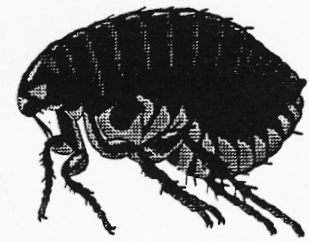


The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association
Vol. I, No. 5

August 1996

Austin History Center & Austin Public Library

Dear Neighbor,

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) has come a long way in the past year. The elected officers and revised by-laws are in place, and regular quarterly meetings are occurring. Thanks to the revival of the CNA, residents of our neighborhood now have a formal voice through which to express concerns and involve themselves in Cherrywood's future. Ask any politician or city staffer: there is strength in numbers and grass-roots organization.

The CNA's organization will have a chance to demonstrate its new strength now that President Chuck Herrick has had to resign due to a job change (see Buzz Avery's article below). While Chuck's resignation is a sad note, the opportunity to plan a neighborhood party for fall should enthuse all residents. Please attend the August 15 regular meeting. Keep the momentum of the CNA going and help to plan an event celebrating Cherrywood's unity and hospitality.

Herrick resigns as CNA President

by *Buzz Avery*

Call it Murphy's Law or the Peter Principle, either way, Chuck Herrick has decided to step down as CNA President. Having accepted a promotion which will take him to Houston five days a week, Chuck feels that he will no longer be able to address CNA issues adequately.

Given the situation, and at Chuck's request, as CNA Vice President I have agreed to act as President until the next election. That will be a hard mission considering the exemplary performance of my predecessor.

Chuck's activity and short presidency recharged the CNA with new life. In his efforts to make Cherrywood a better place to live, Chuck worked to create a Neighborhood Conservation Combining District (NCCD), to improve or eliminate substandard houses on Robinson Avenue, and to increase police presence in the area and define strategies for street and home security. He will miss out on the future land-use planning for the airport site, and other back burner issues will have to remain for the next go-getter to take on.

We're all going to miss you, Chuck. Thanks for everything.

May meeting tackles crime prevention

About 30 neighbors attended the May 2nd meeting at Maplewood Elementary where the agenda focused on crime prevention.

Emmanuel Haines, a home protection consultant for the APD, gave a presentation on methods to safeguard oneself and one's home against crime. A summary of his presentation appears in Stephen Kreger's article below.

After Haines' presentation, members voted to buy an electric engraver for all Cherrywood residents to use. To borrow it to mark your valuables, call Stephen Kreger at 477-4216.

Next meeting: Aug 15

The next regular meeting of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association will be held on Thursday, August 15, at 7:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church (corner of Cherrywood and E.38-1/2 St).

Agenda

- 7:00 Neighborhood party planning
- 7:20 Discussion of NCCD standards
- 7:40 Subcommittee updates
- 8:00 General discussion

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

President Buzz Avery 476-1889
 Secretary Jim Walker 499-0526
 Treasurer Stephen Kreger 477-4216

The Flea

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Subcommittee updates

Parking Issues (Catherine Wilson: 469-9156)

Dancy Street residents frustrated with UT employees parking in front of their homes now have a model for action in the North University Neighborhood. This City granted its request for permit parking, meaning that cars without the proper resident permits cannot park along the streets there. Sounds great, but there's a major catch: residents have to buy the annual permits for around \$40.

In other parking news, UT plans to build 4 small lots accommodating a total of 500 cars just east of Disch-Falk field. Expect to see a little more student traffic on Manor Road and MLK once these are completed.

NCCD (Jim Walker: 499-0526)

The NCCD (Neighborhood Conservation Combining District) committee has met several times under the leadership of Chris Wilson and Jim Walker. The committee has established some working goals, examined how other Austin neighborhoods have used the NCCD, and met with the City Planning Department to plan the next step: the establishment of zoning and development guidelines for Cherrywood. The next meeting is planned for early August. Please call Jim for more information.

