



# THE FLEA

FEB 2010 | VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 1

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG

## Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

Agenda items include:

- Discussion and possible approval of the CNA Sidewalk Plan (see page 4)
- Discussion of City of Austin code enforcement
- General neighborhood updates

All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Wednesday  
February 17  
6:30–8:00pm  
MAPLEWOOD  
ELEMENTARY**

## CNA SIDEWALK PHILOSOPHY AND PLAN MOVING TOWARDS POSSIBLE CONCRETE RESULTS

by *Jeremy B. Mazur,*  
*CNA Steering Committee Chair*

Notwithstanding the results of the BCS Championship game, I hope that 2010 has been a blissful start for all in Cherrywood. Last year ended on a high note for the neighborhood with another successful, and splendid, Cherrywood Art Fair sponsored by CHULA (see page 8). This year begins with news that AT&T has begun its work removing its poles from our Cherrywood Green (see page 7). Looking forward, we should have more good news to come.

The topic of sidewalks has been, and continues to be, a major item being discussed by the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Girard Kinney, Chair of our Association's Planning, Zoning and Transportation Committee, provides a useful update on that process in his article in this issue of THE FLEA (see page 4). Since our last general meeting in November, the CNA has hosted several additional meetings on the topics of the neighborhood's sidewalk philosophy as well as an actual sidewalk plan. As Girard discusses at length in his article, and as I would like to underscore here, this plan will be considered—and possibly approved—at our next general meeting this month.

Code enforcement by the City of Austin, or the lack thereof, will also be discussed. This winter several instances of where the City has fallen short of its code enforcement obligations have come up. One instance involves the addition of an illegal structure on the Tornado Bus Company's depot. Another relates to truck traffic on 38½ Street. Also, there are some examples of where the City has failed to take action with regard to blighted properties in our neighborhood. The situation is such that it warrants contemplation and discussion by residents at our February meeting.

Our February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17,

at Maplewood Elementary School. All Cherrywood residents are welcome. There will be some important topics on our plate, and the input of any and all interested neighbors is welcome and valued. Lastly, and at the risk of sounding too partisan with regard to certain BCS matters, Hook 'Em!

*Carlos Garcia with the City of Austin met with Cherrywood residents on January 23, 2010 to see the neighborhood's proposed sidewalk locations.*



# Cherrywood Calendar of Events

Dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please refer to the Google calendar on [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org) for more information.

## FEBRUARY 2010

- 2/9 ANC East Sector Meeting .....noon–1:00 pm
- 2/10 CNA Steering Committee Meeting .....6:30–8:00 pm
- 2/16 UBC Planning Committee Meeting.....7:00–8:30 pm
- 2/17 Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary .....6:30–8:00 pm
- 2/21 CHULA Annual Membership Meeting (Asbury UMC) ...2:30–4:30 pm
- 2/24 ANC General Meeting .....7:00–9:00 pm

## MARCH 2010

- 3/1 Central East Commander’s Forum (APD).....6:00–8:00 pm
- 3/2 Primary Elections—Vote!.....7:00 am–7:00 pm
- 3/9 ANC East Sector Meeting .....noon–1:00 pm
- 3/10 CNA Steering Committee Meeting .....6:30–8:00 pm
- 3/16 UBC Planning Committee Meeting.....7:00–8:30 pm
- 3/24 ANC General Meeting .....7:00–9:00 pm

## APRIL 2010

- 4/10 Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep .....9:00 am–noon
- 4/13 Primary Runoff Elections—Vote!.....7:00 am–7:00 pm
- 4/13 ANC East Sector Meeting .....noon–1:00 pm
- 4/14 CNA Steering Committee Meeting .....6:30–8:00 pm
- 4/20 UBC Planning Committee Meeting.....7:00–8:30 pm
- 4/28 ANC General Meeting .....7:00–9:00 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).

### AUSTIN NOTES

Want to keep up with Austin citywide news and events? Sign up to receive the City of Austin’s enewsletters at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/notes/index.cfm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/notes/index.cfm).

