



NOV 2010 | VOLUME 16 | NUMBER 4

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG

#### Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

Agenda items include:

- Resolution regarding the vision for Willowbrook Reach
- Petiquette Committee update
- Urban agriculture coming to Cherrywood
- Election of Steering Committee members

All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Wednesday
November 17
6:30-8:00pm
MAPLEWOOD
ELEMENTARY

#### ALL NEIGHBORHOODS ARE 100

by Jeremy B. Mazur, CNA Steering Committee Chair

By the time you read this, the general election is, for better or worse, over. Gone are the incessant television ads, inescapable street signs, and plentiful information placards in our mailboxes. By this time we have fulfilled our democratic obligations (note the small "d"), and, notwithstanding the Republican or Democratic victors, resumed life in Cherrywood as we know it.

While it may be true that all politics is local, not all local matters are political. Take for example the Cherrywood Neighborhood's commitment to safe, walkable streets. There is no partisan accent to this platform. When the neighborhood discussed the adoption of a sidewalk plan earlier this year, our community arrived at a consensus based on the input and interests of neighbors. Similarly, the neighborhood's work—particularly the efforts of the Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR)—with the City of Austin regarding the placement of city water lines near the streambed reflects our community's concerns with that natural resource. Both of these recent examples illustrate how the work of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) reflects the interests of concerned neighbors, and not party politics.

The work of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association continues. Currently, the CNA is working on a set of pet etiquette, or "petiquette", guidelines for the neighborhood's consideration. These guidelines address some weighty topics relating to pets in Cherrywood. For example, what should a pet owner do if they have an animal that behaves aggressively? Should animals be allowed to roam the neighborhood without a leash? And what should someone do if they accidentally hit someone's pet with their car? A draft of these proposed guidelines will be introduced for the neighborhood's consideration at our next general meeting (see above). All interested pedestrians, and pet owners, are welcome to participate.

Our November meeting will also include the election of new officers and members of the CNA's Steering

Committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Steering Committee, please contact me at jeremy\_mazur@yahoo.com. The Steering Committee meets monthly to routinely discusses issues ranging from zoning to sidewalks, pets to public safety—to name a few—relating to Cherrywood. The committee has no Republican or Democratic caucuses, just interested neighbors

Austin City Hall, the Texas Legislature, and the United States Congress may pass whatever laws they may. When it comes to our community and our neighborhood, however, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association works best to identify and advocate for the interests of our community and neighbors. The CNA can, and has, made a difference for the neighborhood we call "home." Those that remain civically minded in the wake of these elections are welcome to attend our next meeting, which will be from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, in the school library of Maplewood Elementary.

#### **Cherrywood Calendar of Events**

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

NOVEMBER 2010				
11/1	APD Central East Commander's Forum	. 6:00-8:00 pm		
11/9	ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's	noon-1:00 pm		
11/9	Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach Meeting	6:30-7:30 pm		
11/10	CNA Steering Committee Meeting	. 6:30-8:00 pm		
11/14	Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting	. 3:00-5:00 pm		
11/16	UBC Planning Committee Meeting	. 7:00-8:30 pm		
11/17	CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary	. 6:30-8:00 pm		
11/24	ANC General Meeting	. 7:00-9:00 pm		
11/29	Large Brush Collection	by 6:30 am		

DECEMBER 2010			
12/8 CNA Steering Committee Meeting	6:30-8:00 pm		
12/12 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting	3:00-5:00 pm		
12/14 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's	. noon-1:00 pm		
12/14 Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach Meeting	6:30-7:30 pm		
12/21 UBC Planning Committee Meeting	<b>7:00-8:30</b> pm		
12/22 ANC General Meeting	<b>7:00-9:00</b> pm		

JANUARY 2011					
1/3	ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre'snoon-1:00 pm				
1/9	Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting3:00-5:00 pm				
1/11	ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre'snoon-1:00 pm				
1/11	Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach Meeting6:30-7:30 pm				
1/12	CNA Steering Committee Meeting6:30-8:00 pm				
1/15	Deadline to submit articles and ads for February FLEA				
1/18	UBC Planning Committee Meeting7:00-8:30 pm				
1/26	ANC General Meeting7:00-9:00 pm				

#### **CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC MEETINGS / E-NEWSLETTER**

For a list of upcoming Austin City Council and City of Austin Board & Commission meetings, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us. You may also sign up to receive the City of Austin's e-newsletters at www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/notes/index.cfm.



**THE FLEA** is published by the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 4631, Austin, TX 78765-4010 on a quarterly basis in February, May, August, and November. © 2010. All rights reserved.

