



THE Flea

FEB 2011 | VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 1

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG

Cherrywood Neighborhood General Meeting

Agenda items include:

- Pecan Street Project Call for Volunteers
- Planning, Zoning & Transportation Update
- General Neighborhood Updates

All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Wednesday
February 16
6:30–8:00pm
MAPLEWOOD
ELEMENTARY**

BECOMING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

by Aaron Choate, CNA Steering Committee Chair

As our neighborhood moves into 2011, it seems that we face many challenges. State budget cuts will affect many of our neighbors' jobs directly and touch on many of the services our city and county provide to us. Our schools are dealing with major budget shortfalls. Our neighbors are dealing with substantial growth in the number of property crimes in and around our neighborhood. Our time is becoming more and more precious and it is harder for us to even consider next week, let alone next year. With all of that, how do we remain focused on being the neighborhood many of us chose to join by moving here?

I moved here several years ago not only because of the proximity to my employer, but also because of the amazing diversity I saw in the residents of my new neighborhood. Through our neighborhood listserv, NeighborNet, I watched how Cherrywood residents worked together to support each other, even on contentious issues, with respect for differing opinions and an expectation that the effort would be made to reach a consensus. At the time I moved in, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) was working to guide what was to become the Mueller development, what urban rail might look like, and how the neighborhood would fit into the future of the expanding urban patchwork that is Austin. Because of where this neighborhood is and due to the efforts of several of our residents, Cherrywood has the opportunity to continue to help guide and shape that future and I hope that we will continue to be as involved.

Moving from a neighborhood where I was less involved, I chose to take advantage of the open door CNA provided for my becoming an active participant in how city services developed around my new home. I hope some of you will choose to join the groups that are handling these issues, and perhaps even consider joining our Steering Committee; you can contact me at achoate@gmail.com for more information. We welcome all residents from within our boundaries, whether you own or rent.

Beyond shaping how we fit into the city as a whole, we have many opportunities to mold efforts to keep the neighborhood such a great place to live. We have groups focused on improving our reclaimed "pocket park" Cherrywood Green and restoring Willowbrook Reach, supporting the arts and neighborhood artists, starting a patchwork farm, and helping to maintain and shape the features and benefits of Patterson Park,

to name just a few. One of the CNA's goals in 2011 is making opportunities to become more active in these efforts easier to find. Please consider joining a group if you have a passion for any of these activities (or any others). It will make us stronger as a neighborhood, increase our safety, and you might make a friendship that could have never otherwise happened. Visit our website cherrywood.org for more information.

Of course, we all understand that you may not have the time to devote to monthly meetings, weekend activities, or even quarterly commitments. However, one simple way to become more active in Cherrywood is to join our e-mail listserv NeighborNet. At the very least, get to know and maintain a relationship with your immediate neighbors. Get their phone numbers, emergency contacts, and e-mail addresses and pledge to keep them informed if you see something suspicious occurring at their home, especially while they are away. For tips on protecting yourself and your neighbors, see page 3.

So, with that, I invite you to join us at the next Cherrywood Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday, February 16. I hope to see you there.

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.

FEBRUARY 2011

- 2/8 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's noon-1:00 pm
- 2/8 Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm
- 2/9 CNA Steering Committee Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 2/13 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting 3:00-5:00 pm
- 2/16 CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary ... 6:30-8:00 pm
- 2/23 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
- 2/28 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm

MARCH 2011

- 3/7 APD Central East Commander's Forum 6:00-8:00 pm
- 3/8 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's noon-1:00 pm
- 3/9 CNA Steering Committee Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 3/13 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting 3:00-5:00 pm
- 3/15 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm
- 3/23 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm

APRIL 2011

- 4/2 Cherrywood Plant & Book Swap..... 9:00 am-noon
- 4/9 KAB Clean Sweep..... 9:00-11:00 am
- 4/10 Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting 3:00-5:00 pm
- 4/12 ANC East Sector Meeting at Mi Madre's noon-1:00 pm
- 4/13 CNA Steering Committee Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
- 4/19 UBC Planning Committee Meeting..... 7:00-8:30 pm
- 4/20 Deadline to submit articles and ads for May FLEA
- 4/27 ANC General Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm
- 4/27 Mueller Transportation Committee Meeting 10:30 am-1:00 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

