

North Shoal Creek NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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Important Dates

General Meetings

- Tuesday, March 5, 2013
 6:30 p.m.
 Saint Louis Catholic Church
- Tuesday, May 7, 2013
 6:30 p.m.
 Location To Be Announced
- Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013
 6:30 p.m. (Tentative)
- Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013
 6:30 p.m. (Tentative)
- Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014
 6:30 p.m. (Tentative)

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

North Shoal Creek Celebrates Its Third Annual Luminaria Walk

The cold and windy weather did not stop the North Shoal Creek neighborhood from going out to spread holiday cheer on Thursday, Dec. 20 to celebrate its Third Annual Luminaria Walk.

mark the Winter Solstice and kick off the holiday weekend. Hot chocolate and cookies were on hand for everyone to enjoy.

Dressed in fun, festive attire, neighbors



North Shoal Creek residents participate in the Third Annual Luminaria Walk at the Pillow Elementary athletic track

Neighbors attended the event to take a break from all the hustle and bustle and come together to visit, mingle, walk, reflect on the past year, their family and friends but — most of all — to enjoy all the lighted luminarias.

Luminarias are white paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated with tea light candles. They are traditionally assembled and set outside during the holidays a way to celebrate the season.

Over 50 North Shoal Creek neighbors came together for the festive event to

strolled down the luminary trail after lighting over 250 luminarias on the Pillow Elementary School track. The event took place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The first Luminaria Walk in North Shoal Creek took place in 2010.

Those attending the event said it was great way to show off their community and to get together with neighbors before the holiday.

For more photos of the event, please see Page 4 and 5.

Neighborhood News

Winter 2013 Issue

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

Editor: Claudia Perez
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Kenneth Webb

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

As we begin this new year, I congratulate the other officers and directors upon their election, and thank them for agreeing to serve the association. I wish to thank the members who again elected me as President.

I also wish to express my appreciation for all the officers, directors, committee members and association members who served in various capacities during 2012.

The increase in membership during 2012 was encouraging. Likewise, the number of current members for 2013 is also encouraging

After the meeting in September 2012, the Austin Independent School District informed NSCNA that any non-school organization must have liability insurance in order to use school facilities. In the absence of liability insurance it was necessary to schedule meetings at other locations.

NSCNA met at the First Texas Honda Conference Room on Nov. 13, 2012 and at the Village Christian Apartments on Jan. 8, 2013. On November 13

the membership voted to try several different locations for the next few general meetings. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at Saint Louis Catholic Church. An annual insurance policy was purchased in December prior to the Luminaria Walk which was held at Pillow athletic track.

Goals I hope to achieve this year include increased NSCNA membership, more active committee participation and more participation of neighbors in the activities conducted or sponsored by the association, such as neighborhood garage sales, the July 4th Parade and Celebration and National Night Out. Help in planning and conducting these neighborhood activities is always welcome.

Many of the functions of the association are carried out by the several committees. Committee membership is open to all NSCNA members. Please consider joining one or more committees and lending a hand.

Kenneth Webb, NSCNA President

2013 NSCNA Board Announced



From left to right: Neal Pavlic, Lois McEvoy, Levi Bullock, Max Kroschel, Karen Denton, Dallas Maham, Kenneth Webb and Claudia Perez
Not pictured: Justin Tapp and Jeri Wines

2013 Board Members Have Been Elected



John Migl installed the new board members on Jan. 8

A big thank you to the Nominating Committee: John Anderson, Jerry Horn, Sharon Justice, John Migl and Sherran Williams, and to the Election Committee members: John and Julia Menegay, Tomas Rodriguez and Betsy Todd for coordinating the nomination and the induction at the Jan. 8 general meeting.

Congratulations to all the elected members who will be making a difference in the North Shoal Creek neighborhood in 2013!

Traffic Calming is Coming to Rockwood

In January 2012, applications for traffic calming were submitted by five residents for their streets. Steck Avenue was ineligible due to not meeting the 85 percentile speeding requirement. Primrose Lane and Ashdale Drive applications were approved but are not funded at this time; they should be considered again in the next funding cycle this year, along with other approved requests.

Two traffic calming applications for Rockwood Lane between Burnet Road and Steck Avenue, and between Steck Avenue and Anderson Lane were approved and funded last year as part of the 13 highest priority projects within the city. The Austin Transportation Department is now developing plans for these streets.

