



# THE Flea

AUG 2013 | VOLUME 19 | NUMBER 3

Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

CHERRYWOOD.ORG

## Eat-in and Ire over Restaurant Highlights Neighbor Response to Commercial Growth in Cherrywood

IN JUNE, dozens of Muellerites attended a Mueller Neighborhood Association "eat-in" at Kerbey Lane Café to encourage the restaurant to open a fifth location in Mueller. Meanwhile, subscribers to Cherrywood's NeighborNet listserv argued the pros and cons of a Kerbey Lane at one possible location proposed by a developer: 4020 Airport. Though the use restrictions on 4020 make it an unlikely spot for a 24-hour operation like Kerbey Lane, the discussion raised several issues about the benefits and drawbacks of commercial growth in Cherrywood.

### Parking, Safety & Property Values

"It's a huge deal for the neighbors on Vineland, Schieffer and 40th Streets to NOT have a 24-hour business at their back fence. Specifically, none of us in the immediate neighborhood are looking forward to overflow parking onto adjacent streets OR longer hours. (Think how Thunderbird and Cherrywood Coffeeshouses are affecting owners' use of their homes, property values, and all neighbors' safety.)"

—Margaret Mills

### Walkability Raises Property Values, Quality of Life

"Not all neighbors agree that having businesses such as Cherrywood Coffeehouse in close proximity negatively affect a home's value, safety, or overall quality of life. Neighborhoods with above average "walkability" (largely based on having businesses nearby worth walking to) increases property values." —Travis Powers

### "Walkable" Doesn't Mean "Safe"

"[Walkability doesn't increase property value] when the attendant parking clogs your street and makes it more unsafe for foot traffic. I understand your point, but I certainly disagree as this relates to the Cherrywood Coffee House." —Kirby McDaniel

### Long Live Manor Row

"I'm 100 percent in support of a Kerbey Lane in the hood, 24 hours and all. I love the direction we're headed with 'Manor Row,' and this can only help."

—Eve Richter

## Cherrywood Supports I-35 Makeover

In June, The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association submitted a letter of support to the City of Austin for the Reconnect Austin plan, a vision of local architects and planners to "cut and cap" I-35 from Ladybird Lake to 15th Street, resulting in a tunnel for through traffic below-ground, and local streets at ground level. It would look much like pre-1950 East Avenue, with uninterrupted cross streets and open, pedestrian-friendly areas. "Reconnect Austin" would not only take care of the traffic and eyesore and free up an estimated 30 acres of land, it would also heal the concrete divide that separates two parts of town.

Several other cities have had success with similar projects, and it can happen in Austin with enough citizen support. Cherrywood joins Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association and other civic groups in endorsing the plan. Given enough momentum, the I-35 cut-and-cap could conceivably be extended north of 15th St., bringing the benefits even closer to Cherrywood territory.

For the meantime, TxDOT needs to keep hearing from people who want to see this happen. Post your comments at [Mobility35.org](http://Mobility35.org) or [info@mobility35.org](mailto:info@mobility35.org).

## Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, Aug 21, 6:30–8pm**  
Cherrywood Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting  
ASBURY SERVANT CHURCH

**Saturday, Sep 21, 4–5pm**  
Cherrywood Cookie Social  
CHERRYWOOD GREEN

**Saturday, Oct 12, 9am–noon**  
Cherrywood Plant/Book Swap  
CHERRYWOOD GREEN

### Local vs. Micro-Local

"Just because a restaurant is local does not mean it's infallible. Once a restaurant with this much entrenched, Austin-wide support is allowed to open, it will have no problem out-voicing our neighborhood's concerns to expand hours, facilities, capacity, events, etc. A restaurant with a more neighborhood-centric, farm-to-market, small-scale focus would be much more sensitive and appropriate." —Dana Ambs

### The Last Word

"Just for the record, I could never support a restaurant called Kerbey Lane that was, in fact, located on Airport Boulevard. (Typed by my cat.)"

—Abe Dashner



# 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. Want to submit something for the online and FLEA calendars? Contact [flea@cherrywood.org](mailto:flea@cherrywood.org).

**AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2013**

## Wednesday, August 21

Cherrywood Quarterly Meeting @ Servant Church ..... 6:30–8 pm

### RECURRING MEETINGS

**First Mondays:** APD Central East Commander's Forum..... 6–8 pm

**First Wednesdays:** Land Use and Transportation Committee ... 8–9:30 pm

**Second Sundays:** Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting..... 3–5 pm

**Second Mondays:** Friends of Willowbrook Reach ..... 6:30 pm

**Second Tuesdays:** Austin Neighborhood Council East Sector ... noon–1 pm

**Third Wednesdays:** CNA Steering Committee Meeting ..... 6:30–8 pm

**Fourth Mondays:** Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Team..... 7–8:30 pm

**Fourth Wednesdays:** Austin Neighborhoods Council ..... 7–9 pm

## Arts Calendar

### EVENTS AT CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE

**Tuesdays** – Open Mic Comedy ..... 10 pm

**Tuesdays** – Music: Tony Redman ..... 7–9 pm

**Sundays\*** – Kids Music (\*most weeks)..... 10:30 am

**Sundays** – Movie Night..... dusk

### EVENTS AT THE VORTEX REPERTORY COMPANY – 8 PM

**8/1–17** *A Raisin in the Sun*      **10/11–19** *Perchance to Dream*

**8/23–9/14** *Sing Muse*                      **10/26–11/16** *Stars and Barmen* (World

**9/21–28** *ethose Cyber Fest*                      Premiere)

### EVENTS AT VORTEX BUTTERFLY BAR

**Tuesdays** – Trivia..... 7 pm

**Fridays** – The Late Joys (August)..... 6–7:30 pm

### EVENTS AT IN.GREDIENTS

**Mondays** – Sunset Yoga with Adriene ..... 7:30–8:30 pm

**8/7** Meet the Brewer Night with Circle Brewing Company ..... 6–8 pm

**8/17** Kids Culinary Workshop ..... 9–11 am

**8/14** Ice Cream Social with Lick Ice Cream ..... 6–8 pm

**8/28** in.gredients Book Club: Salt, Sugar, Fat..... 6:30 pm

**9/28** Kids Culinary Workshop ..... 10 am–noon

## CNA UPDATE

## CHERRYWOOD.ORG 2.0: A Website Revamp



Cherrywood.org just got a makeover to reflect the diversity and richness of our neighborhood. With your help, we can make it an even more interesting resource for everyone who lives in this wonderful corner of Austin's East Side.

Want to get involved? CNA would love collaboration on this ongoing project.

- Subscribe to follow blog posts and engage with new site content
- Suggest news, events or neighbors that you want to highlight
- Add events to the neighborhood calendar

# THE FLEA

**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. ©2013. All rights reserved.

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### CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair ..... Rotating among Steering Committee members

Secretary ..... Jennifer Potter-Miller

Treasurer ..... Rebecca Kohout

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- Submit your favorite Points of Interest
- Add a recommendation on the Resource page
- Add your insights to our Info for New Residents knowledge base
- Sign up to write for the website
- Submit photos of the neighborhood to the Cherrywood Flickr group

Your webteam ([webteam@cherrywood.org](mailto:webteam@cherrywood.org)):

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# AROUND THE HOOD



## 18TH FRENCH PLACE 4TH OF JULY PARADE

More than 100 Cherrywooders gripped with patriotic zeal stormed French Place on Independence Day. Windmill Bicycles hosted a bike-decorating contest at Cherrywood Green, the terminus of the parade, while neighbors led by Ray Jordan and Jeanne Arbuckle and in.gredients provided refreshments that were composted by East Side Compost Pedallers.



On a steamy day in June, 15 neighbors big and small kicked off the summer at Cherrywood Green with the first-ever Cherrywood Cookie Social. Cookies and eat ice cream were consumed and minty puddles left in their wake. The next Cookie Social is slated for September.

## INAUGURAL CHERRYWOOD COOKIE SOCIAL



## MUELLER H-E-B OPENS DOORS

H-E-B at Mueller opened in late July. Store hours: 6 a.m. to midnight (pharmacy 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.). Café Mueller hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. H-E-B's eight fuel pumps are just off 51st Street, and two electric-vehicle charging stations are nearer the store.

## CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR APPLICATIONS OPEN

Chula League has opened artist and music applications for the Dec. 7-8, 2013 12th Annual Cherrywood Art Fair at Maplewood Elementary. Your participation is vital to its success! Want to apply for an open coordinator position? Contact the event producer at [info@cherrywoodartfair.org](mailto:info@cherrywoodartfair.org). Proceeds from the Fair benefit Maplewood Elementary and the Little Artist BIG ARTIST program. More info: [cherrywoodartfair.org](http://cherrywoodartfair.org)



## BOYS BIKINI BIKE WASH

In June, Windmill Bicycles, in.gredients, East Side Compost Pedallers, and HOPE Farmers Market raised \$400 for the HOPE Mobile Farm Stand by dressing male bike washers in bikinis.



