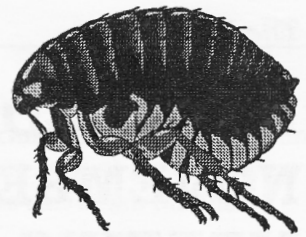


# The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association  
Vol. I, No. 3

January 1996

## CNA Officially Reactivated Election of President Set for Next Meeting

Dear Neighbor,

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) held a meeting on the evening of November 30 at the Discovery Incubator Multimedia Cafe. The meeting was attended by approximately 45 neighbors, many of whom were attending their first meeting. Neighbors voted to adopt an interim set of by-laws, thus officially reactivating the CNA. Uncontested elections were then held for the positions of treasurer (Stephen Kreger) and secretary (Jim Walker). Plans were made to hold an election for president at the next meeting.

## CNA Presidential Candidates Speak

### G. P. "Buzz" Avery

In *The Flea*, Gordon Bennett declared the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association "essentially defunct." Such is typical of neighborhood associations, remaining complacent until galvanized when reacting to situations. If elected, I'll improve this.

First, I propose the CNA establish a Neighborhood Conservation Combining District to better control area land use. An NCCD is a quasi-government entity with more legal authority than a neighborhood association. Second, I want to reactivate and improve the Neighborhood Watch to reduce vicinity crime. Third, I'll seek speed bumps for Lafayette.

I have a strong background of political activism, particularly with environmental issues. I currently serve on the Environmental Board, appointed by Jackie Goodman. In the past seen years, I've served on various committees, including the BCCP that will create 35,000 acres of preserves west of Austin. As a CNA member, I was instrumental in getting water quality controls at Fiesta and getting the Pay-As-You-Throw pilot program here.

### Chuck Herrick

These are challenging times for our neighborhood. Skyrocketing taxes, closing the airport, and the "Portland Plan" demand a vital neighborhood association. We need enthusiasm from all and a strong, active president with a proven track record of neighborhood activism.

Many of you know me as an organizer in many, many neighborhood issues. I have the proven record our association needs. I will detail some of this record at our next meeting, where I will ask for your vote.

A small sample of what I propose:

- build an NCCD to guide development
- organize neighborhood crime watches in every block
- city actions on Lafayette Avenue, to encourage safer traffic
- deal with UT parking in our southern end
- resolve the derelict Howeth houses.
- much more

Ask yourself: with whose positive record and vision can we move our neighborhood forward?

Please vote Chuck Herrick for president on January 25, Thursday.

# PROCEEDINGS OF NOVEMBER 30 MEETING

## 1. Presentation by Lieutenant James Fealy, Austin Police Department

Lieutenant Fealy is commander of the Central East ("Charlie") Sector covering the area east of I-35 from the river to US-183. He is thus directly responsible for the police protection of our neighborhood. In his talk, Lt. Fealy brought attention to a rash of burglaries (the actual breaking into of a person's home) plaguing Cherrywood. He stated that fifteen burglaries had occurred in September and over twenty in October. An arrest was made at the beginning of November, and the number of burglaries for that month dropped to four, suggesting that the main culprit had been caught. Lt. Fealy emphasized, however, that unlike the crime spree which occurred in the summer of 1994 and was stopped cold by a single arrest, this recent rash of burglaries has been the work of more than one person.

In his self-described "blunt" manner, Lt. Fealy encouraged neighbors not to make life so easy for burglars. Most of the break-ins have occurred during the day through open windows and unlocked doors. He recommended dead-bolt locks, window locks, and alarm systems for those who can afford them; he said the best protection against burglars is a barking dog no matter how puny. He mentioned burglar bars as effective, too, although many insurance companies discourage these because they make exiting a house during a fire difficult.

Lt. Fealy also urged neighbors not to

hesitate to call 911 whenever they see suspicious persons or unfamiliar transients lurking around with no apparent purpose or destination. While the police might only be able to take the person's name, the mere fact that a patrol officer has been alerted will make the neighborhood a less attractive target for potential criminals. Burglars seek the path of least resistance, and if neighbors are vigilant and secure their property, burglars are inclined to go elsewhere. This is the essence of community policing: neighbors protecting themselves, looking out for one another, and working with the police.

Finally, Lt. Fealy introduced Sergeant Jim Andrist and Senior Patrol Officer Melissa Lee. Sergeant Andrist patrols the Manor-Walnut area while Officer Lee patrols Cherrywood specifically. The telephone number for any non-emergency questions or problems regarding crime and police protection is 480-5000. Admitting that the police bureaucracy sometimes moves slowly, Lt. Fealy also gave out his own direct number (385-7726) and that of his assistant, Roger Floyd (385-7714). He promised that all messages would be returned as soon as possible.

One other issue of concern brought up was speeding in the neighborhood. Lt. Fealy urged neighbors concerned with speeding to contact the city and inquire about traffic-slowing techniques like stop signs or speed humps.

