



Spring 2009

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Calendar

4th of July Parade

Next Meeting
Tuesday Sept 1
6:30-8 pm
Pillow Elementary
Cafeteria

Candidate Forum Report

By Cheri Hartman

The North Central Austin's Neighborhoods Candidate Forum on April 13th was a great success. North Shoal Creek partnered with five other neighborhoods (Allandale, Brentwood, Crestview, Highland and Wooten) to host this forum. The forum was initiated as part of Sustainable Neighborhood's 2009 Room to Live initiative. They are seeking a "Minimum Open Space Requirement" (MOSR) for the city's new mixed use districts. Allandale, Crestview, North Shoal Creek and Wooten neighborhood associations have already passed motions supporting the MOSR and Highland intends to bring it to a vote.

The forum was an opportunity for us to inform the candidates about our common neighborhood concerns, and a chance for them to directly address them. Due to time constraints candidates were only asked two questions, one on open space and another on development. There was, however, a written questionnaire that was broader and went into more detail. You can view the 11 question survey completed by each candidate and the criteria in formulating this survey on the Sustainable Neighborhoods website at www.snaustin.org.

We are very proud of the community support for this forum. An estimated 150-200 people attended and our six neighborhood associations joined together in a truly remarkable show of unity for the betterment of North Central Austin.

The candidates who participated in the forum were:

- **Perla Cavazos** (Place 1)
- **Chris Riley** (Place 1)
- **Mike Martinez** (Place 2)
- **Jose Quintero** (Place 2)
- **Bill Spelman** (Place 3)
- **Sheryl Cole** (Place 6)
- **Sam Osemene** (Place 6)
- **Brewster McCracken** (Mayor)
- **Lee Leffingwell** (Mayor)
- **David Buttross** (Mayor)



Helene Maham and Claudell Migl at the Candidate Forum

I would like to extend a special thank you to Chip Rosenthal who volunteered with me as our neighborhood representative. Thanks also to Helene Maham, Claudell Migl and Jeff Russell who hosted a table with information about our neighborhood at the forum.

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President's Corner

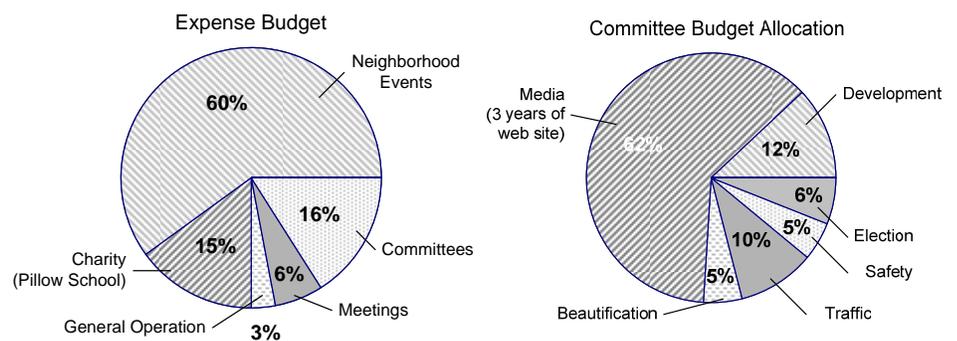
By Jeff Russell

The board is tasked with running the “business” side of North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association. The budget was approved at the February board meeting. The budget is approximately \$3,300. The income is funded by dues and newsletter ad revenue. This year, our dues and past year tax refunds fund 39% of the budget, and the remaining 61% percent is from *last year's* newsletter. With the downturn in the economy, there is less interest in newsletter advertising, so there is no projected net income from this year's publication of the newsletter. Speaking of which, I want to thank Sandy Perkins for single-handedly selling all the newsletter ads last year (and this year, so far). The ad revenue essentially funds the organization.

The expenses are summarized in the pie charts. The Expense Budget pie chart shows that we continue to prioritize neighborhood events like the July 4th parade. The parade is expensive because insurance and health department regulations make hiring a company to run the events the best choice. We continue to support Pillow Elementary, and we also approved paying for three years of the website (to save money on the annual fee). We have general operating expenses like post office box rental and filing fees. Meeting expense includes copies, notices, and occasional rental fees. The committees account for 15% of the budget, and the relative break down of committee budgets is shown in the pie chart labeled “Committee Budget Allocation”.

If you want to help out and meet some of your neighbors, consider volunteering to help with some of the upcoming neighborhood-wide events. Events like the July 4th parade and National Night Out (in October) can use help, as well as upcoming Social Committee events. Give your favorite board member a call and get involved!

