



# THE Flea

MAY 2009 | VOLUME 15 | NUMBER 2

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG



Photo courtesy of Austin Police Department

## Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

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**Wednesday, May 20**

**6:30–8:00pm**

**MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY**

## Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo will address the neighborhood at 6:30pm

Agenda items include a presentation by Austin Energy on rebates and energy-saving tips; introduction of the Friends of the Green (FROG); Upper Boggy Creek status; and ratifying new CNA Steering Committee members. All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend!

# STEERING CHERRYWOOD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

by Jeremy B. Mazur, CNA Steering Committee Chair

## **“We’re a neighborhood association, not a homeowners’ association.”**

This is what I tell people when I say that I’m a member of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) Steering Committee. Unlike a homeowners’ association, we don’t regulate the color of paint for your home, or how many cars can be parked in your driveway, or whether you can have a flagpole or pieces of art in your front yard. We don’t require that every lawn be mowed

fortnightly, that all lawns be planted with St. Augustine grass, or whether or not political endorsement signs may be placed in those lawns. Nor do we require the payment of association dues or fees, or possess the power to place a lien—or even foreclose upon—someone’s home. These are things that a homeowners’ association, by law, may do. As a Cherrywood resident who delights in the aesthetic, artistic, and political eclecticism of our neighborhood, and as chair of the CNA Steering Committee, I’m glad that we don’t do this. And I am thankful that we are not, nor ever have contemplated, incorporation as a homeowners’ association.

As a neighborhood association we do, however, try to represent

the interests of Cherrywood. Since January we have worked to inform Capital Metro with regard to the neighborhood’s concerns with the noise associated with nightly freight train traffic. In March, we submitted a letter to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, as well as State Senator Kirk Watson and State Representative Dawnna Dukes, in support of a proposal to create affordable housing opportunities near our neighborhood. And, as Girard Kinney writes in his article on page 10, the CNA—in concert with concerned, dedicated neighbors like Mike Damal—has forged an agreement with AT&T and the City of Austin regarding the stewardship and care of the Cherrywood Green, which is

located at 34th and Cherrywood. These are a few examples of what the CNA Steering Committee has been working on in so far this year.

This month we have another opportunity to come together as a neighborhood to share our interests and concerns. Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo will be headlining our quarterly neighborhood meeting to hear our thoughts and concerns regarding crime and police-related issues in our area. The general meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Maplewood Elementary and will also feature a presentation by Austin Energy on ways to make our homes more energy efficient before the onslaught of this summer’s heat; updates about the newly formed Friends of Cherrywood Green (FROG); recommendations from the CNA Planning and Zoning Committee, which does not regulate lawns or home paint color; as well as an update of the CNA Steering Committee’s actions. I look forward to seeing you there!

# Cherrywood Calendar of Events

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

## MAY 2009

- 5/1 CNA Film Night at Asbury United Methodist Church ..... 7:00 pm
- 5/6 CNA Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting (location TBD) ... 6:30 pm
- 5/9 City of Austin General Election – Go Vote!
- 5/13 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ..... 6:30 pm
- 5/19 UBC Planning Committee Meeting ..... 6:30 pm
- 5/20 CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary ..... 6:30-8 pm
- 5/27 CNA Transportation Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ... 6:30 pm

## JUNE 2009

- 6/1 Large Brush Collection will begin; please have your large brush and limbs on the curb by 6:30 am
- 6/3 CNA Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting (location TBD) ... 6:30 pm
- 6/5 CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC..... 7:00 pm
- 6/10 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ..... 6:30 pm
- 6/16 UBC Planning Committee Meeting at Kleberg Hall ..... 6:30 pm
- 6/22 Large Bulk Collection will begin; please have your bulk items on the curb by 6:30 am
- 6/24 CNA Transportation Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ... 6:30 pm

## JULY 2009

- 7/1 CNA Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting (location TBD) ... 6:30 pm
- 7/3 CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC..... 7:00 pm
- 7/4 Happy Fourth of July!
- 7/8 CNA Steering Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ..... 6:30 pm
- 7/21 UBC Planning Committee Meeting at Kleberg Hall ..... 6:30 pm
- 7/22 CNA Transportation Committee Meeting at Star Seeds Café ... 6:30 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](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us).

# THE Flea

**THE FLEA** is the quarterly newsletter for the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, Austin, Texas. ©2009. All rights reserved.

Editor	Deb Freeman
Designer	Sherri Whitmarsh
Advertising	Rebecca Kohout
Distribution	Kate & Michael Stricklin

If you have any questions or comments about **The Flea**, contact [flea@cherrywood.org](mailto:flea@cherrywood.org).

### CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

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

Members: Martin Barrera, 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](mailto:cna-sc@yahoo.com).

### LISTSERVS | [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org)

NeighborNet	David Greene
Duplex Nation Net	Wendy Morgan



## Welcome Wagon on the Trail Again

If anyone would like to help distribute welcome brochures to our new neighbors, we'd love to have more folks involved with the Welcome Wagon. We could use two to four neighbors to help deliver brochures to those who move into Cherrywood. It doesn't take that long and its lots of fun to meet new neighbors who are glad to learn more about our neighborhood.

If you have recently moved into the neighborhood and haven't received a welcome brochure or would like to help with distribution, please contact CNA's Hospitality Chair, Rebecca Kohout, at [rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com](mailto:rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com) or call 415-9876 or 477-9560.

