

THE Mea



SPECIAL GUIDE P. 7

THE ESSENTIAL
GUIDE TO
CHERRYWOOD
EVENTS

FEB 2018 | VOLUME 24 | NUMBER 1
NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Roots of Cherrywood

by Rebecca Kohout and Gordon Bennett (1940-2007)

The beginning of what is known as the Cherrywood neighborhood dates from the 1930s. Farm and dairy land situated between the city limits and the newly opened Robert Mueller Municipal Airport (1930-1999) was subdivided into a number of housing developments. The names of early owners, like Olivia and J.H. French, Bascom and Rogan Giles, Walter Schieffer, Nye Patterson and others, are still reflected in the names of streets and parks.

By the 1960s, a variety of housing styles had sprung up, including bungalows, small cottages, two-story stucco duplexes and single-family houses, ramblers, and a few late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses moved in from other parts of Austin. To serve the growing number of families, Patterson Park (1941) was deeded to the city, Asbury United Methodist (1949) and Genesis Presbyterian (1956) established congregations, the Delwood Shopping Center (1951) brought convenient shopping, and Maplewood Elementary (1951) opened with just 4 classrooms and a lunchroom.

East Avenue, which provided the western boundary to this growing community, was once a broad landscaped boulevard with green lawns, maintained gardens with fountains, and sculptured domestic trees and shrubs. It served as a beautiful down hill entrance into downtown Austin, but was converted to frontage road for the elevated I-35 in 1962.

The small communities known as French Place, Concordia, Avalon, Upland, University Park, Delwood, Schieffer and others merged in the 1980's to form the



EAST AVENUE 1950S FACING SOUTH, ORIGINAL BRACKENRIDGE HOSPITAL ON RIGHT. SOURCE: TEXASFREEWAY.COM

single community identity of Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, taking its name from Cherrywood Road, the common thoroughfare that ran through the communities. Cherrywood is bounded on the west by I-35 frontage road, a southern boundary of Manor Road, and an eastern perimeter of Airport Boulevard.

Not until the 1990s did the area's convenient location and undervalued properties begin to pique market interest, spurred on by the closing of Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. Along every street, remodels and additions are sprouting up, changing the face of neighborhood for better or worse, depending on who you ask.

The neighborhood's challenge is to adjust to and control the impact of growth. Our established residential community is surrounded by urban pressures. Transportation and diverse housing stock for a range of affordability will continue to be challenges moving forward for this urban enclave.

Best described as a mixture of the past, present and future, Cherrywood is now a flourishing urban community composed

Feb. 13
MARDI GRAS PARADE
corner of E. 28th St. & French Pl.

Feb. 21
6:30-8pm
CHERRYWOOD QUARTERLY MEETING
Cherrywood Coffeehouse

Mar. 31
EASTER EGG HUNT
Patterson Park

of charming homes, small businesses, and manicured green spaces. The residents are a gumbo of society: college students, long-time residents, single professionals, young families with children, and people of many ethnic backgrounds. With quick access to Downtown entertainment, the University of Texas campus, dining on hip Manor Road, and shopping at Delwood and Hancock centers, the central location makes Cherrywood a wonderful place to live.

A Personal History of Cherrywood

by Jim Walker

In the early 1980s, the area we know as Cherrywood had no neighborhood association, but a handful of champions who dealt with issues. Sparked by an initiative to expand Robert Mueller Municipal Airport (established in 1930), the Citizens for Airport Relocation formed in 1982 (another story for another time). Such a large political effort led to the invigoration of neighborhood associations all around Mueller, including what we now call Cherrywood. Several initiatives were launched during this time, including a long range visioning effort by Mike Damal, into what we now know as the Land Use Transportation (LUT) Committee. The effort to relocate, rather than expand, the airport lasted until 1993, when Bergstrom Air Force Base was decommissioned and became the ideal site for a new larger Austin airport.

By the mid-1990s, the redevelopment of Mueller was well underway, while the pressures in Cherrywood were more conventional. Houses, some of historic character, were being bought, slightly renovated and flipped or rented out to mounting dissent. Traffic speeding through the neighborhood was getting dangerous. TxDOT was pushing an expansion of the interstate. At the city level, frustration with a growth pressure in the urban core led the Neighborhood Planning Department. Environmentally sensitive land conservation and environmental justice issues were at a peak. A handful of small music festivals were gaining traction and there were rumors of a rail election.