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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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Secretary Robin Peoples
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Members: Eric Boucheron, Deb Freeman, Justin Irving, Girard Kinney, Jeremy Mazur, Jack Josey Newman, Don Pettigrew, Eve Richter, and Mark Schiff

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

LISTSERVS | www.cherrywood.org

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



Merrill Carlson (1929-2010) Goodbye Dear Neighbor!

Our neighbor Merrill Carlson passed away on November 15, 2010. He was featured in the last issue of THE FLEA (November 2010). Those of us who knew him will always treasure his waves of good cheer during his morning walks. In his memory, be sure to wave to your neighbors and wish them well.

Photography by Chelsea Fullerton (chelseafullerton.com)

STAY ALERT

Keeping Cherrywood Safe from Crime

Remember to be **ALERT** (alert, lights, emergency, responsible and tidy) by doing these five things to keep you, your family and all of Cherrywood safe:

ALERT Get to know your neighbors including their kids and pets. Also, know what cars belong on your street. You should aim to know at least five of your neighbors (one or more on each side of your house and at least one to three across the street). Keep your neighbors phone numbers/e-mail addresses on your mobile phone. Do not e-mail your neighbors about when you will be on vacation. If needed, tell them in person or over the phone. Be sure to stop your mail and newspaper deliveries, or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you, if you will be out of town for an extended period of time.

If someone knocks on your front door, don't open it unless you know the person. It's better to call out "who's there" before opening the door. Saying nothing and ignoring the knock could result in your house being burgled a few minutes later while you're inside. If the person appears suspicious (as you determine by your sole discretion), call 911 and report the incident with a description of the person.

LIGHTS Keep your house well lit at night. If possible, install motion detectors or dusk-to-dawn lights in areas where people may walk.

EMERGENCY Be ready for a crisis (keep a working flashlight on hand, along with an emergency kit) and keep your neighbors' phone numbers handy, just in case. By getting to know your neighbors, you (or them) can help police or firefighters as needed if no one is home. If you have an indoor pet, consider putting a "Pet Alert" decal on your front and back doors (available on Amazon.com). In addition, make sure your pets have tags and/or microchips that are up to date. If your pet is missing, report it on the NeighborNet or DuplexNation listservs.

RESPONSIBLE Call 311 or 911 when you see a potential issue or suspicious activity. Ask for an incident number and report it on the NeighborNet or DuplexNation listservs so other neighbors can keep track of on-going issues (if applicable). If you any safety concerns you would like addressed, attend either the monthly Steering Committee and/or quarterly neighborhood meetings. For up-to-date crime data, visit KrimeLabb.com or Spotcrime.com.

TIDY Keep your street and home neat by trimming bushes and trees so windows and doors can be seen. You might think the dense row of shrubbery in front of your house adds curb appeal, but it also provides prowlers with concealment. Burglars and other predators like homes where they can slink within the shadows, and heavy landscaping provides just that type of opportunity.

Make sure to keep the inside of your car clean; i.e., do not leave CDs, papers, boxes, purses, etc. in plain view. Keep your driveway and porch free of clutter. Pick up trash on your street, contact the City of Austin (311) if you see graffiti, and pitch in to help other neighbors who might need a hand.

To get involved with the newly formed CNA Crime Prevention and Safety Committee, contact Chris Wilson at nicholaschristo@yahoo.com.

Thanks to the Gracywoods Neighborhood Association for inspiring these tips.

Finding Your Property at Pawn Shops

The Austin Police Department (APD) will bend over backwards to return stolen property if it is found at a local pawn shop. It is very unlikely that they will wish to keep it for evidence. They will take pictures and might ask you to act as a witness later, but they usually return the property. Pawn shops are required to report serial numbers of pawned items to the APD. In the event a stolen item is reported by a pawn shop and discovered by the APD, they will not attempt to arrest the person pawning the item unless it was pawned within 24 hours of the burglary. This isn't the law, but local policy by the District Attorney's office. If you find your property in a pawn shop, contact the investigator or APD immediately and tell them what you found and where you found it.

