



Traffic circle and speed cushions planned for Rockwood Lane north of Steck: a report from the Traffic Committee

The Local Area Traffic Calming project approved in 2012 for Rockwood Lane north of Steck was initially designed to consist of a roundabout and bulb outs or curb extensions. However, several factors prompted a redesign of the project. Now, according to the Austin Transportation Department, the roundabout will be changed to a traffic circle and the bulb outs to pre-fabricated rubber speed cushions.

An email from the Department to the Traffic Committee says that roundabouts are geared more towards capacity improvement rather than traffic calming, so a traffic circle is a more appropriate solution. Also, a traffic circle is easier to design, will not conflict with existing driveways, and will retain the full function of reducing speeds.

Because the bulb outs installed south of Steck have been unpopular with residents and post installation studies have shown they're not as successful as intended in slowing traffic, rubber speed

cushions will be installed instead at four locations on Rockwood north of Steck: near 8209 Rockwood, 8307 Rockwood, 8403 Rockwood, and 8515 Rockwood.

Currently, speed cushions are being tested to evaluate their effectiveness in handling heavy vehicles. This testing will be complete in November 2016. When the testing phase is completed, ATD will begin installing them on select projects, one of which will be Rockwood north of Steck.

As for timelines, the traffic circle is in the "construction document phase" which will be followed by the "permitting phase," after which construction can begin, probably in 6 to 10 months. We've been given no timeline for the speed cushions but have been assured Rockwood Lane will have priority because it is a 2012 project.

*Tomas Rodriguez, Chair,
Traffic Committee
traffic@nscna.org*

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IMPORTANT DATES
Dec. 17: Luminaria Walk, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pillow Elementary School track
Dec. 21: Light Up The Season Celebration, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., North Village Library
Dec. 21: AISD winter break begins
Jan. 5, 2016: NSCNA General Membership Meeting and Election of 2016 Officers, 6:30 p.m., Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Drive
Jan. 12: Dan Flanagan Retirement Celebration, Waterloo Ice House, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Happy holidays to all from NSCNA

Neighborhood News

Winter 2015

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

Editor: Sharon Justice

Contributors: Becky Campbell, Amelia Cobb, Brian Hill, Coleen Jacobsen, Evelin Nunes, Valerie Sharma, Vannezsa Smith, Tomas Rodriguez, and Kevin Wier

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

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

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Burnet Corridor Planning to kickoff Spring 2016

Back in Spring of 2014, I wrote an article titled “North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Planning Begins.” Well, it didn’t and may never, even though it has been authorized by the City Council. Shame on the City for fooling me.

As you can see, I’ve written a very similar headline for this article. I based it on what I heard in a City-sponsored meeting this past September. If I’m wrong this time, shame on me.

Assuming the planning process does indeed kick-off in 2016, please go. There’ll be a lot of

meetings, and almost no one will be able to attend them all, but please go to at least one. It’s important that those of us who live along Burnet Road take part in planning its future.

As information becomes available, we’ll post it on NSCNA’s Yahoo Group, our Facebook page, and in future newsletters. So, please watch for either the kick-off information or an apology from me for being fooled a second time.

Sharon Justice, Newsletter Editor and Chair, Media Committee
media@nscna.org

Updates on the Austin Oaks PUD and CodeNext

Representatives from the four neighborhoods around the proposed PUD site at the intersection of MoPac and Spicewood Springs will be taking part in a charrette—a series of talks moderated by a qualified facilitator—with the PUD’s developer in hope of creating a mutually agreeable new proposal for the property.

The charrette is set for the week of January 24-29, 2016. Development Committee Chair Kevin Wier will be NSCNA’s representative to the charrette.

CodeNEXT, the rewrite of our city’s land development code, has now reached the stage where city

(Continued on page 10)

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association (NSCNA) holds five membership meetings a year, on the first Tuesday of these months: January, March, May, September, and November. Membership meetings are held in the Pillow Elementary School cafeteria, 3025 Crosscreek, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

For information on how to join NSCNA, please see pages 11-12.