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

#### CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

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Justin Irving, Girard Kinney, Jack Josey				
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Mark Schiff				

If you have any questions or comments for the Steering Committee, contact Jeremy Mazur at 789-9862, Aaron Choate at 796-0395, or e-mail steering@cherrywood.org.

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#### Cherrywood Art Fair Rocks On!

The Ninth Annual Cherrywood Art Fair offers original art from more than 80 regional artists, children's art activities, hands-on craft projects compliments of the WonderCraft mobile craft trailer, artist demos, art from six East Austin middle and high schools, and phenomenal live music from Coffee Sergeants, Boxcar Preachers, The Soulphonics, a kids set from Joe McDermott, The Bonneville County Pine Box, Brian Byrne & Borrowed Time, Craig Marshall, Kathy Murray with Bill Jones, Reid Watson and more. There will also be food and desserts by Mmmpanadas, East Side Pies, Elixer Coffee, and ReelPopcorn.

The Cherrywood Art Fair is produced by CHULA (www.chulaleague.org) to raise funds for Maplewood Elementary School's art education and gardening programs and neighborhood landscaping/public art projects, while supporting talented local artists and entrepreneurs. The Fair began in 2002 as a small neighborhood event that has grown over the past nine years into one of Austin's most popular and well-regarded art shows/holiday bazaars. Admission is free! For more information visit **www.CherrywoodArtFair.org**.

## HABITAT RESTORATION AT WILLOWBROOK REACH

Habitat restoration has begun at the Willowbrook Reach, where we have seen a major shift in philosophy regarding the maintenance of the greenbelt from the City's Watershed Protection Department. What was once a major, controversial channeling and habitat remodeling effort a mere six months ago has now become a habitat restoration project involving the Department's environmental scientists and landscape architects.

As a first part of this effort, the Department led by the very hard work of Staryn Wagner, has just completed its first installment of trees, shrubs and seeds along the upper third of the greenbelt. We are calling this "Phase I" of the restoration. Austin YouthWorks worked very hard with Staryn over a two-week period in early October to plant a ton of trees and shrubs, from live oaks and burr oaks to possomhaw and Mexican plum. Staryn and his team also installed a temporary irrigation system to help these vulnerable plants through their first year or two of growing at the Reach. Trail walkers may also notice new stairs made from cedar at the two ends of the greenbelt, both of which make the slightly treacherous hills much safer to walk on and should help with deterring further erosion of those paths. There is also a bit of terracing near the swing to help prevent erosion and stairs mid-Reach at "Huisache Bend" for people to cross the creek more easily without having to go around.

In addition, neighbors came out in late September to plant native grass and wildflower seeds all along the same part of the Reach, and we are keeping our fingers crossed for quite a show next spring. This habitat restoration project will take many years and perhaps decades to come to full fruition, but it is the beginning of a great new era for the Reach.

According to Staryn, one of the goals of the project is to minimize

future maintenance efforts and costs. To that end, the plans call for an end to mowing between the trail and the creek bank, so greenbelt users will notice that change over the next year or so. The Department will continue to mow a four-foot wide swath along the edge of the entire property, and the Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR) will be working with the Department in the coming years to refine that maintenance plan to benefit everyone; e.g., plants, animals and humans alike.

What are some things that you can do to help the Reach?

- 1) Please take care when parking along the greenbelt edge. Tree roots are vulnerable to compaction, and we want to save all the trees we can, especially the sycamore trees on East 40th. Try not to pull your car onto the grass any more than two or three feet from the edge of the road. There are important plants growing there that cars can crush.
- 2) When you see Johnson grass, pull it up by the roots. It's a nasty invasive species that will only be kept under control with constant vigilance.
- 3) Come to FLWR meetings, which are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Locations TBA. For more information, visit http://flwr. blogspot.com and come join us!
  - —Submitted by Lee Clippard, Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR)



#### Merrill Carlson: Sending Neighbors a Wave of Good Cheer!

If you live in the neighborhood, I'm sure you have seen Merrill Carlson. Every morning, he takes his daily stroll from East 34th Street, and waves at every car that passes him. After exchanging many waves over the years, I felt the need to pay tribute to our kind and thoughtful neighbor.

While speaking to Merrill, I learned that he reaches out to the community in more ways than one. In the past, he has mentored children at Maplewood Elementary and currently builds wooden toys for Safeplace out of his garage. He also shared some of these toys with my next door neighbor's children who now know him as "Santa Claus's cousin".

As I walked away from our chat he yelled, "When I tell you to have a good day, that's an order!" I find his positive attitude contagious and hope we can all learn to be as friendly a neighbor as Merrill.

