



THE Flea

AUG 2009 | VOLUME 15 | NUMBER 3

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG



Photo courtesy of City of Austin

Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

.....
**Wednesday, August 19
6:30-8:00pm**

MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

City Council Member Sheryl Cole (Place 6) will address the neighborhood at 6:30pm

Agenda items include a presentation by the City of Austin Public Works Department about street reconstruction plans, Jim Walker will discuss our relationship with UT, introduction of our new Austin Police Department district representative Mike Drabek, and the formation of a safety committee.

All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome to attend!

HOT HAPPENINGS IN THE 'HOOD

by Jeremy B. Mazur, CNA Steering Committee Chair

Summertime in Austin always has its pleasures. In addition to shrieking at the local weather forecasters for predicting yet another 100+ degree day ahead (I know it's not their fault), there's the more time-honored activities such as backyard BBQs, watching the Tour de France, swimming in Barton Springs, and, among other activities, enjoying cold beverages. Then there's the fact that barely enough rain has fallen in our area to fill a watering can, but it'll get back to this later.

As summer marches on, so, too, do the activities of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Our next neighborhood meeting will held on Wednesday, August 19 at Maplewood Elementary. Austin City Council Member Sheryl Cole will start the meeting off with an update with regard to what's been going on at City Hall. Her presentation will be followed by the City of Austin's Public Works Department regarding an upcoming street reconstruction project in our neighborhood (see page 3). The magnitude of this project is significant, and if you live on 30th, 34th, Lafayette, Larry, Walnut, Hemlock, Kern Ramble, as well as certain portions of Concordia and Breeze Terrace, you may be directly affected by what the City is proposing.

Our meeting will also feature a presentation by Jim Walker regarding The University of Texas' relationships with surrounding neighborhoods. This meeting will also feature updates regarding neighborhood news, particularly the formation of a new neighborhood safety task force. All neighborhood residents (homeowners and renters alike) are welcome to attend this meeting.

Now back to the issue of rain. Since September 2007 Central Texas has endured another, yet unusually acute drought. The water level at Lake Travis, our regional storage reservoir, is seeping towards a historic low. Already the City of Austin has implemented mandatory water restrictions, primarily certain days on which we may water our lawns. While I have heard that the formation

of El Nino over the Pacific Ocean may enhance our rain chances come this fall, this drought is expected to continue for the next few months.

As a neighborhood, and as neighbors, we can help. Planting native, drought-resistant plants is a great start. On my morning walks and bike rides through our neighborhood I have seen many beautifully landscaped lawns featuring magnificent agaves, yuccas, and sotols to name a few. Another activity that may be done is to irrigate properly. Towards that end watering the appropriate areas of a lawn; i.e., the green part and not the concrete, and using the right amount of water can do wonders to both lower water bills and save the community's water.

By the time you read this I hope that our drought will have broken, and our daytime highs will be in the mid-80s. Even if this does happen, I hope that you may join us for our neighborhood meeting on August 19.

Cherrywood Calendar of Events

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

AUGUST 2009

- 8/7** CNA Film Night at Asbury United Methodist Church..... 7:00 pm
8/12 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at
Cherrywood Coffeehouse..... 6:30 pm
8/15 COPS Training at APD Central East Station..... 9:45 am
8/18 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00 pm
8/19 Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary..... 6:30-8:00 pm

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 9/4** CNA Film Night at Asbury United Methodist Church..... 7:00 pm
9/9 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at
Cherrywood Coffeehouse..... 6:30 pm
9/15 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00 pm

OCTOBER 2009

- 10/2** CNA Film Night at Asbury United Methodist Church..... 7:00 pm
10/6 National Night Out..... 6:00 pm
10/10 Cherrywood Plant & Book Swap..... 9:30-11:00 am
10/14 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at
Cherrywood Coffeehouse..... 6:30 pm
10/20 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00 pm
10/31 Halloween Parade in Cherrywood..... 5:30 pm

CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC MEETINGS

For a list of upcoming Austin City Council and City of Austin Board & Commission meetings, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us.

