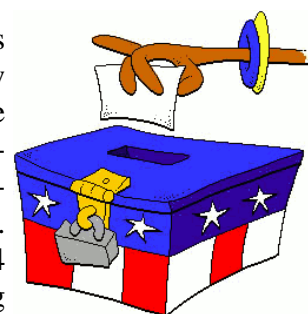
The goal of Sustainable Neighborhoods is to add open space requirements to the mixed use design standards, which includes the Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) standards. Steven is organizing support from the north central neighborhoods in Austin, with the eventual goal of changing City Code to improve open space requirements. A resolution of support was adopted, which is attached to the meeting minutes available at www.nscna.org/minutes.

A second resolution was proposed by member (and President) Jeff Russell who relinquished the chair to propose a resolution in support of his family's attempt to obtain a variance from some floodplain rules in order to demolish and rebuild their home. Since the construction site is entirely within the city's 25-year floodplain, a variance is needed for site plan approval. A floodplain variance comes directly from City Council, so a demonstration of neighborhood support was helpful for the public hearing. (The hearing was held December 18, 2008 and the variance was unanimously granted.) The resolution is also appended to the December meeting minutes at www.nscna.org/minutes.

The meeting concluded with a few announcements, including notice of proposed bylaws amendments, one of which was adopted at the January meeting.

January 11, 2008 General Meeting

The January 11th, 2009 general meeting was held on a Sunday afternoon and was attended by about 65 members. This January Meeting focused on elections of the new board. Prior to elections, the bylaws were amended to provide for a run-off when there are three or more candidates for a position. Also, notice was given for a proposed by-laws amendment that required payment of annual dues by March 1, otherwise renewing or new memberships become effective the first of the month after dues are paid. So the amendment would mean, for example, someone who pays dues on April 14 would receive voting rights on May 1. (Anyone can attend our meetings, so voting rights are the only thing that becomes "effective".)



The Nominating Committee recommended eleven nominees, one for each officer and board position. No floor nominations were made, so the 2009 Board of Directors was elected by acclamation:

President	Jeff Russell	Directors:	Lynda Oakes
Vice-President	Ken Moyer	Candy Ellard	Sandy Perkins
Secretary	Claudell Migl	Cheri Hartman	Chip Rosenthal
Treasurer	Helene Maham	Alyssa Hedge	Kelly Vaccaro

See page 9 for a photo of the 2009 Board of Directors. After elections, various committee and officer reports were given, and everyone went home. The meeting lasted about one hour.

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Pillow Park Playgroup, March 14, 9AM

Can you feel it? Spring is coming! Those wonderful, breezy, mild mornings are on their way. And what better way to start a Saturday in spring than with free hot coffee, fresh breakfast tacos, a park and playground for the kids and other families and neighbors to chat with?

Every 1st Saturday of the Month, the neighborhood association will host its Pillow Park Playgroup! The neighborhood association will provide the hot coffee and we will pick up breakfast tacos from Elsi's for everyone who RSVPs and orders them. I know my kids are always crazy on the weekends, so come have some coffee and let them play that energy out!! And this is not just for families - everyone needs some fresh air - come on outside with us to greet the day and breathe some fresh spring air (hopefully with much less cedar in it by March!).



****Our first get together will be March 14, but thereafter will be the 1st Saturday of each month**

We ask that you please RSVP so we know how much coffee we need to order and to let us know if you want to order tacos. The cost for tacos is \$1.25/taco. We hope you can make it.

Neighborhood Weekly Evening Stroll

With the light returning and the evenings stretching well into the later hours, there will once again be plenty of daylight for an evening stroll in the neighborhood. What a great way to work off those dinner calories and any stress from the day! We wanted to see if anyone would be interested in meeting at a central location for a 30 minutes walk once a week. We were thinking about meeting on a Thursday around 6:30pm, but can shift this based on the best day and time for those interested.

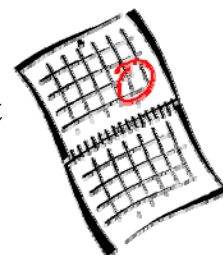
Late Night Mamas Dessert and Dish

You work hard and sometimes you need to indulge! We were seeing if there were Mamas interested in getting together once a month for a dessert and dish! We would take turns bringing desserts to indulge in while we chat and share the joys and challenges of motherhood!

Handwork Group

Do you like to do handwork - knitting, crochet, embroidery, etc.? We were thinking about getting a handwork group together. It would be fun to come together to chat and get inspired to create and in some cases simply complete our labors of love! I have thought about doing a little "craftivism" once we near the winter to make warm items such as scarves and hats for folks who are unable to afford them. We can find an organization in town to work with on such a project. If you are a craft person, and I know there are a lot of you out there, let me know if you would like to get a group together!!

If you are interested in any of the above events, please contact Alyssa Hedge at specialevents@nscna.org or call 380-9616 to RSVP or get more information!