Residents were getting uneasy with all the change. The Cherrywood association that had formed in support of airport relocation had become dependent again on a handful of champions. Then meetings started up at the Discovery Incubator, which had replaced a small grocery, in what is now Hoover's Restaurant. After a vote of residents, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) was "reactivated." As a grad student who'd just discovered the neighborhood, I volunteered as secretary. I felt lucky to be in the middle of all

these big and small neighborhood issues, as well as the efforts to just bring people together. Looking back, I think we dealt with issues pretty well.

The CNA governance structure evolved a bit through the late 1990s and early 2000s. I was honored to do a couple turns on the steering committee. There seemed a never ending parade of city issues manifesting as neighborhood debates—zoning change requests, threats, opportunities, watch-dogging a Mueller Redevelopment Master Plan for what we all hoped would be a place that complemented Cherrywood (and vice versa).

At the same time, there evolved several community traditions. These didn't really come about because we had a neighborhood association, they were each the passion projects of individuals who wanted to celebrate our little corner of the world with their friends and neighbors. Where these events are the lifeblood of any neighborhood, the association is the muscle, and while both are vital, the muscle doesn't exist without the blood.

Fast forward to today. I remarried in 2015 and moved from Breeze Terrace after 22 years to the north end of Cherrywood on E. 40th St. – a huge change in some respects, a slight shift of perspective (and short cuts from the frontage road and Airport) in many other respects. My son is halfway through high school and his flight into his own adventure is on the horizon. Up and down the street and throughout Schieffer-Willowbrook area of Cherrywood are the same diversity of people and culture and opinion as I recall so lovingly two decades ago.

When the opportunity emerged to run again to serve on the CNA steering committee, it felt like an invitation to a reunion. The pressing necessity and questions of CodeNEXT, speeding traffic, parking pressures, interstate expansion, the will o' wisp of rail, infill development, the big and small parks and green spaces, affordability, and on and on. We'll continue to talk a lot about these issues, have more meetings than anyone would guess, and still disagree. And that's ok and as it should be. That's what neighborhood associations do.

We'll still wave to each other in the morning.



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CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meetings

DON'T
MISS OUT!



Wednesday, Feb. 21

Cherrywood Quaterly Meeting

@ Cherrywood Coffeehouse

6:30–8 pm

AGENDA: Cap Metro; Preservation Austin; CherryWoodstock

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please refer to the Google calendar on cherrywood.org for more information. Want to submit something for the online and FLEA calendars? Contact flea@cherrywood.org.

Stay Connected

CNA WEBSITE www.cherrywood.org

NEIGHBORNET groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/cna.austin and

www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722

UBC WEBSITE upperboggycreek.com

Multi-Modal Projects Coming to Cherrywood!

by Girard Kinney

Both the City of Austin and Capitol Metro are about to begin some improvements within and near the boundaries of Cherrywood that should be of particular interest to pedestrians and transit users.

Regarding Transit improvements, in June Capitol Metro is rolling out its first major service changes in several years (capmetro.org/june2018), as a part of its Connections 2025 project. Notably in Cherrywood there are new lines with more frequency, and four new bus stops on E. 38th 1/2. Attend the February CNA General meeting to learn more.

Regarding implementation of the 2016 transportation bonds, several sidewalk projects will be undertaken this year. Of particular interest to Cherrywooders is the current progress toward implementation of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Sidewalk Master Plan; for any of you who may not be familiar with our adopted Sidewalk Philosophy and Sidewalk Master Plan; they are available on the Cherrywood.org website.

While not legally binding, our Sidewalk Master Plan has been recognized by the City as our sidewalk priorities which depicts a sidewalk on the east side of Lafayette. If you go to the Interactive Map at the LMAP site. (Google LMAP, then drill down to Lafayette Street.)

Most of the Lafayette sidewalk in our Sidewalk Master Plan was to have been built through the Group 21 Street improvement project, but they ran out of funding, so that project was put on indefinite hold. Then, using the 1/4 cent CapMet Funds that remained available after the Rail bond election failed, an additional portion of that sidewalk got built from 32nd to 38th 1/2.