Lafayette traffic (Gordon Bennett: 477-5973)

Speeding on Lafayette Street has long been a problem, but neighborhood efforts to solve the problem are at an impasse. The Austin Fire Department recently vetoed speed humps on Lafayette, since Lafayette is the main access route for emergency vehicles into the

neighborhood. Even if this "veto" had not occurred, over 500 requests for speed humps were still ahead of ours. As for stop signs, the traffic flow down Lafayette is not sufficient to meet the minimum requirements for new stop sign installation. Any suggestions?

Hike and Bike Trail System (Michael McClendon: 482-0016)

Thanks partly to efforts of CNA members, the City of Austin has resubmitted an application for \$361,000 in federal matching funds to improve the Boggy Creek Hike & Bike Trail. This trail runs along Boggy Creek from the Downs-Mabson baseball fields near 14th St. to Zaragoza Park near 7th St. The trail then connects via bike lanes to the Town Lake Trail near the Holly St. power plant. Competition for the funds is stiff. The outcome of the application will be known in late summer.

Earlier plans to extend the Boggy Creek Trail north through Cherrywood along the Austin and Northwestern Railroad right-of-way have been delayed. The owner of the right-of-way, Capital Metro, currently envisions improving the existing track to operate a commuter rail line. This line is projected to connect Cedar Park to downtown and to serve ACC Northridge, TNRCC, IBM, Highland Mall, and the proposed Plaza Saltillo.

Community Gardens

(Katherine Beisner: 708-9407)

Alamo Community Gardens is up and running and looking for participants. Sustainable Foods and Austin Community Gardens sponsor the garden and provide irrigation and compost for each plot. Twenty plots are still available. Call Katherine for more information about this neat program.



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Garbage cans are out of sight (or they should be)

by Judy Dauterive

Turning into the Cherrywood neighborhood can be like stepping back in time. With old homes in various stages of renovation and flower and vegetable gardens everywhere, it's a beautiful neighborhood that we can all be proud of. But there is an eyesore on our streets: garbage cans, recycling containers, and yard waste left out on our curbs all week long.



According to the City of Austin code, garbage cans and recycling bins should be set out by the curb no earlier than 8 p. m. the night before the scheduled pick-up day and no later than 7:30 a. m. the morning of pick-up. The cans must be removed from the curb and stored by the house by 8 p. m. on the night of pick-up. One neighbor found that returning garbage cans to a

neighbor's house in their absence was an effective way to remind neighbors of their responsibilities. Reports of repeated violations can be made to the Solid Waste Department at 499-2111. They will mail a friendly reminder to your neighbor.

Problems with yard waste left out for Monday pick-up are usually a matter of how to "package" the waste. The city will not pick up yard waste left in plastic bags or untied bundles of branches. For clarification or to report properly packaged yard waste that was missed, call 499-2111.

You may not notice the unsightliness of your garbage cans and yard waste on the curb, but your neighbor probably does. Together we can clean up our streets and make our neighborhood shine.



If a flea were six-feet tall, it could jump 798 ft high, well over the UT Tower. Eat your heart out, Sergei Bubka.

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEEHOUSE
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Take a bite out of crime

by Stephen Kreger

Thorough, effective crime prevention has many elements. Below is part one of a two-part summary of useful tips presented by the APD at the May 2 meeting.



Impossibility of 100% protection

No house can be 100% burglar-proof. A serious professional burglar can get into any house sooner or later. But one can make one's home a lot less appealing to potential burglars and encourage them to seek out other homes and neighborhoods.

Perimeter of house

Landscaping is important to the beauty of a house, but it can sometimes help burglars. To make your house a less attractive target, first keep all shrubs, bushes, and trees trimmed around windows and doors so burglars can't hide. Secondly, mow and edge your yard so the house will not appear unoccupied (although some burglars seek out well-maintained grounds, since such caring residents might have things worth stealing).

Burglars hate light, so good lighting is necessary. Besides the standard porch light, motion sensitive lights can be installed at each corner of the house. Regular lights should also be placed at each exterior door and at the garage and carport.

