

HERE AT LAST!
North Shoal Creek’s planning process set to begin Saturday, October 1st

Add this date to your calendar: **Saturday, October 1st, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in the cafeteria of Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Drive.** That’s the date of the **kickoff workshop** for the **North Shoal Creek Planning Process.**

At the **October 1st workshop**, city planning staff will present background information about our neighborhood and discuss the concept of “complete community” — defined in Austin’s current city plan as “a great place that meets your daily needs within a short trip of where you live or work....”

At the workshop **group activities** will help participants identify neighborhood strengths and weaknesses, and a **visual preference** survey will help participants establish a common vision of what the future North Shoal Creek should look like.

In early September, Planning and Zoning Department staff will set up a **website** about our planning process. It will contain a link to an online **survey**. All North Shoal Creek residents, including renters and property owners, will also receive a postcard with the link to this online survey. For those without computer access, this postcard will tell you where you can get and complete a paper copy of the survey. NSCNA will post that link plus other related information on our website (nscna.org),

Facebook page (facebook.com/nscna), NSCNA Yahoo group, and Next Door North Shoal Creek. Please take time to complete and submit your copy of the survey.

Our Planning and Zoning Department contact for this planning process is Senior Planner **Jeff Engstrom**. Should you want to contact him, Jeff’s phone number is (512) 974-1621 and his email address is jeffrey.engstrom@austintexas.gov.

Additional neighborhood planning meetings are scheduled for **November 12th and December 3rd**, also in the cafeteria at Pillow Elementary School, **9 a.m. to noon**. The process will continue into 2017 with at least two more meetings next year.

These meetings give us an opportunity to define the character of development we want in our neighborhood: its size, shape and impact on neighbors, particularly residential ones. Once the plan we create and its accompanying **Future Land Use Map or FLUM** are approved by the Austin City Council, zoning changes that conflict with the plan and our FLUM will require a plan amendment.

One final, enticing detail: the October 1st meeting includes a free breakfast. Please join us.

Sharon Justice, newsletter editor

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Important Dates

- October 1, 9am-noon: First North Shoal Creek Planning Workshop, Pillow E. S.
- October 4, 7-9pm: National Night Out
- October 11: Last day to register to vote
- November 1, 6:30-8pm: NSCNA General Membership Meeting, Pillow E. S.
- November 8: Election Day
- November 12, 9am-noon: Second North Shoal Creek Planning Workshop, Pillow
- December 3, 9am-noon: Third North Shoal Creek Planning Workshop, Pillow E.S.

Neighborhood News

Summer 2016

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

Editor: Sharon Justice

Contributors: Brian Brandon, Amelia Cobb, Brian Cobb, Donna Eagar, Barbara Gaston, Brian Hill, Jennifer Noinaj, Kenneth Webb, Shirley Webb, 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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Find us also at



President's Corner: Neighbors connecting with neighbors

by Amelia Cobb, NSCNA President



I love walking my dog! This daily ritual has enriched my life here in North Shoal Creek. It provides an opportunity for me to spend a few moments with neighbors. I get to see former board members or other friends I haven't seen in a while. I've even happened upon a gathering of neighbors having a front-yard splash party, and got to watch the joy on a two-year-old's face as she took my dog's leash and toddled down the sidewalk! I get to meet the neighbors who just moved in down the street and to grab a few minutes to catch up with folks I see regularly.

It's from neighbors that I have learned about other ways to connect neighbor-to-neighbor. For years our NSCNA Yahoo group has been a way to share and spread the word about neighborhood goings-on. Then, at a potluck a couple of years ago, I learned about Nextdoor, a free on-line private social network for neighborhoods. Our group is called Nextdoor North Shoal Creek (nextdoor.com/neighborhood/nshoalcreek--austin--tx/) but you can reach beyond North Shoal Creek to nearby neighborhoods as well.

On a recent morning walk, I heard about the Turquoise Table movement (www.kristinschell.com) from a neighbor, and that started

me noticing turquoise tables around the 'hood. Now I'm ready to put one in my yard and start some front yard gatherings on our street. I've also heard about folks organizing block parties to welcome new neighbors. There's all kinds of cool connecting going on in North Shoal Creek!

