



**NSCNA RECEIVES AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION
GRANT FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN, SUBMITS NPP
APPLICATION** *by Sarah Brandon*

NSCNA submitted its first ever application to the City’s Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP), which allows citizens to partner with the city to complete small to medium-sized projects in their neighborhood. The process started with a July NPP kickoff meeting, where NSC residents met to brainstorm for project ideas. A dedicated NPP group formed from that meeting met weekly throughout August and September to put together an NPP application that would incorporate the results from the NPP kickoff meeting as well as the NSCNA survey results obtained earlier this year.

At the September 6th general meeting, NSCNA VP Sarah Brandon presented an overview of the projects that the group hoped to apply for, and a more detailed presentation was given at a Special Meeting called by President Amelia Cobb on September 21st. At that meeting, the NSCNA membership voted “yes” to approve moving forward with the NPP application and to open up the possibility of using NSCNA reserved funds to build and maintain the projects, if needed.

The NPP application was submitted

- October 1st and included:
- ⇒ sidewalks for sections along Penny Lane between Briarwood and Rockwood, Crosscreek near the Arabella Apartments, and near Thrushwood/McCann;
 - ⇒ a 22-plot community garden at Pillow Elementary School;
 - ⇒ native plant beautification of the bulb-out traffic calming devices on Rockwood south of Steck; and
 - ⇒ a mosaic tile design on the Steck bridge between KVUE and Rockwood that will display the name of our neighborhood.

To meet our cost-match contribution for NPP, NSCNA also applied for a Community Grant from Austin Parks Foundation (APF). **On October 24, APF informed us that they have awarded NSCNA up to \$10,000 to build the garden!** We are coordinating with APF to do a check presentation ceremony at the first NSCNA general membership meeting on January 10, 2017.

We expect to hear back from NPP regarding our application in January or

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IMPORTANT DATES

- December 19th: Luminaria Walk, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Pillow School track
- January 4th: AISD classes resume
- January 10th: NSCNA General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Dr.
- January 21st: Fourth North Shoal Creek neighborhood plan meeting, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Pillow School Cafeteria

Neighborhood News Winter 2016

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

Editor: Sharon Justice

Contributors: Brian Brandon, Sarah Brandon, Amelia Cobb, Donna Eagar, Barbara Gaston, Brian Hill, Jennifer Noinaj, and Kenneth Webb

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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President's Corner: your voice matters

The message I want to convey is this: **your voice matters.**

The NSCNA Board of Directors kicked off 2016 with a neighborhood survey. The results shaped the Neighborhood Partnering Program application we submitted to the City of Austin on October 1st. We expect to learn if our application has been accepted early in 2017. Also, NSCNA applied to the Austin Parks Foundation for grant funding for the North Shoal Creek Community Garden and was awarded \$10,000! Your voice matters.

Early this year, residents of Primrose Lane and surrounding streets met to talk about problems with speeding and cut through traffic. At that meeting, City staff announced that Primrose Lane had been selected for traffic calming. This happened because Primrose Lane residents filed a petition about traffic on the street four years ago. Their voices mattered! (By the way, the latest word from City staff is that speed cushions will be installed sometime in 2018.)

NSCNA has worked to get a Neighborhood Plan for more than eight years. This year we succeeded. Neighbors have gathered with City of Austin staff in three Saturday morning workshops to plan for our neighborhood's future. Summaries of those workshops can be found at <http://austintexas.gov/northshoalcreek>.

Amelia
Cobb,
NSCNA
President



The next is Saturday, January 21st, 9:00 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria at Pillow Elementary School. I encourage you to attend and participate because your voice matters and will help determine our neighborhood's future.

As president this year, I have had the pleasure of serving with an amazing Board of Directors. On Tuesday, January 10th, NSCNA members will elect the 2017 Officers and Directors. This is another arena where your voice matters. If you are interested in serving, please contact the nominating committee at nominating@nscna.org. We also have opportunities for folks to serve as committee chairs. Please join or renew your membership and get involved with a committee, either as chair or as a committee member.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, kudos, or complaints, I welcome your calls or correspondence. You can reach me at 512-364-5519 or at president@nscna.org

I wish each of you a blessed Holiday Season and look forward to hearing your voice in 2017.