Pecan Street Project

On February 1, Pecan Street Project announced it had completed the installation of energy-monitoring systems at 100 homes in the Mueller community. This is the first step in the organization's Smart Grid Demonstration Project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The organization will monitor energy usage at these volunteer homes for a year, and compare that data to usage patterns in Mueller after they install new, test technology in homes in 2012. But the project isn't all Mueller. Residents outside Mueller will have a chance to participate in the larger research study, and representatives from the organization will be on hand at the CNA General Meeting on February 16 to discuss how interested residents can participate. For more information, visit pecanstreetproject.org.

Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap

The 13th installment of the Cherrywood Plant and Book Swap will be Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to noon the Cherrywood Green. 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 April! For more information, visit plantswap.jackdarby.com.



Willowbrook Workday

With the help of neighbors, including from the City of Austin and I-CERV (Ismaeli Community Engage in Responsible Volunteering), all the new trees and shrubs at the Willowbrook Reach were mulched and a very good start on invasive plant removal was accomplished.

Photography by Dolly Ensey



KEEP CHERRYWOOD BEAUTIFUL: Be a Part of CLEAN SWEEP 2011!

Clean Sweep, which will be held on Saturday, April 9, 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 4,300 volunteers registered to clean up more than 129 sites throughout Austin.

If you would like to help clean up parts of Cherrywood, you may sign up to be a part of Clean Sweep at www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/cleansweep.

2010 Cherrywood Art Fair...a Really Big Show!

A big thank you from CHULA League to all who contributed to the 2010 Cherrywood Art Fair. Effort, money, food, and know-how are all part of what's needed to pull off this city-wide phenomenon, and you came through once again. A vast array of art from 80 artists and artisans, music from some of Austin's most-loved bands, food from MMMPanadas and East Side Pies, and treats from Elixer Coffee and Reel Popcorn all contributed to a unique experience for thousands of Austinites in the mid-century milieu of Maplewood Elementary School.

This year the Little Artist/Big Artist program linked nine professional artists with 14 Maplewood sixth graders to produce original works auctioned at the Fair. Proceeds from this auction, along with a generous hunk of Fair proceeds, have been donated to the Art, Gardening and General Funds at Maplewood. The balance of proceeds from the Fair will be used to pay for public arts and landscaping projects in Cherrywood and adjacent neighborhoods.

New this year was the Next Generation Artists tent, where young artists from four East Austin high schools offered their art to the public. The high school artists and art teachers had a blast at the Fair, and can't wait to return next year.

This event can't happen without sponsors, and we want to say thank you to:

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We also had over 150 silent auction items donated including an item by each artist in the Fair. Almost 100 volunteers came together to pull it all off with grace, humor, and dedication. To learn more about how you can volunteer, sponsor, or present your art at the 2011 Art Fair, please contact cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com or visit the CHULA Web site at www.cherrywoodartfair.org.

Cherrywood Art Fair



Photography courtesy of Chelsea Fullerton (chelseafullerton.com), and Nine Francois.

PLANNING, ZONING & TRANSPORTATION LATEST UPDATE

by Girard Kinney, AIA, Chair of the CNA Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee

The first CNA Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee meeting of this decade took place on February 2 and will be reported on during the CNA general meeting on Wednesday, February 16.

Imagine Austin

Imagine Austin, the ongoing update of Austin's Comprehensive Plan, is nearing completion. It has been a rocky ride and some strong community criticism of the process has threatened to derail the effort, but at the time of this writing it appears that the City Council will approve a version of the updated plan soon. The community input process has involved several extended efforts to glean input about how to manage the growth that is occurring and is projected to continue at a rapid pace. The process has resulted in four growth scenarios, with scenario "D" scoring the highest, followed by Scenario "C". Both of these scenarios show a preference for a dense central city, avoiding sensitive environmental areas and sprawl. Scenario "D" leans toward more of the growth in the central part of the city, while Scenario "C" (which also favors central city density) places more growth in nodes, generally on the east side of I-35 in what has been designated as the desired development zone for many years.