## FLEA CALLERS NEEDED!!

Wondering how you can give back to the neighborhood? We need your help with continuing to make THE FLEA one of the best neighborhood newsletters in Austin. If you are interested in helping deliver THE FLEA (and getting to know your neighbors better), then consider volunteering two hours every three months to make sure THE FLEA is delivered throughout the neighborhood. It’s a great way to get a walking tour of Cherrywood! For more information about how you

can help with the May delivery, please contact Cara Fealy at [carabou@gmail.com](mailto:carabou@gmail.com).

In addition to delivery, we also need help with ad sales. This is another great way to get to know the merchants working in our neighborhood. For more information about how you can help with ad sales, or if you are a business that would like to place an ad in the next FLEA, please contact Rebecca Kahout at [rakahout@grandecom.net](mailto:rakahout@grandecom.net).



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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..... Aaron Choate
- Secretary ..... Robin Peoples
- Treasurer ..... Rebecca Kohout
- Members: Eric Boucheron, Deb Freeman, Justin Irving, Girard Kinney, Jack Josey Newman, Don Pettigrew, Eve Richter, and Mark Schiff

If you have any questions or comments for the CNA Steering Committee, contact [steering@cherrywood.org](mailto:steering@cherrywood.org).

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

- NeighborNet ..... David Greene
- Duplex Nation Net..... Wendy Morgan





## **Recognize Beauty in Cherrywood: Nominate a Blue Ribbon Yard**

Every quarter, residents are asked to nominate yards to receive the honored "Cherrywood Blue Ribbon Yard" distinction. Over a two-week period, four to six nominations are received and publicized via NeighborNet, votes are cast, and a winner designated. The winner displays our Blue Ribbon Yard sign throughout the quarter, and they also receive a \$25 gift certificate. Previous Blue Ribbon Yards have varied widely in style, as do the homes and the people in our neighborhood. All are inviting, inspiring, and well cared for, and all have become beacons to the rest of us in our journeys of self-expression through our surroundings. To nominate a Blue Ribbon Yard for May 2010, please contact Blue Ribbon Yard Coordinator, Leah Nyfeler, at [lnyfeler@austin.rr.com](mailto:lnyfeler@austin.rr.com).



keep  
cherrywood  
beautiful



**Be a Part of  
Clean Sweep 2010!**

**Clean Sweep, which will be held on Saturday, April 10,** is an annual citywide cleanup sponsored by Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) that takes place all over Austin. KAB provides resources and education to inspire individuals and the Austin community toward greater environmental stewardship. The first 4,000 volunteers to register get a free event t-shirt and it's followed by an awesome Volunteer Party and Environmental Fair at Waterloo Park which includes a free lunch, live music, kid's environmental activities, recycled art, door prizes and more! Last year more than 4,000 volunteers registered to clean up more than 120 sites throughout Austin.

Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLoWR) have already registered to pick up litter at Willowbrook Reach. On the day of the Clean Sweep, be sure to wear old clothes and shoes that you wouldn't mind getting wet. Volunteers will be picking up trash down in the creek, in the park, and along nearby streets, separating recyclables, and restoring the beauty of our little emerald gem. For more information on how to join in this effort, contact Dave Westenbarger at [daveintex13@yahoo.com](mailto:daveintex13@yahoo.com).

If you would like to help clean up other parts of Cherrywood, you may sign up to be a part of Clean Sweep at [www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/cleansweep](http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/cleansweep).

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## **CNA WELCOMES YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**

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Are you a recent denizen of Cherrywood? Well, if you are, we want to welcome you and share some ways that you can become active in our community. Our Welcome Wagon group of volunteers would be happy to drop by your home and give you an official welcome and bring you a copy of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Welcome Brochure. It's a nice little directory of committees and Cherrywood history that you're sure to enjoy, so please contact Rebecca Kohout at 415-9876 or [rakohout@grandecom.net](mailto:rakohout@grandecom.net) and she'll stop by with a friend and a grin. We're looking forward to meeting you so don't be shy...call us today!

## Action to Be Taken at February CNA General Meeting

**At the next Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) General Meeting on February 17**, members; i.e., all Cherrywood residents, will be asked to endorse and adopt a sidewalk philosophy and plan for Cherrywood to present to the City of Austin by March 15, 2010. The following is a brief history of the most recent chapter in the evolution of the philosophy and the plan, which has been given more intensive attention by the CNA Steering Committee, CNA Planning, Zoning and Transportation Committee, and neighbors throughout Cherrywood over the past few months.

