Two new developments proposed for North Shoal Creek: a report from the **Development Committee**

Representatives of two companies with plans to build in North Shoal Creek made presentations to residents at NSCNA's November 4th General Membership Meeting.

1) 8611 North MoPac, currently the Shoal Crossing Event Center: a five story office building and parking garage are planned. The owners want professional and medical offices as tenants. City staff recommended approving the project with an overlay limiting additional traffic generated by the new building to no more than 2,000 daily.

Most of the site is zoned Community Commercial (GR), which allows for more than thirty kinds of commercial uses. Part is zoned Limited Office (LO), which allows primarily professional and medical offices. The developer is requesting the LO zoning be changed to GR. The event center building itself is zoned to allow liquor sales, and this zoning would be kept.

2) 8528-8600 Burnet: a five story, 300 unit apartment complex, to be constructed over an underground parking garage and

WHAT'S INSIDE

having an open amenity area of at least 25,000 square feet, is proposed for the southwest corner of the Burnet/Rockwood intersection. (A drawing of the proposed building and its site plan are on page 3.)

The developer is requesting the highest level of multifamily zoning, MF-6, which allows unlimited density. It also allows building heights up to 90 feet, although this building will be 60 feet tall.

According to the application to the City, this project's density will be 107.5 units per acre. The next lower level of multifamily zoning, MF-5, has a 57 unit/acre limit.

The pros and cons of both developments were discussed following the presentations. The meeting ended with NSCNA members voting to approve the North Mo-Pac zoning request, but asking the Development Committee to work with the developer to find ways to enforce the 2,000 vehicle limit and to change the CS-1 zoning that allows for liquor sales.

In the week following the meeting, the *Continued on page 2*

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 16: Runoff election for Austin City NSCNA News / Two new developments Council 2 proposed (continued from pg. 1) Dec. 17: Pillow School's Holiday Traditions Burnet Road's building boom 3 Performance, 6p.m. 4 Dec. 18: NSCNA's annual Luminaria walk. Holiday and other library events 6 Pillow track, 6-8p.m. Winter-filled fun and holiday tips 8 Dec. 19: Light Up the Season celebration, 9 North Village Library, **10a.m.-6p.m.** Winter in North Shoal Creek 10 Jan. 6, 2015: NSCNA General Meeting, New businesses / Winter-filled fun and Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crossholiday tips (continued from pg. 6) 11 creek Drive, 6:30p.m.



2-1-1 Texas

Annual Luminaria walk

Beason's Greetings to all Korth Bhoal Preek From the Korth Oshoal Oreek Keighborhood Association



Neighborhood News Winter 2014 Issue

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

Editors: Sharon Justice, Erin Poole

Contributors/Volunteers: Amelia Cobb, Cheri Hartman, Celia Holm, Steve Reich, Aubrey Sanders, Debi Smith, Kenneth Webb, Kevin Wier

Color edition of newsletter available at www.nscna.org.

NSCNA 2014 Officers & Board

Acting President: Mike Blood president@nscna.org Vice President: Vacant vp@nscna.org Secretary: Karen Denton secretary@nscna.org Treasurer: Lois McEvoy treasurer@nscna.org Directors: Levi Bullock Barbara Gaston Sharon Justice Dallas Maham Erin Poole Kenneth Webb Jeri Wines directors@nscna.org

Committees

Beautification: beautification@nscna.org **Bylaws**: **Development:** Media: Membership: Safety: Social: Traffic:

bylaws@nscna.org development@nscna.org media@nscna.org membership@nscna.org safety@nscna.org social@nscna.org traffic@nscna.org

Join:	www.nscna.org/join
Email List:	nscna.org/elist
Calendar	www.nscna.org/calendar

To submit an article for consideration, email it to newsletter@nscna.org. All articles are subject to editing.

NSCNA P.O. Box 66443 Austin, TX 78766-0443

www.nscna.org

NSCNA news: a new president and an upcoming election

NSCNA's 2014 president, Elizabeth Ray, and her family recently moved to Oregon. Pursuant to our by-laws, Elizabeth stepped aside and our vice-president. Mike Blood. assumed the presidency for the remainder of this year.

Elizabeth and her family plan to return to Austin in a few years. They still have property in North Shoal Creek and consider North Shoal Creek home. We thank her for all her work in behalf of our association, and we look forward to welcoming Elizabeth and her family back home again soon.