Entry points

Burglar bars on windows impede exiting during a fire. They can also be unscrewed if not installed carefully. If the other crime prevention techniques given here are followed, burglar bars are probably not needed, unless one lives in a very high-crime area or simply likes their psychological comfort.

Doors are often pried open. A strong door should be made of metal or solid wood at least 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Doors need good frames and locks. Although rare in residential construction, metal frames are available and are stronger than wooden frames. Deadbolt locks need at least a one-inch bolt. The strike plate into which the



deadbolt slides should be attached to the door frame by three 3" screws. A 3" screw is long, but it is harder to pop them out of a good frame. Double-keyed locks violate Austin's fire code; if they are used, make sure the key is easily available in case of emergency. Peepholes are recommended for each door.

Sliding glass doors are another story. Make sure that they cannot be lifted out of their tracks. Some have an adjustable screw already installed on the track, but if yours does not, add a screw in the track which can be adjusted so that the door slides but cannot be lifted off. Be sure the stationary panel is well secured by using a good lock and a "Charlie bar" or piece of wood cut to fit the bottom track.

Windows must be secure whether closed or open. Double-hung windows should always be locked when closed. In addition to the standard window lock, you can drill a hole at an angle downward from the top of the bottom sash into the bottom of the top sash and on into the frame on each side. Put a pin, dowel, or nail in the hole. Hardware stores have various locks for sliding metal windows.



Vehicles

Always park in your garage, carport, or driveway if you have one. Use the street as a last resort and seek out a well-lit spot away from trees or shrubs that might block your view or conceal a thief. Regardless of where you park, lock your vehicle.

There are several marketed anti-theft devices, such as hidden kill-switches and fuel-switches which keep the car from starting unless activated, alarm systems, and steering-wheel locks. Whether you use one of these or not, *always* roll up your windows, lock the doors, and take the keys!

To minimize the chances of having your car broken into, never leave valuable items inside it, but if you must, put them in the trunk or hide them as best you can. Never leave checkbooks, cash, credit cards, CDs, tapes, or anything of value where they are visible in your car.

Restaurant review:

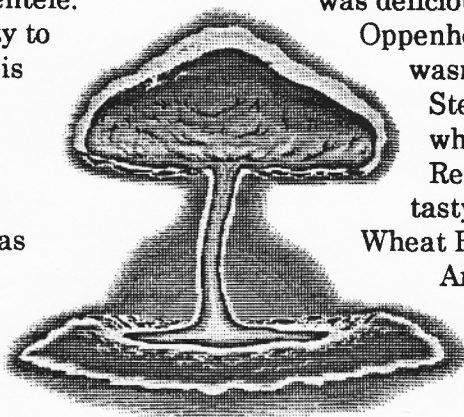
Cafe Armageddon: meet me at the end of the world

Listening to co-owner Chester Campbell describe it, the Cafe Armageddon at 2015 Manor Road represents as much a philosophy of life as a place to get a good meal. "If there's going to be an afterlife," says Campbell, "why can't it be like eating at a cafe...a little slice of heaven." Satisfying food at affordable prices is Campbell's and partner Herbert Dishman's vision of culinary nirvana. Trained in a country club milieu, Campbell learned to prepare a wide range of dishes for a wealthy clientele. Bringing such variety and quality to people who don't drive Porsches is his current aim.

Campbell and Dishman's goals are reflected in a creative and evocative menu. Appetizers range from traditional quesadillas (\$3.95) to more exotic offerings like The Wasteland (marinated artichoke hearts over a spinach-wine cream sauce topped with Monterey Jack: \$5.25) and Nuclear Shrimp (marinated shrimp stuffed with jalapeno cream cheese, lightly breaded and fried, served with pineapple salsa: \$5.75). Eight different salads are available containing everything from banana chips to chicken strips to tofu, and sandwich aficionados have options from old stand-byes like the Classic Burger (\$4.95) and Ace of Clubs (\$5.75) to more novel choices like the Brazilian Steak Sandwich (\$5.95).