NSCNA thanks RBFCU for sponsoring our 2015 newsletters. NSCNA members and their families are eligible to join RBFCU; please visit rbfcu.org.

Renovations to Pillow Playground begin

If you've been by Pillow recently, you already know work on a new, safer playground has started. The construction area has been fenced off, its trees protected, and remaining parts of the old playground foundation removed. Construction of the new, safer foundation is beginning, to be followed by installation of the new equipment. Principal Brian Hill says he's been told the expected end date will be some time during winter break, hopefully sooner.

Pillow Playground doubles as our neighborhood park, and we residents are welcome to use it **with this caveat:** Between 7:30 and 3:30 it's technically the school's space. If students and staff aren't on the playground, residents can use it during those hours. But, when recess arrives and students are using the playground, residents need to leave.

Our presence when students are using it creates a safety issue for the school—we're visitors at that

point, and school safety rules require that visitors be checked in by the school's office staff.

One other reminder: let's keep our neighborhood park clean—pick up trash and pick up after our pets. Other than that, just enjoy it!

Becky Campbell and Sharon Justice

The Ship, one of the new playscapes planned for Pillow Playground



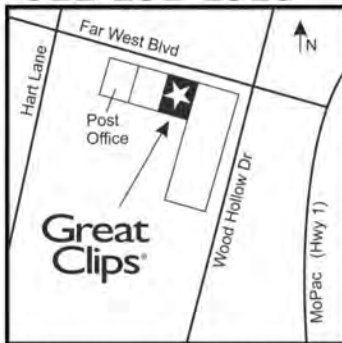
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Does the hustle and bustle of the holiday season have you in a frenzy?

Then you need to come to NSCNA's annual Luminaria Walk, 6-8 p.m., Thursday, December 17, at Pillow Elementary's track

The track will be illuminated with hundreds of luminarias. Relax and reflect while strolling the circle of light, then take it easy while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate with your neighbors.

The Social Committee needs volunteers to help fill the sacks with sand, add tea lights, and set the luminarias around the track. We'll gather at 4p.m. for set up under the Pavilion at the back of the school.

If you would like to help with set up or clean up, please contact Amelia Cobb at social@nscna.org or 512-364-5519



We'll help you recycle Styrofoam: it's our effort to keep our planet healthy!

My daughter Zoe and I started a Styrofoam recycle effort this past summer and would love to invite you to participate in it.

The City of Austin Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off center off Ben White Boulevard now accepts all kinds of Styrofoam except peanuts. If you have Styrofoam to be recycled, please contact me during the week of the last recycle pick-up of the month. I will pick it up or, if I can't, I will ask you to drop it off at my house. Please make sure all Styrofoam food containers are washed.

If you have peanuts, please take them to a shipping center. They will most likely accept them.

Let me know if you have any batteries and cans of paint needing to be recycled as well.

Meanwhile, we've started a conversation with Brian Hill, Pillow's principal, to establish a drop-off station there. Stay tuned!

Thank you and let's remember that together we can make a difference!

*Evelin Nunes on Primrose Ln
e-mail: evelin@solutinfocusedpg.com
cell: 512-560-6947*

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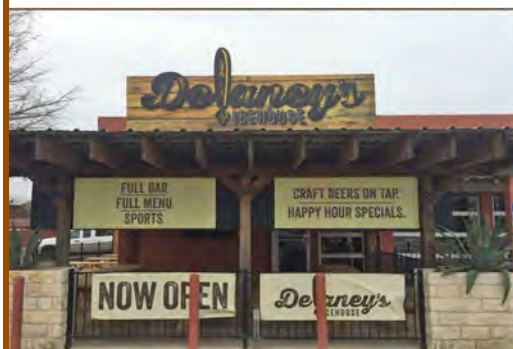
THERE'S A NEW ARTS ASSOCIATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

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Christmas Day: 9:30am



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Check out everything that's happening at Pillow!!

