



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

December 2010

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Calendar

Jan. 4 NSCNA General Meeting, Pillow Elementary

We will be voting on the 2011 NSCNA Board of Directors at the January 4 meeting. Only NSCNA members may vote. Please join. Please vote.

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

Development Updates

by Kevin Wier

The Development Committee has been focusing on three issues lately: the Anderson Urban Trail project, the proposed RV Park for homeless persons, and the latest news on the City of Austin master plan progress.

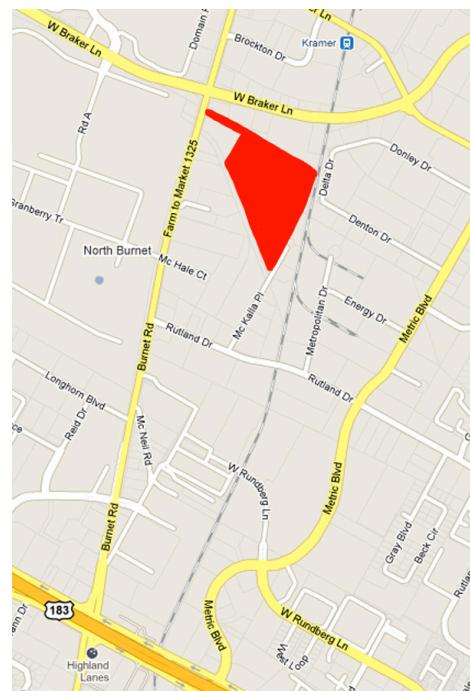
1. Anderson Trail Project

The Anderson Trail Project is a plan to make a walking/bike path along the creek between Anderson Lane and Ashdale Drive. The path would create a continuous safe connection from Ashdale to Anderson. This would allow a safe walking/ bike path from our neighborhood to Anderson Lane, then down Northcross Blvd and Foster to Shoal Creek Blvd. Hundreds of households would be able to walk or ride safely to area destinations, instead of adding traffic to a congested area.

According to Annick Beaudet of the City of Austin, the recently passed transportation bonds may have money available to fund this project. The next steps for learning if funding is available for this project is for the city council to release the money, which will happen in a couple of weeks. Then, city staff will start the process of dividing up the money to various projects. One thing we can do as a neighborhood to help increase our chances of this project actually happening is to apply for a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife to fund a feasibility study

on the project. This is required by the city, and if we can provide it to the city at no cost, it will make the project easier and cheaper for the city to execute. A Montopolis group recently received this grant and study for a similar trail project, according to Annick. The Development Committee will pursue this.

2. Proposed RV Trailer Park for Homeless People



We are listed on a task force that the city will meet with to discuss issues and objections to the proposed sites for this RV park. The city doesn't plan to meet with this task force until January.

(continued on page 7)

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News

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by the North Shoal Creek
Neighborhood Association (NSCNA)

EDITOR: Cheri Hartman
DISTRIBUTION: Andreas Guenin
Alyssa Hedge

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Andreas Guenin, Sharon Justice, Juliette Kernion, Huddie Murray, Kevin Wier, Roger Wines, and everyone else who helped make this newsletter possible.

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President's Corner



by Chip Rosenthal

Our neighborhood association has enjoyed a number of achievements in

2010. Our books are balanced, our membership is up, crime is down, and we've kicked off some new initiatives. What may be our biggest 2010 achievement, however, is not yet complete. The sidewalk repair project, and the accompanying Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) grant effort, are still underway. I hope that in 2011, this association gives this project the attention it deserves, so we can reap the benefits we deserve.

We put a lot of work into this project in 2010. The NPP Special Committee and Chair Kate Brien should be recognized for their efforts to keep neighbors informed and to create opportunities for neighbors to get their concerns reflected in the process.

We deliberated this project at our neighborly best. This could have been a very divisive process, but it wasn't. Money decisions are hard. Big money decisions are even harder. Big money decisions with a decade of history behind them are insanely difficult. I'm proud of the work we've done, especially considering those pitfalls.

I don't think it's realistic to assume

that everybody is going to agree on a difficult decision such as this one. I do believe, however, it's important that every member feels that they've been given a fair opportunity to participate in the process, and that their input was seriously considered.

Two things tell me this process was successful. First, our NPP proposal changed as it was discussed. I think that reflected a desire to hone in on a consensus position that most neighbors could support. Second, the proposal was approved decisively by the membership, with over two-thirds of members at the special meeting voting in favor.

