

Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

Agenda items include:

- Community Garden at Patterson Park—call to action
- Change in Sidewalk Master Plan—call to action
- Letter of Support for Mosaic at Patterson Park—notice of action taken
- Bike Lanes on Cherrywood Road
- Update on Urban Patchwork

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

HOT HAPPENINGS IN THE 'HOOD

by Aaron Choate,
CNA Steering Committee Chair

As we weather the heat of the summer and this summer's severe drought, many of us have chosen to avoid watering large areas of grass to conserve water. However, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to protect your beleaguered shade trees by ensuring that you give them a good soaking on a regular basis. Many neighbors are losing their trees to this drought and it is very hard to tell when they are reaching the tipping point.

This quarter we have progressed on the Cherrywood Urban Patchwork Farm project; your neighbors, with the guidance of the CNA's Land Use and Transportation Committee (formerly known as the Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee), have been working to direct the planning of additional sidewalks that would connect Maplewood Elementary to Patterson Park based on additional funding by the City of Austin; a meeting was held to review the City of Austin's proposal for bike lanes on Cherrywood Road; and the Friends of Patterson Park are asking for your input on the community gardens proposal that was discussed at the CNA general meeting in May.

It's been great seeing neighbors get together for the Cherrywood Summer Film Nights and take part in the annual Fourth of July celebrations. I encourage you to get to know your neighbors better and stay connected by signing up to the various Listservs available throughout Cherrywood.

Additionally, I hope you will consider getting involved with your neighborhood by joining the Steering Committee or helping with one of the many groups working on efforts in our area. You may find the contact information for various neighborhood groups on the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association website at cherrywood.org. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Steering Committee, please contact me at achoate@gmail.com.

The members of the Cherrywood Steering Committee and I hope that you will join your neighbors at the next CNA General Meeting on Wednesday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Maplewood Elementary.



Photo courtesy of Brad Tansil

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.

AUGUST 2011

- 8/1 Central East Commander's Forum (APD) 6:00-8:00 pm
- 8/3 CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting... 7:15-8:45 pm
- 8/7 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting..... 3:00-5:00 pm
- 8/8 Friends of Willowbrook Reach Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 8/9 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's..... noon-1:00 pm
- 8/10 CNA Steering Committee Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 8/16 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm
- 8/17 CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary 6:30-8:00 pm
- 8/24 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
- 8/24 Cherrywood Summer Film Nights..... 7:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 9/7 CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting... 7:15-8:45 pm
- 9/11 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting..... 3:00-5:00 pm
- 9/12 Friends of Willowbrook Reach Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 9/13 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's..... noon-1:00 pm
- 9/14 CNA Steering Committee Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 9/20 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm
- 9/28 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
- 9/28 Cherrywood Summer Film Nights..... 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 2011

- 10/5 CNA Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting... 7:15-8:45 pm
- 10/9 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting..... 3:00-5:00 pm
- 10/10 Friends of Willowbrook Reach Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 10/11 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's..... noon-1:00 pm
- 10/12 CNA Steering Committee Meeting..... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 10/15 Cherrywood Plant & Book Swap..... 9:00 am-noon
- 10/15 Deadline to submit articles for November FLEA
- 10/18 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm
- 10/26 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 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 ci.austin.tx.us/news/notes/index.cfm.



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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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If you have any questions or comments for the Steering Committee, please contact Aaron Choate at 796-0395 or email steering@cherrywood.org.

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NeighborNet David Greene
 Duplex Nation Net..... Wendy Morgan
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Want to know the latest happenings in the hood? Interested in connecting with your neighbors about everything from free giveaways and yard sales, plumber recommendations and the latest gardening trends to concerns about safety? Then sign up to our neighborhood Listserv, NeighborNet, which is used by more than 900 Cherrywood residents. You can choose to receive emails immediately as they are posted or if you like, a daily or weekly digest.

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Patterson Park Community Garden Survey

Submitted by Mark Smolen, Friends of Patterson Park Chair

A survey is being conducted by Friends of Patterson Park (FOPP) for the residents of the Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1 Neighborhood Associations to gauge the level of support for, or opposition to, a proposed community garden in Patterson Park. Please note that this survey is independent of the one FOPP conducted in December 2010.

