

NEIGHBORHODD

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Calendar

8/29	Neighborhood Bowling at Highland Lanes
9/7	NSCNA General Meeting, Pillow Elementary
10/5	National Night Out
10/11	Board of Directors Meeting, North Village Library

10/23 Lawn Game Fiesta, Pillow Soccer Field

Visit our neighborhood calendar at www.nscna.org/calendar

Connect Online

Keep up with neighborhood news between newsletters. Visit our website and join your neighbors on our NSCNA email discussion list.

NSCNA website - nscna.org NSCNA email discussion list nscna.org/discuss

Neighborhood Cost Sharing

by Kate Brien



This year, Austin neighborhoods have their first opportunity to participate in the Neighborhood

Cost Share Program (NCSP). The NCSP stems from Austin City Council Resolution No. 20090924-72, which passed in September 2009. The NCSP provides an opportunity for the city and neighborhoods to work together to develop and carry out neighborhood improvement projects that involve city-owned property or areas that are in the city's right of way.

Neighborhoods can choose to work with the NCSP on small projects that cost less than \$75,000 (such as tree planting) or medium projects that cost between \$75,000 and \$150,000 (such as new playgrounds). Neighborhoods are expected to provide at least 25 percent of the total project cost "through cash contributions, the market value of in-kind services, or a reasonable estimate of donated labor ('sweat equity')."

Neighborhoods interested in participating in the NCSP must submit a non-binding letter of intent to the City that includes the general project, the estimated cost and the ability to provide at least 25 percent of the total project cost. The letters

of intent are reviewed on a quarterly basis. After city officials vet the letters of intent, qualified neighborhoods will receive invitations to officially apply to the NCSP. At this point, invited neighborhoods can decide if they want to submit official applications. City officials will then review official applications.

The City expects to approve 10-12 small project programs and 4-7 medium project programs each fiscal year. City officials will work with approved neighborhoods to develop and implement the projects. Please refer to the President's Corner on page 2 about one project our neighborhood is considering.

For more information regarding the NCSP, please visit http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/downloads/npp_program_document2.pdf and http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/npdocuments.htm.



North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News

is published bimonthly by the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association (NSCNA)

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Alyssa Hedge

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President's Corner



by Chip Rosenthal

What would you do if you had \$30,000 to spend to make our neighborhood

a better place? That's not an academic question. It's something our association has to address.

In 1998, the neighborhood reached a development agreement with Town North Autoplex that provided \$25,000 for "neighborhood traffic calming efforts or any other neighborhood project." Attempts for traffic calming projects stalled when the city withdrew for lack of funds. Our funds have remained in a reserved account, gathering interest.

A new City of Austin initiative, the Neighborhood Cost Sharing Program (NCSP), provides an opportunity to leverage these funds for significant work. Please read Kate Brien's article for information on the NSCP.

There are numerous ways we could spend this money. A few of the possible projects that come to mind are sidewalk improvements, traffic calming, and Pillow Playground features. I wish we could do all of it, but we can't. Improvement projects are expensive. We need to identify what will bring the neighborhood the most benefit for the money.

In June, the NSCNA Board of Directors voted to form a committee that will develop a proposal for sidewalk improvements. Over the coming months we'll discuss what that project could look like, and whether that seems like a good way to spend our money. We'll talk about this at our next General Meeting.

If you'd like to participate in this effort, please join the NCSP Special Committee. Contact Committee Chair Kate Brien at mathqueen99@gmail.com or Chip at 512-573-5174.

General Meeting, September 7

Please join us for the September General Membership Meeting. Don't think of it as another boring meeting — think of it as an opportunity for neighborhood improvements such as safer streets and more trees.

Here are some of the topics we expect to cover:

Steck Ave. Restriping - The restriping was done as an "experiment," and the city wants our input on whether we want to keep it or turn it back. A representative from the city

Neighborhood Connectivity Division is scheduled to attend.

Neighborhood Cost Sharing Program - As discussed elsewhere in this issue, this project could result in the largest monetary investment this association has ever made in this neighborhood.

