

Come help build the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Community Garden

The groundwork has been laid and the funding is in place for the North Shoal Creek Community Garden. Now it's up to us, the residents of North Shoal Creek, to put in the work to build it.

The garden needs to be completed by October 2017. The NSCNA Board has formed a Community Garden Committee to organize volunteer workdays, purchase materials, and seek donations. The committee's first meeting was February 16^{th.}. During that meeting members set committee meeting dates and scheduled workdays:

- The committee will meet every second Tuesday and every third Saturday of each month;
- Workdays will be the third Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month.

The NSC Garden has a webpage where you can go to learn more about the garden, sign up to volunteer, or donate to the garden. Visit *nscna.org/garden* or email me, Sarah Brandon, at *gardenchair@nscna.org* with questions or to sign up.

We dreamed big last year to come up with ways for neighbors to come together to invest in and beautify our neighborhood. Now it is time to realize these dreams — this spring, we need YOU to dig in and help build our new community garden. I look forward to working with you.

Sarah Brandon, Vice President, NSCNA vp@nscna.org

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NPP Project Approved: City to Share Costs of Beautification Projects

On October 1, 2016, NSCNA officially submitted our neighborhood's first application with the city's Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP). This Public Works Department cost-sharing program allows the city to partner with neighborhoods to accomplish medium-sized projects. On February 27, 2017, NPP's project coordinator called to say NPP has approved our application.

We bundled several projects together into one application:

- The North Shoal Creek Community Garden (also receiving funding through an Austin Parks Foundation grant; see accompanying story).
- Beautification of the bulb-out trafficcalming structures on Rockwood.
- A striking mosaic tile design for the Steck bridge between Rockwood and Shoal Creek Boulevard.

The program also rewards sweat equity, so the work we put into these projects will allow us to obtain city funding for some missing sidewalk segments in our neighborhood.

As more information arrives, details will be posted at nscna.org.

Sarah Brandon

IMPORTANT DATES

April 18th: CodeNext zoning maps to be released

April 29th: North Shoal Creek Neighborhood garage sales; also, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Free Shred Day, ACC Highland Campus, 523 E.. Highland Mall Blvd. May 2nd: NSCNA General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Pillow Elementary School Library, 3025 Crosscreek Dr. June 1st: AISD Last day of classes

Neighborhood News Spring 2017

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

Editor: Sharon Justice

Contributors: Tara Bowman, Brian Brandon, Sarah Brandon, Amelia Cobb, Amy Culbertson, Donna Eagar, Brian Hill, Jennifer Noinaj, Trish Presnall, Kenneth & Shirley Webb, Kevin Wier, and Roger Wines

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

NSCNA 2017 Officers and Board:

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

NSCNA P.O. Box 66443 Austin, TX 78766-0443 Find us also at





President's Corner: what is a neighborhood?



Amelia Cobb. President, NSCNA president@nscna.org

neigh-bor-hood (noun) 1. A district or area with distinctive characteristics

What is it that makes North Shoal Creek distinctive to you? What brought you to this neighborhood? What visions do you have for the future of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood?

These are some of the questions neighbors are addressing as we work toward the final draft of our Neighborhood Plan. It has been wonderful to see many neighbors coming together to share information, experiences and ideas. We need your continued participation and input to make this Neighborhood Plan the best representation of what we, the community of North Shoal Creek, want for our **neigh-bor-hood**.

2. The people who live in a particular district or area

Most likely, that means YOU. We are the neighborhood. We are the ones

who make our area distinctive. We are homeowners, renters, landlords, and tenants and for all of us, this is our HOME.

My intent this year as President of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association is to encourage as many neighbors as possible to join in the purpose of the association: to promote and protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics and property values of this neighborhood primarily, and all neighborhoods generally.

We need your voice, your ideas, your expertise and creativity in achieving this purpose. I invite you to become a member of the association; if you are already a member, find your favorite way to engage—join a committee. participate in building our Community Garden on the Pillow Elementary School campus, volunteer for newsletter delivery or help at social events and National Night Out. And, most importantly of all, that all the neigh**bor-hood** participate in the final stages of the creation of the North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Plan.

I look forward to meeting you and seeing you around the 'hood! Amelia

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VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED:
OUR GARDEN MUST
BE COMPLETED BY
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WE NEED YOUR
HELP THIS SPRING.
FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
TO VOLUNTEER:
EMAIL SARAH
BRANDON AT
gardenchair@
nscna.org

Workdays: Third Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month How you can help:

- Donate your time and labor
- Make an in-kind donation of gardening/landscaping supplies
 - Donate money

For more info, check out our new Community Garden webpage: www.nscna.org/garden/









Village Christian Apartments working to save its bus route

Have you used Cap Metro Route 491 Allandale? It's a bus route designed to meet the needs of older people and passengers with mobility difficulties. It runs hourly from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, ferrying riders from the Village Christian Apartments retirement community south to 34th Street and back. Stops include medical facilities (Bailey Square, Seton) and grocery stores (Allandale HEB, Northcross Wal-Mart, Randall's on 35th).