NEW CHERRYWOOD.ORG

Thanks neighbors for being patient as the CNA Web Team transfers the old Cherrywood.org Web site to Joomla!, which is a CMS that allows you, our neighbors, to contribute directly to the CNA Web site. You'll find links to various Cherrywood groups as well as City of Austin contacts to keep you informed about the community around you. We'll be adding more content in the coming weeks, so check back often. To submit comments or suggestions, contact the CNA Web team at webmaster@cherrywood.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

THE FLEA

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If you have any questions or comments about **The Flea**, contact flea@cherrywood.org.

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair	Jeremy Mazur
Vice Chair	Girard Kinney
Secretary	Robin Peebles
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout

Members: Deb Freeman, David Greene, Justin Irving, Jack Josey Newman, Don Pettigrew, Eve Richter, Mark Schiff, and Tom Wald

If you have any questions or comments for the CNA Steering Committee, contact cna-sc@yahoo.com.

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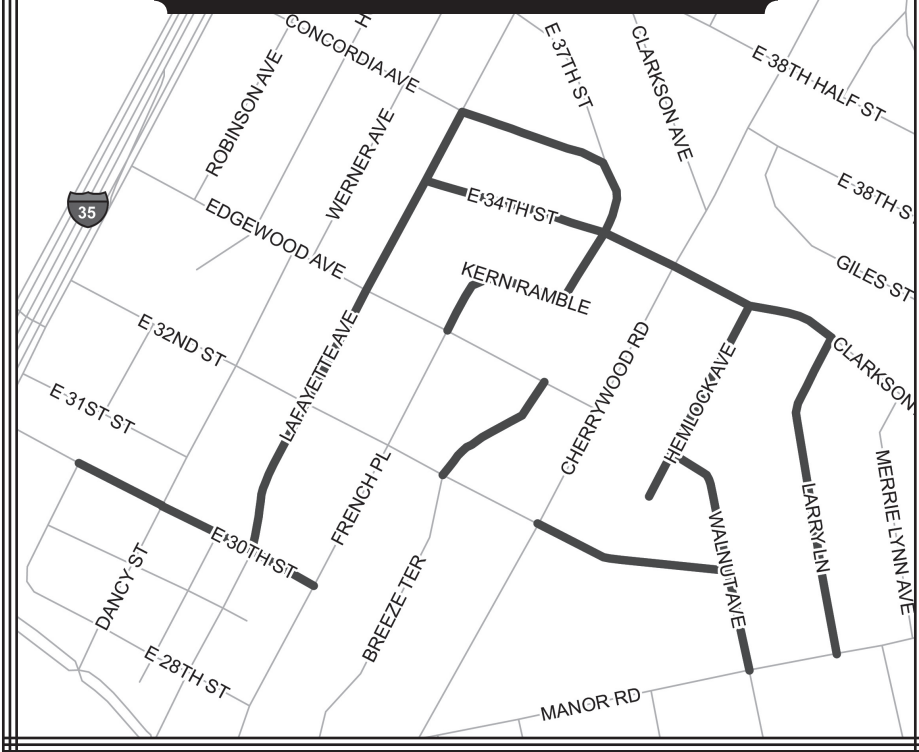
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Duplex Nation Net	Wendy Morgan



Thanks To Our Fantastic Flea Flickers

We would like to thank our neighbors who volunteer to deliver 1,600 copies of **THE FLEA** each quarter throughout our neighborhood: Priscilla Boston, Cara Choate, Mike Damal, Dolly Esney, Deb Freeman, Alex Garcia, David Greene, Christie Hepburn, Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Jim MacKay, Diane Midgette, Chris Owen, Stefan Schuster, Scheleen Walker, and Sherri Whitmarsh. Special thanks to Kate and Mike Stricklin for coordinating the deliveries!

STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM



Strength Through Unity: The Austin Neighborhood Council

by Justin Irving, ANC Representative

On the third Wednesday of every month, representatives from most of the Austin neighborhood associations meet to express their concerns, air their grievances, and appeal for solidarity as part of the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC). This solidarity, while at times difficult to achieve, allows the ANC to present itself as the collected voice of the Austin neighborhoods. First assembled in 1973 to provide the political infrastructure to allow individual neighborhoods to express their interests on a citywide scale, the ANC has in its 35+ years of service come to be involved with every level of Texas government at one time or another. Its real accomplishments however lie in its ability to grab the ear of the Austin City Council in a way that individual neighborhoods simply can not do on their own. After all, it is no coincidence that the only mayoral candidate who showed up to the ANC candidates forum last spring won the election.