Urban Forestry Grant Program - The Beautification Committee has prepared an application to get grant funds for tree planting in the neighborhood. This needs membership review and approval.

Bond Election and Anderson Trail Project

by Kevin Wier

The latest Development Committee update concerns the City of Austin transportation bond election in November and the Anderson Trail project.

Transportation Bond Election

The city will hold a bond election this November for transportation-related projects. The \$90 million bond package will be split about 60/40 between road projects and bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects. The most famous of the pedestrian projects in the bond package is the proposed "boardwalk" extension of the hike-and-bike trail around Lady Bird Lake, east of Congress Avenue. Bonds for expanding our light rail system were originally considered but are not included in this bond election

Anderson Trail Project

The city created a list of transportation projects to be funded by these proposed bonds. One project that NSCNA joined others in requesting for the project list is the Anderson Trail Project, a plan for a walking/bike path from Ashdale Drive to Anderson Lane.

The benefit to NSCNA of this one-block path would be an easier and safer path for neighborhood residents to the retail stores on Anderson Lane. The project would improve an existing path already in use by pedestrians walking north or south between Ashdale and Anderson Lane. The proposed improved path would run along the east side of the Village shopping center, with about half its length beside the new Office Depot on Anderson Lane. The project would include a paved path and safety features such as nighttime lighting. The trail would continue down Northcross Boulevard and Foster Lane

over to Shoal Creek Boulevard, safely connecting two neighborhoods and the retail shopping in between.

NSCNA members passed a resolution to support this path in 2009. It would give us greater transportation options and could help reduce traffic and pollution in our neighborhood.

The city has considered funding many citizen-nominated mobility projects, but there is not enough money to fund them all. We are happy to report this project was rated highly enough to make it into the final list for funding consideration. We have worked to promote the trail with Sustainable Neighborhoods of North Austin, who have been instrumental in moving this forward. Let's extend our thanks to Steven Zettner and the rest of the Sustainable Neighborhoods group.

National Night Out

Once a year, neighbors across Austin (and other communities) gather at local block parties. It's called National Night Out, and the 27th Annual National Night Out will take place on October 5. Hosting a block party is easy and fun —



and it's a great way to meet your neighbors. Our association is compiling a list of neighborhood block parties.

If you'd like to host one or have questions, contact Andreas Guenin at nightout@nscna.org or 512-524-7633. For more information, read the article on our website: http://www.nscna.org/?p=1371



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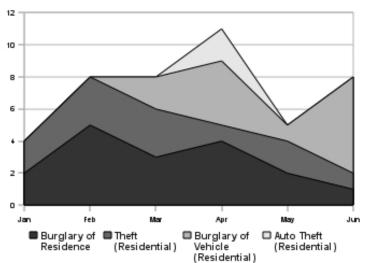
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Neighborhood Safety

by Chip Rosenthal

Crime Trends

Last issue's safety column had good news and bad news. This month, it's better news and not-so-great news. The updated crime statistics, as of June, are shown in the graph below. It shows that residential theft and burglary (the lower two lines) were down again in June, with only two incidents. Automotive burglary, however, is still high, with six incidents in June.



Bottom line is that crooks aren't breaking into our houses so much, but they are coming after our cars. That's bad – but you can take some simple steps to protect your car: remove valuables and lock the doors.

Please continue to be alert about what's happening on your street. If something "doesn't feel right," call 911.

Safety Committee

Our Safety Committee had its first meeting in July. To be notified of future meetings, contact Chip Rosenthal at safetychair@nscna.org or 512-573-5174.



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Correction: We inadvertently misspelled the Jackoskie's name in our June-July newsletter. We regret the error and congratulate them again on being awarded the Yard of the Month.

