

# North Shoal Creek NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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## Important Dates

### General Meetings

Pillow Elementary School  
 3025 Crosscreek Dr.  
 All meeting take place at 6:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014
- Tuesday, March 4, 2014
- Tuesday, May 6, 2014
- Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014

### Luminaria Walk

Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013

## Who We Are

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization — of volunteers — dedicated to promoting and protecting the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics and property values of the North Shoal Creek neighborhood.

For more information visit:  
[www.nscna.org](http://www.nscna.org)

## NSCNA is Looking For 2014 Board Nominees

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for president and vice president. If you're interested and want to run for either position, please email the Nominating Committee at [nominating@nscna.org](mailto:nominating@nscna.org)

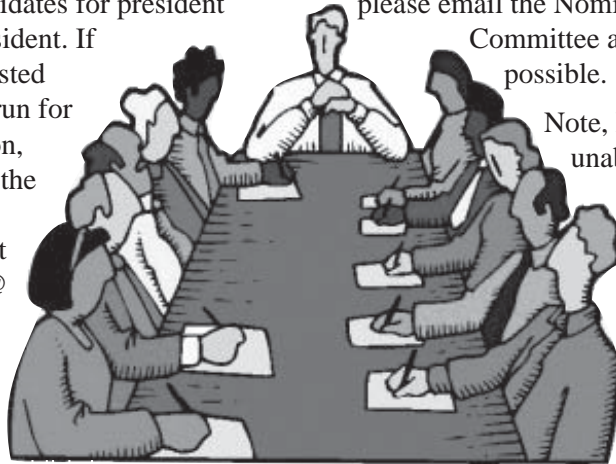
The president serves as the association's principal representative at public functions (or appoints a representative) and serves as ex-officio member of all committees (except the Nominating Committee).

The vice president coordinates the functions of the association's committees and presides in the absence of the president. The vice president also maintains a list of all the committees and the members of each.

Nominees must be members of the NSCNA for both the year they would be serving and the prior year. In other words, you need to be a paid NSCNA member for both 2013 and 2014. The treasurer confirms eligibility and payment of dues by nominees, so the 2014 dues payment must be in the treasurer's hands by Dec. 31, 2013.

If you're interested in either position, please email the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

Note, If we're unable to fill the president and vice president



positions, the board will need to select an acting president and acting vice president. That will likely leave two board positions vacant, so the board may also need to select two acting board nominees.

### 2014 Officer and Board Nominees:

President: no nominee as of Nov. 23, 2013

Vice President: no nominee as of Nov. 23, 2013

Secretary: Karen Denton\*

Treasurer: Lois McEvoy\*

Board: Levi Bullock\*, Barbara Gaston, Sharon Justice, Dallas Maham\*, Erin Poole, Kenneth Webb and Jeri Wines\*

\*incumbents

## Neighborhood News

DECEMBER 2013 Issue

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

**Editor:** newsletter@nscna.org

### Contributors/Volunteers:

Kenneth Webb, Amelia Cobb, Erin Poole

## NSCNA 2013 Board

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

**Vice President:** Vacant  
vp@nscna.org

**Secretary:** Karen Denton  
secretary@nscna.org

**Treasurer:** Lois McEvoy  
treasurer@nscna.org

**Directors:** Levi Bullock  
Max Kroschel  
Dallas Maham  
Neal Pavlic  
Claudia Perez  
Justin Tapp  
Jeri Wines

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

In January 2014, my two year tenure as president will end. Officers and directors for 2014 will be elected at the Jan. 7 Annual Meeting to lead this association. I want to thank all the officers, directors, committee chairs, committee members for their service and for assisting me during these past two years.

I also want to express my appreciation for the many volunteers who have worked diligently to plan and conduct the various activities of the association, such as neighborhood garage sales, July 4th Parade and Celebration, National Night Out and the Lunimaria Walk.

A special thank you goes to Claudia Perez for her work as newsletter editor since June 2012. Since then she has put together five great newsletters, and this is her last.

She has decided to end her service as editor and let someone else assume that role. Thank you Claudia for the outstanding job you have done as editor!

The NSCNA is currently seeking a newsletter editor. The simple fact is that without an editor we cannot have another newsletter. If you are interested, or if you wish to suggest someone who might be interested, please send an email to newsletter@nscna.org.