—Photography and article by Chelsea Fullerton (chelseafullerton.com)

## urban agriculture



In many cities and neighborhoods around the country, urban agriculture is contributing to local sustainability in a big way, and it's about to come to Cherrywood.

Urban agriculture is a new slant on a very old activity. Quite a few Cherrywood neighbors already grow their own vegetables and know the satisfaction of having fresh, healthy food right out of the ground. Many of us visit local farm stands for the same reasons, or even belong to a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program to get a weekly basket of fresh vegetables, while at the same time building community ties with local farmers. It's good to know who feeds you.

A local nonprofit that has brought the CSA inside Austin city limits is working with Cherrywood neighbors and the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association to establish productive, cooperative farm plots throughout the neighborhood. But your participation and support are really what will make it happen.

Urban Patchwork (www.urbanpatchwork.org) is a nonprofit organization that has operated in several Austin neighborhoods since mid-2009, cultivating otherwise-idle patches of land hosted by interested homeowners. They distribute the harvested produce to hosts, volunteer cultivators, CSA member/supporters and farm stand customers. Along the way, they organize a lot of the work through "farm-raisings," workshops, and other events that serve as both a means of cooperative effort and a natural occasion for socializing—complete with refreshments and covered dishes.

Farmers for the plots are trained and paid through Urban Patchwork, as are the community coordinators who help organize the work contributions of neighborhood residents; it operates much along the lines of a traditional cooperative. Neighbors get to know the farmers and benefit from organically farmed, local food, which includes eggs from chickens that are raised humanely in coops and ranges on selected plots, and aquaculture products such as tilapia, perch, and channel catfish.

For neighbors interested in possibly hosting a plot, the preferred size is 1,000 square feet or more, and the length of the agreement would in most cases be two or more years. Of course, hosts are automatically shareholders in the CSA, and as such they receive a supporter's portion of the goods once their plot starts producing.

The first plot in Cherrywood is expected to be the large vacant lot at the corner of Robinson Avenue and Concordia. Urban Patchwork views this as an ideal "anchor" site, using it for a base of operations for expanding into the neighborhood, while cultivating crops on the sunny 8,000 square foot lot. Representatives from Urban Patchwork and the neighborhood took part in several discussions and a very productive meeting with the owner, who has expressed a definite interest in seeing the property used for this purpose. Once there has been some progress in getting this location established, homeowners in the neighborhood who might have some extra yard space will be invited to host a piece of the "patchwork farm."

In addition to hosting a plot, there are other ways to participate and receive produce. Members can join at the beginning of a season as seasonal supporters, paying a full subscription fee that covers one growing season, or they can commit to volunteering on a weekly basis throughout the growing season and receive a 10 percent discount for every hour contributed per week. Also, there is the option of directly purchasing goods at the farm stand.

#### READY FOR CHERRYWOOD

Submitted by Terry Dyke, CNA Urban Farming Task Force

A supporter's weekly share can either be small or large, depending on individual preference, and is competitive in cost with buying a similar amount from the local supermarket. A share consists of a number of bundles of vegetables; the number varying according to the size of the share purchased. The weekly shares can either be picked up from the farm stand in the neighborhood or delivered for a nominal charge.

A key area of Urban Patchwork's focus is training. This starts with the farm manager, a paid position filled by a graduate of the organization's yearlong Farmer-in-Training program. Neighborhood volunteer workers receive hands-on training and guidance as needed for whatever tasks they take on, often in the form of group workshops.

As every backyard gardener knows, growing food successfully and reliably is quite an art and can take a long time to learn—especially on your own. With the urban farming approach, participants can gain the satisfaction and results of gardening, and yet not have to worry about being a skillful garden manager to be successful.

People's preference for healthy, organic food is often accompanied by a growing concern about our impact on the environment—our carbon footprint—and with it, an awareness of "food miles." A neighborhood CSA can get their food miles down close to zero. By addressing the larger matter of sustainability and local resilience, having a local source of food means less dependence on our industrial-style agriculture system and the transportation system that goes with it, which is resource-intensive and a major cause of waste and pollution.

Neighbors get to know the farmers and benefit from organically farmed, local food...

In Austin, the conditions for urban agriculture are ripe. Neighborhood identity and activity is very strong here, with considerable public and municipal support. Local farms in the Austin area, many of them operating as CSAs, are enjoying a growing number of customers, both onsite and through weekly farmer's markets around the city. It's a natural next step to do some of the growing in the neighborhoods themselves.