Austin Oaks redevelopment going before city council

by Brian Brandon

The Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning application proposed for the southwest corner of MoPac Boulevard and Spicewood Springs Road will be coming before Austin City Council for first reading on December 15th.

The rezoning has been in the works since 2014 when Spire Realty Group originally requested PUD rezoning for the 31.4-acre site. The rezoning request had its most impactful change when the developer and neighborhood members participated in a week long design process called a charrette. The resulting plans from that process were revised by the developer and then presented to the city.

City staff reviewed the application and traffic impact analysis (TIA) and recommended it. The application then moved through the Environmental Commission in October without approval; on November 1st the Zoning and Platting Commission

passed a motion to recommend the rezoning request with conditions.

The conditions included the prohibition of liquor sales on the property, a requirement that the developer provide residential use after completing 500,000 square feet of office and commercial space, and the elimination of measurement against mean sea level when determining building height. Also, the developer's pro rata for traffic mitigation was increased by 16%. This traffic mitigation includes adding traffic lanes and traffic signals plus restriping roads onsite and near the development, but does not provide for any mitigation within North Shoal Creek's neighborhood boundaries.

Issues with the development that remain points of contention with neighbors include the removal of 44 Protected and Heritage trees, building heights

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The advertisement features a photograph of five children in green school uniforms lying on their stomachs on a grassy lawn, smiling at the camera. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts, including a yellow banner for the Montessori program announcement.

What residents think of North Shoal Creek: results of the City's community survey of our neighborhood

Our neighborhood's planning process began in September with an online survey asking residents their opinions of our neighborhood. 107 of us responded, and most reported feeling North Shoal Creek is already pretty much a "complete community," which the City defines as "a great place that meets your daily needs within a short trip of where you live or work...."

Here are our top five responses when asked what we like about our neighborhood:

- ⇒ Close to major roads/ease of travel;
- ⇒ Neighborhood forest/tree canopy;
- ⇒ Convenient shopping and dining opportunities;
- ⇒ Businesses that meet local needs;
- ⇒ Character of streets & layouts of buildings.

On the flip side, we were dissatisfied with our neighborhood's bike lanes and trails, sidewalks, and access to parks and recreation.

We said North Shoal Creek needs the following to make our neighborhood more complete:

- ⇒ A better, more complete sidewalk network;
- ⇒ Better access to parks and open space;
- ⇒ Bicycle lanes linking homes to shopping and recreation;
- ⇒ Better access to transit stops;
- ⇒ Redevelopment of aging commercial sites into businesses that better meet local needs.

Here are our priorities for our neighborhood:

- ⇒ Ensuring Pillow students can safely walk and bike to and from school;
- ⇒ Improving mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists and providing better access to transit;
- ⇒ Supporting new, small community gathering places such as "pocket" parks and plazas;
- ⇒ Deciding how aging commercial and multi-family sites should be developed;

Continued on next page

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⇒ Improving access to and quality of area parks.

The survey was the first step in gathering input for use in creating our neighborhood plan. A series of meetings that followed the survey provided more input on these three topics:

- ⇒ How complete is our community;
- ⇒ How mobility and land use interconnect; and
- ⇒ Shaping North Shoal Creek's future community character.

Please turn to the article on page 6 to learn more about these meetings. For more information on North Shoal Creek's planning process, please go to

the website set up by Austin Planning and Zoning Department staff at <http://www.austintexas.gov/northshoalcreek>.

Austin Oaks redevelopment...

(Continued from page 3)

above 5 stories along MoPac, and the addition of 15,562 trips per day over the current count of 4,086.