A reminder to businesses in the neighborhood that would like to be included in future Welcome Basket deliveries: if you have a product or service that you would like to include in a basket contact Rebecca Kohout (see above). You must offer something of value to our neighbors such as a discount for services, product sample, or an actual item of value. Business cards and flyers are not accepted.

**CALLING ALL CHERRYWOOD PARENTS!**

## **Economy got you down? No extra cash for a sitter? Join the brand new Cherrywood Babysitting Co-op!**

The Cherrywood Babysitting Co-op is essentially a time-swapping service. You “earn” hours of babysitting by sitting for other parents in the neighborhood, and “spend” them when someone else comes to babysit for you. It’s a great way to meet your neighbors, find playmates for your kids, and find a babysitter you can trust even when money is tight. Plus, you reach a large pool of potential sitters with one e-mail to the coop—no more chasing down your sitters by phone!

Concerned about privacy? It’s all in your hands. You decide when to e-mail the list with a request for a sitter. You decide which requests to respond to. All sittings are finalized privately, off-list. The Babysitting

Co-op will maintain a roster and track hours, but will never share your information—or your children’s—with anyone who is not a member of the group. And we’ll have lots of get-togethers so we all have an opportunity to get to know the other families.

We are just getting started and will be organizing meet-ups throughout the summer. Interested in helping to organize, attending a meet-up, or just signing up? Contact Christy Wilkens at [csawilkens@gmail.com](mailto:csawilkens@gmail.com) to be added to the list.

We hope you’ll join us! More families participating mean a stronger co-op, and more families who know each other means a stronger neighborhood.

*—Submitted by Christy Wilkens,  
mom of two (ages 2 and 3)*



## **HEALTHY AUSTIN PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Researchers at The University of Texas School of Public Health and the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department are launching a comprehensive study in the coming months called the Healthy Austin Project. The purpose of this study is to understand the physical activity, travel behaviors and health of residents in Mueller and in the surrounding neighborhoods, including Cherrywood. This project will be of direct benefit by helping to understand the needs and interests of Mueller and neighboring residents. The City of Austin will also benefit by understanding how planned growth can influence personal health.

As part of the study, 400 households in neighborhoods surrounding Mueller will receive a questionnaire in the mail in the next month. The questionnaire will ask about your previous neighborhood and physical activity and travel patterns before and after the redevelopment of Mueller. The information from your completed questionnaire will help identify the strengths and weaknesses of our neighborhood and make suggestions for the future that reflect the residents’ views.

Only one adult in each household should complete the questionnaire. Please take the time to respond as quickly as possible when you receive your questionnaire. Each house to return a completed questionnaire will be rewarded with a \$15 gift card!

## **Austin Film Society (AFS) Summer Film Camps**

Need something fun for your children ages 12-15 to do this summer? Have them make films with the pros at Austin Studios! AFS Film Camps teach hands-on narrative and experimental techniques using digital video.



Photo courtesy of  
Austin Film Society



In a fun project-based environment, students work in teams to craft short digital films and animations, from developing the kernel of a project idea to final edit and exhibition of their films. AFS camps at Austin Studios include select film screenings, a guest filmmaker visit, and a behind-the-scenes studios tour. Finished films are screened for family and friends at a culminating Friday night showcase in the AFS screening room.

There will be four camps, which run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Camps will be held June 22–26, July 6–10, July 20–24, and August 3–7. Cost is \$250 (\$225 for AFS members). For more information, including how you can register, visit [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org).

## Mueller Update

by Rick Krivoniak

- April 23 marked one year since the ground-breaking for the 51st Street Reclaimed Water Tower, where construction of the two-million gallon "bowl" is now visible at the base. Once completed, it will be lifted to the top of the concrete base. The tower base is 45-feet wide and the bowl will be about 90-feet wide. At full height, the tower will be 170-feet tall.
- Construction will continue for several months on both the potable water line for Mueller, snaking through Windsor Park from Berkman at 51st Street to Cameron Road at Highway 290, and the extension of the reclaimed water line on 51st Street from Berkman to IH-35.
- Austin Energy (AE) has delayed construction of the Mueller Substation for about a year. After meetings with WPNA, the Mueller Commission, the Windsor Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, Catellus and several smaller groups of concerned folks, AE seemed willing to consider an alternate location for the Mueller Substation. At press time, a site on the state-owned Troublemaker Studios property and near the Combined Transportation Emergency and Communications Center (CTECC) off of Old Manor Road was under discussion. The rezoning case for 2403 East 51st Street, related to this project, has been postponed until May 12.
- Pad Thai has opened at 1201 Barbara Jordan Blvd., in the former Doc Green's location. Several reviews online and from neighbors have been great for this second Austin Pad Thai location.
- Friday, May 22, marks the 10th anniversary of the last plane flight from Mueller.
- The Home Builders Association of Greater Austin will be presenting the 56th Parade of Homes, which includes the first-ever Five-Star Green parade, at Mueller from May 23 through June 7, 2009, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday through Tuesday (closed Wednesdays). The five homes are located on Camacho Street across from Mueller's Lake Park. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors and children ages 5-17, and can be purchased at the gate. Home builders are Bill Taute Homes, Cool River Custom Homes, Durrett Interests LLC, The Muskin Company and Streetman homes. For more information, visit [www.austinhomebuilders.com](http://www.austinhomebuilders.com).

## Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Team Needs You!

by Girard Kinney, AIA, UBC Alternative Representative

The Upper Boggy Creek (UBC) Neighborhood Planning Team is an umbrella organization responsible for the planning and coordination of the Upper Boggy Creek area, which is located in the east-central part of Austin's urban core. The boundaries for the planning area are IH-35, 26th Street, and Comal Street on the west; Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Cedar Boulevard, Rogers Boulevard, Walnut Boulevard, and Manor Road to the south; and Airport Boulevard to the east and north.