And, there is opportunity for more. October 4th is National Night Out (NNO), a great way to help fight crime by getting to know your neighbors. There's information in this newsletter about hosting a NNO get-together for your street. Also on the topic of safety, the NSCNA Safety Committee will soon lead an effort to activate block watch groups in our neighborhood.

Yet another opportunity happens on Saturday, October 1st, when the kickoff workshop in our Neighborhood Planning Process (see our front page story) will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria at Pillow Elementary School. This marks a milestone in our neighborhood; everyone, please come!

In a totally separate effort, a group of NSCNA members has been meeting weekly to put together an application (due October 1) for a neighborhood improvement project through the City of Austin's

(Continued on page 11)

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 joining NSCNA, please see page 12.

Austin Oaks PUD update

City staff is still reviewing the Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning application which Spire Realty submitted for the Austin Oaks site at the southwest corner of Spicewood Springs Road and MoPac Boulevard.

Since Spire Realty submitted their revisions in April 2016, city staff has provided the applicant with master review reports detailing their concerns with the plans. Spire has responded with revised and updated comments, their latest update coming on August 18th. In the reviews, city staff has suggested application improvements regarding tree removal, open space, transportation, and parks.

Currently the application is set to expire on September 12th, but it is expected that the Zoning and Platting Commission will discuss the application and extend that expiration date once more.

Once staff has the updates they need, they will make an overall recommendation and pass the case to the Environmental Commission for evaluation. A public hearing

before this commission is set tentatively for September 7th, and neighbors will have an opportunity to speak at this hearing.

The Environmental Commission will vote on the application and then pass it back to the Zoning and Platting Commission for a public hearing which will most likely take place on September 20th. That hearing will also be open to public input from neighbors.

From there, the application will be passed to the City Council for approval or denial.

The final plans as well as updates from the city's review can be seen here: https://www.austintexas.gov/devreview/b_showpublicpermitfolderdetails.jsp?FolderRSN=11183289

The new case manager, Andrew Moore, can be contacted with any questions about this application at Andrew.Moore@austintexas.gov

Brian Brandon, Development Committee



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Risa Kim

What's in the November \$720 million bond proposal for Burnet Road and North Shoal Creek?

On August 18th, the Austin City Council voted to put a \$720 million transportation bond package on the November ballot. The package includes \$482 million for eight major Austin roads, one of which is Burnet Road, and \$137 million for local mobility projects, including sidewalks, bikeways, urban trails, pedestrian safety, and substandard streets.

Burnet Road is allocated \$80 million of the \$482 million. Improvements will focus on pedestrian safety, additional right and left-turn lanes, intersection improvements, and additional bus pull outs.

Burnet between Koenig Lane/RM222 and Northcross/St. Joseph Boulevard will be upgraded to meet the City's "Complete Streets" policy, adopted by the City Council in 2014. "Complete streets" endorses creating a multimodal transportation network and includes adding medians and street trees along with upgrading sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

The \$137 million of local mobility projects is divided among sidewalks (\$37.5 million), urban trails (\$26 million), bikeways (\$20 million), pedestrian safety and safe routes to school (\$42.5 million), and substandard streets (\$11 million).

Sidewalk funds may cover some of North Shoal Creek's high priority sidewalk needs. Also, a section of shared bike/pedestrian urban trail running north from Shoal Creek Boulevard across 183 and connecting with Neils Thompson Road north of 183 could be eligible for urban trails funding.

A Mobility Bond Voter Information Brochure that outlines the projects that would be funded will be available soon from the City. An online tax bill impact calculator will be provided too.

Be sure to register to vote before October 11th to be able to vote in the November 8th election.

Sharon Justice, newsletter editor

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Austin's big sidewalk deficit

Austin, like most American cities, needs more sidewalks. The City's *2016 Sidewalk Master Plan* documents not only how many miles of "absent" sidewalks we need to build, but also where they need to go. Using Geographic Information Software (GIS), Austin Public Works Department (APWD) staff analyzed Austin's network of sidewalks and assigned priorities for both repairing existing sidewalks and building new ones. The report along with a map of Austin's existing sidewalk network and a map of its "absent" sidewalk network can be viewed from the Public Works Department's webpage: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pedestrian-program>

How big is Austin's sidewalk problem? Austin has 2,400 miles of existing sidewalks and needs to build 2,580 miles of new sidewalks to connect all the gaps in our existing sidewalk network. This would cost \$1.64 billion. APWD's current budget allocates \$8.6 million for new sidewalks. If we spend \$8.6 million annually, our sidewalk network will be complete in 192 years — not an acceptable option. We need to spend more building new sidewalks.