Full dinner entrees cost between \$5.75 and \$11.95. Pasta and chicken dominate the selections, although beefeaters can order the 10 oz. Italian Steak (\$8.75) and fishfiends can surf the Salmon Fettucine (\$11.95) or the Armada Primavera (\$10.50). Tex-Mexers can get their fix with the Beef Burritos (\$7.50). All entrees come with two sides chosen from salad, new potatoes, rice pilaf, and a daily vegetable.

Vegetarians will appreciate the nine dishes (several featuring Wheat Roast, an all natural food made from wheat gluten and peanut butter) available for between \$2.95 and \$6.25. While no one on the *Flea* reviewing team had room for



dessert, the Phat Chocolate Cake (\$2.95) promises to deliver "faint moans of pure unadulterated pleasure."

Cafe Armageddon's post-nuclear atmosphere most impressed the reviewers. While it may be hard to imagine a dining room whose ceiling is coated with what looks like aluminum foil as being cozy, the owners have created a stark yet intimate environment. The tables are attractively set and have candles, and local art adorns the walls. The cleverly-written post-apocalyptic menu provides laughs along with epicurean temptations.

The food at Cafe Armageddon is good if not entirely consistent. Bennett's Pre-Emptive Strike Salad garnished with strawberries, banana chips, walnuts, red onion and tomato was delicious, although his Chicken

Oppenheimer (\$7.75) was a little dry. Jaime wasn't sure what made his Brazilian Steak Sandwich "Brazilian," but whatever it was he liked it. Ramona and Renee's Veggie Tamales (\$5.50) were tasty and quite spicy. Steve liked his Wheat Roast Salad (\$2.95); Tammy liked her Armageddon Skewers (\$5.75); and Roy appreciated the selection of beers on tap. Ramona, the only one of us with the confidence (or arrogance) to judge a wine list, called it small but good.

Our waiter was friendly and hip. The service may not have been as fast as a nuclear flash, but then again, at the Cafe Armageddon one has until the end of the world to enjoy himself or herself. All of us would happily eat there again and look forward to the planned patio and eventual late-night weekend hours. The Cafe Armageddon is a welcome addition to our neighborhood restaurant scene.

Reviewed by Jaime Chioco, Bennett Donovan, Renée Leger, Tammy Morales, Ramona Perrault, Steve Ridge, and Roy Schweer

Atmosphere	3.5 fleas
Food	2.75 fleas
Service	3.0 fleas

Rating System:

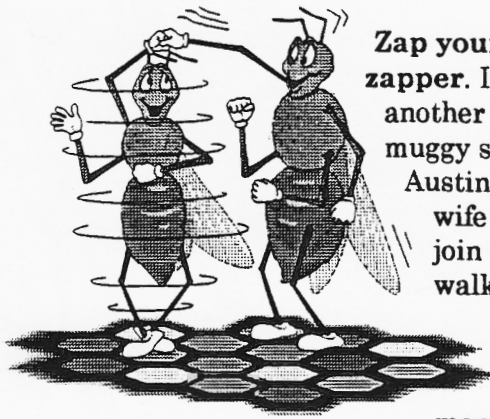
- 4 fleas = excellent
- 3 fleas = good
- 2 fleas = adequate
- 1 flea = poor
- 0 fleas = a real parasite



Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

Neighborhood buzz

by Buzz Avery



Zap your bug zapper. It is another hot, muggy summer in Austin, but my wife and I still join others in walking the streets during the cooler moments.

When we walk at night, we notice too often to sound of bug zappers doing their horrid deeds. This is a big mistake.

Electric bug zappers do a great deal of harm and almost no good whatsoever. They deceive people into believing that they attract and kill mosquitos. Actually, mosquitos are not attracted to the light and only get zapped when they inadvertently wander into the electrically charged screen. The killing of dragonflies actually increases the mosquito population, since dragonflies eat them as a main part of their diet. Killing thousands of harmless insects, including moths and fireflies, makes no sense.