The online survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R3VRZN6>. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a hardcopy of the survey to complete, please contact FOPP Chair Mark Smolen at 913-9868, leave your name and address, and a copy will be dropped off to you. Both online and hardcopy surveys must be completed by Monday, August 15, 2011.

Here's a brief description of the proposed community garden in Patterson Park:

A community garden providing between 44 to 64 plots, dependent on final configuration and plot sizes, is being proposed to be located within the Patterson Park boundaries in the southeastern corner of the park along Airport Boulevard; i.e., just south of the skate spot in Patterson Park and near the volleyball court area. No park amenities other than ground space are planned to be displaced by this proposal. At least one plot will be devoted to community purposes; e.g., for a school or hospital.

Due to its location on City of Austin property, the City of Austin application process mandates several bylaws and property management rules that must be adopted by the Community Garden members. These are just a few of the more notable ones: 1) Participants can be from any household located within the City of Austin limits and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, material status, age, sect, sexual orientation, or disability to be a part of the community garden membership; 2) Garden must be all organic, with no use of synthetic fertilizers or chemical pesticides; 3) Garden must be enclosed by a six-foot-tall fence with unimpeded visibility into the garden.

Based on feedback from both neighborhoods, all gates to this fence will be opened whenever a gardener is present to allow free access through the garden by other community members.

Plots left unattended or not maintained for a specified period of time will be considered abandoned if not remedied by the plot owner after notification. Such plots will be made available to the waiting list for other potential members.

Members are responsible for all infrastructure (e.g., benches, fencing, etc.) and operating costs (e.g., water and mulch).

POTENTIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN OUTLINE 1



POTENTIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN OUTLINE 2



POTENTIAL COMMUNITY GARDEN OUTLINE 3



*Please complete the survey by
Monday, August 15*

If you have any questions about the proposal, please feel free to contact Mark Smolen, FOPP Chair, at 913-9868 or smolen@sbcglobal.net. Survey results will be announced at the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's General Meeting on Wednesday, August 17. Photos courtesy of Friends of Patterson Park.

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION **UPDATE**

by Girard Kinney, AIA, CNA Land Use and Transportation Committee Chair

The CNA Land Use and Transportation (LUT) Committee, formerly known as the Planning, Zoning and Transportation (PZ&T) Committee, has had a busy summer agenda including updating its committee name to better reflect its activities of reporting on boundaries, parks, planning, landscaping, gardens, codes and variances (land use) and street improvements, parking, sidewalks, bike facilities and transit (transportation) throughout Cherrywood.

LAND USE UPDATE

- **Cherrywood Neighborhood Boundaries:** At the last CNA General Meeting, the membership voted to extend the boundaries of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association to include the triangle north of Wilshire Blvd., bounded by the west frontage road curb of northbound IH-35 and the east boundary of the railroad right-of-way. The LUT Committee has encouraged the Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1 Neighborhood Association to extend their boundaries to include this property as well so that collaboration between the two neighborhoods may occur regarding any recommendations made to the City of Austin regarding this property, which is situated close to a likely future intersection of the Capital Metro Red Line and future Urban Rail.

- **Cold Towne Theatre**, which is currently located on Airport Blvd., is moving to 2406 Manor Road and will house a small theater, café, classroom, and office space. Both the LUT and CNA Steering Committees have voted unanimously to recommend approval of the theatre's application to the City of Austin Planning Commission for a variance to decrease the required setback for parking along their north property line from 25 feet to five feet. The current parking lot on the Manor site already extends to the five-foot line, and this variance would allow them to restripe the existing parking lot to achieve more required parking.

- **Mosaic at Patterson Park:** Both the LUT and CNA Steering Committees have voted unanimously to approve this art project (see page 5).

- **Community Garden at Patterson Park:** The LUT Committee continues to host an on-going discussion of a proposed community garden at Patterson Park (see page 3). No vote has been taken, but it will be posted for action at the CNA General Meeting on August 17.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

- **Group 21 Street Reconstruction**, which includes several streets east and west of Cherrywood Road between Manor Road and East 38th ½, is still in design and not yet at the 60 percent design level where we will be shown the proposed design features that we hope includes the features the CNA has requested. We are confident that it will include a sidewalk on one side only on the portions of LaFayette, East 32nd and East

34th as shown in the CNA Sidewalk Master Plan, but we hope that it will also include some additional features including bulb-outs at intersections to create shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and more pervious ground to absorb water run-off, a possible round-about at East 32nd/LaFayette, and other features that would support the CNA's goal of safe, walkable streets. It's anticipated that construction of the Group 21 Project will commence in late 2012/early 2013.