As I step aside as president, I have agreed to serve another year as director. If elected, that will be my fourth and final year to serve as an officer or director, in accordance with the bylaws.

I wish to encourage all members to join one or more committees and help out to conduct the association activities.

## Your North Shoal Creek Expert

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**Jennifer Mehis**  
Certified Negotiation Expert  
Broker Associate  
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jen@realtyaustin.com



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# Luminaria Walk on Dec. 19

Come out and celebrate the holiday season with light. Neighbors are invited to take a break from all the hustle and bustle and come together to visit, walk and reflect with neighbors.

On Thursday, Dec. 19 we will be lighting up the track at Pillow Elementary School with luminaries from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for our Annual Luminaria Walk.

Luminaries are white paper bags weighed down with sand and illuminated with tea light candles. It really is a beautiful event. We also invite folks to create their own lanterns to bring and parade around the track. Cookies and hot cocoa will also be provided for everyone to enjoy.

Please join us —neighbors, students, families and friends — and come together at this festive event!

Volunteers are still needed to help set up before the event and clean up afterward.

Please contact Amelia Cobb at akhcobb@gmail.com or (512) 364-5519 if you would like to help at any of the following shifts:

- Shift 1: From 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to assemble the luminaries and place them around the track.
- Shift 2: From 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. to light the luminaries.
- Shift 3: From 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. to clean up after the event.

Looking forward to seeing y'all there!

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OPEN MOST OF THE YEAR

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## Traffic Calming Update

Construction has begun on the traffic calming devices on Rockwood Lane between Steck Avenue and West Anderson Lane.

Construction of traffic calming devices on Rockwood Lane between Steck Avenue and Burnet Road is anticipated in the near future.

## New Business Spotlight: Blue Banjo Fajitas

Another new restaurant has opened near Lowe's called Blue Banjo Fajitas, located at 3301 Steck Avenue, Ste. 105.

Blue Banjos' fajitas comes with your choice of chicken, pork, beef or portabella mushrooms on flour or corn tortillas for about five dollars. Cheese, guacamole or sour cream with those fajitas costs an extra buck or two and portion sizes are plentiful.

Help support local businesses in the area and check out Blue Banjo Fajitas. For more information, visit [bluebanjofajitas.com](http://bluebanjofajitas.com) or call (512) 298-1813.

### Anji Little

Independent Consultant

512-750-0138

[nowicks4me@att.net](mailto:nowicks4me@att.net)

[www.looknowick.com](http://www.looknowick.com)



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8405 Burnet Road

Austin, TX 78757

Bus: 512-454-4536

[ryan@ryanlanders.com](mailto:ryan@ryanlanders.com)

M - Th 9am - 7pm

F - 9am - 5pm

Sat - 9am - 3pm

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The NSCNA is looking for a  
**Newsletter Editor**  
for 2014.

If you are interested,  
please email us at  
**newsletter@nscna.org**

## Redistricting Update

Austin's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission completed their map of 10 City Council Districts that will be in place for the 2014 elections by unanimous vote.

The Commission certified the map on Nov. 25 and is scheduled to certify the districts by Dec. 1.

The plan is available on the ICRC website:

[http://www.austinredistricting.org-content/uploads/2013/11/Austin\\_Final-Plan.pdf](http://www.austinredistricting.org-content/uploads/2013/11/Austin_Final-Plan.pdf)

The link to the ICRC final map is: <http://www.austinredistricting.org/maps/official-final-map/>



Recipient

**SANDY PERKINS** 512-797-7375

**YOUR REALTOR YOUR NEIGHBOR**

**512-797-7375**

My listing at 8205 Rockwood received multiple offers and sold in one week. If you are contemplating selling this year, call me and I will assist you in getting the highest price possible for your home. I have been in the business longer than any of my competitors that market our area and have sold over 66 homes in our area!



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## Backyard Brood: Chickens for Fun, Fresh Eggs and Good Nutrition

As the slow food movement and shift to natural diets grows alongside sustainability and concerns about industrial and processed foods, backyard chickens are becoming more and more appealing.

The Austin City Code allows residents to have chickens on their property as long as the coop for two or more is 50 feet from a neighboring residence or business.