That was a big accomplishment, but we have a lot more work to do. The next milestone after the proposal was to receive a formal invitation from the City for us to apply for an NPP grant, and that has happened. We will need to work as a neighborhood to develop the very best plan we can – and negotiate with the City the very best deal we can get. And finally, successfully monitor the project.

At this time, Public Works has started doing some badly needed sidewalk work in our neighborhood. We will, of course, coordinate with that effort to ensure our funds are used in the way that best benefits our neighborhood.

All this work is happening now – and will continue through 2011.

Dillo Dirt – It's Made of Christmas Trees

For City of Austin garbage customers, recycling a Christmas tree is as easy as setting it on the curb. Beginning Dec. 27, 2010, Solid Waste Services will pick up all trees with yard trimmings on regularly scheduled collection days. Then, they are recycled to make "Dillo Dirt."

For more information about Christmas Tree Recycling, please call 3-1-1.

Letter from the Editor

This is both my first and last Letter from the Editor. I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to share neighborhood news with you and hope you have appreciated the increased frequency of the NSCNA newsletters. It has been at times both a difficult and rewarding job, and I have many people to thank. Without the generous help of these volunteers, creating this newsletter would have been impossible.

I am most especially grateful to Juliette Kernion, Chip Rosenthal and Andreas Guenin. They have contributed their time, commiseration, and efforts above and beyond in proofing, ad sales, and distribution respectively. Jeff Hartman provided additional help with proofing and Sherran Williams enthusiastically made many sales. Alyssa Hedge created our neighborhood distribution system, and if not for her and our wonderful distributors, we would not be able to deliver newsletters to your door. I would also like to extend my appreciation to our former editors Chris Jones and Sandy Perkins.

with much gratitude - Cheri Hartman



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Nominating Committee Calls for Volunteers

by Evelin Vorzimer

Here we are, close to the end of another year and full of desires, dreams and expectations for the coming year. In that spirit, we would like to invite you to participate more actively in our neighborhood association. We need you.

In January we will have our annual election. We are looking for individuals who appreciate working with others, who have a strong sense of community and who enjoy making a difference.

We are looking for people to fill four officer positions: president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, as well as members of the Board of Directors. We envision a diverse group, aiming for the best interest of our community.

If you are interested, please contact Nominating Committee Chair, Evelin Vorzimer at evorzimmer@austin.rr.com or at (512) 371-0983.

Please include a brief statement addressing the following points:

1. Where and how long you have lived in the neighborhood
2. Describe your past involvement in NSCNA, if any.
3. Your thoughts about priorities for NSCNA.
4. Committees you're interested in. Current committees: Membership, Media, Bylaws, Beautification, Development, Safety, Social, Traffic, Nominating (in the Fall), Election, (for January meeting).
5. What you want the membership to know about you.

The members of this year's nominating committee are Sherran Williams, Jerry Horn, John Migl, Kevin Wier and Evelin Vorzimer (chair).

The NSCNA will have its annual election meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. At that meeting, any NSCNA member can nominate a candidate from the floor, including themselves, with or without a candidate statement.

We are excited about the new possibilities, so please join us in this new journey.

Year-End Traffic Review

Transportation issues have been very mixed for our neighborhood in 2010.

We received a one-year report from the City of Austin on the Steck Avenue restriping project. This project converted Steck from two lanes in each direction to one lane with a center turn lane and bike lanes. This configuration was an experiment, pending final results. The results reported by the City in its one-year report were encouraging. In September, NSCNA unanimously voted to send a request to the City to make this configuration permanent.

Parking at the monthly rollerderby event at Playland Skate Center has been a greater problem this year than in years past. This has impacted neighbors on Thrushwood and

nearby streets. The rollerderby personnel, unfortunately, were not cooperative. The issue is now irrelevant, however, because the derby is moving to the Austin Convention Center next year.

We have asked the City to re-stripe Rockwood with bike lanes. They said the street doesn't have enough room to accommodate both bike lanes and on-street parking. We've asked the City to look at the need for additional stop signs on Rockwood, but the traffic surveys did not support this.

Neighbors have been reporting increasing traffic concerns. Some of the trouble spots include cut-through traffic on Primrose/Thrushwood, and speeding traffic on Rockwood. These issues will need added attention in 2011.

Media Committee

The Media Committee had a very busy 2010. Our goal was to provide you with more news throughout the year, and I believe we succeeded in this goal. We have made the news more accessible to you, both in print and online. Our website has renewed focus on the blog posts of meetings, news, and events. With community input, we updated the NSCNA Email Discussion List and saw membership grow in our online community.