Early last year the CNA learned that the City of Austin is planning to rebuild some streets in one sector of the neighborhood and based on an interpretation of a 2002 City Council Resolution, this meant that sidewalks would be placed on both sides of all streets reconstructed. The neighborhood had mixed reactions to this as many continue to prefer to walk in the streets as they feel that this can be done just as safely as on sidewalks.

There is no question that the streets designated to be rebuilt are eroded and in disrepair as many experience ponding after rains, and shifting substrates have resulted in driveway aprons that cause automobiles to "bottom out" when backing out or entering driveways. But many insist that the minor streets needing repair should not have sidewalks. If internal streets are to have sidewalks, many prefer that they should be on only one side of the streets. Calls were made, meetings were held, e-mails and letters were written, and by late summer a new interpretation of the 2002 Resolution held that where a neighborhood has an officially adopted sidewalk plan, and where that plan provides federally mandated accessibility to bus stops, schools, churches and other public facilities, as well as reasonable pedestrian connectivity within and through the neighborhood, that plan would be used by the City to guide the planning of sidewalks as street reconstructions and other projects were undertaken in the neighborhood.

As it turns out, the CNA did have a sidewalk plan of sorts, in the form of a series of sidewalk goals and recommendations for Cherrywood sidewalks in part of the Upper Boggy Creek (UBC) Neighborhood Plan that was adopted by the City Council in 2002. With the newly recommended policy by the City to follow adopted neighborhood plans, this meant that the City would defer to the recommendations in the UBC Plan unless the CNA adopts a new plan to submit to the City.

Since it has been more than decade since we first adopted a sidewalk plan, the CNA Steering Committee and CNA Planning, Zoning and Transportation Committee decided to convene a special meeting to determine if the current philosophy, adopted more than 10 years ago, should be updated. This philosophy was published in the November 2009 edition of THE FLEA and posted for discussion and possible action at the November 2009 General

Meeting of the CNA. It became clear then that some neighbors were not ready to adopt the existing plan as concerns were raised about the underlying philosophy and some of the specifically proposed sidewalks. Therefore, we decided to have a three-month review process in which the plan would be re-evaluated by the neighborhood.

At the December 2009 CNA Steering Committee meeting following the November general meeting, a decision was made to utilize a two-part process, which would first re-established the CNA sidewalk philosophy and then turn to the formulation and adoption of a plan that implemented that philosophy. An online survey was conducted to gauge where people fell on a continuum from those who would prefer no sidewalks at all in the neighborhood to those who wanted sidewalks on both sides of all streets, and which invited thoughts about our sidewalk philosophy. Results of this survey are available on [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org). This process culminated in a sidewalk philosophy meeting held on January 6, 2010 where the following statement of the CNA Sidewalk Philosophy was formulated:

*"The Cherrywood Neighborhood stands by its commitment to safe, walkable streets. The Cherrywood Neighborhood favors the establishment and maintenance of sidewalks along commercial corridors, and within internal corridors to the extent necessary to establish safe connectivity to perimeter destinations and to enhance safety and quality of life. There should be a sidewalk within two blocks of every residence to provide access to the entire sidewalk system. Internal sidewalks, when warranted, should generally be on only one side of the street."*

Following that meeting, we then began the second part of the process to adopt a neighborhood-wide sidewalk plan. On January 20, neighbors heard from City of Austin officials who described in more detail the Street Reconstruction Plan and answered specific questions about sidewalk planning, design, construction, and cost. At this meeting it was emphasized that while future funding may become available at some point, the only current funding available for sidewalks is for those streets that are included in the current City of Austin Street Reconstruction Project. The attendees indicated their support for most of the sidewalks that had been shown on the proposed plan, and a time was set for the following Saturday, January 23, to walk down La Fayette, and other streets shown in the plan to receive a sidewalk. That walk was attended by Carlos Garcia, Team Leader for the Street Reconstruction project, and was documented by Glenn Reed of the CNA Planning, Zoning and Transportation Committee. Many questions were addressed, and there was general agreement that the La Fayette sidewalk should be on the east side of the street.

