



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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## Mark Your Calendar

### 2012 General Meetings

Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
6:30 pm  
Pillow Elementary Cafeteria  
*Guest Speaker:* APD District Rep. Officer Chris Megliorino

Tuesday, May 1, 2012  
6:30 pm  
Pillow Elementary Cafeteria

*No meeting scheduled for July 2012*

Tuesday, September 4, 2012  
6:30 pm (tentative)

Tuesday, November 13, 2012  
6:30 pm (tentative)

Tuesday, January 8, 2013  
6:30 pm (tentative)

*For the most up-to-date meeting schedule, visit our online neighborhood calendar:*  
[www.nscna.org/calendar](http://www.nscna.org/calendar)

## 8100 Burnet: Update on Neighborhood Action

You might have heard about plans for redevelopment at 8100 Burnet (near Ashdale Drive), which currently includes a Ross Dress for Less and a now-closed Chuck E. Cheese.

Alliance Residential Company is seeking a zoning change from the City of Austin on four of five acres of the property, from CS (general commercial) to MF-6 (multi-family residence, highest density), to build an apartment complex. Alliance hopes to resell the other acre of the property for commercial development.

At a special called meeting on February 16, 2012, NSCNA members voted to approve a set of conditions that if agreed to and signed by the developer, would allow NSCNA to support the developer's requested zoning change.

The zoning change was scheduled to be considered by the City Platting and Zoning Commission on Feb. 21, but the developer asked for a postponement and submitted a revised agreement to the NSCNA Development Committee for consideration.

The Development Committee and the NSCNA President are currently determining whether the revised agreement is in line with the conditions NSCNA members approved at the Feb. 16 meeting, and will work with the developers if further changes are needed. A decision will be reached in time for the zoning change to be considered at the commission's next meeting on March 6.

The conditions that NSCNA members considered and approved during the Feb. 16 meeting include a number of neighborhood-friendly needs: a green space gathering area in the development; any access to/from Ashdale designed to minimize neighborhood traffic; a stipulation that no drive-through business traffic from the development enter or exit onto Ashdale, but only from/onto Burnet Road.; pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly design aspects; and limits on corporate rentals.

The Development Committee has worked with Wooten Neighborhood Association, Wooten Contact Team, representatives from Summit Condos and Ashdale Gardens, Sustainable Neighborhoods, and homeowners near 8100 Burnet to determine the best agreement to make with Alliance, to minimize neighborhood disruption with the new development.

Negotiations with the developer have been going on for about two months. In early February, North Shoal Creek and Wooten representatives held a design discussion meeting with Brandon Easterling from Alliance to work out terms for the proposed agreement.

For the most up-to-date status of the zoning application, and details about the conditions NSCNA members approved, check the NSCNA website at [www.nscna.org](http://www.nscna.org).

—Juliette Kernion

## North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News

### March 2012 Issue

A quarterly newsletter for the  
North Shoal Creek Neighborhood  
Association (NSCNA)

**Editor:** Juliette Kernion  
newsletter@nscna.org

#### Contributors/Volunteers:

Marlene Bartlett, Sharon Herfurth,  
Huddie Murray, Chip Rosenthal,  
Kenneth Webb

### NSCNA 2012 Board

**President:** Kenneth Webb  
president@nscna.org

**Vice President:** Donna Eagar  
vp@nscna.org

**Secretary:** Juliette Kernion  
secretary@nscna.org

**Treasurer:** Jeri Wines  
treasurer@nscna.org

**Directors:** Marlene Bartlett  
Sal Espinosa  
Ernie Garcia  
Alice Kubacak  
Robert Seidel

Directors Email: directors@nscna.org

### Committees

**Beautification:** beautification@  
nscna.org

**Bylaws:** bylaws@nscna.org

**Development:** development@  
nscna.org

**Media:** media@nscna.org

**Membership:** membership@  
nscna.org

**Safety:** safety@nscna.org

**Social:** social@nscna.org

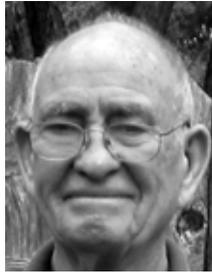
**Traffic:** traffic@nscna.org

#### NSCNA

PO Box 66443  
Austin, TX 78766-0443

Our Website: www.nscna.org  
Membership: www.nscna.org/join  
Email List: www.nscna.org/elist  
Calendar: www.nscna.org/calendar

# President's Corner



Our neighborhood association's primary purpose is to promote and to protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics, and property values of our neighborhood. We do this through several committees that work on particular issues and activities.

Goals I hope to achieve during 2012 are increased membership in NSCNA, increased participation of members in our various committees, and increased participation of all neighborhood residents in activities conducted or sponsored by the Association.

The general membership sets policies for the Association. Officers, Directors and committees carry out those policies. We need more members in order to represent more fully all parts of the neighborhood. Also, membership dues provide a significant portion of the funds needed to conduct activities of the Association.