The ANC's recent pursuits have revolved mainly around maintaining the authority of the neighborhoods in planning and zoning issues, advocating for affordable housing throughout the city, and petitioning the Austin City Council to begin transitioning to single member district representation. Meetings are open to the public and participation is encouraged. For more information, visit www.ancweb.org.

STREET RECONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR CENTRAL CHERRYWOOD

The City of Austin (City) has initiated the Street Reconstruction Program (2006-12) to improve the condition of streets within the city limits. As a part of this work, the City of Austin Street & Bridge Division (S&B) entered into an agreement with Engineering Services Division (ESD) to perform preliminary engineering and final design services for the improvements under this Program.

The purpose of this preliminary engineering report (PER) is to present and summarize the findings of the performed analyses, provide rehabilitation recommendations and develop a construction schedule and cost. Final design services and extents of improvements will be based on the analysis and evaluation contained within that report. The map shows the streets that fall under this street reconstruction program and is known as Bond 2006-Group 21 Project.

ESD met with the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) Steering Committee last month to discuss the project, list of streets and projected schedule. It was a very productive and interactive meeting and ESD plans to present the same agenda for the CNA General Meeting

this month on August 19. In coordination with Jeremy Mazur, CNA Steering Committee Chairman, we hope to receive a letter from the CNA that indicates what the homeowners would like to see accomplished with this project.

ESD anticipates submitting the PER to S&B first part of August. Upon evaluation of the PER, ESD will move forward with design and permitting. The City's projected schedule of the PER in conjunction with design and permitting, results in a design completion tentatively in December 2010 and tentative construction start date in late first quarter of 2011.

—Submitted by Carlos Garcia, P.E.
Engineer C, Team Leader
City of Austin Public Works
Engineering Services Division



From Hardy Plants to Thomas Hardy: Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap

The 10th installment of the Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap will be Saturday, October 10 from 9-11:30am. The event has gained momentum over the years and we have quite a few regulars now. People continue to bring interesting and sometimes unusual plants including Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile). They also pass on growing tips and other lore. And no matter how often I label my newly acquired plants, I always end up with a mystery plant. So gather up your plants/books and join us in October!

Seek AND Find

Can you find this neighborhood landscape feature?



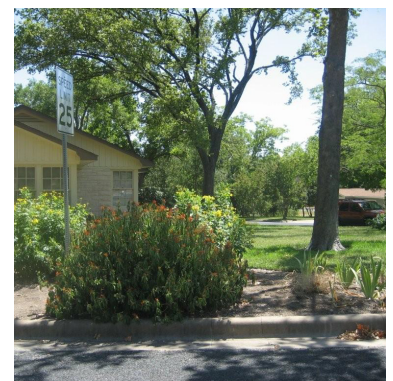
Blue Ribbon Yard

Even though we're going through some exceedingly dry times that challenge the most green of thumbs, neighbors found four deserving landscapes to nominate. Some common elements among all the yards were an emphasis on native and drought-tolerant plants, creative use of spaces that receive lots of sun, eliminating large grassy areas, and reducing maintenance.

Congratulations to Larry Hill and Gay Goforth, owners of this quarter's Cherrywood Blue Ribbon Yard at 3815 Brookview Road. The challenges of a large, sunny corner lot have inspired Larry to create beds with native plants, such as Turk's Cap and salvia, and drought-tolerant, blooming tropicals. Larry recently added gravel borders to help with drainage and reduce water usage. His favorite spot is an Asian-themed bed of fern and river rock near Gay's vegetable garden in the backyard.



Photos by Leah Nyfeler



How Does My Garden Grow

by Jim Reed

I purchased these water troughs at Callahan's, which have drainage valves. I placed six inches of river stone in the bottom for drainage, then filled them up with organic soil from Natural Gardener. For irrigation, I bought a soaker hose, a regular hose, six hose adapter sets to make small length of soaker hose separated by regular hose, and a water timer all at Breed & Co. Now in the evening I place the timer on five minutes, and I can direct water right to the root system of my plants. This year I am growing Okra (big plant in front), peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, and cantaloupe.