- **New Sidewalk Proposed on Maplewood Avenue or Cherrywood Road north of East 38th ½:**

With additional \$100K of City funding available for accessible sidewalks left from the 2006 Bonds, the LUT Committee has identified three eligible routes from Maplewood School to Patterson Park: 1) east side of Cherrywood from East 38th ½ north to Patterson Park; 2) west side of Maplewood Avenue from Ashwood to Wilshire Blvd., then east to Patterson Park; and 3) east side of Maplewood Avenue from East 38th ½ to Wilshire Blvd, then east to Patterson Park. This item will be posted for action at the LUT Committee meeting on August 3, the Steering Committee meeting on August 10, and the CNA General Meeting on August 17.

- **Bike Lanes on Cherrywood Road:** About a decade ago the five neighborhoods (subdistricts of the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Area) produced a bicycle plan showing bike lanes on both sides of Cherrywood Road from Maplewood Road to East 38th ½ Street. It was known then, as it is now, that if bike lanes are placed on this stretch of Cherrywood Road, parallel parking will only be available on one side of the street. In 2006, City bonds included massive improvements throughout Austin for bicycles, including the proposed bike lanes on Cherrywood Road. However, it was determined that a closer look at these particular bike lanes was warranted, so the City of Austin held a public meeting at Asbury United Methodist Church on July 6. Objections were raised at this meeting from some long-time Cherrywood Road residents about the loss of parallel parking under the current proposed design. Discussions continued that night at the LUT Committee meeting but no action was taken. It appears that the City of Austin is tweaking the design along Cherrywood Road and anticipates holding a second public meeting, where afterwards the LUT Committee will make a recommendation to the Steering Committee that best suits the neighborhood.

All Cherrywood neighbors and the general public are invited to attend the LUT Committee meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Cherrywood residents are eligible to be voting members, while members of adjacent neighborhoods are eligible to be non-voting members. For more information, contact Girard Kinney at girard@kinneyarchitects.com or 472-5572.

Mosaic Installation at Patterson Park

Submitted by
David Boston



Photo courtesy of Stefanie Distefano

Artist Stefanie Distefano of Flamingo Ranch and Studio (www.flamingoranch.com) is giving the neighborhood a priceless gift—a mosaic to be installed on the pool equipment building in Patterson Park. Funded by the Austin Parks Foundation and Neighborhood Partnership Program, the project is currently being reviewed by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department for final approval.

All four sides of the building will be completely covered in beautiful tile and mirror, which neighbors can enjoy throughout the year. And YOU can help make this become a beautiful piece of art!

We will be hosting workshops in the park where you can make some of the tiles to be used in the mosaic. This could be anything from creating a gorgeous flower to honor a loved one to writing your family name into clay to interpreting a poem that speaks to you about the neighborhood. Luckily, it's a building

that can hold so many stories. Stefanie hopes to include a big and colorful cherry tree that is elegant and welcoming, which will be surrounded by thoughtful words, bugs, butterflies, dragonflies, flowers and family names glazed around it.

Stefanie will fire the tiles in her kiln and volunteers can help install it on the walls. She will also welcome donations of tiles and mirror (all flat-backed items) to include in the project. It's guaranteed to be a fun process full of laughter and chaos with quiet, meditative periods as well.

Please support this worthwhile and beautiful project that from a distance will be fine art, but up close will convey the beauty of our personal stories in Cherrywood.

For more information, you may contact the artist at stefanie@flamingoranch.com or David Boston at permit5000@gmail.com.