Cap Metro's new transit plan, Connections 2025, recently approved by the Cap Metro Board of Directors, would cancel Route 491. The Connections 2025 plan focuses on increasing ridership by increasing bus frequency on transit corridors like Burnet Road and busy streets like Anderson Lane. That requires shifting resources from less-used routes like Route 491.

Village Christian Apartments residents and staff are working with Cap Metro to keep Route 491 running, or, failing that, to find an acceptable substitute service. Cap Metro is required to seek public comment and submit

an impact report to the board before dropping routes; when the process begins, information on how to submit comments will be posted on *nscna.org* and on NSCNA's Facebook page.

In the meantime, it may be possible to save Route 491 by increasing ridership. Anyone can ride Route 491, and Village Christian Apartments has volunteered the spaces in its parking lot closest to Rockwood as a park-and-ride area for neighbors who want to take the 491. To use it, park in any space not labeled as resident parking; then walk to the pick-up area at Building C. Buses (usually 15-passenger lift-equipped vans) should arrive at 10 minutes after the hour; one-way fare is \$1.25 (60 cents with a Cap Metro Reduced Fare ID). The complex is at 7925 Rockwood Lane, just north of Anderson Lane.

Route 491's van drops you off and picks you up at the Wal-Mart or HEB entrance, saving you a trip across the parking lot. Let's see if we can keep Route 491 running. Give your car a break; try the 491 instead.

Sharon Justice and Trish Presnall



Mark your calendars: annual neighborhood garage sales set for Saturday, April 29th



The North Shoal Creek
Neighborhood Association's
annual garage sales day will
be **Saturday, April 29th.** If
you want to participate,
please sign up so your address will appear on the map
we will distribute that

Saturday. Shoppers want to know where to go!

To register your sale, please send an email to me, NSCNA Social Chair Tara Lane Bowman, at *socialchair@nscna.org.* Please provide

- Name
- Address
- Contact email or phone number

NOTE: All that will appear on the map is your address.

This sale will be advertised in the Austin American-Statesman, Craigslist, Facebook, GarageSaleFinder.com, and other sites. Banners and signs will go up around our neighborhood in advance of the sale.

Bonus points if you email Tara a photo of some of the items you'll be selling. It will be put into a short promo video of what will be sold to bring people to the neighborhood. Please make sure the items look ready for sale and the photo does not contain names or faces of children.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: Wednesday, April 19.

Start spring cleaning and get ready to have fun on Saturday, April 29!

Tara Bowman socialchair@nscna.org



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R. Caudill - Seller of 8500 Bowling Green



Neighborhood Planning Process: Input completed, now on to output — the finished plan

We're now in the latter half of discussing our vision for our neighborhood. We've held five meetings with city staff and North Shoal Creek residents and business owners, focusing on gathering stakeholder input and defining which areas in North Shoal Creek are less appropriate for change and which are more appropriate.

The middle of the neighborhood is being designated as the neighborhood core and, as such, less appropriate for change. Neighbors whose houses are closer to the edges of the neighborhood and to boundary streets are more at risk of being affected by changes because their lots may abut areas designated as appropriate for change.

Going forward, we expect to have at least one more meeting with city staff and neighborhood stakeholders to clarify some terms and processes and to discuss data gathered in the previous five workshops. We have requested that this meeting be large group discussion, focused on ensuring that our input has been captured

correctly and that those of us who have participated in the meetings are comfortable with the choices we made.

After we finish the input sessions, city staff will synthesize the input and process it into a draft document which will be our neighborhood plan in a narrative form. Once approved by the stakeholders, this plan will guide the development of a future land use map or FLUM, which will be part of the new city land development code. Once adopted, it will also be used by the city in setting priorities for capital improvement projects such as sidewalks and traffic calming installations.

The projected timeline calls for our plan to be finished and approved in spring 2017. In addition to the large group meeting, which has not yet been scheduled, there will also be a final survey and an open house, in which the final draft of our plan will be introduced. Barring further developments or objections, the open house will

(Continued on page 7)



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be followed by consideration of the plan first by the city's Small Area Planning Committee, then the Planning Commission, and finally by the City Council.

City staff have posted slides, posters, and other information from the meetings held so far, along with survey results, on our North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Planning Process website: http://austintexas.gov/ page/north-shoal-creek-meeting-and-survey-results. Also, you can read a background report about the North Shoal Creek neighborhood at this link: ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/ NorthShoalCreek_Conditions_and_Trends.pdf

Our neighborhood planning process is unique in that it is the first to be done while the new CodeNext land development code is being written. Also, our process is shortened from the traditional year long one. Being both new and shorter has pros and cons. We need to be very actively engaged to ensure we know what is going on and that we get the results we want—a nice and safe neighborhood far into the future.