Two new developments... (Continued from page 1)

Development Committee asked the developer to agree to an overlay limiting tenants to professional and medical offices. Since these offices generally require appointments and don't generate walk-in traffic, we reasoned this change would partially enforce the 2,000 vehicle limit.

The Committee also asked that the CS-1 zoning allowing liquor sales be changed to eliminate the possibility of a bar there someday. The developer agreed to this as well.

With an agreement reached, the rezoning request was approved by the Planning Commission at their November 12th meeting. It was approved by the Austin City Council at The election of 2015 NSCNA officers and directors will take place during the January 6, 2015 General Membership Meeting. Here's an important reminder: you must pay your dues prior to the election to be able to vote.

A membership renewal notice is included with this newsletter. Don't delay; go ahead and renew before January 1 arrives. Alternatively, remember to bring your checkbook to the January 6 meeting so you can pay your 2015 dues when you check-in.

Sharon Justice, co-editor

their November 20th meeting.

Members voted to object to the Burnet/Rockwood apartment complex because of two major concerns: its effect on traffic on both Burnet Road and neighborhood streets, plus the high level of density proposed.

The Burnet/Rockwood proposal is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on December 9 and the Austin City Council on January 29, 2015.

Minutes of the November 4th meeting have been posted at www.nscna.org. The website includes excerpts from the City of Austin's file on both rezoning requests, along with links to the complete city files.

NSCNA Development Committee, Kevin Wier, Chair

rbfcu.org

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce that **Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union** is the sponsor of our 2014 Newsletters.

Burnet Road's building boom has arrived in North Shoal Creek, an editorial by Sharon Justice, co-editor

New buildings have been appearing along Burnet Road south of Anderson for some time, but now they're going to start appearing north of Anderson as well. The proposal to build a 300-unit apartment complex at the southwest corner of Burnet and Rockwood shows that commercial property values along our stretch of Burnet have reached a tipping point. Commercial property owners, who also happen to be our local neighborhood business people, are now facing the dilemma a lot of residents of Central Austin face: Can I afford to stay here?

Rising property taxes and utilities are taking bigger and bigger bites out of profits while land values escalate. As business owners, they have to ask themselves: "Do I hang on and see profits drop while land values rise, or do I sell and move my business somewhere where property taxes are lower?" They have to decide based on what is best for themselves, their families, and their employees. As land values continue to rise, the answer to that question is increasingly going to be "sell and move."

The Burnet/Rockwood rezoning request is not just a large and impressive proposal; it is also a harbinger of other projects to come. Our neighborhood is more closely linked to Burnet Road than to MoPac. A 60 or 90 foot building on MoPac won't cast a shadow over neighboring residences, but that same building can, if built on Burnet.

The two rezoning requests described in the Development Committee's report on page 1 are a good case study of how we "North Shoal Creekers" need to approach these rezoning questions. We need to ask ourselves 1) Is it the right building? 2) Is it in the right place? and 3) Is it going to be a good neighbor?

This approach led those who attended the November 4th meeting to approve the MoPac rezoning request while opposing the Burnet/Rockwood one. It's a commonsense approach, and it worked well in this case.

The downside to this process is that only about



Above: Illustration of the proposed 300-unit apartment complex at the Burnet/Rockwood intersection. Below: Site plan for the proposed building.



thirty people participated. Such a low participation rate leaves me wondering if the decisions reached really represent the wishes of the majority of North Shoal Creek residents. I hope the next time notice of a rezoning request arrives in the NSCNA mailbox, more of us will come to discuss and decide if it's a net positive or negative for North Shoal Creek.

Austin's building boom provides an opportunity to guide change to benefit our neighborhood. I hope more of us will take advantage of this opportunity next time.

Come celebrate the season with light: annual Luminaria Walk, Dec. 18 by Amelia Cobb, Social Committee Chair

On Thursday, December 18th, we'll be lighting up the track at Pillow Elementary with luminaries from 6-8p.m. for our annual Luminaria Walk. Luminarias are white paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated with tea light candles.

Neighbors are invited to take a break from the hustle and bustle and come together to visit, walk, reflect... and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies at the covered pavilion behind the Pillow Elementary School.