Just the Facts Ma'am... Want a Safer Cherrywood?

by Dolly Esney

Attend Austin Police Department's (APD) new and improved **Citizens on Patrol (COPs)** training. July session attendees received an informative, interactive, humble and even humorous conversationally styled education on how to recognize behavior and activities that compromise our neighborhood's security. Upon completion of classroom education, attendees will schedule a ride-along with police as part of the training. Afterwards, pairs of volunteers can conduct patrols by foot or vehicle to report suspicious activity to police via cell phone, but not to make arrests.

Host a **National Night Out Party**. On Tuesday, October 6, Austin-area neighborhoods will be taking part in the annual National Night Out Party, which has been moved from August to accommodate cooler temperatures. Anyone can host a party at their house or at the park. Invite your closest neighbors or entire block to meet and communicate what's happening on your street and in Cherrywood. Have folks over for a potluck or cookout, even ice cream gets folks out of the house—it's up to you. If you would like to have the Austin Police Department or Austin Fire Department visit your party, you must turn in an application to the APD by Friday, August 28. Applications are available online at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm>. For additional information, please contact Rosie Salinas at the Community Liaison Office at 974-4900 or nno@ci.austin.tx.us.

Neighbors who have already signed up include Kathy and Bill Jones (Cherrywood Road), Melanie and Scot Chasteen (Grayson Lane/Basford Road), Trisha Mitchell Kim, Ted Smith and Patti Everitt (Crescent Drive).

Serve on **Cherrywood's Safety Committee**. Choose one responsibility or task to contribute to the workable success, such as attending the monthly APD Central East Commander's Forum, collecting informative data for the Safety Resources library, coordinate interaction between Neighborhood Watch groups or organize the Safety Fair. For example, Cherrywood neighbor Jack Darby has created an incredibly informative and interactive Web site detailing Austin's criminal activity at krimelabb.com. There are plenty of single responsibilities to assume as well as each and every contribution is significantly helpful to our safety.

MISSING



My five-year-old cat, Garfield, has been missing since May 29. He's declawed, fixed, has freckled lips and fluffy squirrel-like tail. Very talkative. Last seen wearing a blue collar. His home is near Concordia and Kern Ramble. If you have any information about Garfield, please call 997-8997. A reward may be offered.



YIKES!

HOW TO PROTECT
YOUR BIKES

by Tom Wald
CNA Transportation Chair

Bicycles are one of the most common stolen items in our neighborhood so it's important to secure your bicycle when it is not attended. Before you pop another wheelie, take a moment to record your bicycle's serial number along with its model and type and any other distinct features such as color, wheel size, and/or special tagging. You should also register your bicycle online with UT-Austin (even if you are just passing through campus)

at <http://www.utexas.edu/parking/transportation/biking/>. The City of Austin is also due to have a bicycle registration program soon thanks to Council Member Randi Shade and other local bicycle advocates as the Austin City Council unanimously passed the 2009 Austin Bike Plan earlier this summer.

Registration works as bicycles are indeed recovered. However, if your bike unfortunately does get stolen, here are the four steps you should

take to help recover your wheels:

1. Call 311
2. Send an e-mail to the Cherrywood NeighborNet at NeighborNet@yahoo.com
3. Post your missing bike on ATXBS at <http://www.atxbs.com/?q=node/407>
4. Also post on craigslist (<http://austin.craigslist.org/bik/>) and Gordonslist (cherrywood.org) and be sure to put "stolen" in the subject line.

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND VOLUNTEERS

by Priscilla Boston, CHULA Chair

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CHULA LEAGUE, YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED NONPROFIT

organization proudly announces two brand-spanking new Web sites: one for the organization itself and one for our primary fundraising mechanism, the Cherrywood Art Fair. Both of these are snazzy and chock full of information. You'll find a host of material from financial statements to requests for proposals for projects we are currently funding on the CHULA Web site (www.chulaleague.org). Never again will you wonder what CHULA is all about!

On the Cherrywood Art Fair Web site (cherrywoodartfair.org) you'll find everything you ever wanted to know about the Fair. Applications are now being accepted from artists for this year's Fair and the deadline to apply is Friday, September 25. If you're an artist you best apply soon as competition gets tougher every year. You may apply online or download the application and send it in.

We are still looking for someone to serve as our food coordinator this year. This is a great chance to be a part of the most fun, feel-good project you'll ever work on. If you want to help but can't make a commitment that big we also need volunteers to work during the Fair.