We also need to better maintain our 2,400 miles of existing sidewalks as well. The average life of a sidewalk is 75 years. To replace our existing 2,400 miles of sidewalks every 75 years would cost \$15 million annually. Recent annual repair spending has ranged from \$250,000 to \$1,500,000, less than 10% of what is needed for adequate sidewalk repair. So, we need to spend more on existing sidewalks too.

How did we get here? The *Sidewalk Master Plan* points out that 75% of Austin's "absent" or "missing" sidewalks have been annexed over the past 70 years. This happened because, prior to 1969, Austin's land use regulations did not require developers to include sidewalks in subdivisions. Also, it wasn't until 1988 that Austin's City Code was changed to require sidewalks for site developments within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction. As our city limits expanded, so did our sidewalk deficit.

How do we solve this problem? *The Sidewalk Master*

(Continued on page 10)

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Independence Day celebration recap from the Social Committee

Welcome to our new NSCNA members who joined at our Fourth of July celebration, and thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who made this, our neighborhood's 17th annual Independence Day celebration, a big success. Thank you also to the over 30 area businesses whose donations of great prizes made our raffle the biggest and best so far. This year's July 4th celebration was a great opportunity to dress up, decorate ourselves and about everything else, march around Pillow before the sun got too hot, and then head to the pavilion to enjoy fun, food, and friends.

The NSCNA Social Committee creates public events so neighbors can celebrate and connect with one another. Now is a great time to get involved in our neighborhood and in the Social Committee. To join our committee, just email social@nscna.org. You don't have to be a NSCNA member to be a committee member.

This is an election year, so it's also a good time to make your voice heard to our City Council.

Hope to see you in December for our annual Luminaria Walk at Pillow.

Brian Cobb, Chair, Social Committee

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Thank You To Our 2016 Fourth of July Parade and Celebration Volunteers:

First Row (Left to Right) Donna Eagar, Ernie Garcia, Barbara Gaston, Sharon Justice, Jeri Wines, Amelia Cobb, Roger Wines;
 Second Row (Left to Right) Lauren Werchan, Jason Werchan, Kenneth Webb, Mike Yetter, Brian Cobb, Rob Yetter
 Not pictured: Brian and Sarah Brandon, Helen Buck (kid's craft activity corner), Dallas Mahan, Jennifer Noinaj, Tomas Rodriguez, Kevin Wier, and Nancy Willingham (voter registration).
 Photo by Shirley Webb

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CodeNext Update and Austin's Draft Housing Plan

The city's process of rewriting its land development code, called **CodeNext**, is continuing to slowly move forward. The draft code is scheduled to be released for public review and comment on or shortly after the beginning of the new year (2017). You can review what has happened so far and what is upcoming at the city's website: www.austintexas.gov/codenext.

City staff say the best way to provide your feedback and input is to go to www.SpeakUpAustin.org and write your comments. I also suggest you contact or write our City Council Member, Leslie Pool, and share your views with her. The Austin City Council will ultimately vote whether to approve the new land development code.

This code rewrite will most likely have its biggest impact on our North Shoal Creek neighborhood from changes likely to occur along Burnet Road. Burnet Road has been designated a corridor along which the city would like to double density.

Also, the City's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office has issued a draft plan to increase affordable housing within 1/4 mile of activity centers (which in North Shoal Creek means Anderson Lane and Mopac) and corridors (i.e., Burnet Road). You can read the plan at www.austintexas.gov/housingplan.

The increase in affordable housing would be done by opening the activity centers and corridors to being rezoned for affordable housing and missing middle housing (meaning 4-plexes, triplexes, duplexes, accessory dwelling units, and garage apartments) along the edges, and by allowing for smaller houses on smaller lots in neighborhoods near Austin's core. I believe all of North Shoal Creek would potentially be included if the draft plan is approved by City Council.

If you have an opinion about this draft plan, please share it with Council Member Pool and Speak Up Austin.