Upcoming Social Committee Games & Events

by Alyssa Hedge

The NSCNA Social Committee is looking forward to our upcoming social gatherings, listed below. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Bowling at Highland Lanes

When: Sunday, August 29, 9:30 am - noon Where: Highland Lanes, 8909 Burnet Road

Join us as we take advantage of Highland Lanes' great Sunday morning bowling special: \$7/person for unlimited bowling and shoe rental. We will arrive at 9:30 am, — bowl as many games with us as you like! Bumpers available for the kiddos and shoe sizes fit from a child's size 8

Hazardous Waste Collection for Elderly and Disabled When: September – Specific date TBD

The Hazardous Waste Facility will come out to our neighborhood and collect hazardous waste items from the homes of any interested elderly and disabled residents. If you would like to be included in this pickup, please email or phone Alyssa Hedge (info at end of article). We will have 15 spots available. After the facility has

assigned us our day, I will contact everyone who has responded.

Outdoor Lawn Game Fiesta at Pillow

When: Saturday, October 23, 10 am - 2 pm

Where: Large green field behind Pillow Elementary

We will assemble as many popular outdoor games for all ages as we can: washers, ladder golf (which Lois taught many of us at the Independence Day event), croquet, Frisbee, badminton and others. Come on out, enjoy the cool fall weather, and try your hand at some or all of these games. We will have folks stationed at each game to teach you how to play and keep score. Or feel free to just watch and chat.

If you have an outdoor lawn game that you would like to loan for this event, we would really appreciate it. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to teach people various games, keep score and answer questions, and would love your help.

For more information or to volunteer/RSVP for any of these events, email Alyssa at socialchair@nscna.org or call her at 512-380-9616.





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SHARON GODBEY Office Manager



INDEPENDENCE DAY

A North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association celebration of fun,















10th ANNUAL PARADE

family, friends, neighbors, patriotism, classic games and snow cones







Celebration, Freedom and Remembrance

This year marks our 10th annual North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Independence Day Parade and Celebration. A crowd of families, neighbors and friends gathered at Pillow Elementary for a parade around the school and enjoyed a fun-filled morning of face painting, balloon animals, old-fashioned games of washers and ladders, snow cones, decorated ride competitions and a chance to relax and reconnect with each other.

Children celebrated our nation's freedom with chalk artwork, and two neighbors honored the memory of Sgt. Byron Norwood, Jorge Hubler and all the other brave soldiers who have served our country.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who volunteered their time, hard work and dedication. Please see page 9 for a list of those who helped.

photo credits: Cheri Hartman and Juliette Kernion



Landscape Rebates and Tree Grant Proposals

by Sharon Justice

If you've been thinking of replacing grass in your yard with a low-water alternative, this could be a good time to do it. On July 1, the City of Austin launched its Landscape Conversion Incentive Program that rebates \$20 for every 100 sq. ft. converted from turf to native landscape, and \$30 for every 100 sq. ft. converted from turf to a non-irrigated landscape such as gravel, crushed granite, mulch or a rock garden. A minimum of 500 sq. ft. must be converted. Applications are accepted from December through February for spring installation and from June through August for fall installation. For more information and to download a copy of the application form, visit http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/landscapeconversion.htm or call 512-974-2199.

The Beautification Committee is working on a grant proposal to submit to the City of Austin's Urban Forest Grant Program. We're requesting money to purchase and plant trees to mitigate our neighborhood's urban heat island effect, which, bounded as we are by commercial development and freeways, is likely



to be considerable. We're also asking for money to hire a certified arborist to assess where it'll be most effective to plant the trees. For additional information on this grant program, including grant restrictions on where trees can be planted, go to http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/ufgp.htm.

If the grant proposal is approved, we'll need volunteers to help publicize the grant and to prepare for and coordinate planting. If we receive approval early this fall, planting could happen in late fall or early winter. The Beautification Committee will provide more information on the grant if the proposal is approved.



Sandy Perkins, Your Neighborhood Realtor www.AustinsOwnRealtor.com sandy.perkins@yahoo.com

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Thank You for Helping Make Our Independence Day Parade a Success

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Neighborhood Email List

by Cheri Hartman

Did you know our neighborhood has an online mailing list? The NSCNA email discussion list, also known as the Yahoo Group, is open to anyone living in the North Shoal Creek area. It's a great way to share news and information quickly with neighbors.

To join the list, you must first register as a Yahoo user if you aren't already, at https://edit.yahoo.com/registration. Yahoo users can go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nscna/ and click the **Join the Group!** button.