The 2016 bond funds will now build a new stretch of sidewalk on the east side of Lafayette from 28th to 32nd street. This would have left the decrepit old, broken sidewalks in that stretch, but fortunately

this time there is flexibility in the bond language, allowing “gaps” in the existing sidewalk system to be addressed, so even though not shown on the LMAP map, John Eastman reports that the work will actually include the section from Dean Keaton to 32nd, completing this long-sought north south component of our sidewalk master plan.



LAFAYETTE SIDEWALK. PHOTO BY JIM REED.

With these new sidewalks coming, and to promote pedestrian safety along Lafayette, this is a great time to contact the city at 311 to request sidewalk bulb-outs at intersections, and at the north end of Lafayette & E. 38th 1/2 St, request a re-configured and signal intersection for safe passage across E. 38th 1/2 St.

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR OF CULTURAL EVENTS

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE

Monday-Friday 8 am *Yoga*
Tuesdays 9:30pm
Comedy Open Mic
Feb. 15 6 pm *Tarot*
Mar. 14-17 *Unofficial SXSW showcase*

HAYMAKERS

Mar. 4 *Oscar Watch Party*
Mar. 24, 2pm *Crawfish Boil*

IN.GREDIENTS

First Fridays 7-9 pm
Block Party
2nd Saturdays 12-2pm
Cafternoon

NATURE'S TREASURES

Apr. 14-15
Taro & Oracle Exposition

MAPLEWOOD

Mar. 3, 11:30am-2:30 pm
Spirit Night Fundraiser @ Unit-D Pizza

Mar. 27 *Spirit Night Fundraiser @ Haymaker*

Apr. 7, 10am
Mustang Stampede @ Mueller Lake Park

MANOR ROAD

last Mondays
Manor Mondays

PATTERSON PARK

Mar. 1, 4-6pm
Amplify Patterson Ice Cream Social
Mar. 3, 9am
It's My Park Day
Mar. 10, 9am
Tree planting
Mar. 31, 10am
Easter egg hunt



CHERRYWOOD GREEN

Mar. 3, 9-12
It's My Park Day
Mar. 24, 9-12
Plant & Book Swap

VORTEX REP. CO.

Feb. 14-18 *OUTsiderfest*
Feb. 22-25 *Reveal All Fear Nothing*
Wednesdays 6:30 pm *Butterfly Bluegrass Jam*

CITY THEATRE

Feb. 16-Mar. 10 *Noises Off*

CHERRYWOOD

Feb. 13, 5:30pm
3rd Mardi Gras Parade

Patterson Park on the Go!

by Jennifer Potter-Miller

The Neighborhood Park Plan developed by Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) was approved by all five adjacent neighborhood associations and will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) for final review. The first priority identified in the plan is improvements to the playground, so FoPP is planning to apply for funding from the Austin Parks Foundation to add circular monkey bars, spinners, and seating later this year.

PARC recently did extensive work on the park's trails, reconditioning the existing granite path and adding two new sections. There is a new connection from the roundabout to Schieffer Ave., and another one from the roundabout to Airport Blvd, going past the basketball court and garden. These will be so beneficial to park users, and we are so grateful for the attention and responsiveness of the city!



Last month we partnered with APF and the Austin Young Lawyers Association for an MLK Day of Service. Lots of area attorneys and neighbors came out with their families to mulch the large oaks and clear root collars of accumulated soil. Volunteer opportunities this spring

include It's My Park Day (March 3) and a tree planting with TreeFolks and Austin Parks Foundation (March 10). We are looking for people to adopt the trees and join the watering crew that will be responsible for our new grove of trees for the next few years, to help the future great trees of Patterson get established.

The Cap City Cobras organized a work day on Feb. 3 to turn the Patterson field into a baseball diamond. The team has been practicing at the park for two years, and coordinated with PARC to pick up leftover infield clay from Bartholomew Park, built up a pitcher's mound and marked out bases. We hope to see more folks of all ages playing ball at the park this spring.



FoPP held lots of celebrations at the park in 2017 and closed out the year with Luminarias in December. We are so excited about what's in the works for 2018! Help us raise funds for improvement projects and community events during Amplify Austin, the city-wide 24 hour fundraiser starting March 1 at 6pm. For more information, visit friendsofpattersonpark.org.