Volunteers of all ages are needed at Pillow's covered basketball court at 4p.m. to help assemble and place the 500+ luminaries. This is a wonderful family event, and it can be great fun just putting the luminaries together and placing them around the track. Volunteers are also appreciated at 8p.m. to help with clean-up.



Walkers at NSCNA's 2013 Luminaria Walk appear ghost-like in this photo by Kenneth Webb





Join the FUN! **CrossFit, Womens Only, Boot Camp** & CrossFit Kids Classes

Mention this flyer and save \$50 on Elements, our introductory course!

6205 Burnet Road | CrossFitCentral.com | 512.507.6450

ufcu

For every phase of your life, UFCU provides excellent personal service, financial solutions and education programs. Discover how easy it is to join UFCU today! 3305 Steck Ave Austin, TX 78757

make the move

Federally insured by NCUA

Your North Shoal Creek Specialist realty/austin



My marketing and negotiating strategies consistently sell homes for more money faster.

LISTING RESULTS IN NORTH CENTRAL AUSTIN

Average Days on Market - 1.29 days Average Sold Price as % of List Price - 102% Home Sold Pre-Market as % of Total Homes Sold this year - 35%

LOOKING TO BUY? I have two listings coming soon in Allandale North. Call me for details!

Jennifer Mehis

Broker Associate c 512.217.1887 Certified Negotiation Expert jen@realtyaustin.com

Call 512.217.1887 for your FREE home market analysis!

There's a lot going on at the library this holiday season and winter! contributed by Celia Holm, Steve Reich, and Aubrey Sanders

Branch Libraries' Hours Expand in 2015:

For the past six years, half of Austin's branch libraries have closed on Thursdays and the other half on Fridays. Beginning January 2015, however, Austin Public Library branches will be open on Thursdays from 10a.m. to 9p.m. and Fridays from 1p.m. to 6p.m. This expansion of hours is welcome, but it also affects Friday story times (please see the revised schedule in the **Programs for Children** section in the article below).



Holiday Event Scheduled

The North Village Branch of the Austin Public Library is holding its Second Annual *Light Up the Season holiday*

event on Friday, December 19th from 10a.m. to

6p.m. There'll be a special seasonal story time plus a visit and photo op with Santa along with other activities including

- Fun crafts
- A *Frozen* sing-along and screening (attendees are welcome to come in costume)
- A musical performance
- Free snacks and beverages for attendees.



Valentine's Day Social Set for Feb. 14th

On Valentine's Day, a *Romance Reader's Social Event* will be held on **Saturday, Feb**-

ruary 14th from 11a.m. to 4:30p.m. It'll be preceded by a week-long **Romance Novels Book sale** during the week of **2/9-2/13**. Hardbacks will be priced \$2 and paperbacks \$1. On Valentine's Day, though, prices will be slashed to hardbacks for \$1 and paperbacks for 50 cents!

The Romance Reader's Social will feature

- A romance author panel with local writers who would love to answer your questions
- Decadent nibbles for the holiday (think chocolate!)
- A Passionate Reader's contest with fabulous prizes
- Nailed It! Where we demonstrate and assist with fancy manicure nail art that you can do yourself (supplies provided.)
- Pick-Your-Chick-Flick, where we'll have a selection of romantic movies for the crowd to choose from (snacks and beverages provided)



New Spanish Language Program Begins

Thursday, January 8th, a new program called *Pratiquemos Español (Let's prac*-

tice Spanish) will begin. It will be presented every Thursday from 7-8:30p.m. It's not a Spanish class but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a relaxed environment under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. You'll need to know a little Spanish to participate. The facilitator is Odilia Leal-McBride. This program is free and open to the public.



Programs for Children

On **March 4th at 3:30p.m.,** the Austin Public Library's own puppetry and storytelling troupe, **Literature Live!** will perform a puppet show, *Chicken Big.*

(Continued on page 7)



Beginning in January 2015, Friday story times move to Wednesdays. **Toddler Story Time will be at 10:15 a.m.** and **Preschool Story Time at 11a.m. on Wednesdays.**

Tuesday story times will remain the same, with **Books and Babies** (ages birth to 18 months) starting at 10a.m. and **Spanish Story Times** (all ages) at 11:00 a.m.