Things are rockin' and rollin' here at Dorinda Pillow Elementary! Facility updates are moving along, on schedule, with a new library, new playground, and other renovations to beautify the campus. Our school year started off with a lot of great events for our Panthers and Panther families. We had HUGE turnouts for Aquapalooza, Grandparents' Lunch, Family Game Night, Spirit Night, Coffees With The Principal, Marathon Kids Kickoff, Academic Night, 50 Nifty States Performance, and CATCH Health & Wellness Night... just to name a few! And we are looking forward to our upcoming Multicultural Night and Holiday Performances.

We love these events because they give us an opportunity to bring the whole Pillow family together and showcase all the great things happening here every day. At Pillow we embrace the school-home connection because we know the stronger that connection, the stronger the academic, social, and emotional outcomes are for our Panther kiddos. As our new banner (pictured above) says, our mission is "Whole Child. Every Child. Every Day." Our



Pillow's new banner features its mission statement

teachers and staff work extremely hard to make that mission a reality. And I'm the luckiest principal alive because I have an amazing school with an amazing faculty that I brag about all the time. I invite you to visit the campus for a tour; I'd love to show you, in person, all there is to brag about.

Thank you to the NSCNA for being a great partner and GO PANTHERS!!!

Principal Brian Hill



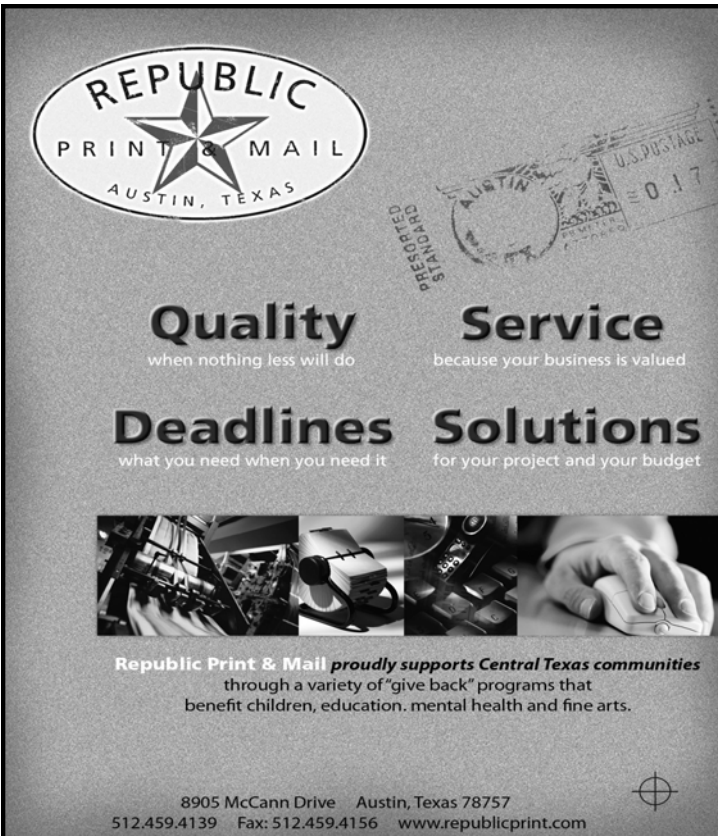
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**Annual "Hope for the Holidays" Neighborhood Drive—
We're collecting presents for all the dogs and cats in the
care of the Austin Animal Center**

**Where: 8606 Stillwood Lane (there's a collection box on our
front porch) When: November 27 to December 24**

Items needed (they can be dropped off anytime, and no gift is too small) :