PHOTOS BY J. POTTER-MILLER

Plant & Book Swap

By Jack Darby

Join us for the 27th installment of the Cherrywood swap on Saturday, March 24 from 9am-noon. As always, we'll be at the Cherrywood Green (located at E. 34th St. and Cherrywood Rd.)

Trade plants that are well suited for propagation and/or transplanting in Austin - Share your books with the community - Travis County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Volunteer Opportunities: collect books for donation after the swap (around noon), showcase your non-profit organization, set up a table and share your info, perform acoustic music, tell your friends. For more info, email j2ck.d2rby@gmail.com.

Patterson Community Garden

It got cold. Very cold. But the vegetables kept on growing at the garden. Interested in growing your own organic fruits and veggies? Join us! We always have room for one more. For more info: pattersonparkcommunitygarden@wordpress.com



Grackle Green

By Lindsay Olinde

The pocket park project near Lafayette and Dean Keeton has been approved by the City! The City's Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) will fund the vast majority of the project, plus handle the final design, bidding, and construction. We're excited about this new green space in the neighborhood, which will include native trees, a small playscape, an herb and butterfly garden, ADA access, and a pool-code fence.

The City is working on final designs and construction plans, and we will provide an update when they are nearing completion. If you're interested in volunteering, please email gracklegreenatx@gmail.com!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Maplewood MakerSpace, Fun Run, Parent Prom & more

Last spring, thanks to the leadership of Librarian Amanda Braziel, Maplewood applied for and won an innovation grant from the Austin Ed Fund to create a centralized makerspace that is available to all students and teachers. We received the grant this fall, and staff and volunteers have been busy creating a MakerSpace that will help students develop 21st century technology and critical thinking skills. They've carried out activities in which students practice collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, and cooperation while flexing their growth mindset "muscles." Volunteers and donations are welcome!

The school held the 3rd annual Maplewood Parent Prom at the Spider House Ballroom on January 27. There was music by Cherrywood-based Neal Mehta & the Recliners, a silent auction including several pieces of art collected by Jennifer Balkan, and a photo booth by neighbor Scott Kentros. The prom raised nearly \$14,00 for the school, which the PTA plans to use to supplement the food pantry, technology purchases, teacher grants, and landscaping projects.

The PTA's landscaping and gardening committee is planning to plant a mini orchard this month at the corner of Maplewood and Ashwood Aves. It will include a fig, plum, olive, pomengranite and pecan. This continues work done all year to spruce up the school's exterior and make it more interactive for the kids and community.

We have two big events planned for the spring that are open to

the community: the Mustang Stampede fun run will be on April 7 at Mueller Lake Park, and will feature a climbing wall, bouncy house and more. The annual Spring Fling will be a family picnic on campus on May 5, and prospective families are welcome to come explore the campus and get to know the school community.

Volunteer popportunity: tutors needed! Help our beginner readers experience success and an improved attitude toward reading. Training and background check required. Email president@maplewoodelementary.com. To learn more about school news & events, please visit our new website! maplewoodelementary.com.



2017 MUSTANG STAMPEDE. PHOTO BY J. POTTER-MILLER.

HAPPENINGS

NEWCOMERS TO MANOR

There's a lot happening on Manor Rd. between Curtis and Alexander Aves. Construction of new condos just started, five tech companies moved into the new office space, Ate Track Bar & Grill plans to open this summer, and the AT&T Innovation Lab will move into the former Salvage Vanguard's building later this year.

CHAIR FOR TOLERANCE

Jared Lindauer began a two-year term as Board Chair of the Austin Anti-Defamation League. ADL works locally and nationally to build a world without bigotry and hatred through advocacy and education, including their anti-bullying program No Place for Hate, which is in over 350 Austin-area schools including Maplewood. Lindauer is a technology transactional attorney.

WORLD PREMIER AT SXSW FILM

Writer-director Andrew Bujalski's film "Support the Girls" will have its world premiere at the SXSW film festival. The comedy was filmed in Austin and is set in a Hooters-style restaurant. It features an ensemble cast including Regina Hall and Haley Lu Richardson.

ATASH TO PLAY CARNEGIE HALL

Cherrywood musicians Mohammed Firoozi and Roberto Riggio are heading to NYC in April to perform at Carnegie Hall with their band Atash, which has been Voted Best World Music Band in Austin by the Chronicle for the 6th year straight.