The UBC is comprised of representatives of the Cherrywood, Wilshire Woods/Delwood 1 and 2, Blackland, and Holy Cross neighborhoods. The Planning Team is responsible for making recommendations to the City of Austin on development projects pertaining to these neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has several representatives on the team and with Cherrywood being the largest neighborhood in the area, it's vital that we are well represented. Therefore, we are seeking new members to represent the neighborhood. If you are interested in being a part of this important planning team, please contact the CNA Steering Committee at [cna-sc@yahoo.com](mailto:cna-sc@yahoo.com).

For more information, visit [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/ubc.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/ubc.htm).

## Arthur Amundson—

### 100 YEARS YOUNG

by George Holcombe



Photo courtesy of George Holcombe

Arthur Amundson, longtime Cherrywood neighbor, is starting his second childhood at the age of 100. Arthur came to Austin in 1939 after graduating from North Texas University. He taught for nine years in local schools, including Austin High. In 1948 he began work in maintenance for the Austin Independent School District and headed up that organization where he worked for 26 years until retiring in 1974. In between,

Arthur earned a Master's Degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1954.

He remains an active benefactor for university scholarships at North Texas University, Huston Tillotson, and through

the local Retired Teachers Association. He is one of the reasons Asbury United Methodist Church's buildings remain in such good shape. He has been a member there since 1950, heading up the Trustees Committee among other work. He also worked diligently in Boy Scouts and many other civic organizations. He is truly a treasure to our neighborhood.

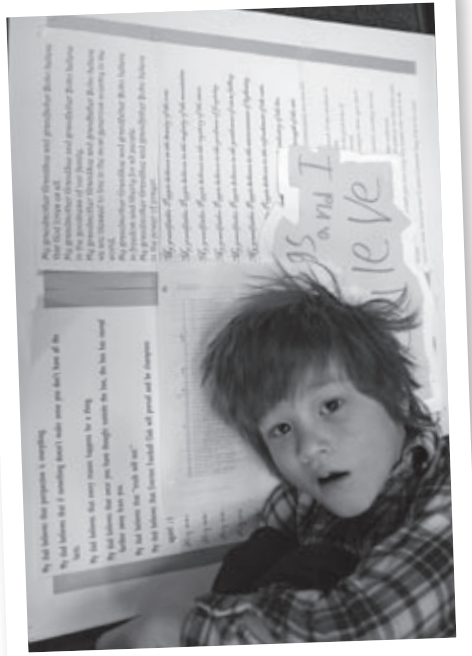
*He is truly a treasure to our neighborhood.*

# Cherrywood SEVEN YEAR-OLD SHARES His Beliefs ON NPR'S *This I Believe* SERIES



by Wendy L. Morgan

From beliefs commonly accepted on the playground to views shared with those ten times his age, seven-year-old Cherrywood neighbor Tarak McLain became the youngest essayist to share his beliefs with NPR listeners during the popular *This I Believe* weekly series. McLain read his beliefs in the form of a list just days before President Obama's inauguration in January during NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday*, which was broadcast on NPR stations across the country and on KUT-FM in Austin.



Photos courtesy of Sloan McLain

McLain met Jay Allison, producer of *This I Believe*, at a book reading at Book People last year, and stunned Allison when he produced a list of 100 things that he believes, which he wrote to celebrate the 100th day of school at Maplewood Elementary in Mary Beth Metcalf's kindergarten class last school year. Allison asked McLain to recite the 100 beliefs on the spot, and said he would be in touch if it could be featured as a *This I Believe* segment.

The list was pared down to McLain's favorite 30 beliefs for the NPR broadcast, and includes inspirational and remarkable observations from the first grader, which are applicable to all ages. He joins a growing list of well-known and everyday essayists who have contributed to the series since its premiere in 2005, including former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, skateboarding pro Tony Hawk, activist Gloria Steinem, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Essays chosen for broadcast have ranged from revelations about parents, personal struggles, race and identity, and now views from a seven-year-old boy from Austin.

To listen to Tarak's essay, please visit [www.npr.org/thisibelieve](http://www.npr.org/thisibelieve) and click on the "Search Essay Database" for Tarak McLain. You may also visit the blog that Tarak and his mom Sloan McLain have started at <http://thistarakbelieves.blogspot.com>.