Most of the functions of our Association are carried out by several committees that work on particular issues and activities. Membership in any standing committee is open to all NSCNA members. Please think about joining a committee and lending a hand in their work; pitch in and help out!

If you want to join a committee, please contact the committee chair. They are listed on the About page on our website, www.nscna.org. The Committees section of that website provides more detailed information about the various committees.

Planning is underway for many neighborhood activities this year, including a Neighborhood Garage Sale event, July 4 Parade, National Night Out, and a December Luminaria Walk. Help in planning, preparing for, and

conducting these activities is always welcomed.

Our website at www.nscna.org provides information about various activities and issues about the Association, and the neighborhood in general. I encourage you to visit the site regularly for updates.

My thanks to the former officers and board members who served last year, and to those who agreed to serve this year. I hope we have a great year.

On behalf of NSCNA I want to express our gratitude to our editor, Juliette Kernion, who is retiring from that position and now serves as our Secretary. Juliette has done a great job as editor, and we appreciate that. THANKS, JULIETTE!

—Kenneth Webb, NSCNA President

## Newsletter Editor Needed

NSCNA is currently seeking a Newsletter Editor for 2012.

Ideally, the editor should have writing and publishing experience, and should be familiar with layout and design software, such as Adobe InDesign or MS Publisher.

Excellent communication skills are a must, since the editor will be working with the Board of Directors and committee chairs to find out the latest news and/or solicit articles.

Publication is quarterly, and publication dates will be coordinated around NSCNA meeting dates and the editor's availability.

We would appreciate having a neighbor volunteer for this position, but can offer a stipend of \$100 per issue.

If you're interested, please email Marlene Bartlett, Media Chair, at mediachair@nscna.org.

# LATM: A New Hope for NSC Traffic Calming

“You have to see this,” Vice President Donna Eagar said, handing me a file folder. It contained documents from 1999, including a letter from NSCNA to the City about neighborhood traffic calming. The letter talked about the same needs we still discuss today.

The previous Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, which handled issues on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, clearly wasn’t working for us. In fact, it wasn’t working well at all. A couple of years ago, the City suspended NTCP and worked to design a new program.

In January 2012, the City initiated the Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) program. Traffic calming will now be considered on a project-by-project basis, not by neighborhood. In fact, neighborhoods aren’t eligible to participate. Only residents and organizations that reside on an affected street segment can apply to LATM.

LATM will be an ongoing program, with two six-month cycles each year. At the start of the cycle, the city will accept a certain number of applications, review them for eligibility, and conduct traffic surveys at the eligible locations.

If a location is a candidate for traffic calming, the City will give the requester a mitigation plan and petition, which must be circulated among the neighbors. If neighbors approve, the plan will be scored on a number of factors, and the top ranked plans will be selected for funding.

The City will indicate the recommended mitigation devices in the plan circulated for neighbor review. The policy is to

recommend horizontal deflection devices, such as islands or roundabouts, over vertical deflection devices, such as speed bumps or tables. The plan might also recommend sidewalks and bike lanes.

If selected, the neighbors will convene a design group, which will work with the City on a suitable design. If not selected, the plan will be carried forward to the next cycle, for up to three years.

The deadline for applications in this first round is April 1. The City started accepting applications on January 18, and indicated they would only accept the first 60. They have already hit that limit.

By the end of this six-month cycle, on October 1, the City will have completed funding selections, and design will begin on the selected projects.

LATM distinguishes between speed mitigation and cut-through mitigation. At this time, the City is only accepting speed mitigation requests. It considers speed problems to be a health and safety issue, while cut-through problems are a quality of life issue.

The City presumes that if cut-through traffic is so bad it creates a safety problem, it probably can be addressed through speed mitigation. We see that in our neighborhood, where the cut-through problem on McCann becomes a speed problem on Thrushwood and Primrose. Cut-through mitigation requests

*(continued on page 4)*

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## Short-Term Rental Update

At the November 2011 general meeting, NSCNA members voted to adopt a position on commercial short-term rentals. Short-term rentals are homes in a residential area leased for brief periods of time, such as weekends or vacations.

“Commercial short-term rentals” refers to houses or condos owned by a person or company that is not the primary occupant, but that rents out properties year-round as an investment. North Shoal Creek currently has two commercial short-term rental properties in the neighborhood.

The position NSCNA adopted opposes commercial short-term rentals in Austin neighborhoods. The exception is for owner-occupied primary residences rented for short periods, a few times per year. This is in line with the position Austin Neighborhoods Council has taken on commercial short-term rentals. You can read the details of the ANC position here: <http://www.ancweb.org/issues/STRs/STRs.htm>.

In January, the City Council voted to direct the City Auditor to complete a study on short-term rentals to determine how many commercial short-term rental properties exist in Austin as well as the level of complaints about code compliance and other issues. The study must be completed by April 12. The City will then use the study results when drafting new regulations about short-term rentals.

The NSCNA Development Committee has been monitoring the issue and working with ANC and other neighborhood associations, and will keep NSCNA posted on updates.

—Juliette Kernion

## New Traffic Calming Program

(continued from page 3)

may be accepted next year if the City decides to allocate funds for them.