Since it can take as little as one year from initial commitment to first harvest to have our own farm stand, we can hopefully be up and running at the Cherrywood Green by next fall. To help make it happen, consider joining the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Urban Farming Task Force by contacting Terry Dyke at tdyke@bga.com. You can also take part by becoming a seasonal supporter once production is under way, or doing some of your gardening as part of this neighborhood cooperative.

As more and more city dwellers around the country are finding out, being close to their own sources of food connects them to a more natural way of living, not only to healthier and more enjoyable eating, but also to each other. It turns out that we don't have to go back to the land—we can bring the land back to us.

#### Cherrywood Green Branches Out

**During last month's 14th Annual Cherrywood Tree Planting**, with this year's proceeds benefitting the Cherrywood Green, 27 trees were delivered and/or planted in our neighborhood. Our 14-year total is now 424 trees! You can go down almost every street in our neighborhood and find a tree that has been planted from our annual event, including Texas Mountain Laurel, Texas Redbud, Mexican Plum, Cedar Elm, Live Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Red Oak,

Burr Oak, and Crepe Myrtle—all excellent choices for Cherrywood.

The Friends of the Green (FRoG) have received a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to complete steps to be fashioned from the utility pole removed from the herb garden, now supported on two cradles near the point where the steps will be, giving us easier access to the creek. The creek bottom is itself a beautiful area, much different than the grassy Green. We

Submitted by Mike Damal, Chair of Friends of the Green (FRoG)

hope to have the new steps finshed by the spring as it promises to be a great enhancement to the Green.

Cherrywood owes a special thanks to Michael "Sully" Sullivan for his constant attention and work at the Green. FRoG is always in need of more volunteers to maintain it. If you wish to help out in some small way, please contact Mike Damal at 478-9622 or michael.damal@gmail.com or Girard Kinney at girard@kinneyarchitects.com.

#### THE LATEST ON

#### PLANNING, ZONING & TRANSPORTATION

by Girard Kinney, AIA, Chair of the CNA Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee (girard@kinneyarchitects.com)

#### Street Reconstruction and Sidewalks

Richard Duane, City of Austin Project Manager for Group 21 (the City's title for the Street Reconstruction project in Cherrywood) reports that the project continues to be in design and that the water and waste water (sanitary sewer) component is what is being studied at present. He assures us that we will see the plans in plenty of time to tweak the configuration of the sidewalks, which staff are incorporating based on our Sidewalk Master Plan. By the time the FLEA is distributed we will know whether or not the Municipal Transportation Bonds (Prop 1) passed as these bonds will allow our street reconstruction and sidewalk improvements to be implemented starting next year. Otherwise the project will have to wait for future funding. We have been assured that our request that the sidewalks extend to perimeter streets, beyond the boundaries of Group 21, is still the intention, assuming funding is available.

#### **Overflow Parking**

The number of residents reporting concerns about overflow parking from businesses along our commercial corridors into the neighborhoods has increased recently with the success of Thunderbird Cafe and the Cherrywood Coffeehouse. I have responded to e-mails received about these concerns by mentioning that with the ongoing growth of businesses along our commercial corridors, which is expected to increase, there are only a few choices for us:

- We can accept the overflow parking, realizing that
  the ten feet between our front property lines and the
  curb, the curb itself, and the space available for parallel
  parking along our curbs are public, and that with the
  exception of abandoned vehicles, certain recreational
  vehicles and very large trucks, they are available for
  public parking any time day or night.
- We can encourage development, as it occurs on the corridors, to include some additional structured parking for use by patrons of businesses on the street. As the economy improves, this is likely to be the best solution, but it will take time. City and UT-Austin projects are obvious candidates for providing additional parking.
- We can try to hasten the expansion of public transit, including rail, and encourage pedestrian and bicycle access to the venues on our corridors, all to provide alternatives to the need for automobile parking.
- We can urge the owners of businesses both to try to arrange for shared parking with neighboring busi-

- nesses and, when asked, the CNA's Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee is always willing to help facilitate this process by making introductions, expressing neighborhood concerns, etc.
- Residents along streets receiving impact of overflow parking from businesses can explore the Residential Parking Permit program, which some neighborhoods have found to be a useful tool in dealing with this problem.