Urban Farming Update

Submitted by Terry Dyke

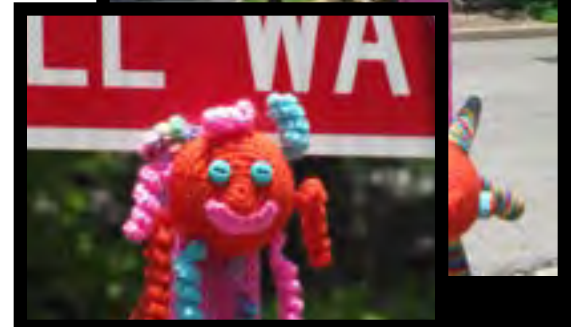
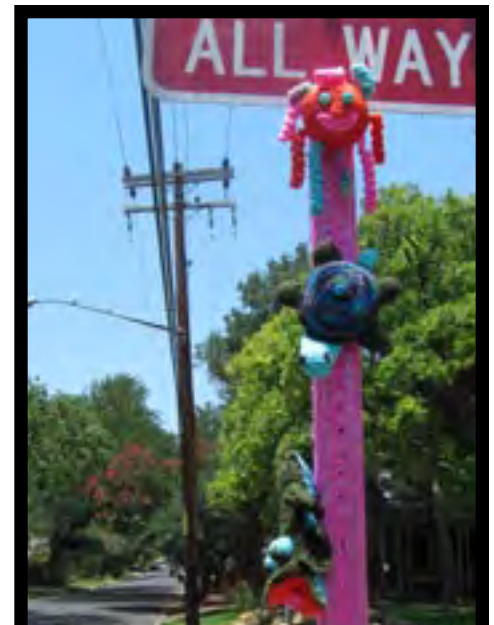
Although the discussion of urban farming has gone through a couple of turns since its first consideration last fall, the proposed project for Cherrywood is very much under way. The idea is to bring community-supported agriculture inside the city limits with the participation of neighbors who want to help grow and receive a regular supply of local organic produce.

Helping us make this happen is Urban Patchwork (urbanpatchwork.org), a nonprofit organization that has operated in several Austin neighborhoods since 2009. Earlier discussions with the group about the location of our first plot focused on the vacant lot at Robinson Avenue and Concordia. Since then, it has been decided that it would be more feasible to get started using Urban Patchwork's regular model of hosting plots in neighbors' yards, and keep the Robinson Avenue location on hold for now.

Since the recent meeting of the CNA Urban Farming Task Force, a number of neighbors have committed to the project. We'll be growing in yard space on Maplewood Avenue, Willowbrook Avenue, Vineland Drive and Walnut Avenue, with a possible future plot at Maplewood Elementary.

Urban Patchwork will present an update on the project at the CNA General Meeting on August 17. We will create our new beds and plant the first crops for the fall season during an exciting "Dig In" event over Labor Day weekend September 2-4, 2011. We are actively seeking volunteers for that weekend as well as subscription members and long-term volunteers for our fall harvest season.

There are many different ways to participate! If you are interested in being a part of the farm, please visit urbanpatchwork.org and contact Terry Dyke at tdyke@bga.com.



International Yarn Bombing Day

Photos & yarn bombs courtesy of Ulla Dalsgaard

13TH Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap

The 13th installment of the Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap will be Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event has gained momentum over the years and we have quite a few regulars now. People continue to bring interesting and sometimes unusual plants as well pass on growing tips and other lore. So gather up your plants/books and join us for another great swap in October!

Austin Neighborhoods Council

Since 1973, Austin neighborhood associations have been meeting monthly to discuss their concerns and successes, and every once in a while throw a little political weight around, under the banner of the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC; www.ancweb.org). Since it was founded, the ANC has developed into a powerful political body made up of representatives from nearly all of the Austin's neighborhoods—including Cherrywood. The group is empowered to strengthen neighborhoods and bring neighborhood concerns to the doors of Austin City Hall. ANC meets the fourth Wednesday of every month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Austin Energy Building at 721 Barton Springs Road. All Cherrywood neighbors are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Cherrywood's ANC representative, Justin Irving, at irvingjp@gmail.com.

Cherrywood Green: Keeping It Green

The historic drought conditions have been hard on Cherrywood Green, but thanks to FROG (Friends of the Green) volunteers who are watering, we had a record fig harvest—hopefully some of you were able to get there early enough in the morning to get the figs, which were incredibly sweet this year. Since we have already lost one red oak and one of our two recently planted orange trees early on, we have come to realize that if we do

not water the other newly planted trees we may suffer additional loss. Newly planted trees (i.e., those within the first few years of planting) and very mature trees are the least likely to survive a drought without being watered. Luckily we have both a water supply and watering calendar for the Green; however, we need more volunteers to help with watering the Green. Additionally, watch for upcoming projects including building

the steps down to the creek from the utility pole steps stored at the Green. YOU can make a great difference in the quality of life we enjoy in Cherrywood! If you would like to help with watering, mowing, litter pick up or other projects as needed, please contact Mike Damal at 478-9622 or michael.damal@gmail.com.