Bug zappers can also be blamed for reducing our songbird population. Oh, you can still see plenty of pigeons, grain-eating sparrows, and dog food-eating grackles, but birds feeding on insects find the pickings slim when competing with bug zappers. In the fifteen years I have lived in this area, I have seen the number of carnivorous birds decline as the number of bug zappers has multiplied. I think there is a connection. I once owned a bug zapper, but I trashed it when I learned the truth. Do the same with yours, and tell a neighbor, too.

Are you living on a legal lot? You may not know this, but the lot your house sits on may not be legal as recognized by the City of Austin. Many lots in the boundaries of the CNA fall under this category. Should you care? Since 1986, the City has quit issuing building permits to illegal lots. So, no remodeling, room additions, or new carports. You can tell if your lot is legal if the legal description of it has the word "lot" on it followed by a number and the name of a Subdivision. If "outlot" appears, it is not legal.

The cost of getting your lot legalized could be \$1500 to \$2000, about \$800 of which goes to the City while the rest is for legal and surveying costs. City officials are in the process of developing a more affordable and streamlined approach. Brad Kittell (478-6520) has been working on this problem and believes a solution will come soon.

Your trees are thirsty. Cherrywood's beautiful and unique canopy of leaves may seem green and healthy, but the effects of the drought are just now beginning to reach the depths of its root system. Lack of water will cause many of our trees to yellow, go dormant, or even become diseased due to their drought-weakened immune systems. Deep water your large trees by allowing your hose to run for two hours at the base of the trunk. Shade trees can add up to 15-20% to a home's value when it come times to sell. Protect one of your and Cherrywood's greatest assets.

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Flea briefs

Airport update

On July 1, the results of the Community Vision Project, a one-day development planning "charrette" co-sponsored by the University of Texas and the City of Austin, were publicly presented.

Small teams of neighborhood activists, developers, environmentalists, city staffers and other interested citizens drew up two plans for airport redevelopment. Both plans emphasized mixed-use economic development with dense neighborhoods, attractive public spaces, mass transit potential, and high levels of bicycle and pedestrian mobility. Although these plans for the site have no official status with the city, they are crucial in conveying residents' desires for the area. Only such continued interest and pressure by Austinites will ensure redevelopment which takes the entire city's best interest into account instead of just pursuing a fast buck.

Another crucial element to healthy redevelopment at Mueller, according to Gerard Kinney, is a development management authority separate from the aviation department. Such an entity was recommended by the Airport Redevelopment Task Force (chaired by Gerard). As of now, however, the city council awaits the city manager's recommendation on the feasibility of such an authority. Several council members support the idea, since an appointed authority's goals will probably be more community-oriented than the aviation department's. If you have a chance, Gerard says, pressure a council member or the city manager's office to deliver on a separate redevelopment authority.

Little redevelopment of the Mueller site will

take place at all, of course, if the state condemns all or part of the site to keep an airport open for the Texas Airpool, the National Guard, and general aviation. The state has indeed threatened to do this and has a planner working on it now. The city manager's office has finally gotten serious about negotiations with the state, and there is still good reason to hope that the city can offer the state a good enough deal at Bergstrom to convince them to leave Mueller.

For questions about airport affairs, call Gerard Kinney at 478-5042.

A few good women

Lieutenant Tomie Sue Saldana has replaced Lt. James Fealy as supervisor of the "Charlie" sector, in which Cherrywood lies. Lieutenant Saldana is a 14-year veteran of the APD and recently won a performance award from Texas Women in Law Enforcement. According to a *Statesman* article, Lt. Saldana was recognized in particular for her ability to motivate officers and create an environment of teamwork. We are fortunate to have her.

Voice of the people

The June 1 city council run-off elections elicited a pitiful 12.26% turnout of eligible voters (so 87.74% of Austinites better not complain about city government). Precinct 131, however, which contains most of Cherrywood, had a 25% turnout, more than double the city average. Maintaining this relatively impressive level of participation is important. The more we vote and become involved in local government, the more elected officials will respond to our needs.