- **Dog and cat treats, all sizes and varieties**
- **Dry dog food (5 lb. bags only) or wet food in cans (for senior dogs)**
- **Dry Meow Mix, wet Meow Mix, or Fancy Feast (for frightened cats who hesitate to eat)**
- **Rawhides or other chews**
- **Jars of peanut butter (to make rawhides yummier and for stuffing Kongs)**
- **Sturdy dog toys, cat toys of all kinds, and large, gently-used stuffed animals to cuddle**
- **Blankets (baby blanket size), small beds, and towels (bath size or smaller)**
- **Shampoos**
- **Dog sweaters/coats (all sizes but especially large/extra large)**

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Neighborhood mailman Dan Flanagan set to retire



Longtime Postal Route 5701 mailman Dan Flanagan is retiring December 31, 2015. Dan has walked and delivered mail for his Pillow School area route for 17 years — in heat, cold, rain, sleet, and even snow. His

smiling face and inexhaustible supply of jokes brightened our days, and he will surely be missed! Dan is more than a super mailman. He is a personal friend, protective overseer, and icon of our neighborhood.

Dan has worked for the USPS for 20 years, beginning his service in 1995. He worked as a CPA before becoming a mailman. He spent his younger years in Houston and Louisiana, then married wife Debbie and both moved to Austin. They have a great time traveling together.

Dan loves to read and plans to do more of it in retirement, **after** his daily workouts! He enjoys learning and has spent countless hours researching his Irish roots, even taking a few DNA tests along the way. His down-home and folksy jokes will be his true legacy -- a favorite of his: *What did the snail say while riding on top of the turtle? WHEEE!!*

Congratulations and thanks to Dan for being the best "postie" a neighborhood could have. Please offer him your well wishes if you see him on his route in the next few weeks, and join your neighbors for a **"COME & GO" CELEBRATION in honor of Dan at Waterloo Ice House, January 12, 4:30 to 7:00 pm.**

Thanks, Dan, for a job well done. We will miss you!

By Coleen Jacobsen

\$-saving tip: are you paying a fee you don't need to?



Those 65 and over can call Austin Energy's Customer Service line at 512-494-9400, explain that they are over 65, and request that they no longer pay the City of Austin's transportation user fee of

\$8.25/month. Check your utility bill to see if you're paying the fee. It's the last fee on the last page of the bill, under "Street Service."

If you're under 65 and don't own a car, you also can request an exemption from that fee by calling the 512-494-9400 customer service line.

Thank you to Chip Harris of Crestview who sent this tip to me.

*By Sharon Justice, Chair,
Media Committee
media@nscna.org*



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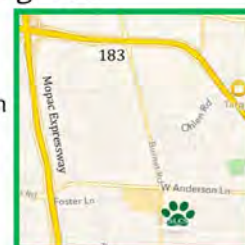
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City's drainage fee changes: how to see if you'll be paying more or less

Austin's residential drainage user fee used to be a flat \$9.80/month for most residences. Beginning in November 2015, however, each lot will have a unique fee calculated based on the amount and percentage of impervious cover on the lot.

You can use this link to see what your new drainage fee is: www.austintexas.gov/GIS/DrainageCharge/

When you search the site by your address, it tells you the square footage of your lot, the square footage of the impervious cover on your lot, the percentage that is impervious cover, and your new monthly drainage fee.

If the new fee for a single-family property is more than \$9.80 a month, the increase will be reduced by half through October 2016. For example, if your new fee is \$15.41 a month, you'll pay \$12.60 through

October 2016 and will begin paying the full \$15.41 fee in November 2016.

The City will continue to bill each unit of a duplex, triplex and fourplex. However, multifamily properties with five or more units and commercial properties housing multiple businesses will no longer be individually billed. Instead, the City will bill property owners who can then pass the charge on to individual tenants.

For more information on the new fee structure, visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/drainagecharge>

You can find information on the formula used to calculate the new drainage fees at this link: <http://austintexas.gov/content/1361/FAQ/32499>

*Sharon Justice, Chair,
Media Committee
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(continued from page 2) Updates on the Austin Oaks PUD and CodeNext

staff are drafting preliminary sections of the code for test areas in various parts of town. The test areas are along road corridors and intersections and were selected to be representative of the zoning variables that will be encountered when the new code is applied citywide.