Here's what some North Shoal Creek neighbors have to say about the email list:

"The email group gives me the feeling that we really are a community, and not just a bunch of people who happen to live close to each other." - Lalena Fisher

"The NSCNA Yahoo Group has really come in handy. It's a way for neighbors to communicate quickly and effectively about neighborhood issues and opportunities." - Ken Moyer

Membership Committee Survey Results

by the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee would like to thank all NSCNA members who participated in our membership survey at the May 4 general meeting. We also thank members randomly selected from the 2010 membership roster who returned the survey by mail. Fifteen members completed surveys at the meeting, and another 29 responded by mail, for a total of 44 participants. Participants were asked to identify the importance of various issues in a decision to join NSCNA.

Top 10 Priorities from the May 4 General Meeting (15 Responses out of 30 Attendees)

- 1. Crime Prevention and Alert Notifications
- 2. Volume and Speed of Traffic
- 3. Monitoring Commercial Development
- 4. NSCNA Newsletter
- 5. Access to Board Meetings and Meeting Agendas
- 6. Organizing Neighborhood Watch Patrols
- 7. Expenditure of \$25,000 Nissan Funds
- 8. Sidewalk Repair & Maintenance
- 9. July 4th Celebration
- 10. Expenditure of Membership Household Dues

Top 10 Priorities from the Return Mail Surveys (29 Responses out of 48 Households)

- 1. Crime Prevention and Alert Notifications
- 2. Volume and Speed of Traffic
- 3. Monitoring Commercial Development
- 4. Sidewalk Repair & Maintenance
- 5. NSCNA Newsletter
- 6. Organizing a Block Captain System
- 7. Organizing Neighborhood Watch Patrols
- 8. Expenditure of \$25,000 Nissan Funds
- 9. Expenditure of Interest on \$25,000
- 10. National Night Out

To read a complete list of all results or receive a copy of the survey, please contact a member of the Membership Committee at Membership@nscna.org. Again, thanks to everyone for sharing your comments and ideas.

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First Day of School Is Just Around the Corner

By Huddie Murray

It seems like summer just started, but Anderson High School, Burnet Middle School and Pillow Elementary will soon be buzzing with activity again. The first day of school this year is Monday, August 23, but schools will become busy with registration and other details weeks before that date.

Mark your calendars for the second annual Trojan Spirit Fest on Saturday, August 28, from 5 to 8:30 pm, at Anderson High School. This carnival/pep rally/fundraiser was a big hit last year, and this year there's even more reason to celebrate as Anderson was recently ranked in the nation's top 2% of high schools by Newsweek. Great family-friendly activities and

plenty of food will be available all evening, and the night will end with a pep rally at 7:45 pm.

Because of its incredible growth last year — over 120 new students during 2009-10 — Pillow gained another portable building for this school year. Please keep our growing population in mind as you navigate the streets around the campus once school starts. Safety first!

If you are looking for a way to help your neighborhood school, think about assisting our teachers with some of their Wish List items. Teachers are regularly using their own funds to provide extras for their students. Some of their needs include plastic school boxes, black and white composition notebooks, pencil pouches and wooden rulers. If you'd like to learn more about helping, contact Huddie Murray at 841-4837. Thanks for your support!

Pillow Wish List Items

- plastic school boxes
- b&w composition books
- pencil pouches for binders
- · wooden rulers
- · colored pencils
- fat crayons & fat pencils (for the younger students)
- · large pink erasers
- good yellow pencils (not Eagle brand)
- clipbooards with flat clasps
- individual rolls of Scotch tape (not refills)
- Jumbo plastic zip bags (larger than a gallon)

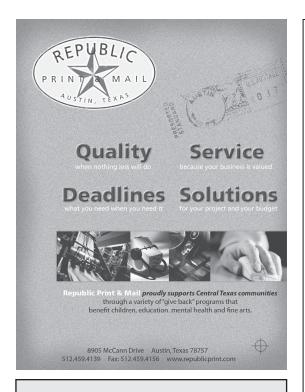


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