## Thirty Things I Believe

by Tarak McLain

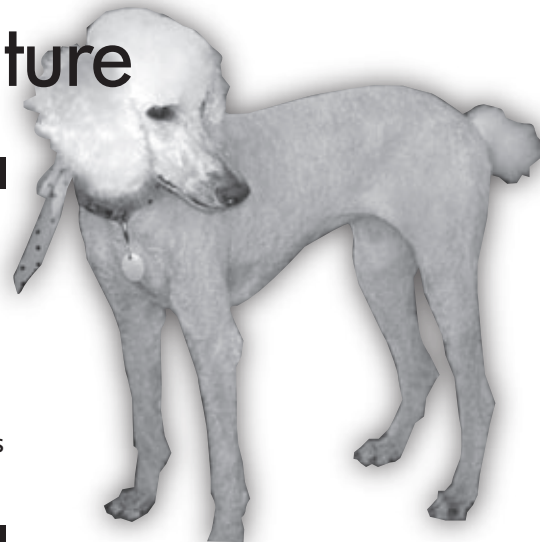
- I believe life is good.*
- I believe God is in everything.*
- I believe we're all equal.*
- I believe we can help people.*
- I believe everyone is weird in their own way.*
- I believe hate is a cause for love.*
- I believe that when I meditate I feel peaceful.*
- I believe we should be generous.*
- I believe brothers and sisters should be kind to each other.*
- I believe kids should respect their parents.*
- I believe I should not whine.*
- I believe people should wake up early.*
- I believe people should go outside more.*
- I believe in nature.*
- I believe people should use fewer trees.*
- I believe we should help the Arctic and rainforest animals.*
- I believe people shouldn't throw litter on the ground.*
- I believe people should not smoke.*
- I believe God is in good and bad.*
- I believe in magic.*
- I believe people should not give up.*
- I believe love is everywhere.*
- I believe that God helps us to have a good time.*
- I believe we live best in a community.*
- I believe we can protect people in danger.*
- I believe we should help the poor.*
- I believe it's OK to die but not to kill.*
- I believe war should not have started.*
- I believe war should stop.*
- I believe we can make peace.*

# Maggie's **great** Adventure

by Lee Williams-Miller

## THE ESCAPE

Earlier this year, Maggie, our standard poodle, freaked out because of fireworks and jumped our chain link fence. After my husband, James, and I walked and drove around Cherrywood with no luck in finding her, we immediately posted on the NeighborNet and CraigsList. We put up flyers and posters at neighborhood businesses and cross streets. Eventually our search area expanded when Maggie sightings started coming in. Along with the great tips that our neighbor Dolly Ensey gave us, we used other suggestions that are listed on Austin Pets Alive! ([www.austinpetsalive.org](http://www.austinpetsalive.org)).



## THE SIGHTINGS

That Thursday, we got calls from folk who had seen her the previous night at El Chilito and in the H-E-B parking lot. Several times during the afternoon, people saw Maggie around Cherrywood, Delwood, Hancock Center and Mueller Lake Park. By the time we would arrive at the location, Maggie would be gone. She was letting no one near her. Then for four long days (and chilly nights) we had no reported sightings.

## MAGGIE'S RETURN

The following Monday, we used Find Toto ([www.findtoto.com](http://www.findtoto.com)) to phone a pet alert to 5,000 neighbors in Austin. Immediately after the alert went out, we had folks from surrounding neighborhoods call in that they hadn't seen Maggie, but that they would be on the lookout for her. Then on Tuesday morning, five days after Maggie escape, we got a call. Maggie was near the ponds just south of the Mueller airport tower. After a chase that involved at least 10 people driving cars, walking, and communicating via cell phones, James was directed to Maggie who was sitting exhausted in a yard on Willowbrook Drive. James slowly approached Maggie and asked her if she was ready to come home. Maggie got up and walked toward James who then scooped her up in his arms. Maggie's last run had covered about five miles in about 45 minutes, starting from Mueller and ending just across from Willowbrook Reach.

Maggie, no longer fluffy white, was a wad of grey stringy, stinky fur. Many of her toe pads were bleeding and raw and she was extremely thin. After the adrenaline from the final chase had worn off, she was in pain and very shaky on her feet.

Maggie is now back to being queen of the couch and enjoyed a welcome home party soon afterwards with all of her heroes, who turned out to be true neighbors indeed.



Photos courtesy of Lee Williams-Miller



We all know how worrisome it can be to learn that your beloved pet may be lost. Keep these tips handy in case you need help locating your furry loved one.



**Think ahead** by microchipping your pet. Prepare for your pet's reactions to traveling, moving or loud noises, especially thunderstorms and fireworks. Take pet photos and/or video showing full view and close-ups for online and physical notices. Spay or neuter pets to reduce roaming. Note that Austin City ordinance states, "every owner of a dog and any person having charge, care, custody or control of any dog should restrain such dogs from running at large."



**Take charge** by not waiting for pet to return on its own. Rally friends, family and neighbors in a search. Expand search area as needed as dogs can travel up to 30 miles; however, cats usually hide nearby or even inside a home.

## Seek and Find

.....


Can you find these neighborhood landscape features?




Photos by Leah Nyfeler


## Tips of the Tail by Dolly Ensey

  
**Tell all** by posting lost/found notices both physically, and online, especially Craigslist, NeighborNet and surrounding neighborhood Listservs; the more exposure, the better. To avoid having to attach a photo each time, first post an alert with a photo on Craigslist, then use that link for subsequent postings. A subject line should include as much descriptive information as possible, so a reader will know where the pet was lost/found; e.g., LOST DOG: Male Pit Bull – Walnut Ave, Cherrywood neighborhood, near Fiesta, 78722.

  
**Pet flyers and posters** are different. A flyer is a smaller notice, containing the “who, what, when, where, how,” pet description and contact details. Provide flyers to local businesses, especially vets. Display flyers in areas frequented by pets and their humans. Distribute pet business card-sized notices to neighbors or persons working nearby. Put flyers on your vehicle. Posters are larger and should only contain bare-bone facts displayed in large dimensions: “Lost” above your

pet’s photo with telephone number below. By using this method, information can be grasped quickly by those passing through high-traffic locations. If weather is inclement, laminate or seal posters. Remember to remove flyers and posters once you are reunited with your pet, so that you inform others of the good news and keep Cherrywood looking nice.

  
**Track and test information** by writing everything in a notebook. Map sightings and flyer distribution. Pose questions to finder regarding withheld pet features. Beware of scams. Go accompanied, in public places when meeting a finder.