The Sidewalk Plan that was published in the November 2010 edition of THE FLEA remains intact except for the

# Seek AND Find

Can you find this neighborhood landscape feature?

following changes: it is now recommended that there would not be a sidewalk on Vineland; there would be sidewalks on both sides of East 38 ½ Street from IH-35 to Airport Blvd.; there would be a sidewalk on the west side of Cherrywood from Manor Road to East 38 ½ and on the east side of the street from East 38 ½ to Schieffer; that the sidewalk shown on East 32nd Street would be on both sides of the street from IH-35 to La Fayette, and on the south side of the street from La Fayette to Walnut, and that the sidewalk on La Fayette should be on the east side of the street.

We look forward to the endorsement of the recommended Sidewalk Philosophy, and the adoption of a Cherrywood Sidewalk Plan at the February CNA General Meeting.

—Girard Kinney, AIA  
Chair, CNA Planning, Zoning and  
Transportation Committee

Photo by Leah Nyfeler



## Have You Joined the Poop Patrol?

If you own a pet that eliminates waste outside... congratulations! You are now a responsible member of the Poop Patrol! It's time to be a good neighbor and pick up after your dog or cat...for lots of reasons:

- Parks and community spaces belong to everyone, not just your pets. Children play on the grass; families enjoy barbecuing and picnicking in the park; sporting events are held in the fields; runners, hikers, and cyclists use the trails. Don't let pet waste take the joy out of outdoor activities!
- Pet feces can contribute to water pollution. It contains disease-carrying bacteria and toxins that increase the risk of bacterial infections and can cause skin rashes for swimmers. Leaving pet waste for the rain to wash away just washes it into our water supply via storm drains. Take that poop away with you!
- Did you know that feces can transmit diseases from pets to people? Yikes! Round worms, hook worms, and other parasitic worms can be transmitted to anyone who plays or works in a yard, park, or field where feces are present. Toxoplasmosis, a parasite found in cat feces, can cause serious illness in pregnant women or people with weakened immune systems. A parasite found in dog droppings, Ocular larva migrans, can cause serious eye damage or blindness in young children. Don't let it happen!

- Picking up after your pet slows the spread of disease from pet to pet, and prevents re-infestation of your pet from exposure to worm eggs and larvae in its own feces.
- Feces and urine can result in lawn burn or dead patches. And, after a day of baking in the sun, the odor from waste can become offensive. When it's your dog on your neighbor's lawn or your cat digging in your neighbor's garden, that can cause hostility toward you and your pet. Do the neighborly thing and clean up after your pet.
- And don't forget...poop can simply ruin a good pair of shoes!

While walking your dog, carry a scooper or a bag with you to quickly collect any waste you happen upon. You can purchase baggie dispensers that attach to your pet's leash. A low-tech, low-cost solution is simply to tie a plastic grocery bag to your pet's leash or look for bag dispensers in city parks (call 3-1-1 if the box is empty). When you encounter waste in the wild, dispense a baggie, use it as a glove to collect the waste, turn the bag inside out, and then toss it in the trash or take it with you to dispose of at home. It's quick, easy, and friendly to your neighbors as well as the environment. Don't leave it behind!

—Cocker Spaniel Rescue of Austin/San Antonio  
[www.austincockerrescue.org](http://www.austincockerrescue.org)

# loping &

by Girard Kinney

## LOPPING ALONG

As many in the Cherrywood neighborhood know, I walk with my dogs early mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. I am often with walking partners when I am lucky, but I also often walk alone. My walking buddies and I try to arrive at the southwest corner of the intersection of East 38th ½ and Cherrywood Street at 5:30 a.m. and whoever is there by 5:35 a.m. heads out to walk for 30–45 minutes, each time following a new route. Over the years we have traversed every street in the boundaries of Cherrywood, and sometimes venture into Blackland, Rogers Washington/Holy Cross, Austin Heights and Mueller neighborhoods.

The unusual thing about my walking is that I carry shears or loppers with me, and shear or lop vegetation that impedes walking in the streets or on sidewalks. I realize that this is an odd—some have said offensive—act, which is very understandable. So from time to time I like to publicly explain why I do this because if at some point I sense that there is a large contingency of neighbors who object to me doing this, I will stop doing it.