We will also have **Book Circle** on **Wednesday after-noons at 4p.m.** This is our interactive program with reading, games, and crafts for school-aged children (5-10).

On the **first Fridays of the month**, we'll continue the **Lego Lab program at 4p.m**. This is also recommended for school-aged participants.



Programs for Adults

Finally, we offer two book clubs for adults:

• YA for Adults meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7p.m. Adults discuss and appreciate literature written for Young Adult audiences, but beloved by most ages.

• **Café au Lit** meets on the **third Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.** and is an open format book club; that means instead of us telling you what to read you come and share what you are enjoying with the group. There is a monthly email of titles discussed and most members say that they can build an entire year's must-read list out of just a few meetings.





Winter-filled fun and holiday tips

by Erin Poole, co-editor



Looking for fun and festive things to do for the holiday season? In addition to our neighborhood Luminaria Walk, here are a few ideas we've rounded up so you can make the most of the season. Whether you prefer to relax around the fire and sip eggnog, or love to hit the sales and holiday events, our editors wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

Snow & Skating

Get in the spirit of winter with a trip to the skating rink. Visit our local **Chaparral Ice**. Details: *chaparralice.com/generalpublic*

Hill Country Galleria Snow Days (Bee Cave) December 6, 14 and 20. Play in real snow 12-4p.m. for free at the Galleria. Details: *hillcountrygalleria.com*

Events

The Nutcracker at the Ballet Austin (The Long Center) December 6–23. What could be more festive than going to see The Austin Ballet's production of The Nutcracker? More information: www.tickets.balletaustin.org

Trail of Lights (Zilker Park) December 7-21. This 50year celebration is still going strong. The star of the show, the Zilker Holiday Tree, soars 155 feet tall with a total of 3,309 lights. Buy tickets early and get details on parking, volunteering, and related events such as the Preview Party and Fun Run: *austintrailoflights.org/ tickets*

Chanukah in the Hood (Central Market North Cafe) December 14. An annual event sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Austin and Central Market that celebrates the festival of light. Enjoy activities, music, latkes, dreidels, and more. Stop by from 12-3:30p.m. More information: www.centralmarket.com (Select the Upcoming Events box at the lower right of the screen.) (continued on pg. 11)



Sandy Perkins Your neighbor, Your realtor 512-797-7375

Lanier Realty, LLC



Graduate of University of Texas, BA Art, Class of 88' With my art and design background, I always assist owners in staging at no cost! Having listed and sold over 70+ homes in our neighborhood, I'm ready to assist you too!



8602 Primrose Lane, sold before on MLS! \$350,000 Closed in September



2604 Clarkdale Lane sold first week \$345,000 Closed in September

If you are selling, I will pay for the cost of the required Energy Audit for your home. If you are buying, I will pay for the cost of your recommended Home Inspection. *Decorating our yards with the American Flag since 1990.*

You know about 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, but do you also know about 2-1-1? By Debi Smith, North Shoal Creek resident

2-1-1 is a free and confidential information and referral (I&R) service that connects Texans to a broad range of community, state and faith-based services – 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

No matter where you live in Texas, the trained specialists at 2-1-1 I&R can help you find resources such as food or housing assistance, military veteran assistance, child care, mental health services and more, right in your local community. Specialists are able to provide information in a number of different languages.

2-1-1 is also the state disaster-information line and can connect callers to disaster-relief resources.

You can access 2-1-1 through the webite *www.211Texas.org* or by dialing 2-1-1.

(Debi is the Program Liaison for the 2-1-1 Texas Information & Referral Network and a certified I&R specialist.)



- 2-1-1-Texas is a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in collaboration with twenty-five area information centers around Texas.
- 2-1-1 Texas can also be accessed through the United Way of Austin website at www.unitedwayaustin.org. Select the Get Help tab, then select 2-1-1 database.
- To learn more about information and referral sites around the country, check out the Emmy nominated documentary *American Winter*.

THE BEAD STASH

7437 BURNET ROAD, AUSTIN, TX 78757 THEBEADSTASH@GMATL.COM WWW.BEADSTASHATX.COM

(512) 454-0001

SHOP LOCAL



Sell Your House Fast!