Please share your opinions regarding this rezoning case with the Austin City Council. You can email all of the City Council members at once using this link: <https://austintexas.gov/email/all-council-members>



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Complete communities, mobility, and community character: a neighborhood plan recap

About 50 residents attended North Shoal Creek's first neighborhood plan meeting, held October 1st from 9 a.m. to noon at Pillow Elementary School. The focus was on complete communities — that is, communities that provide residents with convenient access to daily needs. Participants took part in small group exercises in which each group listed North Shoal Creek's assets, what it needs to become a complete community, and what each group felt was the most important issue facing our neighborhood.

Planning and Zoning staff have compiled these lists and posted them on the website the City of Austin set up for our neighborhood planning process at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/north-shoal-creek>.

Meeting #2 was held November 5th and focused on mobility — How do we travel within and outside our neighborhood? What barriers to mobility are there? How do mobility and land use interconnect?

Participants working in small groups discussed how and why they move around, why they choose one mode of travel over another, and what factors affect that choice. Groups also discussed ease of access to transit stops, how areas near transit stops should be developed, and the types of businesses, housing, and amenities residents want near transit stops. These lists too will be posted at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/north-shoal-creek>.

Community character — the attributes and assets that make a community unique — was the focus of Meeting #3, held December 3rd. Discussion topics included the elements of community character and which elements residents want to preserve and extend throughout North Shoal Creek.

Meeting #4 will be January 21st from 9 a.m. to noon at Pillow. It addresses a **key topic: land use**. Please come and participate in this important discussion about the future of North Shoal Creek.

You are invited to enjoy a beautiful Luminaria Walk at Pillow School track, December 19th, 6-8 p.m. *by Barbara Gaston*

Come enjoy NSCNA's annual Luminaria Walk at the Pillow School track on December 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Luminarias are white paper bags weighted down with sand and illuminated with tea lights. We will be lighting luminarias along the running track. As the sky darkens, the path of lights transforms into a magical place.

Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies with us while you walk and visit with your neighbors beneath the pavilion behind Pillow Elementary School.

We welcome everyone in the neighborhood and beyond, and we hope to see lots of children and adults coming from Pillow's presentation of their



Holiday Traditions program scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers of all ages are needed at Pillow's covered pavilion at 4:00 p.m. to help assemble and place the 500+ luminarias. It can be a lot of fun putting together the luminarias and placing them around the track. Volunteers are also appreciated at 8:00 p.m. to help with the clean-up.

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PILLOW'S PAGE

WHOLE CHILD. EVERY CHILD. EVERY DAY.



As I write this, I am celebrating Thanksgiving break with my family. Thanksgiving is always a time to celebrate what we are thankful for, and there is so much I am thankful for at Pillow.

I'm thankful for the staff. We have some of the hardest working staff members around. From the custodians to the food service workers, the teaching assistants, instructional specialists, front office staff, teachers... I am so thankful for the effort they put into their work every day.

We are a family at Pillow. Our staff chips in when help is needed, coming together to see that ALL students have what they need to be successful. One recent example of this is when we implemented our Breakfast in the Classroom Program last month. Completely changing how we serve breakfast, especially after the school year has already started, is not easy, but our staff came together and made it happen. Now, all our students are provided a healthy breakfast every school day, which they enjoy in their classrooms surrounded by their peers. It's a great opportunity for community building plus we have gone from just under 30% of our students eating breakfast to over 90%. We think this will pay off in a big way because research shows a healthy breakfast has a positive impact on students. This is another example of how we look for ways to provide our students with access to things they need in an equitable way.

I'm thankful for our parents and students as well. We have some amazing parents who are very in-

involved in the lives of their children. They attend parent coffees to learn about ways to help their children at home, attend healthy cooking classes and ESL classes to better themselves, and help raise funds through our PTA to help fund school initiatives. Pillow wouldn't be Pillow without them.

And our students are a hard working group who don't let barriers get in their way as they strive for excellence. That's why our campus is 1 of 28 elementary campuses in AISD to have earned 2 or more academic distinctions on last year's STAAR test. That's out of 84 elementary campuses! We are very proud of all of our Panthers.

We are also thankful for the partnership we have with the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association. When a community and its neighborhood school come together to support students, it's a beautiful thing. Thank you for all that you do to support Pillow and our Panthers!