The following are some facts about the lopping that I do:

- It is perfectly legal for anyone to pick up litter and illegal signs, and to lop vegetation in the public right-of-way (r.o.w.) of the street. In most cases, the street r.o.w. extends about 10 feet beyond the curb, into the yard of the private property. Some folks do not realize that 10 feet of their front yard is actually owned by all of us as a part of the street r.o.w. system.
- Before I began lopping, it was impossible to walk or park a car adjacent about half the curbs in the neighborhood because of shrubs, long grasses, bushes, and tree limbs leaning out over, or hanging down into the area intended to be for pedestrian, bicycle and automobile use. I noticed that not only did the bushes keep pedestrians from being able to walk adjacent the curb, but it also caused cars to park several feet away from the curb to allow passenger egress and ingress, thus making the corridor available in the middle of the street even narrower for all users; cars bikes and pedestrians.
- My first action was to verify what City of Austin ordinances have to say about this. What I learned was that legally it is the responsibility of the property owner to trim the plants that grow in the area between their property line and the street, so that the streets and sidewalks remain clear of obstruction. This is a law that is generally only enforced when there is a complaint filed, which can be done anonymously. When this happens the City of Austin comes to the property and places a notice at the address informing the resident that the trimming needs to occur by a certain date. If it is not done, the City of Austin comes out and trims it, and when they do this they trim it way back, without regard for the aesthetic or other considerations that the resident

might have, and they then back-charge the resident for the cost of doing the trimming. Or at least this is what someone at the City of Austin offices told me, and although I have never heard of anyone being back-charged I am very aware of them citing residents and coming out and cutting the foliage back much farther than most of us would want them to. I was told they do this because they don't want to have to come back repeatedly to trim so they cut it way back.

- Based on the reality that lopping bushes is not ever going to be high on the priority list down at the City, and that when they do respond the results are invariably viewed as much more lopping than necessary, I came to the conclusion that this is one of those areas where it makes a lot more sense (to me) for the neighborhood and its residents to address the problem without involving City of Austin crews except in extreme cases (there have been a few of those, and we have been able to get the city to help in those instances.)
- Before I started what has resulted in me having now been called a "plant nazi" and a "vigilante" among other titles, I tried simply asking, through THE FLEA, NeighborNet and at our neighborhood general meetings, for folks to trim their own foliage back away from curbs and sidewalks to allow cars to be able to park legally, right wheel to the curb, and for pedestrians and bicyclists to be able to walk along the edge of the streets or on sidewalks without encountering these vegetative obstructions. But that hasn't been effective: those who already trimmed their plants kept doing it; those who didn't kept ignoring the problem they were allowing to exist adjacent their property. So I decided that I needed

to be a part of the solution. Maybe by example folks would see that if we all participated it would be possible to keep our sidewalks walkable and our streets walkable, bikable, and parkable. Thus began my reign as the midnight lopper.

- I developed a set of principles to which I adhere to religiously. I never trespass on private property on my morning walks (I don't want to get shot) and unless I am asked to by the resident (this happens occasionally) I do not lop on private property. I do not lop flowering or specimen plants, nor do I remove large diameter branches. I do not lop higher than I can reach (usually about seven feet).
- I do not usually place all the trimmings out of the street; rather I leave them near the curb, hoping that the resident (whose responsibility it was to trim them in the first place) will appreciate my having done the part of the job that can be done in the dark, and will then bundle the brush to be picked up curbside by the City of Austin (this is done the same day as garbage pick-up).
- The result has been rewarding in that the streets now are far more walkable than before I started lopping. This is a result both of the work that I, with the help of my fellow walkers have done, and also because a lot of folks have started doing it themselves, and even have begun offering to do it for their aged or immobile neighbors.
- My goal is to work myself out of a job; i.e., that eventually I will just trim the space in front of my own house, and that it will become the norm that folks do their part in keeping their streets walkable.
- One interesting question that has arisen has to do with the legality of me doing this. While I have verified that the only law that is being broken is being done so by those who allow their shrubs to obstruct the public way, it is not the law that I think is important here; we all know there are lots of laws that are not enforced, a fact about which many of us are glad. What is important is how we want our neighborhood to be, and that we all work together to make it that way.