Girl Scout Update

By Chandi Wagner



Girl Scouts
Where Girls Grow StrongSM

Brownie Girl Scout Troop 1807, led by Michelle Glenn and Neva Rios, consists of girls from Pillow Elementary. They recently made valentines for an assisted living facility off of Duval. In December, the girls wrapped gifts at the Brown Santa for Travis County. The troop started last fall, and are having a great time!

Girl Scouts of Central Texas, in collaboration with Burnett Middle School and Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area, is offering a program to Burnett Middle School girls on four consecutive Tuesdays during February and March. The activities will focus on how women are portrayed in the media, relationships, and self-investigation. The girls will even have the chance to travel to the Mexican American Cultural Center for a field trip. For more information, contact Violet Leos at VioletL@gscctx.org or 490-2312.

For more information about Girl Scouts in your area, contact Chandi Wagner at chandiw@gscctx.org or 490-2331 (se habla español). www.gscctx.org



Pictures (clockwise from top): Girls recite the Girl Scout promise during a ceremony; Troop 1807 makes valentine cards for an assisted living facility; High school girls make shrimp ceviche during an overnight international cooking event; Girls cheer on Race for the Cure participants.

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 Cheri Hartman. She can be reached via phone at 751-1863 or by email at beautificationchair@nscna.org.



November/December 2008

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January 2009

Mrs. Simmons
2712 Thrushwood


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Can Someone Teach Me How to Compost?

By Alyssa Hedge

For over a year now, I have wanted to start a compost pile in my backyard. I have researched the many ways to go about it, but have had trouble making a decision. Should I spend a lot on one of those tumblers? Should I go the "do it myself" route and build a bin? The time has come to take action! With times being tough, I could easily downgrade to a smaller trash can if I composted, and have amazing dirt to finally get that veggie garden started (a future project), and do some good for the environment. I am sure I am not the only one that needs help, so we cooked up a little neighborhood project!

We would like to bring the experienced composters in our neighborhood together to meet with folks like me. In our meeting, we would learn the ins and outs of composting and the many ways to go about it. After that, we can try to have a workday for those of us that will be building bins, etc. I will try to see if I can have a Master Composter join us as well to dispense even more advice and helpful tips.

Do you compost already?

We would love some help from folks who already compost in the neighborhood. We would love to hear about the methods that you use to compost, tips and tricks you've discovered, and your advice for getting started. We would happily provide lunch and some goodies to tempt you to spend time with us and share your knowledge! Please contact me if you are interested in helping!

Do you also want to start composting?

If you in the same boat as me, let me know! My goal is to get all of us who want to be composting up and running this spring! If you want to learn to compost, please contact me.



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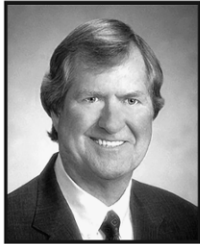


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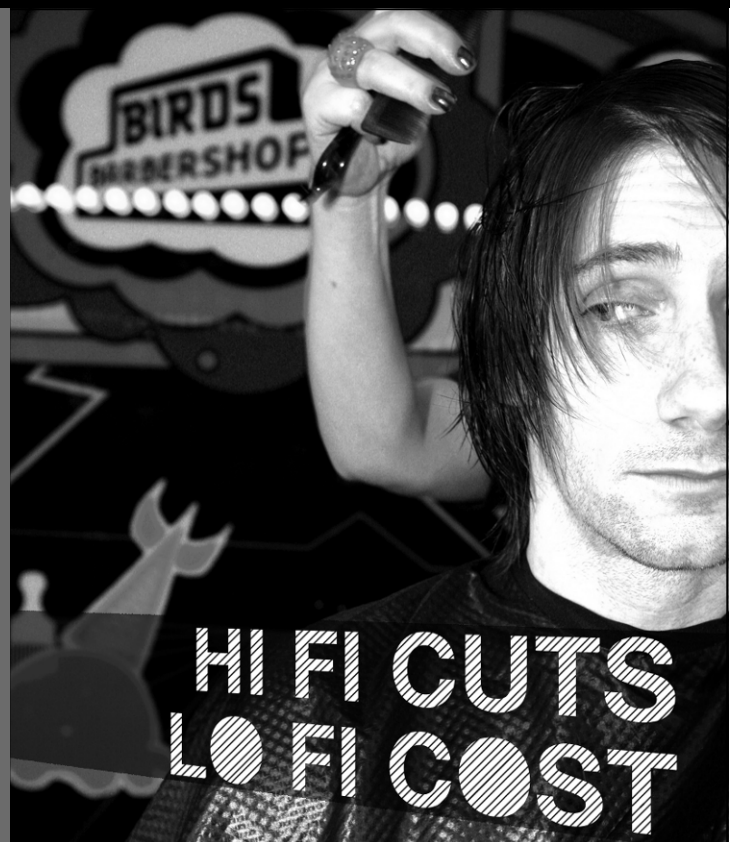


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Join the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

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 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