  
**Tour shelters daily** to view animals in all areas. Why? Many shelters, including Austin’s Town Lake Animal Center, do not compare incoming pets with lost pet reports. Do not rely solely on another person’s description as your pet’s appearance might have changed due to dirt or matting.

Don’t despair if your pet isn’t found immediately. Reasons abound for a delayed pet reunion, so you need to hang in there...often a good Samaritan will detain and care for a pet until s/he sees a lost pet notice; cats become accidentally trapped inside everything from garages to sweater drawers; dogs jump into other yards until the owner of the yard returns to find an extra guest; both dogs and cats bum rides in vehicles travelling far away and some even slip through neighbors’ doors while neighbors are away.

According to Missing Pet Partnership, a search-and-research resource for lost pets, pet and human personalities do affect whether a pet is lost or found:

- Lost Cat Behavior: <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recovery-lostcat.php>
- Lost Dog Behavior: <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recovery-lostdog.php>

# FRENCH PLACE MORNING

by Robert Porter

**On spring mornings**, behind our house, a mockingbird begins his singing right at 6 a.m. The sky is still gray and traffic noise on the nearby freeway is only a susurrantion, not yet infused with the wail of ambulances and the throaty roar of semi-trucks using their “jake brakes.” The bird, sensing no competition, runs through his repertoire casually. After about 15 minutes he’s warmed up and moves on to serenade elsewhere.

There is a momentary lull and then the tiny, ticking call of a cardinal begins. It is so delicate that it can only be heard if our window is open. Cardinals have had a home behind us ever since a neighbor planted a thick, conical fir tree against the fence 13 years ago. The dense cover gives them protection and they’ve built their nest high up in the branches to discourage predators. Our battered bird feeder has furnished meals for generations of these beautiful birds.

After his morning greeting there’s a quick hush, before the grackles start their weird, mechanical whirring and clacking. Being urban by nature they have slept in and now create a ruckus, intending to make up in annoyance for anything they might have earlier missed.

Gradually, beneath their diatribes, the banter of the little brown sparrows appears as they descend to the feeder from their overnight quarters. Then the rounded, querulous cooing of the doves begins to be heard as they join the congregation. They impolitely talk over each other and the air is full of the impatient but soft calling.

As the morning light comes in the window and the rumble of jets, the high nervous sound of lawn equipment and the frantic peal of sirens pushes our avian symphony into a supporting role another spring day has begun in French Place.

## Blue Ribbon Yard

Photos by Leah Nyfeler

Congratulations to **Rebecca Kohout**, owner of this quarter’s Blue Ribbon Yard at 1304 East 29th Street. Rebecca is restoring this quaint French Place house, and its garden, to its original 1930’s version. Be sure to walk by to sample the scents of the antique roses and Confederate Star jasmine that are currently and profusely blooming. Plantings include traditionals like the rose bush, drought-resistant natives such as lantana and laurels, bulbs (iris and agapanthas), and a “victory garden” complete with assorted vegetables and herbs; many of which are natives that were available in the era in which the house was built.





# Keeping Cherrywood Beautiful



## Connecting at the Creek

Cherrywood neighbors Scheleen and Jimmy Boone Walker, Sloan and Tarak McLain, Carrie McDonald and Maddie Crum took time to honor MLK by giving back to the community and clearing out trash from the Cherrywood creek.

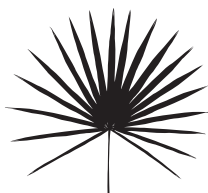
Photos courtesy of Scheleen Walker

## Willowbrook Reach Clean Sweep

by Dave Westenbarger

Many thanks to the Willowbrook Reach Clean Sweep volunteers for another successful cleanup. Nearly 20 volunteers pulled more than 17 bags of trash and nearly a trash can full of recyclables from the creek and park area, including one old, wet couch cushion; a heart-shaped pillow with the words "It's All About Me" on it (seems fitting); and a real stone-age tool (wow!)

Thanks especially to our friends from Round Rock and elsewhere who came a long way to do a good deed, and our anonymous benefactor who brought the cinnamon bread treats, which were very popular.



Camera-shy Traffic Isle Queen, Cara Choate (below), was caught weeding the Half Penny in broad daylight, without any flying monkeys in sight. Cara installed several earthenware pots known as ollas. When these clay jar replenish with water, they will magically refresh this concrete-locked oasis in the middle of East 38-1/2 Street. Photo by Dolly Ensey

# Cherrywood Green Keeps

by Girard Kinney, AIA, Vice-Chair of the Friends of the Green (FROG)



For years our little neighborhood park known as the Cherrywood Green has suffered the intrusion of ugly overhead cables and a utility pole placed right in its heart. To add insult to injury, in early February the neighborhood was shocked by the sudden appearance of AT&T equipment, concrete formwork and other construction paraphernalia at the Green. The original Friends of Cherrywood Green, which has been improving and maintaining the Green since 2002, sprang into action and, after being initially rebuffed by AT&T, succeeded in halting their plans to place new equipment and a new cable, and worked to stop the damage. We used this event to accomplish the long-held goal of eliminating the cables and the pole from the park. Over a few weeks, we worked with AT&T, various City of Austin departments, the Office of Council Member Sheryl Cole, and members of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) to find a way to achieve our mutual goals. In anticipation of a need for a formal agreement of some kind with AT&T, the CNA Steering Committee officially empowered the newly formed Friends of the Green (FROG) to act in behalf of the neighborhood to protect and enhance the park. FROG elected Mike Damal as chair (Bull Frog) and Girard Kinney as vice-chair, and a vision statement has been adopted.