## MANOR BROOM WAGON

Tuesday, August 6, 6:30pm (and every first and third Tuesday thereafter) Windmill Bicycles Meet at Windmill Bicycles for general sprucing up of the Manor bike lanes. BYOB (broom, that is).

*cherrywood*  
ART FAIR

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Potter-Miller. Bike wash photo courtesy of Windmill Bicycles. 2012 Art Fair photos courtesy of Roy Moore.

## FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK



*The proposed alternate site would place Patterson's community garden near the skateboarding ramp.*

### Compromise Sought for Community Garden

In May, Austin's Parks and Recreation Department denied The Patterson Park Community Garden Task Force's application for a community garden, largely due to ongoing opposition from a group of nearby neighbors. However, when the task force told PARD we would appeal to City Council, PARD agreed to work with us and members of the opposition to achieve an acceptable compromise.

The task force has developed an alternate site proposal that moves the garden further north and relocates the volleyball court to address concerns about open space in that portion of the park. Getting the new proposal approved will likely take up most of the fall, effectively delaying garden installation until at least June 2014.

—by Mark Smolen



## URBAN FARM UPDATE

Between now and the beginning of the fall/winter season in mid-October, the half-dozen backyard and front-yard plots that make up the farm will still produce summer crops like eggplant, okra, tomatoes, and cucumbers. During that time, our dedicated core group of work-share members will also further develop our two newest plots, which are still at about half-capacity, building up the soil and installing drought-busting drip irrigation systems.

Signup for the fall/winter season begins mid-August, with several ways to participate as a member: full cash subscription; full work-share; half and half; or land host.

More info: [urbanpatchwork.org](http://urbanpatchwork.org). If you think you might be interested in joining, volunteering, or getting on the wait-list, contact Terry Dyke at [terry.dyke@cherrywood.org](mailto:terry.dyke@cherrywood.org).



## FRIENDS AND LOVERS OF WILLOWBROOK REACH

### Pardon Our Appearance

*Big projects going on and coming up at the Reach*

#### Project #1: Habitat Restoration Project Phase I

FLWR is adopting Watershed Protection's "Grow Zone" policy, which focuses on not mowing around Austin waterways to decrease water pollution and improve wildlife habitat. FLWR has planted more than 100 trees and shrubs and seeded the entire Phase I area (the upper northern and western portion) with native grasses and perennials. The temporary watering system will be removed when Phase II begins.

#### Project #2: Wastewater Line Replacement

From this summer to next spring, the city is replacing aging wastewater lines, which will require bank stabilization and some tree removal. Other than impacting surrounding streets, the project will affect the lower southeastern portion.

#### Project #3: Habitat Restoration Project Phase II

This phase, in the lower southeast portion, will begin after the wastewater line replacement project. FLWR is still planning this restoration, but it will look much like Phase I, with planting, seeding, and temporary irrigation.

#### Meanwhile, Upstream...

Stay tuned for more info about an upcoming separate bank stabilization project on the creek near Wilshire Blvd., or check in with [lclippard@gmail.com](mailto:lclippard@gmail.com).



*In June, FLWR, with in.gredients, Compost Pedallers and members of Servant Church held a Willowbrook Reach cleanup, collecting what little trash there was to be found and clip the seeds heads off the Johnson Grass and mark other invasive species.*

*Photo: Jennifer Potter-Miller.*

# STUCK ON “STUCCOVILLE”

*The haunted house and hero cop of Giles Place*

By Rebecca Kohout



Four generations of Giles, the family that founded Giles Place. From left, Bascom C. Giles, Leora Giles, baby James, Jr. and James Bascom Giles, Jr. Photos courtesy of Austin History Center

## Enter Burt Gerding, Austin Legend

Our neighbor, Burt Gerding, was one of the construction hands on those first Giles Place homes. Fresh out of the Navy after serving as a pharmacist mate onboard ship, Gerding got the job from his brother-in-law, Reggie Smith, who worked for the Waco company that sold Giles casement windows. The pair installed and glazed the windows for six cents a pane.