Consider being a sponsor of this year's Fair or donate high-quality goods, services or gift certificates for our silent auction. Not only will you get the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped produce this high-quality, wildly popular event (check out the press we've received on our Web site; see the About section), you'll also get some great exposure for your business. Then once the Fair has come and gone, you'll also know your contributions will be put to good use all year long in CHULA-funded projects.

For more information about how you can volunteer, sponsor and/or donate to our silent auction, visit the Cherrywood Art Fair site and click on the "Participate" tab or call Priscilla Boston at 478-1867.

The 4th Annual Cherrywood Halloween Parade



The bewitching allure of cooler temps...A time when you can be outdoors, sharing laughs and candy corn with neighbors and family...A wicked, fierce and enchanting evening...Let's promenade for the Fourth Annual Cherrywood Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31, at 5:30 p.m. We'll meet at the corner of 28th and French Place and meander our way to the Cherrywood Green.

It's pretty scary to think that this annual event is not that far away. Let's plan the spookiest Halloween Parade yet! Last year's gathering sparked some great ideas for the future, including:

- additional games at the Cherrywood Green
- a "costume show," featuring a mini- fashion show for all the cute trick-or-treaters
- better publicity of the parade (scavenger hunt last year went almost unnoticed)
- later start time
- neighborhood business-sponsored food/drink

Feel free to contact Jennifer Elsner at textimage@gmail.com about any other ideas you have or better yet, let Jennifer know you want to help out. She'll be posting regularly and updating the neighborhood on all the creative, clever and creepy events that come her way!

TAG! YOU'RE IT! *by Dolly Ensey*

Due to a high volume of graffiti, the Austin Police Department has changed the manner in which it receives reports and handles graffiti cases. Since not everyone is a graffiti expert and because not all graffiti is gang-related, all graffiti cases are initially handled by APD sector reps. Officer Kevin Bartles, formerly in charge of all graffiti matters, will now focus only on gang-related graffiti. How can we help?

- Take both long-range and close-up photos before graffiti is removed
- Call 311 and ask to be transferred to APD's non-emergency intake representative
- Provide location with the two closest cross streets and block number
- Obtain an APD case number
- E-mail photos, APD case number, and related information to centraleastdetectives@ci.austin.tx.us

Why? Because no photos, no evidence. No evidence, no prosecution, even if the suspect is known because the photos are the evidence of the crime. If a serial tagger is apprehended for one instance, he/she can be charged with a stronger offense if there is a large enough collection of evidence, particularly of photos.



Changes Continue at Cherrywood Green

FROG (Friends of the 'Green) is moving forward with improvements to the Cherrywood Green. We have secured beautification funds from AT&T and Austin Energy totaling \$25,000, which we intend to use toward our goal of removing the overhead cables; and we have received a substantial grant from the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) to help in with the removal of invasive plant species in the creek area, completion of the concrete and limestone bench at the rest area, and some additional funds to help us remove the east-west overhead utility lines and the utility pole that is located in the herb garden. We continue to work with the City of Austin, Austin Energy, Time Warner Cable and AT&T for the removal of overhead utility lines at the Green, and we are working on a strategy to also work with Time Warner to relocate their lines as well. In addition to other donations and grants received over the last few years, CHULA recently granted FROG \$500 for the Beverly Schiff herb garden project.

As featured elsewhere in this issue of THE FLEA, the City of Austin is planning an upcoming street reconstruction project in Cherrywood. Note that the City of Austin Public

Works Department is working closely with the Environmental Services Division of Watershed Protection and Development Review to also address water quality issues; this effort may result in a water garden and other green features that will become a part of Cherrywood Green. Also, the street project may allow us to get the sidewalk along the 34th street side of the Green constructed.

Look for announcements about volunteer days at the Green to work with American Youth Works (AYW) ECorps in removing invasive plants, installing some erosion control and revegetating the creek banks, and continuing to perform the various planting, weeding, watering, trail maintenance, and other chores that are a part of our commitment to the Green.

FROG learned that we did not receive another grant submitted with Keep Austin Beautiful to replace the current trash can with both recycling and trash cans of the type now used in the Mueller development parks, but we were encouraged to try again next year (see meeting notes at end of article).