## **A Vision for Cherrywood Green**

Cherrywood Green lies along the north side of East 34th Street from Kern Ramble on the west to Cherrywood Road on the east. The west branch of Upper Boggy Creek, and tributaries from the west and north, all exist within the Green. Its north boundary is the south boundary of the Concordia Avenue right-of-way and since this block of Concordia Avenue was abandoned by the City of Austin as a street many years ago when a rise on the creek caused the bridge to wash out, that vacant right-of-way effectively functions as a part of the Green. Although donated to the city as a park in the original Cherrywood subdivision, the site was assigned to the Stormwater Utility Department by the City of Austin and is maintained by them in partnership with the Austin Parks Department and the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association.

The Green is located strategically in the center of the neighborhood, and because of the nearby railroad tracks and creek, as well as the fact that few east-west streets connect all the way through the neighborhood, a considerable amount of foot and bicycle traffic occur adjacent and through the Green. It is a centerpiece to the overall neighborhood green space plan.

A collective vision statement for the Green has emerged throughout the first decade of this century, and considerable progress has been made toward realizing the vision. The vision can be expressed as follows:

*The vision for the Cherrywood Green is that it will be a place of natural beauty complemented by beautiful and functional improvements; a place for both passive and active recreation; a place for picnics and solitude; a place for activities such as croquet, Frisbee and ball tossing, badminton, volleyball, and horseshoes; a model of sustainability; a place for gardening, urban forestry and fauna; a place for the gathering of small and large groups; and an oasis that is a place of continuing pride to the neighbors in the Cherrywood and surrounding neighborhoods.*

Barriers to the realization of our vision is that the Green is currently blighted by numerous utility lines as well as a utility pole and box, which were placed in the area without regard to the potential of the space as park space or of the original park status. Our vision is to eliminate or minimize the impact of these intrusions so that the relatively small area can be used to its full potential. The burial of the overhead lines would yield sufficient overhead space to allow various activities such as ball throwing and the planting of shade trees along East 34th Street.

# G r o w i n g



## PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED INCLUDE:

- A crushed granite trail from the southwest to north-east corner of the Green;
- A native landscaping project along Cherrywood Road;
- A Cherrywood Green Sign;
- A water tap, hydrant, and extension to the center of the Green;
- Two picnic tables;
- A small grove of fruit and ornamental native and adapted trees;
- Removal of many non-native invasive species of plants; and
- Design, construction and installation of a drinking fountain with a dog watering basin.

## PROJECTS THAT ARE UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- A permanent bench near the fountain;
- A structure over the fountain to provide shade, shelter and solar powered light to the fountain;
- An expansion of the grove into an orchard of fruit trees; and
- A memorial herb garden adjacent the fountain.

## FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- A foot bridge over the creek and the north tributary to the north and west portions of the Green;
- Selective clearing and landscaping of the west portion of the Green;
- A sidewalk along 34th Street to be a portion of a sidewalk connection from IH-35 to Manor Road adjacent to Value Sky Park; and
- Stabilization of the creek bank at the 34th Street/Kern Ramble intersection, including replacement of the highway guardrail with a continuous masonry bench.

*Cherrywood Green is an oasis of continuing pride to the neighbors in the Cherrywood and surrounding neighborhoods.*

## Better Understanding of the Green from AT&T

Since the adoption of the vision statement and presentation of it to AT&T, the City of Austin and the neighborhood, a number of things have occurred.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CNA and AT&T was negotiated and signed, which includes, in part, that AT&T agrees to place all future lines and equipment in the street right of ways; no construction will be undertaken that hinders the eventual removal of the utility pole that exists adjacent to the drinking fountain near the center of the Green; and AT&T will continue to obtain all necessary permits from the City of Austin prior to undertaking future projects in the neighborhood.

We will soon be formalizing a relationship with the Cherrywood Urban Landscape & Art (CHULA) League, so that charitable donations can be made to the Green through CHULA by utilizing their nonprofit status.

Then, many of us gathered for a spring clean up, planting and landscape maintenance day that Susan Merrick of AT&T attended and loaned us a hand. We think that by having her see first-hand the dedication we have to the park may have played a part in a remarkable sequence of things that happened, such as:

- AT&T, with help from FROG, successfully relocated our Jujube tree so that their equipment could be placed where we preferred it to be placed among our fig orchard, and the equipment was placed in such a way as to allow room for a planned future sidewalk along 34th Street.
- Instead of placing their planned additional cable overhead to the pole in the center of the park, they volunteered to place that new cable underground in the street right-of-way.
- While AT&T were placing the new cable underground, they also placed at their own expense two new conduits that will eventually receive the cables that are now overhead.

*Continued on page 12*

## Cherrywood Green (continued)

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- AT&T has created a plan for relocating their cables underground and has proposed a three-way split of the cost among AT&T, the CNA, and the City of Austin.
- AT&T has invited us to request a contribution through CHULA from their Foundation, which we have done, that we can use for a variety of improvements, including our share of the cable relocation.

### Adopt-A-Park Status

Along the way the City of Austin figured out that Cherrywood Green has actually been a dedicated park all along, so we became eligible for the Adopt-a-Park Program, which Bull Frog Mike Damal has signed into agreement.