Winter in North Shoal Creek: the Snowpocalypse of 2011

On February 4, 2011, up to 2 inches of snow fell on top of a layer of ice and created what was tonguein-cheek dubbed the Snowpocalypse of 2011. Since Austinites rarely see snow, we make the most of it when we do, which is what the Hartman family is doing in these photographs.

**

Left: Shoal Creek in the snow

洣

Bottom left: Standing on the Crosscreek Bridge, watching snow fall

Bottom right: Making a snowball.

Photo credit: Cheri Hartman

Austin's Record-Breaking Snow-falls: Nov. 1937: 9.7" Jan. 1949: 6.5" Feb. 1966: 6.0" Dec. 1929: 5.5" Dec. 1926: 5.0"





New North Shoal Creek businesses

Fork & Vine, a new restaurant, has opened in the Creekside Square Shopping Center in the spot previously occupied by Casa Chapala. According to *Community Impact Newspaper*, it features a large patio space and a wine-tasting table serving 250 labels. Located at 3010 West Anderson, Suite D. Hours: 11a.m.-10p.m., Tuesday -Thursday; 11a.m.-11p.m., Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday-Monday. *www.forkvine.com.*

Skinny Limits, a smoothie and juice shop, opened in October at 8620 Burnet, Suite 132. It's one of seven locations of this Austin business founded by Cary and Joanie Frieden. Open Monday-Sunday, 7a.m.-8p.m. *www.skinnylimits.com*

What Women Want Resale Boutique, a consignment shop, has relocated from Cedar Park to 9070 Research, Suite 102 in the Crossroads Shopping Center. It carries designer and name brand clothing, shoes, and accessories plus select household items. Open 10:30a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10a.m.-5p.m. Saturday.

North Shoal Creek Real Estate Info

According to Trulia, the average listing price for homes in North Shoal Creek for the week ending November 12th was \$246,408.

Single-family homes for sale (from Zillow):

8417 Stillwood	\$279,000 (Pending)
8821 Little Laura	\$409,900 (Pending)
8514 Rockwood	\$350,000
8509 Daleview	\$399,900
8409 Daleview	\$450,000
8407 Daleview	\$349,897

Thank you to our advertisers

Our newsletter can't be published without the revenue NSCNA receives from our advertisers. Please use their services, and please thank them for advertising in the *North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News.*

Winter-filled fun and holiday tips (cont.)

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (Palmer Events Center) December 16-24. Stock up on artisan gifts and snack on food and brews while listening to local musical acts, including an impressive 28 bands. Details: www.armadillobazaar.com

Austin's New Year (Butler Park) December 31, 5-10p.m. Features local art, film and live music and includes a fireworks finale. More information: *austintexas.gov/department/austins-new-year*

Christmas in the Community (The Austin Symphony) November 22- December 22. Features free music and include a series of 12 concerts held throughout Austin. Listen to different ensembles of the orchestra playing popular holiday music. Get all 12 dates, times, and locations here: *www.austinsymphony.org/events/christmas-in-thecommunity*

Tuba Christmas (State Capitol Building, South Steps) Monday, December 22 at noon. Enjoy carols and other music played solely on tubas: *www.tubachristmas.com*

Holiday Tips

Trash & Recycling Slide Days

Your collection day slides to one day later if it falls on or after New Year's Day, January 1; Thanksgiving Day, November 26, or Christmas Day, December 25. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, your collection day will NOT slide.

Christmas Tree Recycling

As a City of Austin trash customer, you can recycle a Christmas tree by simply setting it on the curb. Austin Resource Recovery will pick up trees and yard trimmings on regularly scheduled collection days. Trees are recycled to make Dillo Dirt compost.

Residents who don't have trash service, including apartment and condo residents, can drop off trees at Zilker Park. Collection days are announced at the end the year.

For collection and tree recycling questions, call 3-1-1 or visit *austintexas.gov/department/residential-curbside-collection-schedule*



INTERESTED IN JOINING NSCNA?

Dues are \$15.00 per household per calendar year.

Here's how to join:

- ⇒ Visit www.nscna.org and pay with Paypal (\$16.00, including \$1.00 processing fee)
- ⇒ Mail your completed form and check for \$15.00 to NSCNA, P.O. Box 66443, Austin, TX 78766.
- ⇒ Join at any of our general membership meetings

Hope we'll be hearing from you soon!



www.nscna.org