## 2. Adoption of By-Laws

Gordon Bennett moderated a discussion of new by-laws for the CNA. He first passed out copies of a streamlined version of the very detailed set drafted in 1986. After some discussion of specific wordings in certain articles, it was agreed for the sake of efficiency to form a subcommittee to review the by-laws

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and recommend changes to them. The streamlined interim by-laws were then adopted by almost unanimous consent, thus formally restarting the CNA.

Features of the current set of by-laws include open membership to all residents 18 or older living in the boundaries of the neighborhood and current on dues payments (dues have obviously not been determined or implemented yet), at least four regular meetings a year, a voting quorum of ten members, the ability of three members to postpone a vote for a maximum of one meeting, and the election of a president, treasurer, and secretary. The by-laws subcommittee will be looking at these and other aspects of the by-laws in the coming weeks and months. For example, the majority present at the meeting thought that dues should be voluntary; other neighbors wanted the age limit lowered. Determining a regular meeting schedule will also be a high priority.

### 3. Election of Officers

Following the adoption of the by-laws, officers were elected. Stephen Kreger, who has been voluntarily serving as treasurer for the past several months, volunteered to continue in that role and was elected without opposition. He announced that he will set up a bank account on behalf of the CNA. A hat was passed around and \$35 was collected to add to the \$45 already held by Stephen on behalf of the CNA. We now have \$70 in the kitty! The average cost of printing *The Flea* for 1300 homes is \$100, most of which is defrayed by advertising.

Jim Walter volunteered to serve as secretary and was elected without opposition. The secretary's duties include keeping minutes of each meeting and maintaining a directory of active members.

George Avery and Chuck Herrick were then nominated to be president of the CNA. For the sake of fairness and the good of the association, it was agreed that further nominations would be accepted at the next meeting, each candidate would be given a chance to speak, and a vote would be taken.

### 4. Non-Agenda Items

Some neighbors felt like getting together socially outside of regular meetings. For example, if the CNA ends up holding regular meetings quarterly, say on the last Thursday of every third month, then people could meet

informally on the last Thursday of the months in-between. It was determined to try this out on Thursday, December 28 at 7:30 at the Discovery Incubator. Hopefully this can catch on and become an institution.

Brad Kittel, owner of the Discovery Incubator and local real estate mogul (Discovery Investments), was introduced and spoke briefly on real estate trends in the neighborhood. He said that most new families moving in like larger houses with garages and that currently there was little that the neighborhood could do outside of an NCCD (see last issue of *The Flea*) to prevent builders from constructing garage-dominated monstrosities on small lots. Such is the nature of the market.

## Help needed with neighborhood issues

The following are issues of interest to the neighborhood. If you want to help with these issues, call the contact person. If you have other issues you would like listed in the next Flea, call Stephen Kreger at 477-4216.

- ▶ Traffic issues — Gordon Bennett 477-5973
- ▶ UT employee parking on and near south Dancy — Catherine Wilson 469-9156
- ▶ Three unoccupied houses on Robinson belonging to J. W. Howeth — Charles Herrick 480-0757
- ▶ Airport redevelopment — Girard Kinney 478-5042
- ▶ Hike and Bike Trail system — Michael McClendon 482-0016
- ▶ Crime/safety — Stephen Kreger 477-4216
- ▶ Neighborhood Conservation and Combining District (NCCD) — Chris Wilson 480-0310

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## Don't trash hazardous waste, call a neighbor!

If you're finishing up a home project, cleaning out the garage, or have just been accumulating a lot of hazardous materials, give Jim Walker a call at 499-0526. He has volunteered to pick it up within two days and make weekly runs to the city's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Site.

Hazardous wastes include

- ▶ all paints, solvents, stains, thinners, varnishes
- ▶ home chemicals (Drano, Raid, etc.)
- ▶ corrosive and flammable cleaning products
- ▶ pesticides and poisons
- ▶ pool and photographic chemicals
- ▶ aerosol cans
- ▶ automotive fluids (especially motor oil)
- ▶ all types of batteries
- ▶ anything containing mercury
- ▶ fluorescent light tubes. This includes
- ▶ any leftover material and/or the empty container.

Please don't trash it! Give Jim a call also if you have any questions .

## Welcome to Cherrywood Community Gardens

Community gardens are great ways to meet your neighbors, feed the hungry, produce healthy pesticide-free organic vegetables, get exercise, and convert a vacant lot into a beautiful retreat. We would like to start one in the neighborhood and we're looking for some dedicated neighbors to help us out. If you are interested in starting a community garden or if you have any information on a possible site, please contact us at:

Katharine Beisner & Joe Ahlquist  
1724 E. 38th St.  
708-9407  
beisner@olympia.sps.mot.com

**Moira Dolan MD**  
Internal Medicine  
**Connie Ryan RNC, ANP**  
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner  
  
(512) 494-0515  
1209 Parkway  
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# NEXT MEETING

**The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association will meet  
7:30 p.m., Thursday, January 25  
at the Discovery Incubator, 2200 Manor Road**

### Agenda

- 7:30 Election of CNA President CNA (Nominations, speeches, and vote)
  - 7:50 Discussion and vote on new bylaws
  - 8:30 Open Forum (General brainstorming of what the CNA should do. What issues are important to people? How should we proceed?)
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