4th of July Parade



Photos by Brad Tansil



Cherrywood Summer Film Nights

This summer, the Cherrywood Monthly Film Night was resurrected by Jim Reed and Terry Dyke who first presented the popular series a couple of years ago. The Film Nights take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the side room at the Cherrywood Coffeehouse. Only two more films will take place this summer on Wednesday, August 24 and Wednesday, September 28. All showings are free.

Presented films are not intended to be blockbuster films, but rather films and documentaries that focus on social, economic, and environmental awareness and sustainability. This summer we have seen UNFORESEEN, a documentary about the development around Barton Springs and nature's unexpected response to being threatened by human interference; GARBAGE WARRIOR, the epic

story of maverick U.S. architect Michael Reynolds and his fight to introduce radically sustainable housing; and INSIDE JOB, which takes a closer look at what brought about the financial meltdown. Prior to showing INSIDE JOB, Gary Linder, President and CEO of PeopleFund.org, talked with us about local financing solutions for small businesses.

All Cherrywood neighbors and friends are invited to join us and come hungry and thirsty to support our gracious host Cherrywood Coffeehouse. Lively discussions always take place afterwards. If you have a film or documentary idea for the next two showings, including a possible speaker to introduce the film, please send Jim Reed at filmmight@cherrywood.org.

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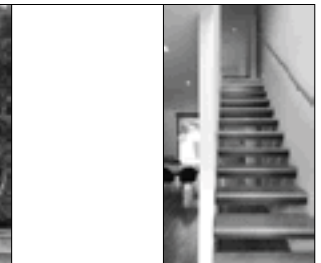
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HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

What's Hot in the Cherrywood Neighborhood



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Lawns Don't Waste Water, People Do

In recent years, much attention and controversy has surrounded the water requirement of a lawn. Misinformation and hidden agendas have fueled this controversy. However, there are some well documented facts about the American lawn.

- * A lawn is an integral component of the landscape and is certainly the best recreational surface for children and athletes.
- * A lawn has a tremendous mitigating effect on the environment, reducing heat loads and noise, plus water and air pollution.
- * A lawn is second only to a virgin forest in the ability to harvest water and recharge groundwater resources. And as a design component, the lawn provides landscape unity and simplicity while inviting participation in the landscape.

The lawn has become a focus in reducing landscape water use because of the tremendous opportunity for abusive use of irrigation water in the name of maintaining the lawn. Within the traditional landscape, the lawn has received the major portion of the total landscape irrigation. Lawn irrigation can be reduced, while the homeowner continues to derive the many benefits of turfgrass. Specific strategies to reduce lawn irrigation include:

- * Place lawn areas into landscape irrigation zones based on water requirements, so that lawns can be watered separately from other landscape plantings
- * Select adapted, lower-water demand turf species and varieties
- * Use irrigated lawn areas only in areas which provide function (i.e. recreational, aesthetic, foot traffic, dust and noise abatement, glare reduction, temperature mitigation)

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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 home fits into this market, contact Rebecca at 415-9876 for an appointment.

Average home for sale in Cherrywood is **3 beds, 2 baths**.
Average size home for sale is about **1,458 sq. ft.**
Average list price is **\$282,013**.
Average home selling price is **\$247,682**.
Average price per square foot is **\$189.52**.
Average time on market is **58 days**.

List prices average \$30K more than last quarter, but sales prices are down by \$27K. Homes are selling a little faster than last quarter, and the sales price per square foot is slightly higher. Home prices range from \$150K to \$450K.

- * Use non-irrigated lawn areas where appropriate
- * Irrigate properly based on the lawn's true water needs
- * Increase mowing heights to decrease lawn water use and stress
- * Decrease fertilizer rates and properly schedule fertilizations.

By implementing these strategies, homeowners can reduce lawn irrigation requirements and still reap the many benefits of a cool, green lawn.

Information from the Landscape Texas web site. www.landscape-texas.org/irrigation.html#irrigate

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.