### Oasis Emerging

In addition to trail maintenance, mowing, watering and general upkeep, there is an oasis emerging along the trail in the center of the park:

- The drinking fountain and dog water basin are complete, pending only tweaking of the plumbing and achieving a good way for children to use the fountain;
- A bench has started to be built and will eventually have a concrete face with impressions of flora from the Green, and limestone capstones to match the stone basin in the fountain;
- An herb garden, in memory of Beverly Schiff, has been constructed and planted, and the irrigation system that will sustain it is nearing completion; and
- A future "leaf" motif sculptural shelter and lighting is planned adjacent the fountain.

### The Future of the Green

There are plans to apply for a grant to fund master planning and additional improvements to the Green and we anticipate a whole series of improvements over the next few years, including enlargement of the park into the Concordia right-of-way across the creek, a pedestrian bridge, a major creek stabilization and vehicle guard wall at the intersection of 34th Street and Kern Ramble, and a side walk with adjacent street trees along 34th Street.

---

We encourage you to pitch in and help build and maintain the Cherrywood Green, as well as to enjoy it year round. For more information about the Green or how you may join FROG, contact Mike Damal at [mdamal@grandecom.net](mailto:mdamal@grandecom.net) or Girard Kinney at [girard@kinneyarchitects.com](mailto:girard@kinneyarchitects.com).



## Cherrywood Green Cleanup Day

by Mike Damal

With more than 20 volunteers, the recent cleanup of the Cherrywood Green was a great success! We trimmed out and mulched the garden beds facing Cherrywood Road, added some drought tolerant plants, planted a number of small fig saplings, and mulched around many of the trees in the Green. Our "technical experts" did maintenance on the fountain drain and supply lines, hardscape was added around the bed near the fountain that will be an herb garden, and many bags of trash were picked up in the creek on the slopes going into the creek.

Thanks to everyone who helped out, including Susan Merrick from AT&T. I'm sure from her point of view it was impressive to see so many neighbors involved and committed to the Cherrywood Green.

Girard Kinney and Kathleen Houlihan working hard sprucing up the Cherrywood Green.  
Photos courtesy of Kathleen Houlihan



## What You "Art" to Know About CHULA

CHULA, the Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League, is a nonprofit organization formed in 2005 to promote arts and artful public landscapes within the six neighborhoods bounded by MLK, IH-35, and Mueller. The following neighbors were elected to the CHULA Board at our annual meeting held in March: Jane Walton, Priscilla Boston, Kathleen McTee, Erika Allbright, Kay Hereford, Lisa Schemanske, Mary Evelyn Daugherty, and Sherri Whitmarsh. Mary Evelyn Daugherty, CHULA's first member to live outside of Cherrywood or Wilshire Woods, lives in Austin Heights.

CHULA takes proceeds from the annual Cherrywood Art Fair to make grants for projects that support our missions. Members suggested

more than 30 projects for CHULA in 2009. This year, CHULA will be issuing Request for Proposals (RFPs) to extend upon and refurbish the artfully painted picnic tables at Patterson Park, a park bench or picnic table at Willowbrook Reach, an artful treatment for the Clarkson Street train fence, and the traffic island on 38-1/2 Street closest to Half Penny. CHULA will also partner with Terry Dyke, who coordinates the First Friday Movie Nights at Asbury UMC, to sponsor an outdoor movie night at Patterson Park sometime this summer.

If you would like to learn more about CHULA or help with any of the above-mentioned projects, please contact Priscilla Boston at [peboston@gmail.com](mailto:peboston@gmail.com) or 478-1867.

## Easter in Cherrywood

Cherrywood children enjoyed Easter indoors at the Asbury UMC.



Photo courtesy of Susanne Cunningham



## Butterfly Gardening

by Wizzie Brown,  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Butterfly gardening is a wonderful way to watch the life cycle of insects and add some beauty to your backyard, but it may not be for everyone. Before starting a butterfly garden, realize that caterpillars, the immature stage of butterflies will eat plants, so if you do not want the occasional tattered plant in your yard, you might want to skip butterfly-attracting plants.

The best butterfly gardens provide a wide variety of food sources for both adults and immature stages. Adults feed on nectar, so you should try utilizing plants that will provide blooms in each season as well as providing a variety of color. Larvae will eat the foliage of plants, but some are very particular about what plants they will eat.

It is also a good idea to provide open areas in the garden to allow butterflies to bask in the sun as well as shaded or protected areas so they may hide from the elements. Butterflies also need a water source. Using a shallow dish filled with pebbles or sand to hold water can allow butterflies to drink without the problem of drowning.

Be careful about using pesticides around your butterfly garden. Remember, butterflies are insects and can be killed by many common insecticides that are used to manage insect pests. Also, be aware of pesticide drift that may occur when applying pesticide to other areas of your yard.

Some plant ideas for caterpillars (food sources): milkweed, butterfly weed, cottonwood, poplar, willow, parsley, dill, fennel, spicebush, sweet bay, sassafras, Dutchman's pipevine, citrus, Hercules club, canna, nettles, thistles, pecans, walnuts, passionflower vines, mistletoe, legumes, hackberry, elm, shrimp plant, dicliptera, ruellia, hollyhock and snapdragon.

Some plant ideas for attracting adult butterflies (nectar sources): aster, blazing star, butterfly bush, butterfly weed, cone flower, flame bush, goldenrod, ironweed, lantana, loosestrife, Mexican heather, Mexican milkweed, Mexican mint marigold, mist flower, phlox, salvia, verbena and zinnia.

For more information or help with butterfly identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist, at 854-9600, or visit [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com).