When plans are 60 percent complete the City officials will meet with applicants to review the status of the plans. Once plans are finalized, the contractor can begin construction. No speed bumps or speed humps are now planned for Rockwood.

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RBFCU



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New 10-ONE Amendment and How to Get Involved

In November 2012, city of Austin voters approved Proposition 3, a City Charter amendment commonly referred to as 10-ONE.

The amendment provides for the election of City Council Members from 10 geographic single-member districts, with the mayor elected from the city at-large beginning with the November 2014 election.

Austin residents can apply for the Applicant Review Panel, or the Citizens Redistricting Commission, which will establish the boundaries of the new council districts. Deadline for applications is Feb. 22.

The Applicant Review Panel selects a pool of the most qualified Commission applicants, from which the Commission is created. The Citizens Redistricting Commission is empowered to establish the boundaries of the 10 new council districts for the City of Austin.

Information about the procedures and application forms can be found at the city's website www.austintexas.gov/10-ONE.

APIE Needs Volunteers

With a focus on serving Austin Independent School District Schools, Austin Partners in Education (APIE) delivers innovative programs in reading and math designed to improve student academic performance.

APIE has provided 3,500 Austin ISD students with personalized support by recruiting, training and placing more than 850 volunteer classroom coaches and 800 mentors into Austin ISD campuses weekly. APIE fosters effective community and school partnerships that prepare students for college and careers.

APIE was founded more than 20 years ago by the Austin ISD and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to APIE find more information by visiting www.austinpartners.org.

Peace Through Pie Works Toward Stronger Communities

As we take down our holiday decorations and dive back in to the hustle and bustle, it's easy to lose sight of the peaceful, warm spirit of the holiday season. Peace Through Pie, an Austin area nonprofit dedicated to cultivating stronger, more peaceful communities, is asking you to continue building relationships with neighbors and friends as we begin a new year.

For many of us, the joy of the holidays comes from sharing precious time with loved ones. If we could all make it a resolution to consciously build upon the sense of community felt during the holidays throughout the remainder of the year, the results would be immeasurable.

Peace Through Pie's mission is to spread peace in local communities by focusing intentions and positive relationships. Pie is a symbolic focal point for social gatherings to be equally divided and

shared by all. Gathering around the table to share pie and conversation with neighbors and friends is one small step toward the goal of building a more



PEACE through PIE

peaceful community for yourself and those around you.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dreamed of a better world for his children, and at the cost of his life, he worked

every day toward seeing that dream become a reality. The MLK holiday in January is especially significant in the effort to promote peace because it represents the fight and the values that Dr. King stood for. We encourage you to take our Pie-O-Neers pledge online at www.peacethroughpie.org, and start the year off right by coming together to build a more supportive and cohesive community, one piece at a time.

Peace through Pie is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promoting stronger communities through the sharing of food and conversations.

This column was submitted by Amanda Grindele, programs assistant for Peace Through Pie.

New Business Spotlight: Hill's BBQ Market

In August last year, Hill's BBQ Market moved into the shopping center north of Lowe's Home Improvement store, between Mopac and Shoal Creek Blvd., in Suite 105 at 3301 Steck Avenue.

The casual restaurant is an offshoot of SoCo's Hill's Cafe, whose culinary academy trained chef spent time at Hudson's on the Bend.

One-hundred percent vegetarian-fed dishes include 24-hour oak-smoked brisket barked in a paprika/chili pepper/cumin recipe, herb and garlic turkey, sausage and molasses or mustard St. Louis style pork ribs. Hill's BBQ Market prides themselves on their antibiotic and hormone free meat.

The restaurant is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. until the food is sold out. For more information about their menu and prices visit www.hillsbbqmarket.com.

Looking for a Place to Belong?

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North Village Library Events

The North Village Library, located at 2505 Steck Avenue, offers a series of ongoing events:

- **Feb. 4 and March 4**
7 p.m. FACT Science Fiction Book Club

Interested in futuristic science and technology, space travel, aliens, and paranormal abilities? These are some of the topics featured in the exciting FACT Science Fiction Book Club.

- **Feb. 1, 19, 22, 26 ; March 1, 26, 29**
10:15 a.m. Toddler Storytime

A lively combination of stories, songs and movement activities for toddlers aged 18 months to three years.

- **Feb. 19; March 19**
6:30 and 7 p.m. Café au Lit

Interested in 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 Café au Lit for coffee, conversation and companionship.

For a more detailed list, visit www.library.austintexas.gov.