Staff and consultants have attempted to take what they feel are the best features of each of these two preferred growth scenarios, and have created a hybrid which is currently being vetted in public meetings and input is still being solicited both at these public meetings and online at www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan/. One change proposed in the hybrid for our neighborhood is that the density node previously to have projected about 15,000 new residents in the MLK Transit-Oriented Development node is proposed to be re-shaped, resulting in about 7,500 residents being distributed along each of the MLK and Manor Road corridors. This change is actually consistent with the VMU plan currently in place in Cherrywood, with

the expected future density occurring along Manor Road from La Fayette to Airport Boulevard, with nodes along this corridor at the old Value Sky Park and at the Airport Boulevard intersection.

One area of continuing debate is that currently the entire Airport Boulevard Corridor is proposed as a mixed-use corridor, from Lamar at the north end to MLK at the south end, except for the portion from I-35 to Patterson Park, where the land uses in Wilshire and Delwood II along Airport Boulevard remain predominantly well-maintained, single-family residences. There is a strong argument that a better way to protect these residential enclaves is to actually include this section in the Corridor, with controls built-in to the form-based zoning that would project such assets wherever they occur.

Group 21

Group 21 is the name the City of Austin has for the street reconstruction project that was thoroughly vetted in the neighborhood last year, one result of which was the adoption of the Cherrywood Sidewalk Master Plan which now will guide the placement of sidewalks as the streets are reconstructed. The plans for the street project are nearing the 60 percent level, and we are hopeful that the CNA Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee will have a chance to see the current configurations shortly, and that the membership will be able to receive a presentation of the plans at the CNA General Meeting. The recent traffic signals places at La Fayette and Chicon intersections with Dean Keaton and Manor, along with the sidewalk that is planned for La Fayette from Manor to East 38th 1/2 promise to complete a major north-south pedestrian path through the neighborhood.

If you have a topic of interest you would like me to bring to the CNA Planning, Zoning & Transportation Committee, please contact Committee Chair, Girard Kinney, AIA at girard@kinneyarchitects.com.

Mueller Update

On December 21, 2010, ProLogis entered into an agreement with affiliates of TPG Capital to sell a portfolio of U.S. retail and mixed-use assets and the Catellus name for a total purchase price of approximately \$505 million. From Greg Weaver, President of the Catellus Development Group, "Our local development team will remain the same and will maintain its offices in Mueller. Nothing changes about the Master Developer Agreement with the City of Austin

and we will continue to be dedicated to delivering high-caliber development with a steadfast commitment to the community and the goals of the master plan. I am happy to report that I will remain in Austin leading the work at Mueller along with continued company-wide responsibilities as a partner in the new Catellus."

Gary Schatz, Assistant Director with the City of Austin's Transportation Management Division, reported at the January RMMAPIAC meeting that as part of the transportation bond

package passed last November, the City will be moving forward with reconnecting the I-35 northbound frontage road to Cameron Road via 53rd Street. There is no current timeline for that project. Other changes to the 51st Street/I-35 intersection will require more study and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation.

To learn more about Mueller transportation issues, contact Cherrywood's Tom Wald at tomwald@gmail.com.