We are most proud of this newsletter. It is now delivered bi-monthly, and we are able to deliver more neighborhood news to your doorstep with the help of our amazing volunteers. The newsletter's ad revenue substantially exceeded our goals for the year. Thanks to everyone who helped spread the news in our community!

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Safety Committee Year-End Report for NSC

by Chip Rosenthal

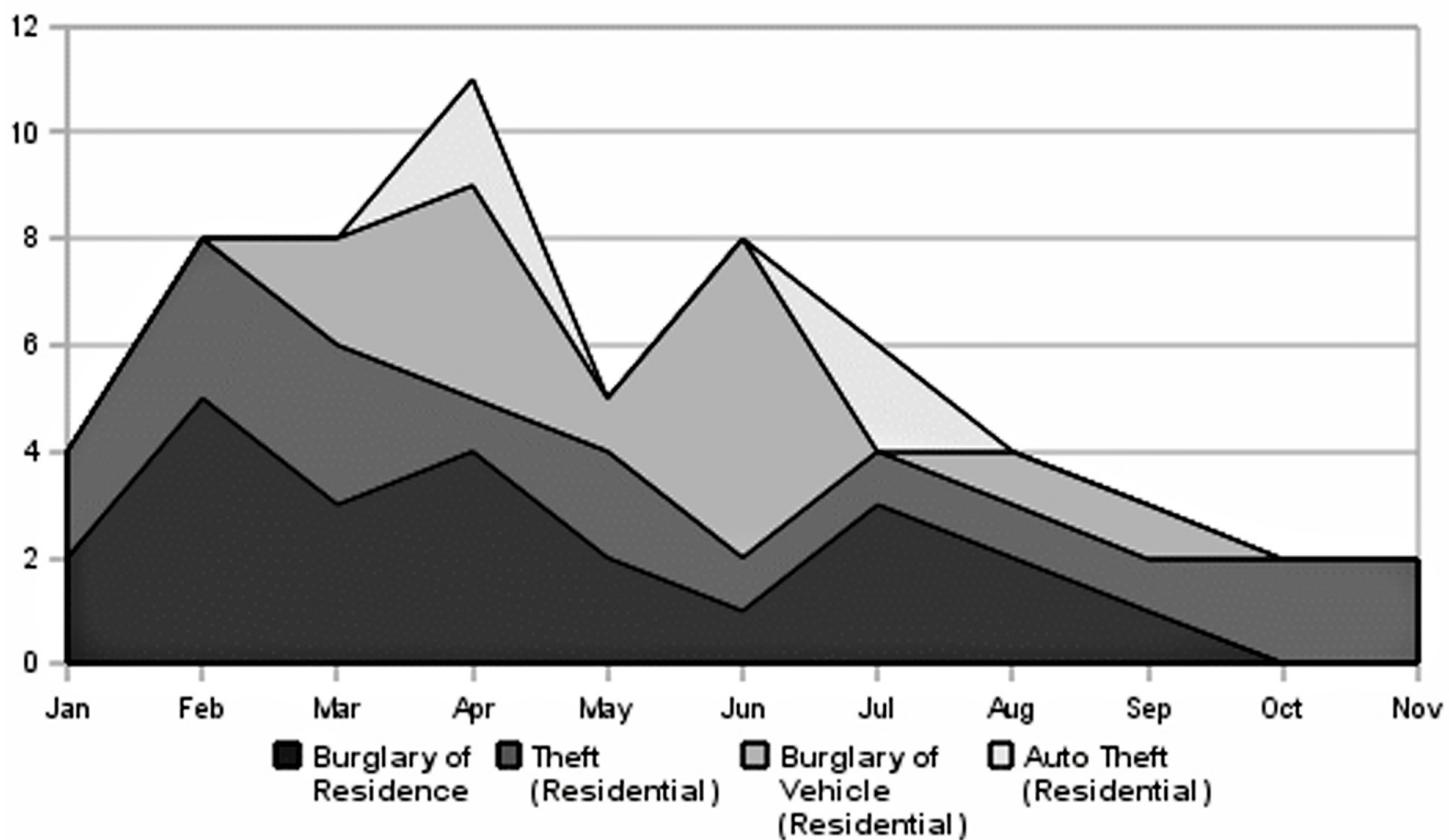
Neighborhood crime has been on a downward trend throughout the year. The most recent data shows even further improvement. In October and November, for the first time in 2010, no reported vehicular thefts or burglaries at a residential address were reported in our neighborhood. There were two incidents of theft at a residential address in October (88XX Shoal Creek, 82XX Rockwood), and another two in November (27XX Thrushwood, 31XX Steck).