Please help make our neighborhood more walkable by keeping your foliage away from the curb and sidewalk. Thanks for your consideration, neighbors.

# PROGRESS at Cherrywood GREEN

*Submitted by Mike Damal, Chair, and Girard Kinney,  
Vice Chair, of FRIends Of the Green (FROG)*

**Although many plants, including the flourishing basil at the herb garden,** were killed in the hard freeze, we are confident that many of the recent plantings at the Cherrywood Green will survive the winter. And, while dormant, many of the recent natives planted there are clearly alive and well—the laurels, the agaritas, and the dogwoods among them.

There has been a recent cleanup of the creek itself, but otherwise it is seemingly quiet at the site; unless onlookers were very observant they might not have noticed that a lot has been going on with respect to rerouting the overhead telecommunications and electric cables. In fact, most of the work in preparation for the removal of all of the telecommunications cables has been completed, consisting of the erection of four new poles (two on the north side of the Concordia right-of-way and two midblock on the south side of East 34th Street). The AT&T cable has been pulled under East 34th, and overhead cables have been extended to the new poles. It is quite likely that by the time this article goes to press the long-awaited removal of the cables within Cherrywood Green will have happened, and perhaps even the removal of the pole in the herb garden. Soon after that, we can expect the re-routing of the cable that provides power to Kern Ramble's street light, which will then allow the last pole removal; the one midblock on East 34th, adjacent the AT&T equipment boxes.

FROG wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to personnel at the City of Austin (particularly Councilmember Cole's office, Assistant PARD Director Stuart Strong, Utility Coordinator Greg Pepper, and Austin Energy official Sonny Poole) and AT&T (particularly Susan Merrick, but also a handful of other officials, engineers and technicians) who have worked hard as partners with FROG to rid our park of these cables and poles. Thanks also to the Austin Parks Foundation for their grant that helped fund the effort, and to all the support we have received from FROG members and our neighbors in Cherrywood.

Wonderful projects await us this coming spring, including replanting the herb garden, completion of mulching around the trees, placement and nourishing more native plants, and completion of two vegetative screens, one as a backdrop behind the bench and the other to screen the AT&T equipment from the park. All members of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, as well as other nearby and interested citizens, are welcome to become active or passive members of FROG. For more information, contact Mike Damal at [mdamal@grandecom.net](mailto:mdamal@grandecom.net) or Girard Kinney at [girard@kinneyarchitects.com](mailto:girard@kinneyarchitects.com).



Photos provided by  
Mike "Sully" Sullivan



## Cherrywood Art Fair 2009—Another Great Party!

Mix 6,000 happy shoppers, 80 talented artists, nine fantastic bands, good food, and helpful volunteers, and what do you get? The Eighth Annual Cherrywood Art Fair! The 2009 Fair, held on December 12-13, filled Maplewood Elementary School once again with the sights, sounds and smells of holiday cheer and neighborly good times.

CHULA, the local nonprofit which produces the Fair, would like to thank the many sponsors, artists, musicians, food providers, and volunteers that make this event possible. CHULA is delighted to use the proceeds of the Fair to benefit the arts, gardening, and general programs at Maplewood, and to support the arts and artful landscape in central East Austin.

### SPONSORS AND DONORS

*Special thanks to our sponsors and donors whose generous donations of money, gift cards, store items, and in-kind support contribute to the Fair's charitable purpose. Please tell them thank you for supporting the Cherrywood Art Fair next time you visit their place of business!*

Adriane Deveney, Ciao Meow  
 Alamo Draft House  
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*The Austin Chronicle*  
 Austin Fun Stuff – Mike Stefanik  
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 Clarity Decisions – Jane Walton  
 Crimson Salon – Juli Ristau, Hairstylist

The Dot Connector – Wendy Morgan  
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 Vulcan Video  
 Wells Fargo Bank  
 Yellow Pear – Mandy Wright, Aesthetician

***Cherrywood Art Fair depends on the dedication and commitment of a core team of volunteers, each willing to take on a key aspect of the show. A round of applause goes to:***