Kevin Wier, Chair, Development Committee

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Pillow's Page

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The 2016-2017 school year has begun, and I've been waiting all summer for it to start! I am so happy to be returning as the principal of the most amazing elementary school in Austin.

We had a lot of construction going on this summer with campus beautification and a complete overhaul of our air conditioning system. And, while the project is still coming to a close, we have fresh paint throughout and a great new AC system that is already keeping our Panthers cool, thanks to the voters who voted YES to the 2013 bond.

Our teachers have been working hard all summer to get their rooms ready to greet our Panther students, and they are eager to get the Pillow Family back together. Last year was a successful year and we are looking for this year to be even better. While STAAR data isn't completely finalized for public distribution, I am proud to say that we saw gains in all core subject areas (Reading, Math, Writing, & Science) this past year, and some areas even saw double digit gains over the previous year! That is due to the hard work of our Pillow teachers and

our Panther students. And while we don't solely focus on standardized test scores at Pillow, because we know that is only one piece of the puzzle, it's still something we should celebrate. And we know we have even more work to do.

Recently, a neighborhood parent asked me, "What are you doing to make Pillow the best school in Austin?" A great question. My answer...we already are! With a staff that's dedicated to educating the Whole Child. Every Child. Every Day. With a staff that is constantly learning and improving on their craft as teachers. With a staff that knows every student who walks through our doors is valuable and that **ALL MEANS ALL**. I truly believe that there is no better school in Austin than Pillow Elementary. I invite you to come see what we're all about. Our doors are always open.

We are turning things around here at Pillow and headed in the right direction. We are proud to be the neighborhood school for the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood. Go North Shoal Creek and Go Panthers!

Brian Hill, Principal

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Join your neighbors in celebrating National Night Out Tuesday, October 4th

National Night Out (NNO) is an opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner against crime. By participating in NNO you strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations, heighten crime prevention awareness, meet your neighbors, make new friends, and have fun. Between 7 and 9 p.m. on October 4th, turn on your front porch light, lock your door, and spend the evening at a neighborhood block party or other NNO activity in your area.

The NNO Kick-Off Event will take place at Mueller Airport Lake on **Saturday, October 1st, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** It is open to the public, and there will be food, fun and music.

More information about Austin's NNO celebration can be found online at this address: austintexas.gov/nno

Interested in hosting an NNO activity? You must register by 5 p.m. on Monday, September 12th. The application is online at www.austintexas.gov/online-form/national-night-out-survey

There are three ways to submit your application:

- ⇒ Online at the web address given above
- ⇒ Fax to 512-974-6222
- ⇒ Mail to Austin Police Department / Office of Community Liaison / Attn: Rosie Salinas / P.O. Box 689001 / Austin, Texas 78768-9001

Hosts in North Shoal Creek have multiple online options for publicizing their events: Next Door North Shoal Creek, NSCNA's Yahoo Group, and NSCNA's Facebook page. For help posting your event, please email newsletter@nscna.org.

Barbara Gaston, Media Committee

North Shoal Creek Real Estate Information

Single-family homes

8702 Millway	3 bd 2 ba	\$331,004
8508 Millway	3 bd 3 ba	\$435,000
8300 Daleview	3 bd 2 ba	\$425,000
8102 Briarwood	3 bd 2 ba	\$375,000
8009 Parkdale	4 bd 2 ba	\$399,000
8107 Parkdale	3 bd 2 ba	\$369,900

Condos:

7920 Rockwood	2 bd 1 ba	\$179,900
2450 Ashdale	1 bd 1 ba	\$135,500
2600 Penny Lane	3 bd 2 ba	\$169,500

Austin's big sidewalk deficit (Continued from page 5)

Plan proposes spending \$25 million a year for 10 years to fund the construction of 39 miles of new sidewalks annually in high and very high priority areas (meaning those within ¼ mile of schools, bus stops, and parks). It also recommends spending \$15 million annually to maintain and improve existing sidewalks, which would allow them to be replaced on a 75 year cycle.

What does this mean for North Shoal Creek? The Master Plan's maps show short lengths of extra high priority new sidewalk needed along Ashdale, and several streets south of Steck and east of Rockwood are rated high priority for new sidewalk construction. As for existing sidewalks, most of the sidewalks along Burnet between Anderson and 183 are rated as high or very high priority for repair, as are Anderson Lane, Steck, and Rockwood south of Steck. The repair costs for the sidewalks along Burnet may be funded as part of the upcoming November bond election.