When we started 2010, crime was one of the largest concerns in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood association has

focused on gathering information and outreach. We've tracked the crime data through the year, and shared information to help keep our families and property safe.

Our neighborhood had a very successful National Night Out on October 5. NSCNA encouraged individual residents to hold block parties. We posted information on six block parties to our website. Emergency Services came to our neighborhood and visited many of the parties.

We hope these efforts continue in 2011 to build on the improvements of this past year. This work is helping build the safe and comfortable neighborhood we want.



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Beautification News

by Sharon Justice

The Beautification Committee's major project this year was a grant proposal to the City of Austin's Urban Forest Grant Program. Our proposal, which requested \$7,000 to buy and plant trees to combat our neighborhood's heat island effect and \$2,400 for a survey to determine the best locations to plant the trees, was approved by the NSCNA membership at the September 7 meeting and submitted to the City in October.

The City has reviewed and approved our application for funding. Now, the neighborhood association board will review and approve the project agreement with the City. After that, we will hire an arborist to survey our neighborhood trees, and make the planting recommendation.

The Beautification Committee also provided information to neighbors on Austin Energy's tree-trimming policy and activities in our neighborhood. In the past, some residents have been surprised and dismayed at the extent of pruning and, in some cases, tree removal done by Austin Energy to protect electric lines. Information was posted online and in our newsletter so residents would know their rights as property owners when Austin Energy's crews arrived.

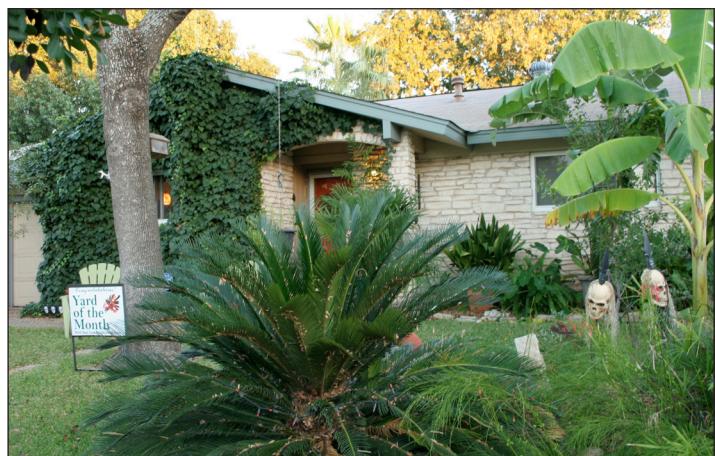
We received several excellent suggestions for future Beautification Committee projects: xeriscaping and adding solar-powered lighting to the area around the Allandale Estates sign; conducting an annual clean-up at Pillow Playground; adding amenities to Pillow Playground; converting the water retention pond on Benbrook into a pocket park; converting the open space across Shoal Creek from KVUE into a pocket park; painting and sprucing up the bridge over Shoal Creek at Crosscreek; and helping homebound neighbors with lawn care.

These are all good projects that would benefit our neighborhood. What we need are more people with the enthusiasm and determination to take on these projects and see them through to completion. If you are willing to champion a beautification-related project, we'd love for you to join the committee. Send an email to beautification@nscna.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yards of the Month



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October's Winner - 8705 Dawnridge Circle



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(continued from page 1)

Overview of Proposed RV Park at North Burnet Rd. and Braker Lane (10414 McKalla Place)

A nonprofit organization called Mobile Loaves and Fishes (MLF) wants to build an RV/trailer park on city-owned property to hold 100 RV's and trailers and permanently house "chronically homeless" people.

This Burnet/Braker location is one of two locations the city is considering. The city would lease the land to MLF for \$1/year.

The city has said this proposed project is part of their plan to deal with the 1,000 permanently homeless people living in Austin. This would not be a "fix and return" model, but a place for people to live permanently. The goal of Mobile Loaves and Fishes is to give these people dignity and get them off the streets.

The City of Austin said the final decision on this project will be made by City Council in a public meeting after the new year -- January at the earliest but probably later.

Chronically homeless people living in the proposed

project would undergo a background screening. No registered sex offenders would be admitted. "Chronically homeless" by definition means people have a physical, mental or addiction disability. No families or children would live in the proposed project. Rules of conduct will be established for living in the project, but Mobile Loaves and Fishes cannot stop the inhabitants from panhandling. Site features would include counseling services, a food pantry, medical clinic, a garden and chickens for the residents to raise some of their own food.