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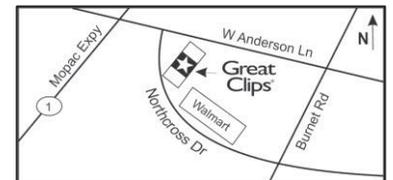
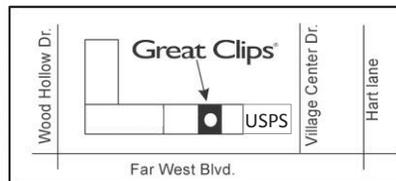
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The Safety Committee is Seeking Suggestions

The Safety Committee is compiling information about safety concerns of neighbors and consider possible actions in that regard.

During the Jan. 8 meeting, safety survey forms were distributed to attendees. Please submit any safety concerns you may have, suggestions, and ideas via email to safetychair@nscna.org or by mail to NSCNA, ATTN: Safety, PO Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766.

The Safety Committee is charged with keeping the neighborhood informed about incidents through data maintained on the Austin Police Department's website to identify trends and strategies for making the neighborhood safer. The committee also establishes relationships with other entities such as City of Austin, the Austin Independent School District, local businesses and commercial residential property owners.

Safety is an important issue to our neighborhood and many residents, so please let us know your thoughts and ideas.



Family. Friends. Community.

Ryan William Landers, Agent

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Best Practices for Vehicle Buying

Buying a car's not always easy, right? First, you have to rule out the dream vehicle that might not fit your budget at the moment. Then, the calculating and the reasoning and the pencil-pushing and the tabulating begins.

We asked some of our members for their tips on getting the best deal on a vehicle. They shared their suggestions on Facebook, letting other members know what might work for them in the car-buying arena. These were a few of their suggestions:

“Know how much you have to spend—in total, not monthly payments!” LeAnn B. Once you have the total figure in your head, you can look at monthly payments using a free online loan calculator. However, if you go into negotiations with just a monthly amount in mind, then some “tricky math” could be used to extend your payments over a longer time period and coerce you into spending more than you wanted.

Research, research, research. Find out the invoice price and the average price of the vehicle in your area.” Brandis D.

Researching the market is extremely important. Decide which vehicles you might be interested in and then price them online to figure out what is reasonable. Then, you'll be in a position of power once you start shopping in person.

“If trading in, do not share that information until you have negotiated the best price on the car you are buying.” Donnetta B. Trading in your car can be convenient, but you want to make sure you're getting the most value from your trade. Find out what the best price is on the new car, then mention your trade-in and see whether you are offered a price that seems fair based on your research.

“Don't be afraid to walk away if you can't get your price at the dealership you are dealing with in person.” Dana R. You don't have to make a decision on your first day of vehicle shopping. Make sure to keep your emotions in check and don't fall so in love with a vehicle that it makes it hard to walk away if you don't get the price you're asking for.

“Make sure to visit your local credit union first to get preapproved!” Kevin B. Knowing what you have to spend and the rate you'll be paying for your loan can make you more confident when talking to the seller's and can put you in a better position for bargaining.

Whether you end up in a new or a used vehicle, if you follow these tips and use good financial tips, you can feel good about driving a bargain. As RBFCU member Janet B. said, “When I found the right deal, I felt confident, and I have not regretted my big purchase!”

Column submitted by Theresa Lockingen, Rockwood branch manager for Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. RBFCU serves more than 400,000 members from 41 South Central Texas locations. This information is intended as general advice. Consult a lending professional or financial planner to discuss your specific situation and the financial decisions that are right for you. For more information on RBFCU, visit rbfcu.org.

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photo by allison narro

The NSCNA Wants You!

Join the 100+ members, 65 households, in the neighborhood and receive voting privileges to all of the association's general meetings, by becoming a member of the North Shoal Creek Association.

The NSCNA is dedicated to promoting and protecting the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics and property values of the North Shoal Creek neighborhood. The association holds sponsored events throughout the year and has a series of active committees that members can participate in.

You can join today by going to the association's website, www.nscna.org/join, and submitting a \$15 payment (and a \$1 processing fee) through PayPal or by completing the form below and mailing it with a check for \$15 to the address shown.

The neighborhood association is only as strong as its members, so join today and be a part of an organization whose mission is to make North Shoal Creek the best place in the city to work, play and live.



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NSCNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Do you have any comments or concerns for NSCNA? _____

Please check the committees you are interested in:

- | | | | | |
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Please complete this form and mail it with a \$15.00 check made payable to NSCNA to:

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