**Upper Boggy Creek (UBC) Planning Team**There are slots on the UBC for Cherrywood to have four voting representatives and any number of alternates.
All Future Land Use Map (FLUM) changes, and zoning changes in our neighborhoods are addressed by UBC, so we encourage any neighbors who are concerned about, or interested in, land-use changes in our neighborhood to attend UBC meetings and consider representing the CNA

#### **Mueller Transportation Committee**

Representatives of all of the neighborhoods around Mueller, and now including representatives from residents at Mueller itself, meet several times a year to discuss traffic, transit, bicycle and other transportation issues, focusing on the perimeter streets, connections to both streets and paths in the neighborhoods; in short, transportation issues related to the Mueller development. From its conception last decade, yours truly has served as our representative to this committee and I will continue to do so unless and until someone else steps forward to make a commitment to represent CNA at this committee. Please send me any traffic, transportation, bicycle, or pedestrian concerns that you have related to Mueller so that I can bring them to the table at their meetings.

#### **Imagine Austin**

to the UBC.

As everyone should know by now there has been a long overdue, massive effort to update Austin's Comprehensive Plan. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the various ways that the City has provided to provide input into this very crucial effort to manage the very intensive growth that the City is experiencing and which is only projected to increase. I want to encourage those who are involved or who become involved to urge the City to include "Beauty" as a major component in any vision for the future of the City, including the removal of visual pollution such as overhead electric lines and signage that is not necessary for navigating to destinations in the City of Austin.



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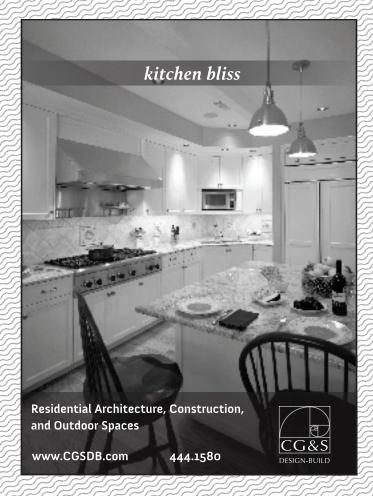
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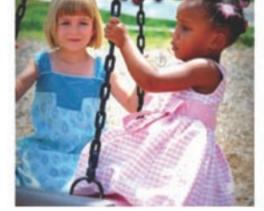


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#### HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

What's Hot in the Cherrywood Neighborhood



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#### **FALL Gardening Tips**

November can be such an uncertain month for gardeners. We never know when that first cold front will come to stay so it's a good idea to start getting prepared!

#### Before the first Hard Freeze (assuming we get one)

- Complete the harvesting of vegetables such as cabbage and sprouts.
- After defoliation is a good time to prune all deciduous trees and shrubs.
- Complete planting of bulbs for spring bloom and dig remaining root crops.
- Continue to water woody plants if soil becomes dry.
- Rake up leaves and save for compost area.
- Clean out eaves' troughs.
- Dig the vegetable garden, turning under decomposed organic matter.
- Pot up special tulips, daffodils and hyacinths for winter forcing.
- Repair fences, walks and other element of your yard.
- Plant your spring flowering bulbs as early as you can so they have time to send down a few roots before the ground gets too cold.

#### After the Hard Freeze of Winter!

- Prune trees and shrubs.
- Protect woody plants against wild animals if they pose a problem.
- Service the lawn mower and other mechanical equipment.
- Store cold frames, wheelbarrows, and other garden equipment under cover.
- Clean and store hand tools under cover.
- Reduce watering of houseplants but increase humidity.
- When harvesting vegetables, you may wish to save the waste leaves and return them to the garden later in the form of compost. Make sure they are free of disease before adding them to the compost bin; if uncertain then toss them out.

#### Market Analysis for the past 90 days in the Cherrywood Neighborhood

Average prices and values vary widely within the Cherrywood neighborhood boundaries. For a professional analysis of how your homefits into this market, contact Rebecca at 415-9876 for an appointment.

Average home for sale in Cherrywood is 3 beds, 2 b aths.

Average size home for sale is about 1,277 sq.ft.

Average list price is \$261,831

Average home selling price is \$240,625.

Average price per square foot is \$184.65.

Average time on market is 83 days.

Sales and list prices are slightly down from last quarter and homes are staying on the market longer.

#### Featured homes for sale!

1606 Wilshire Boulevard: Beautiful 4 bed, 3 bath home with multiple dining options and over 2,200 sq ft. Custom pool, gorgeous landscaping and tasteful remodeling in 78722. Priced at \$469,000.

5512 Bennett: Spacious 3/2 with great updates and retro charm. Corner lot with lots of pecan trees in 78751. Priced at \$259,000.

2008 Hamilton: Recent construction in 78702, 3 beds, 2 baths on large xeriscaped lot. Low maintenance and central Austin living! Priced at \$215,000.

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

#### A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

If you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move, call me...

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