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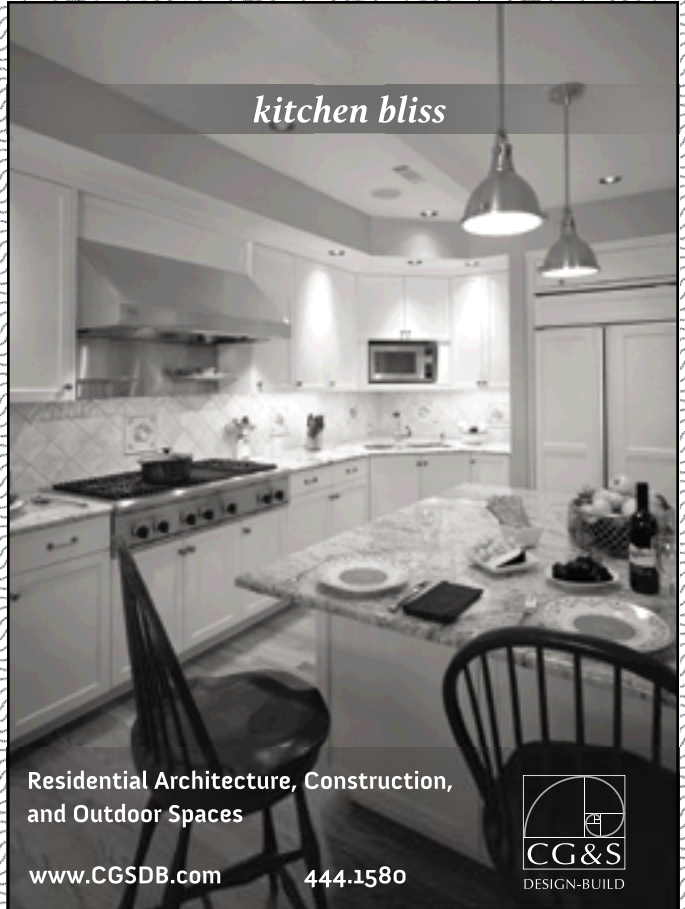
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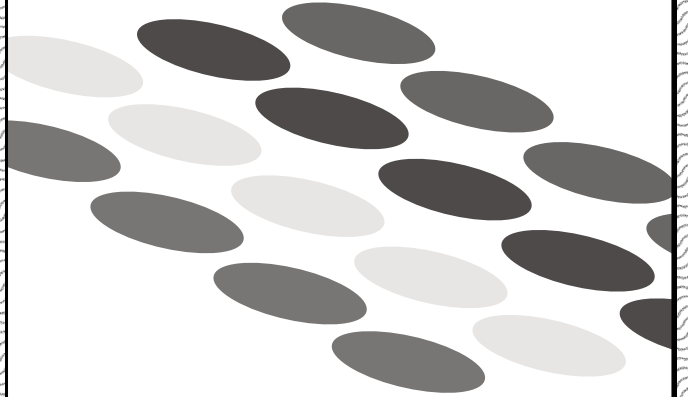
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February 2011 | Rebecca's

HOMEOWNER'S UPDATE

What's Hot in the Cherrywood Neighborhood



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Time to Think About Spring Cleaning!

Since I'm always organizing and cleaning at my house, (the work never ends) I thought I'd pass along some tips for getting your home in shape before the weather heats up.

WINDOWS: Take advantage of these cloudy days to wash your windows. Always wash with horizontal strokes on the inside and vertical strokes on the outside, or vice versa. This way, if there are any streaks, you'll know which side of the glass they're on. And don't waste paper towels to dry windows; crumpled newspaper works better!

WALLS: When washing painted walls, always start at the bottom and work your way up. This prevents streaks from dripping water that are difficult to remove. To make your wookwork really shine, squeeze the juice of one lemon into a quart of water for use as a rinse agent after wathing the wookwork. The surface will maintain its high gloss finish.

CHROME: If you need to clean chrome in the kitchen or bath, just dampen a cloth with any one of these three products: vinegar, nail-polish remover or leftover tea that has been steeping in the pot. This might save you a trip to the store!

If you'd like to learn about the history of our neighborhood or you are interested in the current real estate market, take a look at my special website I created just for CHERRYWOOD. It's www.cherrywoodinfo.com. I'd love to hear more stories of our history, post photos of neighbors, or just share information on neighborhood events. Check it out and let me know what you think!

A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

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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 **1,248 sq. ft.**

Average list price is **\$240,641**.

Average home selling price is **\$270,636**.

Average price per square foot is **\$178.63**.

Average time on market is **80 days**.

Sales and list prices are remaining steady from last quarter and homes are still on the market for about 80 days average.

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 \$249,900

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