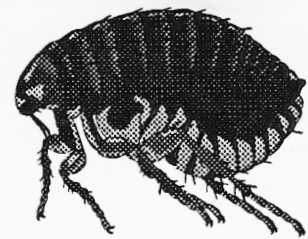


# The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association  
Vol. 2, No. 4

July 1997

Dear Neighbor,

This edition of *The Flea* marks the end of our second year of publication. Since we started, participation in the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association has increased significantly. As you will see in this issue, we now have an active cleanup committee, spirit committee, E-mail information exchange, and the data from a comprehensive survey of residents.

Our sense of community is growing by the day. We may not always agree with one another, but we are realizing that we alone define and shape our neighborhood.

Please help maintain the momentum by attending the general quarterly meeting on Wednesday, July 30, at 6 p.m. in the Maplewood Elementary School Cafeteria.

## Let's all take part in National Night Out!

On Tuesday, August 5th, 7-10 p.m., Austin residents will lock their doors, turn on outdoor lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Common activities will include block parties, cookouts, parades, flashlight walks, youth activities, and anti-crime and anti-drug rallies, all intended to strengthen neighborhood spirit and to send a clear message to criminals that neighbors and police are united and fighting back.

Cherrywood has no specific plans for neighborhood-wide activities on National Night Out. There is a good chance, however, that someone near you is hosting a cookout or just wants to get to know the neighbors.

Mike McClendon of 3501 Hollywood, for example, will be hosting a block party for residents on his street. Helen and Ben Davis of 3305 Cherrywood will be doing the same for neighbors on their street. They ask that you call them at 474-9751 if you know in advance that you will attend.

—Mike McClendon



## July meeting offers prizes, ice cream

In addition to a full agenda, the July 30 meeting will offer door prizes from the following area businesses:

- Blockbuster Video (Delwood Center);
- Bob Roberts Photography (3507 N. IH 35);
- Cross-Allen Auto Parts (2310 Manor Rd.);
- H-E-B (Hancock Center);
- Musicmania (Delwood Center);
- U-Haul (4021 N. IH 35);
- Van's Auto Parts (3705 N IH 35).

Fiesta is providing ice cream for the social that will kick off the meeting.

Activities will be available for children at the meeting, with adult supervision. Thanks to Teresa Van Deusen, CNA's new Maplewood PTA liaison, for making these arrangements possible.

See page 8 for the meeting's agenda.

## Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

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 Vice-President Chuck Herrick 480-0757  
 Secretary Jim Walker 499-0526  
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### The Flea



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## E-mail to the Editor

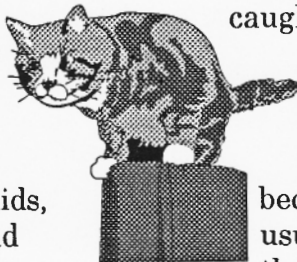
Dear CNA,

I would like to describe what I see as a serious neighborhood problem: feral cats. There are several cats in my immediate area that have no discernable owners. Some look like people's pets. They go up and down the street living off garbage and backyard bowls of food. One cat who recently moved under my house just had her third or fourth litter since 1994.

Feral cats are not freer versions of household pets. They suffer from diseases like feline leukemia, feline aids, and feline intestinal peritonitis spread through fighting, food sharing, and mating. They are plagued by fleas and mange. They can spread rabies to each other and to people.

If you feed a cat that is not yours, not vaccinated, not cared for otherwise, you're not doing that animal or the pet population of this neighborhood any good. Household cats should be spayed or neutered; feral cats should be trapped and taken either to the Town Lake Animal Clinic, the Humane Society, or to someone who will take care of them.

Austin is populated with uncared for dogs



and cats, and it's a shame. The best thing we can do is to see that unwanted animals in our immediate vicinity don't give birth to more unwanted animals.

Kirby McDaniel

Dear Kirby,

The breeding center for feral cats is probably 1403 E. 37th. The family that lives there supports a large population of cats and doesn't appear interested in controlling their reproduction. My wife has written the household twice suggesting the problem be addressed. Unless the cats are a health hazard, which is tough to prove, or unless the owners abandon responsibility, there's not much that can be done outside of complaining. Of course, if the cat(s) cause financial loss to anyone, legal actions are possible.

If it's a particular nuisance, here's a suggestion. Buy, or borrow from the Travis County Extension Service, a no-injury trap. Capture the cats and take them to the Humane Society. It's a hassle, but options are limited. If you've got any other suggestions, I'd be glad to hear them.

Buzz Avery

Dear Folks,

The problem with taking feral cats to the pound is that Nature abhors a vacuum—more cats will fill those traps. As long as there are places to hide and food to be caught or found, there will be wild cats. The solution, and it's not a perfect one, is to establish a stable colony of neutered and vaccinated (at least once) feral cats.

Two years ago UT addressed this issue, because it trapped campus cats who were usually being cared for. Unable to eliminate the problem, UT adopted the approach employed at UCLA and is trying the colony idea.

As long as people feed the cats, the colony idea might work in our neighborhood. Cats do keep rodents under control. I already know one person (not me) near 1403 E. 37th who regularly traps, neuters, and releases abandoned cats. If we could establish a fund for neutering and find a friendly vet, I would be interested in helping trap cats and taking them to the vet. What does everyone think?