See you at the next General Meeting in September.



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



Social Committee Updates

By Alyssa Hedge

We had 12 Mamas attend the inaugural Late Night Mamas Dessert and Dish on April 30th! It was a lovely spring evening with lots of wonderful company! Everyone sat out on my driveway under the trees and the stars and enjoyed wine, dessert and chocolate. We get together the last Thursday of the month, so our next meetings are May 28th and June 25th. We meet at 9pm.

May 2nd we had our Pillow Park Playgroup and Neighborhood Get Together! We had about 30 neighbors in attendance. The tacos and coffee were warm and delicious!! We host this get together the 1st Saturday of the month. We invite everyone to come meet us at Pillow Park at 9am for tacos and coffee. The association provides free coffee. You can contact me to order tacos from Elsi's and I will make sure to have warm tacos waiting for you at the park! Tacos are \$1.25 each. Our next get together is June 6th at 9am. We will not have one in July as that is the 4th of July and we will have our neighborhood parade that day.

It has been a busy spring with many events to plan and a triathlon to train for. Now that all those things are out of the way, I can focus my energy into the compost class. Originally, I was looking for one individual to give a class, but now am looking at more of a panel discussion format. Thanks for your patience as I organize this event.

Finally, if you want to join the social committee or have an idea for a gathering, please let me know!! I am always looking for ways to get neighbors together in big and small settings. If we can find at least 5 interested neighbors in the get together, then we will do it!

If you are interested in any of the above activities or would like to send me information or new ideas, please contact me, Alyssa Hedge, at

specialevents@nscna.org

Beautification Committee News

By Cheri Hartman

I'm so excited by the response I've been getting for the Beautification Committee. Our first meeting on Sunday, May 3, produced an abundance of ideas and narrowed our goals down to a few ongoing projects.

We are continuing our goal of adopting Pillow Park through the Austin Parks Foundation Adopt-a-Park program. This is a fantastic opportunity for our neighborhood to take a more vested ownership in the park and help improve it through volunteer work days and grant projects. We'll be planning a neighborhood get-together in the park to talk about what improvements we would like to see and what we can do as a community to work toward them. We are initially trying to get park benches, replace the exercise equipment near the eastern edge of the track, and eventually get some more picnic tables under the trees. Initial volunteer work will likely include raking gravel back into the playscapes and building a stone path to cover the dirt path from the sidewalk to the playscape by the school driveway.

Another project I'm really excited about is our Yard Mentoring Program. We'll be hosting quarterly workshops—informal gatherings with a local speaker and neighbors talking about what plants work well in the Austin climate, how to tend and replace our trees (as many are at the end of their life cycles), and ways to improve our neighborhood and reclaim green spaces.

We're trying to establish a go-to person/group for organic, native and general yard and garden help. We're also looking for volunteers to help neighbors who are unable to care for their yard due to illness or other circumstances.

We would love to hear your ideas and welcome you to participate in any of these projects or suggest your own. Please email me at beautification@nscna.org or call 751-1863.

Neighborhood Garage Sale

By Juliette Kernion

The annual NSCNA garage-sale event took place on Saturday, May 16, and was a great success ... until around 11:15 am, when a storm broke and drenched sellers and buyers alike. More than 30 homes throughout the neighborhood officially participated in the event. Each home held its own sale, and NSCNA created a flyer with a map of all the participating homes and posted signs around the perimeter of the neighborhood. At least a half-dozen other homes also held sales, and many people posted their own signs, so no one in the area could possibly have missed the event. Some neighbors banded together for a multi-family sale -- Cheri Hartman hosted a sale for several families in front of her house on Millway.

Most sales offered standard garage-sale fare: furniture, clothes, toys, and kitchen items. A few sales offered some surprises. For example, over on Sandalwood Cove, Ilene Cossey sold gourds that she had painted and decorated herself (see photo). At one home on Rockwood, a small child had his own table at one end of the yard and was selling mini candy bars. Polished stones, a Fonzie paper doll, vintage golf bags, Star Wars collectibles ... the variety was endless.

Although the rain put a stop to most sales mid-morning, traffic was brisk for about three hours. And in the late afternoon, when the storm faded to an uneven drizzle, a few houses put out their wares again and continued selling to anyone who drove by.

Special thanks to Alyssa Hedge and Cheri Hartman for helping with communication and signs, and to Sandy Perkins for loaning her open-house signs and the July 4 Parade signs to use as the framework for the garage-sale signs. No thanks to the weather ... let's hope that next year, our sale is rain-free!