The Austin City Council has approved the 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan, so hopefully the high priority sidewalks needed in our neighborhood will be built out and high priority existing sidewalks rehabbed within the next 10 years. But everything depends, of course, on our City Council consistently approving the plan's funding recommendations. By quantifying, analyzing, and prioritizing Austin's sidewalk problem, the Austin Public Works Department has made a good first step toward solving it. Now we residents need to decide how much we value our sidewalks and how much we're willing to spend on them.

Sharon Justice, newsletter editor

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President's Corner (Continued from page 2)

Neighborhood Partnering Program. This effort is a response to the results of the neighborhood-wide survey NSCNA conducted earlier this year, in which we asked neighbors to voice their priorities.

As president of our neighborhood association, I invite you to join NSCNA. Come out, show up and contribute to the betterment of our neighborhood. Austin is growing and changing, and so is our neighborhood. We need to have your presence NOW to make sure the changes are positive ones.

I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood, and my dog does too!

Amelia Cobb, President, NSCNA



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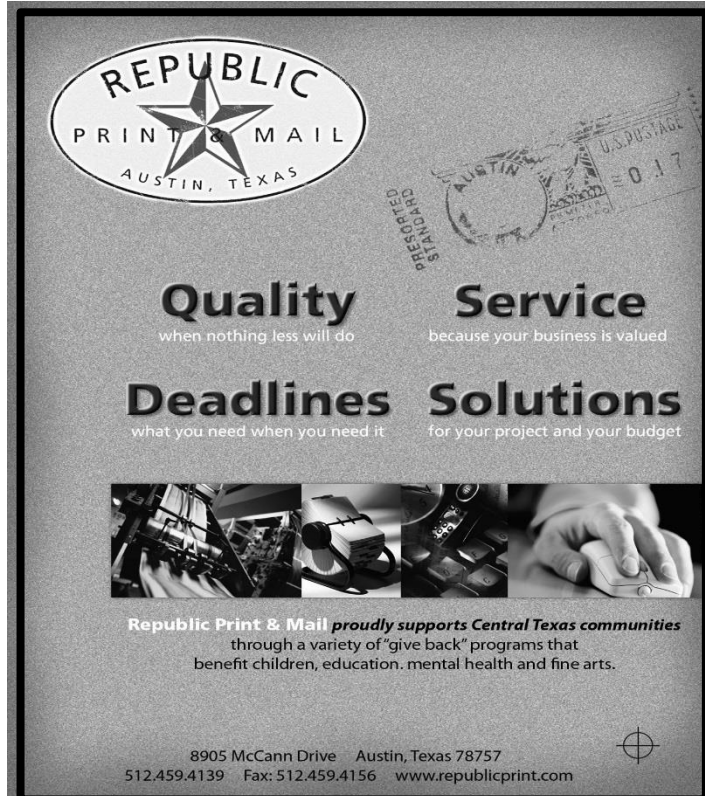
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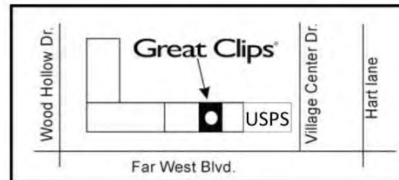
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 Social
 Traffic

Please bring this form with you to our next membership meeting or mail it with a \$15.00 check payable to NSCNA to: NSCNA Membership/ PO Box 66443 / Austin, TX 78766-0443

You can also join online via PayPal at www.nscna.org/join

**North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association
Special General Membership Meeting
September 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm
Pillow Elementary School**

Purpose:

- Get input for final details of proposed projects for Neighborhood Partnering Program application presented at Sept. 6th general membership meeting
 - Community garden, adopt traffic circle, beautify bulb-outs on Rockwood, beautify bridges, and sidewalks
- Discuss use of NSCNA's reserved funds

Helpful Links:

To view presentation from Sept. 6th general membership meeting, visit:
<http://www.nscna.org/>

- To learn more about the Neighborhood Partnering Program, visit:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/neighborhoodpartnering>