The City of Austin says no zoning changes are needed for the property.

3. City of Austin New Master Plan update

The Development Committee has a multimedia presentation from the city that outlines various growth planning scenarios and associated impacts and costs. We will announce a meeting in January to show this presentation to interested members of the neighborhood. The city is taking citizen feedback on these scenarios, and should ultimately choose one scenario to use as a guide for developing the new master plan.

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Spotlight on Our Neighbors - The Wines

by Roger Wines

We accidentally located in this neighborhood when we moved back to Austin in 1969, in a race to find a house before the furniture arrived from Kentucky. We previously lived on Woodview and were familiar with this area, so we bought an almost new home (lived-in for only six months). My memories tell me that before being developed, most of the neighborhood was a farmer's field that would become a lake with heavy rains.

We've always felt this was a very favorable neighborhood, especially with the conveniences close by. Our four children could walk to all grade levels of school, and it was close enough to shops, recreation, and the church of our choosing. We could get to any other area of the city in a matter of minutes.

One of my key remembrances is the time a two-vehicle collision ended up in our garage, destroying that portion of the house, the computer, and other items, and putting six persons in the hospital.

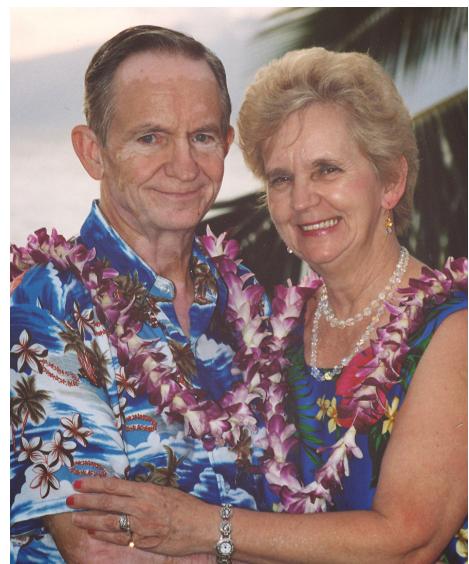
Another memorable thing—even though it's been gone for 19 years—was our one-of-a-kind, four-door, purple 1-ton pickup, often a landmark for those passing through our neighborhood. An especially notable incident occurred when Jeri and I arrived back in town to find the pickup, complete with several protesting teenagers, featured on the television news riding around the AISD headquarters in rejection of bussing students to distant schools.

Time has passed and the kids have moved on. I've retired from IBM Jeri is about to retire from management

with Cavender's Boot City. Together we have operated our own audio-video business and our Amway Distributorship business (40+ years and still growing), along with the AMSoil Distributorship.

Recently Jeri was elected as President of the Greater Austin Area United States Bowling Congress, and also accepted an appointment as a director of the Texas State USBC. In June she bowled (as usual) in several tournaments, including the national tournament, placing third in the singles event and placing in doubles, team and all-events. Immediately following all that bowling, she had a full knee replacement on July 21. If she can do that good bowling with a bad knee, I wonder what she might do with two good ones.

Personally, I spend most of my time volunteering to help make the neighborhood, city, state, and nation a safer place by working in numerous emergency preparedness organizations, mostly under Homeland Security Emergency Management. I currently serve as the Austin Community Emergency Response Teams Board Chairman. I am the recipient of the President's



on vacation in Hawaii

Life-Time award for over 4000 hours volunteering, beginning long ago as an Amateur Radio Operator, starting in 1952, (call sign W5WIA).

Both of us have served in various positions within the neighborhood including PTA Treasurer, NSCNA board and past president, and helped develop and work with the Boy Scout organizations. NSCNA has survived and become what it is today through the willingness of our neighbors to cooperate and volunteer when called upon, and we need to continue to work together going forward.

Membership Committee Says Thank You

Thanks to everyone who joined NSCNA in 2010. We had a good response from our neighbors this year, as 143 households paid their membership dues. For 2010, NSCNA actually has 237 individual members. Fifty-two single member households are included in the total 143 households. Sixteen of the 143 households joined through PayPal. Nine households have already paid their membership dues for 2011.

In 2009, NSCNA had a total of 78 household members. Our goal for the 2010 budget was 86 households, so we surpassed our goal by 57! Thanks to all for your continuing support of NSCNA in 2011.