Emily Palmer had high hopes for her elegant entertainment center at her garage sale on Rockwood.



Dorothy Davis on Rockwood knew the best way to sell clothes at a yard sale: hang them



At her sale on Sandalwood Cove, Ilene Cossey shows off a tree decorated with ornaments for sale, made out of small painted gourds.



Victoria Kerry on Firwood was selling a bedroom set she'd had since her college days, among other treasures.

Pillow Elementary News

By Huddie Murray

By the time you read this, school will nearly be over for the year. Hard to imagine it's gone so quickly! The Pillow community has done a lot in the past few months, and students will show their pride in their accomplishments during the next week as Award Assemblies take place. Pillow is also proud to announce that Ms. Tonya King, who has been serving as the Interim Principal this year, has been named permanent Principal at the school!

Pillow wishes to thank the Anderson HS Drumline and Drumline Cheerleaders, as well as Burnet MS Cheerleaders for performing at a Pep Rally for Pillow students just before the TAKS testing took place in April. Sharing experiences with the schools in our Vertical Team is very gratifying, and so exciting for our young students.....Speaking of a shared experience, mark your calendars for September 12, 2009, when Anderson High School will hold its first annual Trojan Fest community event. All of Anderson's feeder schools and neighbors are most heartily welcomed to this fun evening of games and great food!

And speaking of TAKS, Pillow has already heard that 100% of our Fifth Grade students have passed the Math portion of the test! We hope we are on our way to another Exemplary year! Teachers again tutored voluntarily, without pay, to help students prepare for the tests. This is vital to Pillow's continued success.

Field Days were held May 14 & 15. After Opening Ceremonies, including a healthy rap and cheers by each class, students took part in "Healthyland" activities such as "Blood Flow Tag". Pillow's P.E. teacher, Lauren Mikulencak, who was also Pillow's Teacher of the Year this year, deserves kudos for exceptional planning.

Pillow honored its volunteer designees through the Partners in Education Program. North Shoal Creek neighbor Debbie Keith is our Mentor of the Year while the Partners in Reading instructors shared the Volunteer Group of the Year Award. Volunteer of the Year was Tony Burghart and the Classified Employee Award went to our kind, hard-working Head Custodian, MaryAnn Gonzales.

Many other activities took place this spring, including "It's Hip to be Square" (square dancing), Kindergarten Circus, Kindergarten Round Up, Family Lunch days, Junior Achievement, HEB healthy partnership (Second Gr. program), UTeach, Parent Coffees, Learning Walks, and our C.A.T.C.H. Family Game Night.

As always, we thank the neighborhood for its involvement at Pillow and welcome you to become a part of the life of Pillow students again next year! Have a restful summer!

North Shoal Creek Parents Yahoo Group

By Cheri Hartman

Wondering what to do with the kids this summer? Want to meet more parents in the neighborhood? We've had so much interest in parents getting together for support, playdates and a neighborhood babysitting co-op, that we've started an additional Yahoo group:

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

This is a group for parents who live in the North Shoal Creek neighborhood. Consider it your virtual front porch, a friendly place to talk about all things kid and parenting related. We welcome parents who have children of all ages and look forward to creating friendships that move beyond the computer and into real life.

Yard of the Month Winners

April 2009

Ellie Foley

8516 Rockwood Lane

Mrs. Ellie Foley's home on 8516 Rockwood Lane was selected Yard of the Month for the month of April 2009. Favoring a natural tumble of blooms rather a formal garden, Mrs. Foley has previously been awarded Yard of the Month in 2003 and 2006. A mom to eight children and grandmother to 22 grandchildren, Mrs. Foley said, "When I stopped growing children, I started growing gardens."



May 2009

Rick Hidell

8004 Vinewood



Mr. Rick Hidell's home on 8004 Vinewood was selected Yard of the Month for the month of May 2009. Mr. Hidell has lived in the Neighborhood for 33 years and jokes that this Yard of the Month sign cost him \$10,000-\$15,000 in water, fertilizer and general lawn care. It's a good thing we live in Austin where the sunshine is free.



Congratulations to our winners.

Safety Committee Update

By Lynda Oakes

The Safety Committee is organized to communicate information regarding crime rates and prevention issues to our membership and all who live in our neighborhood. The City of Austin, APD and other groups like ours are resources that are available for use.