Speaking of trash, there now is a trash can at the Green near the picnic tables. Austin Parks Department

empties this can "a few times a week." Please do not use it for anything but doggy litter bags and trash you find around the Green—if it gets too full and/or becomes an eyesore we have the option of removing the can, and will go back to the old "pack in, pack out" trash policy. Look for an announced competition for the design of new trash and recycling containers within the next year.

FROG had its second official meeting on July 28. Many topics were discussed at the meeting, including the recent APF grant, strategy for achieving relocation of the Time Warner overhead cables, work plan for summer and fall at the Green, and coordination with City of Austin departments as they move forward with projects that impinge upon the Green.

Finally, FROG has an Adopt-a-Park agreement with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) for the maintenance of the Cherrywood Green and the coordination/development of improvements at the Green. If you wish to be a member of FROG, please contact Mike Damal at mdamal@peoplepc.com or 478-9622.

—Submitted by Mike Damal, Chair, and Girard Kinney, Vice-Chair, FROG



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Asbury's Getting Curb Appeal

Thanks to the tireless work of Cherrywood neighbor, Billy Hamborsky, the landscape of Asbury is looking up. New flowers, shrubs, grass and repairs are brightening the space at 38-1/2 and Cherrywood. Chris Harris, also a Cherrywood neighbor, heads up the landscape crew that is giving the lawn a facelift. If you have some plants or flowers to donate you can call the church office, 477-8122, or drop them off on the Cherrywood side.

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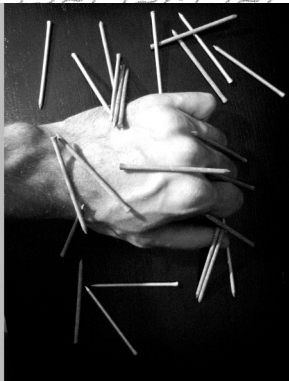
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Rebecca's

HOMESOWNER'S UPDATE

What's Hot and What's Not in the Cherrywood Neighborhood



August 2009

7 Tips to Green Your Home

Want to make your home more environmentally friendly? Here are some tips to help you do just that!

1. Replace old standard light bulbs with energy efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). Use dimmer switches on light that don't have CFLs.
2. Unplug your home electronics. When you leave your home electronics plugged in and they're not being used they still consume energy.
3. If you are a homeowner interested in being more energy efficient and maintaining the long-term health of the planet consider installing solar panels....the rewards can be phenomenal.
4. Seal your home. Go through your house and ensure that all windows and doors are properly sealed and insulated. If necessary, add fiberglass insulation to the rooms that need it, or purchase a home insulation kit for windows and doors.
5. Return to the good old days of doing the laundry. Anyone remember how to string a clothes line?
6. Install energy-efficient appliances. Getting rid of that old refrigerator in the garage could save you as much as \$150 a year. If any of your appliances is more than 10 years old, the EPA suggests replacing them with energy-efficient models that bear their "Energy Star" logo.
7. Garden green. First, use compost instead of synthetic fertilizers. Use native plants as much as possible. Focus on perennials. Stop using chemical pesticides. Finally, consider using an old-fashioned push mower. The only energy expended is yours.



Market Analysis for Cherrywood Neighborhood for the past 90 days

Average prices and values vary widely within our neighborhood boundaries. For a professional analysis of how your home fits into this market contact Rebecca for an appointment.

Average home in Cherrywood is 3 beds, 2 baths.
Average home size is about 1,433 sq. ft.
Average list price is \$289,226. (This is down \$13K from last quarter.)
Average home selling price is \$259,421.
Average price per square foot is \$216.32.
Average time on market is 56 days.

Featured Home for Sale

3716 Hollywood



*Darling remodel w/with
3 large bedrooms &
2 full baths. Walk-In closet, hardwoods floors, open
kitchen/living, master bed upstairs, lots of energy
saving features. Price includes a \$5,000 landscape
allowance!*

A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

*If you're planning a
move to a larger home,
need to relocate, or
know someone on the
move - contact Rebecca
at 415-9876 or
rebecca@texperthomes.
com*

**FOR THE BEST
MOVE OF YOUR
LIFE!**

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Neighbors, if you've been waiting for the right time to buy a house in this neighborhood....this is it! Interest rates are at a 45 year low and home prices are slightly dropping! You can't go wrong with these factors. So if you're considering investing the the area, call me and let me show what I can do for you!!!