The NSCNA Traffic Committee decided to encourage and support neighbors who want to apply. The committee met and identified four priority areas for speed mitigation:

- Ashdale
- Thrushwood/Primrose
- Rockwood north of Steck
- Rockwood south of Steck

We successfully encouraged neighbors from these four streets to submit LATM speed mitigation requests. We also did outreach on the NSCNA website and the neighborhood email list. As a result, an additional request was generated for Steck. We turned in all five requests to the City at 10 am on January 18, the day the window opened.

Since LATM was just created, the City doesn't have all its notification processes in place. As far as we know, none of these requests has been rejected. We were told a traffic survey has been scheduled in response to the Primrose request.

To learn more about the Local Area Traffic Management program, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/atx-latm>

Thanks to David Komerofsky, Tomas Rodriguez, Scott Smith, Evelin Vorzimmer, Roger Wines, and the Traffic Committee members for working on this project.

—Chip Rosenthal

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# Meet the 2012 NSCNA Board of Directors

On January 4, NSCNA held its annual meeting. The main order of business was the election of officers and directors for the coming year. Here are the results of our election.

## 2012 Officers

- Kenneth Webb—President
- Donna Eagar—Vice President
- Juliette Kernion—Secretary
- Jeri Wines—Treasurer

## 2012 Directors

- Marlene Bartlett
- Amelia Cobb
- Sal Espinosa
- Ernie Garcia
- Alice Kubacak
- Robert Seidel
- Scott Smith

Congratulations to everybody elected, and thanks to all the members who participated in the election.

Thanks to our Nominating Committee: Alice Kubacak, Tomas Rodriguez, and Mary Jane Wier.



Also, thanks to our Election Committee: Dallas Maham, Jon Menegay, and Kevin Wier.

The photo above shows most of the new Board. From left to right: Sal Espinosa, Alice Kubacak, Kenneth Webb, Marlene Bartlett, Donna Eagar, Ernie Garcia, Amelia Cobb, Juliette Kernion, Jeri Wines, Robert Seidel.

—Juliette Kernion

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The NSCNA Board of Directors would like to send a special **thank you** to **Town North Nissan**, which has been generous about letting us use the conference room there for board meetings in 2011 and 2012. We appreciate your support!



Anji Little

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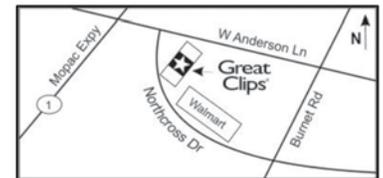
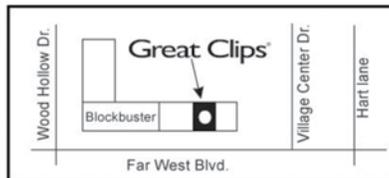
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# Pillow Elementary News

The Pillow Panthers have been very busy since returning for the spring semester. Highlights include the Science Fair and the continuation of after-school programs for students such as Math Pentathlon, Chess Club and Running Club. Panther Dads also meet monthly to plan service activities for the school. We thank our volunteers who have allowed these activities to flourish, as well as our faithful mentors who visit each week.

P.E. teacher Lauren Mikulencak started "JumpRope for Heart" at the end of February, with champion jumpers named Kings and Queens of their classes and advancing to a schoolwide competition. Last year, some teachers gave the kids a run for their money with their jump-rope abilities.

Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher Jeanette Fickett, who has been named Pillow's Teacher of the Year. All our

teachers deserve to be honored, but we are limited to selecting one per year.

Teachers have had the new challenge this year of preparing students for the TAKS replacement test, called the STAAR test. Those tests will take place primarily in April.

Our annual Kindergarten Circus, coordinated by volunteer extraordinaire Martha Burghart, will take place on Thursday, March 8, just before Spring Break. These pint-sized lions, tigers, snake charmers and trapeze artists are quite entertaining! Join us if you can.

We thank the neighborhood for its continued support of Pillow. What was once a school built for about 350 students has grown to house over 650 children. We need and appreciate our volunteers. Come make a difference in the life of a child!

—Huddie Murray

## Café Au Lit: New Book Club

Can't wait to tell someone about the great book you just read, or don't know what to read next? Come to a different kind of book club where you can read what you like and find out what others are reading at the same time.

Join us for coffee, conversation and companionship.

**Time:** 7 to 8:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month

**Place:** North Village Library, 2505 Steck Ave.

**Upcoming dates:** Tuesday, March 20; Tuesday, April 17; Tuesday, May 15

—Sharon Herfurth,  
North Village Library



### HGTV's Property Brothers have been in our Neighborhood

They just filmed the home I have listed for sale at 8209 Daleview for an upcoming March Episode! They came up with some great renovation ideas. If you or someone you know who would like an opportunity in our area, this could be the home!

I just listed 8012 Stillwood Lane, an incredible remodel, floor to ceiling! It is a techies dream home with all the specialty wiring one could dream of plus Cottage charm and it's move in ready!

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