Historically economic downturns are quickly followed by an increase in crime rates. Two of those statistics, burglary and family violence, have a direct impact on neighborhoods and their residents. A recent download from the APD Central West District indicates that burglaries in the first quarter of 2009 have increased 35% from the first quarter of 2007

Recent home burglaries point to an organized effort on the part of the individuals who are farming this neighborhood. They have done their homework before they make a decision which house to target. They have 'previewed' the area, studied the actions of residents and determined the streets best suited for a quick escape to Mopac or 183. These burglaries are occurring during the day and probably involve a 'team' of 2 or 3.



The most commonly reported crime in this neighborhood is burglary of a vehicle. This action requires no planning, usually occurs after dark and can easily be done by one person. They are after contents left visible by the owner and electronics in or on the dash. Damage to windows and the dash are almost always a result of this crime.

There are tools to help us but the best one is communication. If you are interested in participating in the Safety committee, or if you just want to come to meetings and listen, please email safetychair@nscna.org or call Lynda Oakes at 467-7781.

We plan to have a meeting in May and are asking APD to have an officer or representative to meet with us. Other meetings will be held as frequently as needed. We will keep you informed.

Residents and Association members are finding the neighborhood Yahoo Group a great tool for timely information.

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

Krimelabb.com is another good website to explore. It allows you to search the APD database in a more user-friendly manner.

<http://www.krimelabb.com>

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.



General Meeting Summaries

March General Meeting

The March 3, 2009 General Meeting had 30 members in attendance, and Frances Hargrove spoke about the City's 3-1-1 system. See the article on page 10 for details about the interesting talk.

Helen Maham, Treasurer, gave a report on the 2008 finances, and presented the 2009 budget. The budget income is based on 60 member households (down from 158 in 2008). Questions were raised about the purpose of the CD. The question was referred to the traffic committee, namely to investigate the history of the CD and recommend a potential traffic calming use for the money.

Chip Rosenthal, Development Committee Chair, reported that the site plan for First Texas Honda (the former BMC West site) can receive administrative approval, so no public hearing is required.



Dallas Maham, Traffic Committee Chair, reported that Steck was finally being re-striped. (The new lane configuration was not marked at the time of the meeting.)

Cheri Hartman, Beautification Committee Chair, announced the recent yard of the month award at 2706 Thrushwood. A grant with Keep Austin Beautiful is being examined, as well as ways to work with the City to improve Pillow Park.

Alyssa Hedge, Social Committee Chair, discussed several ideas for neighborhood social events. The first is a coffee and taco gathering on Saturday mornings at Pillow Playground.

May General Meeting

There were 22 people at the May 5, 2009 General Meeting, and the guest speaker was A.J. Padilla, a local Austin firefighter. Station 8 at 8989 Research Blvd is our local station, and we (the public) are invited to stop by anytime for a tour—no need to call. If you have a tour group, call the Public Education Office at 974-0290 to schedule a time. Firefighters work for 24-hour shifts, living at the station for 1 day of duty, followed by 2 days off. So, a fire fighter normally works one of every three days.



One of the purposes of the visit was to explain fire truck staffing in light of the City budget talk to reduce the number of fire fighters on some trucks. Several industry associations as well as an Austin Fire Department study recommend a 4 person crew on engines for better safety and improved response. One interesting point of discussion was that Texas statute defines what is called the 2-in/2-out rule, which means two firefighters are needed to enter a building, while two more remain outside the fire. Thus, a minimum of four firefighters are needed on scene to even enter a building on fire. Of course, if there is definite knowledge that someone is inside, the fire fighters can enter to rescue the victim.

Additionally, Mr. Padilla explained that approximate 80% of calls are for medical emergencies. Accidents that require medical attention are labor intensive, requiring two or more fire fighters to attend to each victim. Based on some questions, other interesting facts were related.

- There is no city residency requirement for Austin fire fighters, and very few communities across the country have such a requirement.
- The target response time (from the 9-1-1 call to firefighters at your door) is less than six minutes.
- The fire department does not charge for a response, though the city/county EMS can bill for services.
- Speed bumps of the “speed cushion” variety do not slow down fire engines, as the wide wheelbase can straddle the cushion.
- The blue reflectors on the street mark the location of a fire hydrant, though the city street department has stopped routinely placing them in the dense portions of the city.

After the question and answer period, officer and committee reports were given.

Helene Maham, Treasurer, reported that she had filed for a refund on previous years’ tax withholding to recover it. The original mix up came from someone’s social security number being associated with our association (instead of the Federal Tax ID Number). The old bank accounts were closed and the money was transferred to Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. The reason for the transfer was poor customer service. The “traffic calming CD” was transferred to its own money market account, as the rates look better than a CD.