CLASSICAL IS THE NEW RADICAL

Karen Manass, Jennifer Balkan, and Felice House are 3 of 12 Austin artists at the vanguard of the new wave of contemporary realism who will be on exhibit at the Dougherty Arts Center this spring, Refigured: Radical Realism. The opening Reception will be February 16.



REUNION TIME!

Maplewood alumni and Patterson lovers from the 1950s and 60s will be meeting at the park for their fourth reunion. The group initially came together on Facebook in 2010, and held it's first reunion that summer with 250 people. They've been getting together every two years since!



TSO GOOD, Y'ALL

NEW DELIVERY BRINGS CHINESE AMERICAN FOOD TO CHERRYWOOD

by Leah Nyfeler

I have this weird fondness for takeout Chinese food. Give me a white cardboard container full of fluffy rice and a pair of paper-wrapped chopsticks and an eggroll, and I'm a happy woman. I'd actually rather eat in than go out for Chinese. So it was with pleasure that I gave newly opened Tso Delivery a thorough tasting.

Deep in the Heart of Cherrywood

Less than six months ago, Tso Delivery opened their first storefront, tucked two doors down from Fiesta Mart. But don't expect to go in and eat; this Chinese-American kitchen is purely takeout and delivery. Cherrywood sits in the heart of their service area, which is roughly bounded by Hwys. 290 and 183, Lamar Blvd., and Cesar Chavez.

Tso Delivery is a hyper-local business and completely "home-grown" concept. The ownership team, with deep Austin roots, includes Min Choe, Jenna Choe, Gabe Ahn, Angell Tsang, Eunice Tsang, Gavin Booth, and Karen Reinsberg (Jenna Choe, "the culinary side," is executive chef and owner of Jenna's Asian Kitchen in northwest Austin). The ownership team chose this location because, as Booth (fun fact: he and Reinsberg also comprise Austin's popular food blogging duo, Couple in the Kitchen) explained, "Everyone we heard from in East Austin said they needed some good Chinese-American food."

The Business of Delivery

Perhaps you've spotted Tso Delivery's cars. These cute, colorful hybrids model their ethos of efficiency, good taste, and Austin-flavored fun. Kitchen efficiency means almost zero waste, less business expense, and an ability to roll costs into price per dish. Their forward-thinking business model includes no fees and no tipping. Tax is included, and delivery staff drives company cars. "We wanted to pay our workers a real wage," said Booth. "I always thought it kind of sucked that [with traditional delivery services] by the time you're finished paying for everything, your \$6 burrito costs \$28. With our pricing, what you see is what you get."

Tso Delivery's entrees fall in the \$10 to \$13 range, with appetizers around \$3 to \$8. The online menu has beautiful photos to aid decisions. I was pleased to discover ample vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options (click on "customize" to see each dish's allergy information and spice rating). Booth said the team was surprised at the positive response: "We didn't think gluten-free and vegetarian would be such a major aspect of the business, but people are really happy to have these options with Chinese-American food."

Austin's known as Silicon Hills, so naturally there's a tech aspect to Tso Delivery. Their custom mobile-optimized website made ordering uneventful, though I soon became annoyed with my husband's gleeful minute-by-minute updates ("They're cooking our food!") and, naturally, he evaluated delivery time estimate for accuracy (thumbs up). Eunice Tsang, one of the founders, actually brought our order, just to say "hi." When we talked later, Booth provided a bonus Cherrywood neighbor tip: Take advantage of takeout. During heavy demand (think special events—i.e., Super Bowl—and bad weather), delivery time can get pretty lengthy. Onsite pick-up orders, however, are still ready within twenty to thirty minutes.

Trying Out Tso Delivery

I wanted to sample a wide representation (spicy/not spicy, gluten/gluten-free, meat/no meat), so we nibbled our way through five appetizers and five entrees, plus steamed and fried rice. No, we couldn't remotely eat all of it. We barely made a dent. Appetizers are portioned for two people, and two adults can make a good meal out of one entrée. Quality plastic packaging, the kind you can wash and reuse, means leftovers are a snap. (And, yes, I got my beloved white boxes of rice and paper-wrapped chopsticks.) We had some delicious lunches later.