Recycling: the circle of trash

You cannot recycle office paper curbside. As of August 1, Jim Walker will have a drop box for office paper at 3102 Breeze Terrace. He will recycle it if you can get it there. Call Jim at 499-0526 if you have any questions about recycling in general. Better yet, call the City at 499-2111 for a brochure about curbside recycling, for a free "blue box" if you need one, or to become a recycling block leader. One final note: Jim lost the names and numbers of people who called about hazardous waste pick-up, so if you called him and never heard back, please call again!



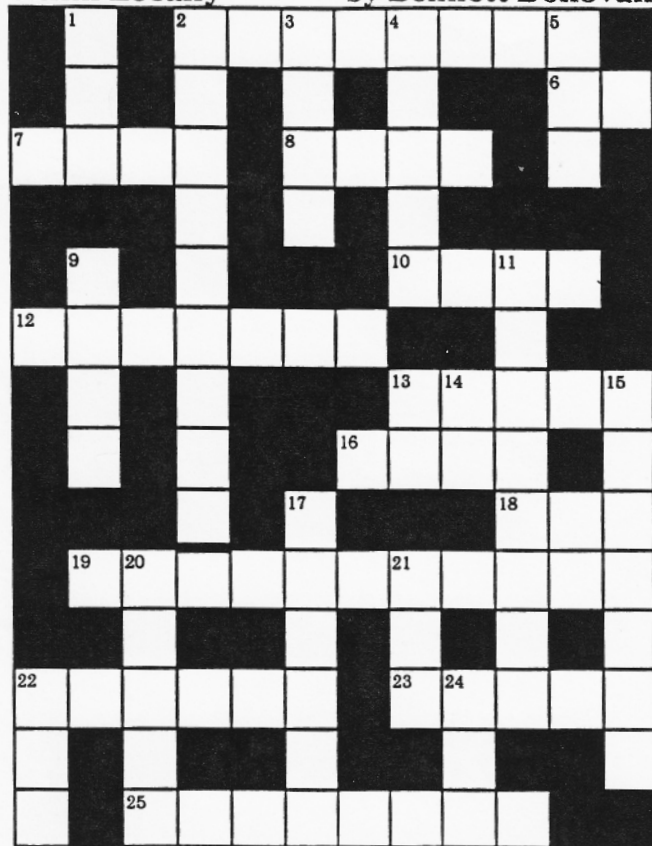
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Think Locally by Bennett Donovan



- 3. Hancock setups.
- 4. Roy's business.
- 5. Intel chaser.
- 11. Our sister south of the border.
- 13. Waterloo would have one.
- 15. He put his Hart in the wrong place.
- 17. Gonzales artillery.
- 20. What Runnin' Horns shoot.
- 21. His diamond day's are over.
- 22. Westlake caves.
- 24. Shoot this at Lions, if you can.

Not too late to design CNA T-shirt

OK, so nobody brought a T-Shirt design to our last meeting, but I still think it's a fun idea, and I will definitely bring one to the next meeting.

Certainly, any entrepreneur can go out and make T-shirts on his or her own, but don't you think it would be worthwhile to have an official, CNA-sanctioned design?

Bring a design and see if it can win over any of the neighbors in attendance at the August 15 meeting.

City of Austin to join National Night Out

Cherrywood neighbors can join the rest of the city in a neighborhood "light party" on August 6 from 7 to 10 p.m.

"America's night out against crime" needs no special invitations to join. Just turn on your porch lights and go outside (lock your doors). Knowing and talking to your neighbors can strengthen everyone's security.

Call the Electric Utility Department at 322-6132 for more info on this program.

Clues:

Across


- 2. They really "chip" in around town.
- 7. & 8. Profound pool.
- 10. Annual musical fête.
- 12. Where Austin's past is buried.
- 13. Pierre's brew.
- 16. His Honor Bruce, backwards.
- 18. You'll find one in Brack.
- 19. Janis sang here.
- 22. & 23. Malfunctioning bicycle rod.
- 25. Asylum street residents.

Down

- 1. & 9. Cool night flyers.
- 2. It's elementary.

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