> Kevin Wier, Development Committee Chair developmentchair@nscna.org

Mixed-use project planned for Anderson Lane

A five-story 293,708 square foot building is planned for 2711 W. Anderson Lane, replacing the two-story, 31,326-square-foot building currently there. The new building will have retail space on the ground floor, 268 apartments on the upper floors, and a five-story parking garage with 294 spaces.

California-based Paydar Properties Inc. bought the property, known as the 27 Eleven office building. The primary tenant is currently a Chase branch bank.

The 2.7 acre site is currently appraised by the Travis Central Appraisal District at \$4,400,000. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The American-Statesman's January 18th story about the project described the site as in "an area that brokers say is one of the hottest parts of town right now for redevelopment."

> Sharon Justice, Newsletter Editor newsletter@nscna.org

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Austin Oaks PUD awaits Council vote; Grove at Shoal Creek PUD approved

The rezoning case for the Austin Oaks redevelopment proposal is still making its way through the three readings before Austin City Council that are required to change the zoning from the site's current mix of conventional zoning to a planned unit development (PUD).

The case was scheduled for its second reading at the March 2 City Council meeting; however, it was after midnight when Council took up the issue. Expecting it to be a contentious and complicated case, Council postponed the second reading to its March 23rd meeting.

Spire Realty proposes redeveloping the office park at the southwest corner of MoPac and Spicewood Springs Road into an office, hotel, retail, and apartment project of about a million square feet.

Neighborhood opposition to the PUD has been clear since very early in the process. The neighborhood's most recent win was successfully filing a valid petition, which allows immediately adjacent neighbors to register their opposition to the redevelopment. With that petition now on file, Council needs to approve the PUD application with a nine-vote supermajority for rezoning to be effected.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association's membership and board have voted against the Austin Oaks PUD. In a survey about the PUD, about 75 percent of respondents opposed it. The top issue continues to be the PUD's impact on traffic east of MoPac.

Meanwhile, Council passed rezoning the Grove at Shoal Creek PUD on a 10-1 vote. The property's owners and key neighborhood stakeholders attended mediation, making changes that included adding more affordable housing units. Those changes led to approval of the 75-acre project near the corner of Bull Creek and 45th.

Brian Brandon, Development Committee development@nscna.org

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YOU ARE WANTED

(No, this is not a warrant for your arrest)

That was an old World War II poster intended for us as Americans to stand up and be counted. The message is the same but this time it's inviting you to the next Commanders' Forum sponsored by the Austin Police Department. This is your chance to meet the officers who'll be the ones replying to your calls. You can get to know them and ask them your questions about policing in our neighborhood.

The date is April 11th at 6:30p.m.

Location: Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center
7500 Blessing Ave.
Austin, Tx 78752
Conference Room 'B'

Put the date on your schedule now so you won't forget

Email directors@nscna.org for information about car pooling

Roger Wines, Chair, NSCNA Safety Committee





PILLOW'S PAGE

Whole Child. Every Child. Every Day.





It's the spring semester and things are moving at warp speed on the Pillow campus! We recently celebrated CATCH Night to promote healthy living. Pil-

low students participated in the Hour of Code to learn how to code. We had a great standing room only Holiday Traditions Performance. We held a successful Science Fair, sending 15 students to regionals, and several of them brought home first place ribbons. We were 1 of 3 schools in Texas to be visited by the Marathon Kids running program.

We had a great turnout at Academic Night; every student went home with free new books to read. In our Mix It Up Lunch for our No Place For Hate Program, students partnered with someone they didn't know and learned about each other over lunch. Our 4th graders participated in a Valentine's Day flower sale to learn about financial literacy and running a business.

Pillow students raised over \$1,500 for the American Heart Association through a Jump Rope For Heart Event. Students learned about jazz music and

the sounds of Thelonious Monk with The Austin Jazz Workshop. We hosted several teachers from Uruguay to learn about each other's cultures and teaching practices, a story that was featured on KEYE! We always have so many great things happening on campus, and that's just the tip of the iceberg!

Austin ISD and Pillow Elementary are reinventing the urban school experience. We are focused on developing 6 "power skills" in our students and staff: collaboration, communication, connection, creativity, critical thinking, and cultural proficiency. Fostering growth around these skills will allow our students to be well-rounded citizens and will allow our staff to provide a whole child experience for our students.

Spring is also the beginning of early registration for the 2017-2018 school year. I love being a part of the Pillow Family, and we would love to have you as part of our family too! For more information on early registration, please call us at 512-414-2350 or visit us in person! Go Panthers!

Principal Brian Hill





2017 NSCNA Officers and Board elected at January 10th Membership Meeting



Front row, left to right: Connor Finnigan (Director), Jeri Wines (Director), Sarah Brandon (Vice President), Barbara Gaston (Secretary), and Sharon Justice (Director).
Second row, left to right: Tara Bowman (Director), Amelia Cobb (President), Mike Yetter (Director), Lois McEvoy (Treasurer), Kevin Wier (Director), and Kenneth Webb (Director).

Photo by Shirley Webb

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 library, 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.

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Which committees are you interested in?
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