5 PLATES OF TSOs. PHOTO BY LEAH NYFELER

My husband loves spicy things, and he felt dishes were true to the spice scale. His favorite appetizer was the Tso My Goodness Chicken Wings; mine, the Blue Crab Rangoons (a perfect pairing of crispy fried wonton and soft, crabby, cheesy center). The one disappointment: Green Bean Fries, which were a bit chewy and bland.

We completely agreed on the entrée star—Orange Beef. I typically don't care for orange flavoring, but the beef was tender and sauce tangy with an understated bite. Piled on a soft bed of perfectly prepared white rice, it was heavenly. I also really enjoyed the Drunken Beef, with its hefty chunks of fresh, al dente veggies; though I'd opted for "mild," it still had a touch of heat. And while I'm not one who usually goes for tofu, the Tofu Fried Rice was so delicately flavorful that I'd go there again.

Write Your Own Fortune

Tso Delivery was a hit at our house. Fresh ingredients (that's real crab and cream cheese in those rangoons), allergen-free options, and subtle flavors lift dishes beyond cheap Chinese buffet. I like the business model, with its emphasis on better employee compensation and lack of extra delivery fees and additional charges. And in this age of chain stores, it means something that Tso Delivery is Austin born and bred.

"We want to build on community," said Booth. "Fun, quirky, and always trying to stay local. Like the fortunes in our fortune cookies, sourced straight from our fans."

cherrywood calendar



mardi gras parade



plant & book swap



it's my park day

Spring



kids' clothing swap



maplewood back to school



ice cream social

Summer

national night out



4th of July parade



halloween parade

Fall



cherrywoodstock



patterson luminarias

winter



cherrywood art fair

east austin studio tour



2018

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Keeping Giving Local

Several neighbors will be raising money for local organizations they are passionate about during Amplify Austin, the 24 online fundraiser that starts March 1 at 6pm. AmplifyATX.org

Sherri Whitmarsh, CHULA LEAGUE

I served on Chula's board for nine years and helped to produce the free Little Artist BIG ARTIST arts mentoring program. I'm passionate about supporting this program, which guides East Austin elementary school kids through the simple power of creating together.



Regina Rogoff PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

I'm so proud to serve as CEO of this organization. Over 11,000 patients call People's Community Clinic their medical home. The clinic is a unique and tested model for medical care, a true safety net for Central Texas' uninsured and medically underserved.

Brit Hansen, AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION

I am a huge fan of Patterson and all our city's parks. My family has volunteered there mulching the heritage oaks, and we've helped organize fun neighborhood events. I'm raising money for Friends of Patterson Park through APF to support projects improving the playground, trails, athletic fields, and more.

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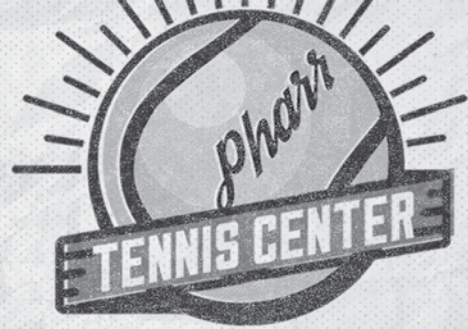
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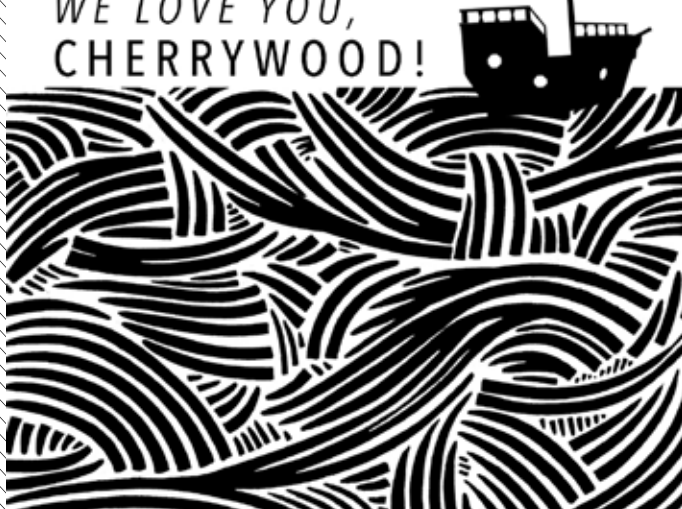
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