Lynda Oakes, new Safety Committee Chair, introduced herself. See the article on page 7 for more information about upcoming safety committee activity. Vehicle burglaries are always a concern, and these can be reduced by removing items that are visible from outside a car.

Dallas Maham, Traffic Committee Chair, distributed minutes from the recent Traffic Committee meeting. The city’s traffic calming program is on budget hold this year. Sidewalk improvements are a topic to address. Some potential traffic calming uses for “the CD” are being researched.

Cheri Hartman, Beautification Committee Chair, reported that the committee is working on a yard mentor program to bring together experienced and less-experienced neighbors. Also, a grant to improve Pillow Playground from Austin Parks Foundation is being researched. They are also looking at adopting the park.



Alyssa Hedge, Social Committee Chair, reported that the Late Night Mamas Dessert and Dish on April 30 was a success. The Pillow playdate on Saturday morning was well attended. Suggestions for other events were solicited. Juliette Kernion is organizing the neighborhood garage sale for May 16.

The Media Committee, which publishes the newsletter and maintains the website, needs help selling ads, and articles are always welcome. The next newsletter deadline will be August 1.



Ad Hoc Yahoo Guidelines -- Cheri Hartman is organizing a group of interested folks to write (and enforce) some user guidelines for the yahoo discussion group.

Candidate Forum - - Cheri Hartman and Chip Rosenthal worked with several other North Central Austin neighborhood associations to run the April 13 candidate forum. It was attended by over 150 people, and almost all the candidates participated.

The July 4th parade needs a few volunteers the day of the event. Please contact Jeff Russell at 415-9809 or president@nscna.org if you can help. We need folks to help set up tables, to judge the various parade contests, and other small commitments.



Austin 3-1-1

Jeff Russell

The guest speaker at the March 3 general meeting was Frances Hargrove, Communications Information Referral Manager with Austin's 3-1-1 system. She described the 3-1-1 service, which began receiving Austin Police Department non-emergency calls in 2001. The first Public Works call was received February 25, 2005. Currently, there are 84 agents that staff the call center 24 hours per day, seven days per week. This staff handles over 100,000 calls per month.



The City's call center is primarily funded by Austin Energy, as it redundant with Austin Energy's call center for disaster recovery purposes. The Austin Energy center is staffed nine to five on weekdays, but the City's center runs day and night. Currently, nine departments respond to 3-1-1 calls. All calls originate at the main call center, and then are routed to appropriate departments.

There are several other X-1-1 services. Emergencies are reported to 9-1-1, and any true emergency call to 3-1-1 is transferred to 9-1-1. The United Way staffs a 2-1-1 call center, which responds to social service emergencies, like counseling needs or helping people who find themselves homeless. The Call Before You Dig number is 8-1-1, which connects you to the local One Call Center to mark underground utilities. Of course, 4-1-1 is the expensive way to look up a phone number.

Some areas reserve 5-1-1 for public transit information, but not in our area. The 6-1-1 connects you to your phone company's customer service. The 7-1-1 number is reserved for the telecommunication relay service that helps deaf users make phone calls. When a TTY caller or a non-TTY user calls the relay number, the operator will dial the number he wishes to contact and relay the messages between two parties using voice and TTY. Note that only the 9-1-1 center can do a reverse address lookup, or even identify the dialed number. The 3-1-1 service cannot reverse lookup your address. Phone carriers are required to provide a 9-1-1 service, but the others are optional. For example, as of the meeting, the AT&T Uverse service does not connect to 3-1-1. The alternate direct dial number is 974-2000. Cell phone providers typically do not provide some of the alternate X-1-1 services, because the city receiving the call can be hard to determine.

The website www.austin311.org describes the over 40 services that are available. For example, if you drop your cell phone down a sewer, call 3-1-1 and a crew can be dispatched to recover it. The goal of the 3-1-1 call center is to resolve every call, so there is no time limit on calls. The City Manager supports the call center as the citizen's interface to city government. Call information is used to proactively address problems, for example graffiti. Issues are escalated as needed to resolve the problem.



Commander's Forum

By Jeff Russell

After countless excuses, I finally made the time to attend the April 7, 2009 Commander's Forum for our police district: Central West (within the North Bureau). The main focus of the meeting was to introduce the new police department organization. There are three main "bureaus", which allows resources to be shifted quickly within a fairly large area. This is currently done weekly, based on crime statistics. The hope is to do this on a 24 hour cycle with good statistics gathering.