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT for Texas Leaf-Cutting Ants

Leaf-cutting ants are large, reddish ants with spines on their thorax. Worker ants come in a variety of sizes. The ants build large colonies, usually with many terrace-topped mounds that have a central opening. Colonies can contain millions of ants and cover large areas of land.

Leaf-cutting ants typically forage in thick trails. During the summer, foraging takes place at night when temperatures are cooler, but can occur at any time of day during the rest of the year. These ants damage plants, causing defoliation by removing leaves and buds. Small trees can sometimes be completely stripped overnight. The ants eat a fungus grown on the plant material they harvest.

If you have leaf-cutting ant mounds, you can broadcast a bait product such as Amdro Ant Block. Amdro Ant Block is a hydramethylnon bait labeled for leaf cutting ant control in urban areas. If you have foraging holes and trails, you can treat these areas with a residual contact insecticide dust or spray.





## Sponsors and Volunteers — Thank You!

In seven short years, the Cherrywood Art Fair has grown by leaps and bounds. It's no longer just a neighborhood event, but one of the most popular and highly regarded arts events in Austin. A much-belated note of thanks to all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and artists, who made the 2008 Cherrywood Art Fair such a success!

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Special thanks goes to Priscilla Boston, Kathleen McTee, Erika Allbright, and Jane Walton of **Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts (CHULA)** for all their hard work in coordinating this popular arts fair and showing Austin how groovy things happen in Cherrywood!

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### CHULA would like to extend thanks to:

- Luke Torn of *Pop Culture Press*, who put together our fantastic music lineup;
- Craig High of the Boxcar Preachers, who ran the sound all weekend when he wasn't on stage with the Preachers;
- Wendy Morgan, whose publicity expertise earned us a record amount of media coverage;
- Scheleen Walker, who got us on every calendar on the Web and sent notices to many Listservs, as well as writing and mailing out press releases;
- Richard Behal, who with his friend Curtis Wilmsem, coordinates the set-up year after year after year, and finds solutions to the problems that crop up over the weekend;

- Melissa Gable of One Creative Girl, who creates our captivating graphics and brought in numerous sponsorship;
- Erika Allbright and Julie Bernal, who skillfully design, assemble, and run the wildly successful Silent Auction;
- Edmo Martinez, who was everywhere, doing everything;
- Joanne Smolen who helped plan the refreshments provided to artists and musicians and handled most of the shopping;
- Kay Hereford, who put together the dynamite decorations;
- Lisa Knaggs, who rounded up a ton of contributions;
- Lisa Schemanske, who valiantly shepherded the kids' art activities; and
- All of our amazing volunteers who helped with every aspect of the show, and had fun along the way!

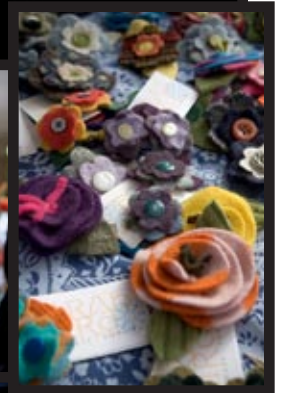
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To learn more about how you can volunteer, sponsor, or present your art at the 2009 Cherrywood Art Fair, which will take place December 12-13, 2009, please contact [cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com](mailto:cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com) or visit the CHULA Web site at [www.cherrywoodartfair.org](http://www.cherrywoodartfair.org).



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To stay connected with your neighbors, we encourage you to join the Cherrywood Neighborhood Listservs, which are open only to Cherrywood residents.

When setting up your Listserv account, you can choose to receive individual e-mails or a daily digest of all e-mails posted that day.

You will need to provide your name and address in order to become a member by clicking on the "Join This Group!" button at the upper right-hand corner of each Web site.

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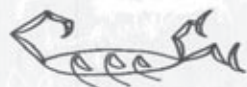
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## **HOME OWNER'S UPDATE**

*What's Hot and What's Not In The Cherrywood Neighborhood*

**Summer 2009**

### **Gardening Tips for Companion Plantings**

Spring is here and we're all going to be planting out Victory Gardens to save money & eat well in this new economy. So roll up your sleeves & start preparing the ground for your summer harvest. Smart planning will help you get the most produce from your efforts so pay heed to companion planting. You might be surprised at the results. An in case you don't already know...companion plants are those that tend to get along extremely well when planted next to each other. Each one discourages the bugs that usually feed on the other. So here are some suggestions for pairings that work great!

- To keep bugs from roses, plant onion, garlic and rosemary alongside
- Morning Glories require corn or melons next to them
- Petunias seem to keep bugs away from beans
- Parsley can be planted near asparagus, celery or leek.
- Dill does nicely with cabbage
- Peas and tomatoes tend to do better when planted next to each other.
- To keep worms and flies from your tomato plants, plant basil near them
- Oregano works pretty well for all garden crops
- Marigolds keep virtually everything away

### *Bit of Feng Shui*

You can use wall mirrors in your living room or dining room to expand the size of these auspicious areas of your home. A large wall mirror in the dining room really does double the food placed on the dining table. This is excellent feng shui, as it means that family will expand its wealth. The food symbolizes prosperity, so doubling food on the table is symbolically an auspicious scenario.



### **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 me, **Rebecca Kohout** at Coldwell Banker United Realtors, 415-9876, or [rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com](mailto:rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com). [www.austinexpertrealtor.com](http://www.austinexpertrealtor.com)  
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### **MARKET ANALYSIS FOR THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD**

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

Average home in Cherrywood is 3 beds, 2 baths  
Average home is about 1,408 square feet  
Average list price is \$302,460.00  
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Average price per square foot is about \$195.00  
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