Principal Brian Hill

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New recycling service for clothing and housewares



On December 5th, Austin's Resource Recovery Department launched a new curbside collection service. The new service is free and collects clothing and housewares. Pick-up is on customers' regular recycling day.

Many types of clothing and housewares can be recycled, including shoes, accessories, fabrics scraps, stuffed toys, linens, tools, toys, hats, purses, kitchenware and books.

Simple Recycling, Austin's partner in the project, provides green bags that residents fill and place on the curb next to their blue recycling cart. When Simple Recycling collects a bag, they leave a new

one in its place. The plastic bags will be recycled after the items are collected.

This new service is free of charge. Simple Recycling pays the City of Austin \$20 per ton of material collected and keeps the profits from the sale of the collected items. Items that can't be reused are sold for recycling. Items that cannot be reused or recycled are disposed of in the landfill.

Austinites who don't receive curbside services from Austin Resource Recovery, such as those living in apartments, can still participate by dropping off clothing and housewares at the **City's Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center at 2514 Business Center Drive.**

For more information about this new service, visit austintexas.gov/clothing. For more information about Simple Recycling, go to simplerecycling.com.

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LOCAL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Owner Sharon Mays has opened her recreation of her original South Austin fast food salad restaurant, **Baby Greens**, at **1508 West Anderson Lane** (Anderson at Burrell). The focus is on healthy but quick salads and wraps served via its drive-through, but it also has a walk-up window, bike racks, and picnic tables for those who want to enjoy their food on-site.

The **Dang Banh Mi** restaurant in the Crossroads Shopping Center, **9070 Research, Suite 303**, has changed its name and its menu. It is now **Dang Kitchen**, and the new menu includes tacos, sandwiches, rice bowls, and salads. Fans of their banh mi (Vietnamese sandwiches) will be glad to discover that the influence of Vietnamese cuisine remains in the new menu too.

Nashville based **DeSano Pizzeria Napoletana** has opened its first Austin location at **8000 Burnet**. It

serves Neapolitan pies cooked in wood-fired ovens, along with calzones, meatballs, and more.

According to the *Austin American-Statesman*, the fourth location of local restaurant chain **Jack Allen's Kitchen** will be opening in the former **Fork & Vine** space in the Creekside Square Shopping Center, 3010 W. Anderson Lane. Expected opening date is Spring 2017. The chain specializes in Southwestern comfort food made using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Its other locations are in Round Rock, Oak Hill, and on Loop 360.

Salon Uffizi has relocated from 5222 Burnet to **7113 Burnet, Ste. 117**.

Also at **7113 Burnet**, the long-time site of the **Dallas nightclub** is being remodeled by **Union Venture Group (UVG)**, which has started several other Austin entertainment venues, including four in the Domain's Rock Rose district: the Rose Room, 77 Degrees, Saint Genevieve and Jack & Ginger's Irish Pub.



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NSCNA receives Austin Parks Foundation grant

(Continued from page 1)

February, but we will keep the neighborhood posted along the way. The good news is, even without NPP, we can build the garden at Pillow with the APF funds. **Right now the most important component is putting together work groups. Please email vp@nscna.org to participate in workgroups building the garden, the bulb-outs, or the mosaic tile project.**

This is great news for our neighborhood, and we need all hands on deck to make these projects happen!



The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association thanks the Austin Parks Foundation for awarding us a \$10,000 Community Grant to build a community garden. We also thank the Sustainable Food Center of Austin for partnering with us on our project, and the City of Austin's Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Community Garden Program (SUACG) for their help and support.

Thank you very, very much!



**AUSTIN
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Real Estate**

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8215 Briarwood	4 bd 2 ba	\$380,000
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2803 Ashdale	4 bd 3 ba	\$529,000
8611 Stillwood	4 bd 2 ba	\$425,000
8201 Parkdale Cv.	4 bd 2 ba	\$364,900

Condos:

7920 Rockwood	1 bd 1 ba	\$160,000
2425 Ashdale	1 bd 1 ba	\$149,800
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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.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood News
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