There are several district representatives within each bureau that act as a department liaison for local concerns and follow trends in criminal activity. These police officers also conduct patrol duties. If there is an issue of concern, contact our district representative to report problems, ask for more detail, or ask for directed patrols.

Attending the forum gets your voice heard. Three residents from our neighborhood were able to voice concerns, and spoke to our district representative to arrange directed patrols. Lesson learned: your attendance will have direct impact on your concerns.

The big crime prevention tip of the night: don't leave items visible in your car. A thief can break in and take the stuff in less than 5 seconds. Don't tempt a thief.

Just in case things are stolen, write down identifying information. If the police recover stolen articles, you need to prove it is yours to have it returned. Write down serial numbers, and report them in the event of a theft. Also, consider engraving or writing some identifying information on your "stuff". If stolen, you can report the identifying marks, and it will be entered in a database--just in case it is recovered. For example, you could write your driver's license number on CDs you keep in your car. If recovered, the police can search the database, determine the owner, and it can be returned to you.



Lastly, help with speeding traffic. Incidents can be reported to the district representative, who can track trends. If things are bad, the police have three tools: (1) a white trailer "you are speeding" sign that flashes current speed, (2) recording equipment to measure vehicle speeds over a period of time, and (3) enforcement by a live officer. The "speed sign" attempts to remind drivers they are speeding. The recording devices analyze a problem, and police officer enforcement is a short term solution. On an interesting note, most neighborhood speeding enforcement catches neighborhood residents.

If you are interested in staying abreast of police and crime information specific to our side of town, join the Central District Command yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/centralwestdr/>. Then you can get updates and reminders straight from the source!



Burnet Middle School News

By Nancy Owens, Theater Arts teacher

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!

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, re-paved 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.

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 would you would like to donate time or talent to the BMS Fine Arts Department, please contact Mrs. Owens at 841-8230.

We are very proud of our talent at Burnet. The following students made All-City Band: Lauren Anderson, Kernetta Owens, Andrey Diaz, Jasmine Ortiz, and Devon Zene. These students performed at the All-City Middle School and High School Concert at the Burger Center on April 23rd. It was a great event.

Burnet Students Win Texas Media Award! Seven Burnet Young Filmmakers wrote, directed and starred in a series of short films to promote positive behavior on campus. On April 2 at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference in Houston, Texas, Young Filmmaker's co-sponsor and BMS Librarian, Shelby Counts, accepted the First Place Texas Media Award in the video category for the film compilation, "BMS Superheroes." Together with Young Filmmaker's co-sponsor and BMS Theatre Arts Teacher, Nancy Owens, Ms. Counts then hosted a special screening of the award-winning film in the BMS Library on Monday, April 13th, complete with a red carpet & popcorn.

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and success:

- Selena Aguero (8th Grade – not pictured)
- Jesus Arriaga (6th Grade)
- Octavia Brown (6th Grade)
- Victoria Walters-Rios (6th Grade)
- Oscar Wheeler (6th Grade)
- Ijumah Williams (7th Grade)
- Devon Zene (7th Grade)





**Residents of North Shoal Creek
Neighborhood**

We want you!

**To bring your family and come to the
Annual July 4th Parade from 9:30am
until 11:30am on the park grounds of
Pillow Elementary**

**Enjoy snow cones, bottles of water, a moonwalk, a well known face
Painter, a balloon twister, and visiting with your neighbors!**

If you like, bring a lawn chair to watch

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes given for:

Best Decorated Stroller

Best Decorated Tricycle

Best Decorated Bike

Best Dressed Dog

Best Sidewalk Chalk Art

Best Entertainers

and to listen to the National Anthem performed live at 9:40am

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY



North Village Branch-Austin Public Library
2505 Steck Avenue

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009

9:00 a.m. Musical Entertainment and Food!
10:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



For more information, call (512) 974-7400
or visit www.cityofaustin.org/library



Girl Scout Update

By Chandi Wagner

School is starting again, with all the excitement that comes with it! Girl Scout troops are also forming in your area, and girls entering Kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to join!

You may be thinking... "I don't have a daughter" or, "My kids are grown," or even "I wonder if that would be a good fit for my daughter?". We are looking for adults of all types to work with girls in programs that range from four weeks to year-round. Volunteers can work with girls of any age, and free training is provided.

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For more information contact Chandi Wagner at 490-2331 or chandiw@gscsx.org (se habla español).
www.gscsx.org





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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