The test area nearest North Shoal Creek is Lamar Boulevard between Justin Lane and Denson, which is described in a CodeNEXT blog as similar to Burnet Lane from Anderson Lane to 183.

The draft code is set to be developed by the end of the year and then reviewed by citizens, city staff and the city council next year. It'll be revised and presented to the Austin City Council for a vote in early 2017.

*Kevin Wier, Chair,
Development Committee
development@nscna.org*

Neighborhood business news

According to *Community Impact Newsletter*, **Terra Toys** has added 1,600 sq. ft. to its 2438 W. Anderson store to make room for a new espresso bar and art gallery. The gallery showcases work from Austinites of all ages.

A zoning change has been requested for Suite 505 in the Crossroads Center, 8820 Burnet, rezoning that suite from CS General Commercial to CS-1 Commercial Liquor Sales. **Calvin's Liquors** will be moving to that site.

A "Notice of Filing of Application for Administrative Approval of a Site Plan" has been filed for 2514 Buell. According to the filing, "the applicant proposes to construct a 6,000 sq. foot automotive repair facility with the associated improvements." The owner is listed as David L. Ihnen. The name of the facility isn't given.

In Memoriam:

Levi Thomas Bullock

September 3, 1945-November 16, 2015



Neighbor and NSCNA member Levi Bullock passed away November 16. Levi served on the Board as a Director from 2013 through part of this year, when his health forced him to resign. All who knew Levi quickly came to

appreciate his humor, good judgment and wise counsel. He will be very sorely missed by all who knew him.

North Shoal Creek Real Estate Info

8705 Melshire	1,717 sq. ft.	\$449,900
8200 Sandalwood Cove*	1,487 sq. ft.	\$339,000
8109 Briarwood	1,606 sq. ft.	\$365,000
8212 Stillwood	1,809 sq. ft.	\$369,000
8307 Stillwood	1,208 sq. ft.	\$399,900
2704 Kerrybrook	1,728 sq. ft.	\$384,900
8202 Daleview	1,905 sq. ft.	\$470,000
8602 Millway*	1,285 sq. ft.	\$375,000
*Pending		

Condos:		
2425 Ashdale, #91	974 sq. ft.	\$145,000
2500 Steck #12	934 sq. ft.	\$110,000

Listings compiled from Zillow.com, Realtor.com, and Trulia.com websites

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NSCNA needs volunteers to serve on our eight standing committees. For more information, please email *directors@nscna.org*.

NSCNA

NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2016 NSCNA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please Join the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association

- To foster pride and enjoy a sense of community
- To promote and protect our neighborhood's safety and quality of life
- To have a voice in zoning issues facing the neighborhood
- To vote to improve safety and traffic plans
- To support social events including the 4th of July Parade
- To enhance neighborhood communication through our newsletter

If you have already joined the NSCNA for 2016, THANK YOU!

If not, please help the NSCNA community with your support by joining today! Your \$15.00 household membership fee entitles all members of your household who are at least 18 years old to membership and voting privileges through December 31, 2016.

NSCNA 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Names of all residents over 18: _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Please check the committees you are interested in:

_____ **Beautification** _____ **Bylaws** _____ **Development** _____ **Media**
_____ **Membership** _____ **Safety** _____ **Social** _____ **Traffic**

Please bring this form with you to our January 5th, 2016 meeting or mail it with a \$15.00 check payable to NSCNA to:

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WELCOME TO THE NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Please join us at our **next General Membership Meeting, January 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m. in the Pillow Elementary School cafeteria.** We'll also hold our 2016 election of officers at that meeting.

You can meet new friends and neighbors, learn what's happening in our neighborhood, and join NSCNA all at the same time.

A committee member will be happy to take your membership form and fee and offer a receipt on the spot.

For more information, please email membership@nscna.org.

Be sure to visit us on Facebook,
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