Pillow Elementary: Sharing School News

by Huddie Murray

It's hard to believe that the first semester is nearly over. We have already had several exciting and educational events, including our recent Multicultural Social Studies Night on December 2. Highlighting the evening were the Potluck Dinner with food from many nations, and our multicultural fashion and talent show. The evening showcased our true diversity at Pillow. "We all smile in the same language!"

Thanks to you neighbors, especially Vicki McFadden, for co-sponsoring the Coats for Kids Drive this year! We had a great response and hope to continue this kind of partnership in other endeavors.

The Student Council sponsored our annual Giving Thanks Food Drive in November. Egged on by a class contest won by Ms. Rech's Fifth Grade students, nearly 2,300 pounds of non-perishable food were collected and donated to the food pantry at St. Louis Church. We also celebrated our Thanksgiving Family Lunch Day on November 18. The Pillow Library held its

annual Book Fair from December 6 - 12 and included weekend hours for families and neighbors to visit. And speaking of books, Half Price Books has donated many books for our morning reading program. Pillow was also proud to support the neighbors' efforts in helping the local public library branch with the Library Benefit Sale on December 4.

On Wednesday, December 15, students performed in the annual Winter Holiday Program. On that same day, the children also celebrated their Winter Holiday Parties and PTA wrapped up its Cookie Dough/Butter Braid fundraiser. The last day of classes for the Fall Semester was on Thursday, December 16.

School resumes on January 4, 2011, when we look forward to our Math Night, Science Fair, CATCH Night, Track and Field Days and many more community-building events.

Thanks for being such supportive neighbors! Please visit any time.

A Special Thanks to NSCNA Volunteers

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association would like to extend a special thank you to each and every neighbor who made time to volunteer in 2010. Our community and accomplishments would not be possible without you. Next year is another year full of opportunities and we would like to invite all who are interested in improving our neighborhood to step forward and volunteer in 2011.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following people who contributed their time and generosity.

Randy Alexis
Karl Arcuri
Jean Armstrong
Kate Brien
Ben Brumfield
Sara Brumfield
Chad Byers
Nancy Callaway
Amelia Cobb
Jan Cornett

Jim Cornett
Sarah Cross
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Amy Schaefer
Montie Simpson
Stacy Sparks
Pat Sullivan
Evelin Vorzimber
Betty Walls
Kevin Wier
Mary Jane Wier
Sherran Williams
Tammy Young

Social Committee

by Alyssa Hedge

This year the NSCNA Social Committee hosted a variety of different events. We held meet-ups at local area businesses and two Hazardous Waste collections. Our annual NSCNA Garage Sale was a huge success with a record number of neighbors participating. Most recently we enjoyed a Neighborhood Luminaria and Light Walk organized by Amelia Cobb. She started this tradition in her previous hometown and has brought it to North Shoal Creek this year.

We are thankful for the wonderful volunteers who helped make these events possible. We are especially grateful for the awesome Independence Day Committee, led by Ken Moyer, that truly outdid themselves this year with the neighborhood's July 3 parade and celebration.



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- 2924 Thrushwood ~ \$309,900 ~ DUPLEX ~ NEW PRICE
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- 3000 Thrushwood ~ \$309,900 ~ NEW LISTING
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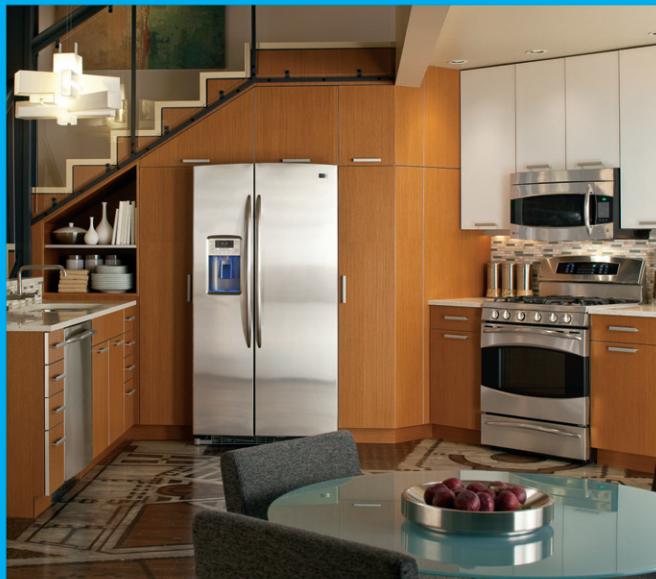
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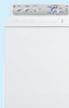


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