- Luke Torn and Craig High for outstanding music
- Rick Behal for coordinating the school facility
- Jennifer Ober for keeping the kids busy making a snowflake mural
- Holli Brown for marshalling the artists
- Mary Evelyn Daughety and Sherri

Whitmarsh for rounding up the volunteers and getting them to the right places at the right time

- Beth Been for keeping the food coming
- Sherri Whitmarsh and Melissa Gable for all the beautiful media material
- Wendy Morgan for garnering publicity including *Austin Woman* and KUT stories
- Alina Prax of La Dolce Vita Photography for capturing the event in images
- Priscilla Boston for pursuing sponsorships and auction donations
- Belinda Hare for delivering postcards near and far

- Erika Allbright and Julie Bernal for running another spectacular silent auction
- Kay McManus for capturing holiday cheer in the decorations
- Jane Walton for gluing the Fair calendar and Web site together,
- A host of other folks who helped set up, break down, decorate, cashier, support artists, clean up, and on and on...
- Special thanks to Ebony Young of ImagineArt who created our stage backdrop, and to volunteer Kay McManus who designed and arranged the project.





It's not too soon to get involved for 2010. Your energy is needed to keep this neighborhood tradition alive. Current needs include a Silent Auction Co-Coordinator, Set-up and Breakdown Coordinator, Poster/Postcard Distribution Coordinator, and Little Artist/Big Artist Co-Coordinator. If you're interested in these or other roles, please contact [cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com](mailto:cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com).

# CHULA

## Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 21 | 2:30-4:30pm  
Asbury United Methodist Church

Anyone living within the Cherrywood Triangle bounded by IH-35 to the west, Airport to the east, and MLK to the south is invited to attend. Join CHULA and make a difference in the neighborhood!



## SUPPORT THE FLEA

by advertising your business  
or favorite charity.

THE FLEA is distributed to more than 1,600 households and rates are very affordable.

For ad rates, please contact  
Rebecca Kohout at 415-9876.

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Special Guest  
*The Apple Trio*

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*zacharia la real*

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010  
7 P.M.

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# HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

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



February 2010

## Federal HOME BUYERS TAX CREDIT Extends through April

If you're planning to purchase a home this Spring, keep in mind that the Federal Tax Credit is expiring at the end of April. You must be under contract by April 30 to be eligible so don't put this off. Now is the time to start your search! Following are key points that prospective home buyers should be aware of when considering a home purchase under the tax credit program

- A tax credit of up to \$8,000 is available for first-time home buyers purchasing on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. In cases where a binding sales contract is signed by April 30, 2010, a home purchase completed by June 30, 2010 will qualify.
- A tax credit of up to \$6,500 is available for repeat home buyers who have owned a home for five consecutive years out of the prior eight years. The repeat home buyer tax credit applies to houses sold after November 6, 2009 and on or before April 30, 2010. In cases where a binding sales contract is signed by April 30, 2010, a home purchase completed by June 30, 2010 will qualify.
- Income limits of \$125,000 for individuals and \$225,000 for married couples filing jointly apply to all sales occurring after Nov. 6, 2009.
- The income limits for sales occurring on or after January 1, 2009 and on or before November 6, 2009 are \$75,000 for individual taxpayers and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly.
- Neither the first-time home buyer tax credit nor the repeat home buyer tax credit have to be repaid unless the home is sold or ceases to be used as the buyer's principal residence within three years after the initial purchase.



## 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](mailto:rebecca@texperthomes.com)

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## 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 1,406 sq. ft.  
Average list price is \$289,542. (This is holding steady from last quarter.)  
Average home selling price is \$302,478. (This is up from last quarter.)  
Average price per square foot is \$201.89.

## Featured Homes for Sale

**3716 Hollywood:** Great remodel with 3 beds/2 baths, open floorplan. Priced at \$322,000

**3302 Merrie Lynn:** Charming bungalow with 2 beds/1 bath, trees, hardwoods, skylights, Priced at \$234,500

**3212 Larry Lane:** Fully remodeled are ready to go! 2 beds/2 baths/2 living. Priced at \$278,500

For a private showing for these or any other Central Austin Properties, Contact Rebecca at 415-9876.

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 in the area, call me and let me show what I can do for you!!!

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