The appeal of having chickens goes beyond just the eggs. Not only are they entertaining to watch, but they help produce compost, eat bugs and are low maintenance.

If you want to start a flock, the first step is to build or buy a coop. Chickens may be set free to roam the yard during the day, but should be locked up at night to keep them safe from urban predators such as possums,

stray dogs, and raccoons.

If you do not want them roaming around your lawn, you may want to look into building a chicken run or a chicken tractor. A chicken tractor is a mobile coop that will allow the hens to keep your yard bug-free and well-fertilized.

Setting up a backyard brood does take an initial investment., from the cheapest set-up cost – with factory raised birds (\$11 each), the simplest store-bought starter coop (\$125), a feeder and waterer (\$15 to \$20 each) and basic feed – at a little over \$200.

Every year, the Funky Chicken Coop Tour offers a tour of coops around town and resources. Both Callahan's and the other local source for chickens and supplies, Buck Moore Feed & Pet Supply, are two helpful places to find more information, and they are ready and willing to assist and answer questions.





# Tips to Winterizing Your Home

Here are tips to start winterizing your home this fall for not only a cost savings but to increase your home's comfort:

## 1. Keep An Eye On The Thermostat

Before you leave your home, make sure that you either turn down or turn off the heat.

Between 50 to 70 percent of energy costs of a typical household goes toward heating and cooling expenses.

Turning down the heat by only one degree can reduce heating costs by as much as one to three percent. Programmable thermostats are available, making managing the temperature in your home even easier. With a one-time, \$50 investment, you can save about \$180 a year.

## 2. Use Plastic Window Insulation

Consider applying window insulation to your home's windows. These special plastic sheets serve as an additional barrier against the external temperatures and will improve your windows' ability to prevent heat loss. When applied correctly they are

virtually invisible.

Another option is to install the more advanced "low-e" film to your windows' glass or upgrading your home's windows to energy-efficient



ones if you don't have them already.

You may qualify for a credit on your federal taxes that gives you back 30 percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Check the rate for the current tax year.

## 3. Get An Energy Monitor

An energy monitor measures how much electricity the household is

currently using and can forecast what your energy bill will be for the month. Studies have shown that people who used this device made a conscious effort to cut down on energy consumption. A model like The Energy Detective costs roughly \$139. You could see savings of 15 to 20 percent during each billing cycle. It allows you to identify the energy wasters and reduce their usage. Over the course of a year, this can add up to several hundred dollars in savings.

## 4. Get A Heater Tune Up

All heating systems, whether a heat pump, a gas boiler, a furnace, or a gas log fireplace can benefit performance-wise from an inspection and tuneup.

By getting your heating system tuned up in the fall, you can save money on your electric bill all winter, avoid costly repairs and ensure comfort all season long.

A black and white advertisement for iBIRDS BARBERSHOP. It features a smiling man holding a beer. The text reads: "steve, beer and bass shortcut, \$21 shiner, complimentary". The shop name "iBIRDS BARBERSHOP" is written in a stylized font, with "i" and "t" being large. Below the name are the addresses: "burnet e. 6th s. congress s. lamar 41st & red river birdsbarbershop.com". A small vertical photo credit "photo by alison narro" is on the right side.

steve, beer and bass  
shortcut, \$21  
shiner, complimentary

**iBIRDS  
BARBERSHOP**  
**aus  
tin**

burnet e. 6th s. congress s. lamar 41st & red river birdsbarbershop.com

photo by alison narro

A black and white advertisement for Amore Always Petsitter. It features a smiling sun, a cat, and a dog. The text reads: "Amore Always Petsitter Certified Dog Trainer". Below the dog is the slogan "Lovin' Your Pet Don't Fret". The contact information is: "Roberta Maleski (512) 296-5196 amorepets@juno.com www.amorealways.com".

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## 2014 Membership

Now is the time to renew your annual membership or to join for 2014 if you are not currently a member.

Inside this newsletter is a pre-addressed envelope and membership form for 2014. Please complete the form and mail it to the association with a check for \$15.

You may also renew your membership online by visiting the NSCNA website at [www.nscna.org/](http://www.nscna.org/) or by filling out a membership application and paying in person at a general membership meeting.

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