Gerding, who passed away in March, moved to 3211 Hemlock with his wife, Mildred, in 1951. In 1956, the family moved over to one of the very homes Gerding had helped build 10 years earlier, 3801 Vineland. Born in Greenville and raised in Dallas, Gerding joined the Austin Police Department in



1950, where he became a lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation unit. He was instrumental in the James Cross murder investigation, and was one of the first officers on site during the Charles Whitman University of Texas Tower shooting. *Texas Monthly's* 1986 “The Madman on the Tower” story recounted his experience:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

The Giles family put an indelible stamp on the architecture and layout of Cherrywood, especially in the subdivision that bears their name. Their involvement with the neighborhood began with Banton Giles, one of the early 20th century investors in our slice of east Austin. Banton was born in Travis County in 1870, his father’s family having moved to the Republic of Texas from Virginia. He and wife Leora owned one of the first homes in the Cherrywood area, a mansion at 2824 Manor Road that would later become Value Sky Park by the time the airport replaced the farm and pastureland.

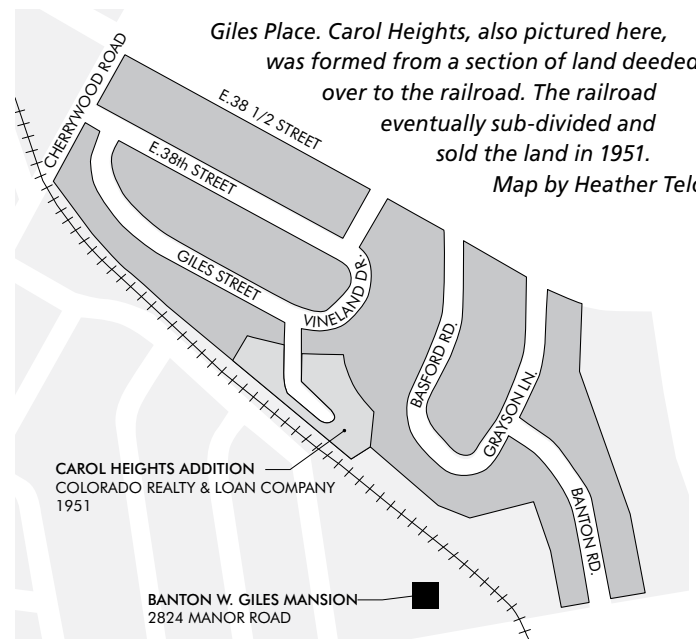
Banton and Leora had six children, five girls and one son, James Bascom, a noted Texas land commissioner. Leora passed away in 1945 and Banton died in 1952, leaving the house vacant. Long time Cherrywood resident Jeanne Whittington remembers how neighborhood children in the 1950s considered the wood-frame Victorian a haunted house. Stories persisted of doors opening and closing unaided and other mysterious noises. No one dared venture there after dark.

## From Hauntings to Housing

Bascom and sons, Rogan and Bascom, Jr., started developing Giles Place (the area we affectionately call “Stuccoville”) out of the Giles family holdings in early 1947. They designed and built Giles Place from 1947 to 1950 with returning GIs in mind. The crews put up the one-story tract homes like an assembly line, pouring the foundations for the entire block before assembling the walls all at once, followed by the windows and doors. Primarily built from volcanic ash blocks imported from Mexico, the houses ranged in size from 800 to 1,000 square feet. Many have identical floor plans, though several were built much larger. Giles homeowners have expanded their houses over the years, in some cases doubling their size to 2,000 square feet.

Giles Place. Carol Heights, also pictured here, was formed from a section of land deeded over to the railroad. The railroad eventually sub-divided and sold the land in 1951.

Map by Heather Telo



“He grabbed his .30-06 Springfield with armor-piercing ammunition. He took up a position on the roof of the business and economics building off the Tower’s southeast corner and doesn’t mind admitting now that before he got sighted in, the first shot went high and put the most conspicuous hole in the Tower clock’s translucent glass face. After that, he hit a bag of cartridges that Whitman had set on the parapet and maybe one of Whitman’s rifles, which appeared to have been struck by an armor-piercing bullet.”

Thorne Dreyer, in a 2006 *Texas Observer* article, describes Gerding as “a wry, lanky gent with a winning style, ... an Austin legend. Omnipresent, with

a continually amused look and an almost ‘aw shucks’ demeanor, he was the town’s one-man ‘Good Cop, Bad Cop.’” Gerding told me stories of his work during the Vietnam-era peace marches of the early 1970s, recalling how he would take equal pleasure in helping the Guadalupe Street protestors and macing them too when the situation called for it. I would gladly remind him that I was most likely one of the protestors on the receiving end of his mace canisters!

Gerding leaves behind his former wife of 49 years, two children, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and many friends. His little dog, Asta, preceded him in death. We will miss them both.

**BLUE RIBBON YARD WINNER**



**2908 French Place: Beauty and Balance**

Once a neighbor driving by Lawrence Haley and Dan Hart’s yard stopped the car, reversed, rolled down the window and proclaimed their garden was a gift to the neighborhood.

Since moving in, Haley has improved the original landscaping by replacing the perennials with native and native-adapted plants to cut down on maintenance without compromising the beauty and balance of the yard. The flowers from the plumbago, esperanza, hibiscus, magnolia, Texas mountain laurel, and agapanthus draw migrating hummingbirds and butterflies. Knockout roses bloom along the fence framed by purple fountain grass. Foxtail fern thrives near the green of the zoysia palisades turf. A more delicate bloom, a duranta, trails tiny blue flowers that smell of French vanilla.

If you see Haley or Hart in their yard, be sure to tell them their yard is a gift to the neighborhood.

—by *Cara Fealy Choate*

*\$25 gift certificate courtesy of Breed & Co.*

*Photo courtesy of Cara Fealy Choate*

**WHAT GIVES?**

**FROM THE SKY ABOVE**

This aerial shot of Cherrywood circa late 1940s, early 1950s shows Duplex Nation and the plot that would soon become Maplewood Elementary. Thanks to Hannah Vaughn for posting it to the NeighborNet.



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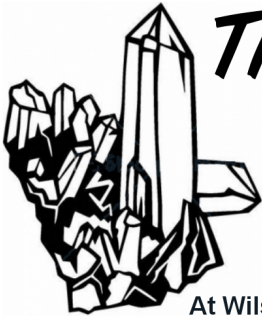
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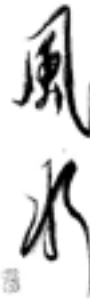
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# WHAT'S HOT IN CHERRYWOOD

## Seven Tips to Feng Shui Your Bedroom

Is the summer heat getting to you and you want to mix it up a little in your life? Try these tips for incorporating Feng Shui in your bedroom and enjoy better sleep while spicing up your love life!

1. Let go of the TV, computer or exercise equipment in your bedroom. The good feng shui energy in your bedroom is destroyed when these items are present in your bedroom.
2. Open the windows often or use a good quality air-purifier to keep the air fresh and full of oxygen. Plants are not good in the bedroom, so at least keep them away from the bed.
3. Have several levels of lighting in your bedroom, or use a dimmer switch to adjust the energy accordingly. Candles are the best feng shui bedroom lighting, but be sure to buy candles with no toxins.
4. Use soothing colors to achieve a good feng shui balance in your bedroom. Best feng shui colors are the so-called "skin colors", and we know the colors of human skin vary from pale white to rich chocolate brown. Pink is also a skin color and promotes romance.
5. Choose the images for your bedroom wisely, as images carry powerful feng shui energy. Choose images that you want to see happening in your life.
6. Follow the basic feng shui guidelines for your bed, which are: have your bed easily approachable from both sides, have two bedside tables (one on each side), avoid having the bed in a direct line with the door and have a good sturdy headboard.
7. Keep all the bedroom doors closed at night, be it the closet doors, the en-suite bathroom door or the bedroom door.



## Cherrywood Real Estate Report

Information below is based on active, pending and sold homes within our Cherrywood boundaries. The data derives from a total of 25 homes sold or on the market for the period of April 15, 2013 to July 15, 2013..

- Homes sold in the past 90 days: **15**
- Homes currently pending sale: **5**
- Homes actively listed: **4**
- Average home for sale: **3 beds, 2 bath.**
- Average size home for sale: **1,386 sq. ft.**
- Average list price: **\$335,580.**
- Average home's selling price: **\$310,000.**
- Average price per square feet: **\$234.77.**
- Average time on market: **16 days.**

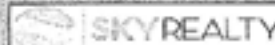
These figures are holding fairly steady from the past three months. While the average selling home size has decreased slightly, these smaller homes are bringing in almost the same dollar amount as the larger homes did three months ago. Also, I should mention that there were a couple of recent sales of very low priced homes in the area that skew these statistics. All in all, the real numbers are slightly higher than these actual statistics.

The overall Austin housing market for July shows there is a strong demand for housing. Existing inventory is down almost 30% from one year ago, with a 19% increase in sales and 25% less days on the market compared to the first six months of 2012.

If you'd like to know specifics about your home in order to compare it with other sales, please feel free to call me. I'm happy to help provide you with comparables.

I've been a Cherrywood resident since 1972. Call me if you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move.

Let me show you what I can do for you and how I can make your next move the best move of your life!



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