Gale Greenleaf

## Minutes of March 27 meeting

### New meeting schedule

Regular quarterly meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of January, April, July, and October at Maplewood Elementary. Maplewood cafeteria will also host smaller committee meetings on the last Wednesday of months between the regular meetings.

Maplewood Principal Rene LeBlanc offered to print non-controversial CNA announcements in the school's weekly newsletter. Jack Newman volunteered to be the CNA liaison to Maplewood.

### Neighborhood communications

Michael McClendon, head of distribution of *The Flea*, noted that there are still small coverage gaps. He asked for more volunteers to help distribute the newsletter and reminded distributors to be especially aware of detached garage apartments. Please call Michael at 482-0016 to volunteer.

Treasurer Stephen Kreger asked for help in generating advertising for *The Flea*. A business card-sized ad runs \$25. Please call Stephen at 477-4216 to volunteer.

Jim Walker and Gordon Bennett reported on the CNA's e-mail listserv. They noted that its intent is not chatting but communication and discussion of neighborhood issues and announcements. Anyone who wants to join should contact Jim at 499-0526 or [jwalk@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jwalk@mail.utexas.edu).

### Neighborhood Zoning and Land Use

Chuck Herrick noted that the city was working on a Single Family Dwelling Preservation Ordinance and said he would keep the CNA apprised.

A homeowner's request for two variances (expanded garage size and reduced setback) at 2802 Lafayette was discussed. Several neighbors expressed concern that an auto repair business might develop there if the variances were granted. Consensus was reached to try mediation between the homeowner and the concerned neighbors. [NB. *Negotiations failed and the homeowner was granted both variances*].

### Neighborhood Boundaries

The city continues to try to formalize neighborhood boundaries. The CNA has invited Schieffer Neighborhood to join it. Schieffer residents agreed to survey their neighbors to determine the consensus. Girard Kinney, Chuck Herrick, and Buzz Avery agreed to represent the CNA in discussions with them.

### Capital Metro Presentation

Several Capital Metro planners handed out free materials and answered questions about light rail. The Major Investment Study (MIS) has identified where lines are most needed, but the type of trains, the location of stations, techniques for neighborhood noise abatement, etc., are all still on the drawing board. Meghan Wheetes can be reached with comments and concerns at 389-7442.

—*Jim Walker, CNA Secretary.*

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## The neighborhood buzz

by **Buzz Avery**

### Free trees

Austin is losing trees, but the city has a program that plants *free native trees* on its 10-foot street right-of-way. You just have to water and fertilize. It

typically takes two years to establish a tree. Trees are planted in fall through early spring. To get your free trees planted, call 476-6485.

If the Electric Utility Department removes a tree from your property because of powerline maintenance, you have the right to a replacement. You simply have to pay for planting. That number is 322-6455.

### Down with bug zappers

Thanks to all who like me have trashed their bug zappers. Bug zappers don't kill mosquitoes. They do kill insects that eat mosquitoes, pollinate flowers, and provide food for songbirds. I've noticed far fewer bug zappers this year. I'm hearing screech owls instead. The best way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate standing water.

### Ozone alert

Smog is becoming common in Austin. Please change how you use smog sources. Don't fuel in the morning or top off gas tanks, exchange your gas mower for an electric or pay a mower service that uses electric,



barbecue without lighter fluid, don't use gas-powered leaf blowers, and install conservation devices in your home or see if landlords will.

### Sign repairs

A CNA member recently reported a missing stop sign to me. If you notice missing signs, call the city at 476-0935. Two other good numbers to know are for reporting potholes (440-8444) and burned out street lights (505-7046).

### New sidewalks

The City has selected initial locations for new sidewalks north and south of Cherrywood, along Manor Road and 38½ St. Still, nothing for anti-sidewalk people in the CNA to get excited about— yet.

### Recycle please

Many people in the CNA don't recycle. Maybe they don't care, don't know how, or need a recycling container. They're free from any fire station by showing your electric bill. You can recycle containers of glass, metal, and most plastic; also newspapers, catalogs, junk mail, magazines, office paper, and corrugated cardboard. Set an example and recycle.

### Crime prevention

The most common crime in Cherrywood is bike theft. If a boltcutter can overcome your security system, you're going to lose your bike. Lock it out of sight and fasten it to and with something boltcutter-proof.

You can deter car theft by registering your vehicle with the H.E.A.T. program. To learn more and get registered, call Dennis Cobos at 708-4594.



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Ongoing challenge for one resident:

## Keeping Manor Road apartment complexes safe

When Trish Hebert moved into the Walnut Manor apartment complex at 2700 Manor Road in 1993, she was literally entering combat. "It was like a war zone," she says, "guns were going off, knives were being pulled, drugs and prostitution were everywhere." Drug dealers even cut her telephone line so she couldn't call for help.

Crime statistics confirm her impressions. From January to June 1995, APD received 86 calls to come out to the complex, almost a call every other day. When the police responded to one call early in 1995, they discovered a murder victim, who had been sitting at his kitchen table when he was killed by apparently random gunfire. Police later arrested the nephew of one of the apartment's own residents for the shooting.

Part of the problem at Walnut Manor was absentee ownership. The owner, J.B. Hunt, was slow to respond to problems, if at all. Lighting was poor, security was practically non-existent, and residents' complaints went unheeded. Drug deals took place openly on the steps of the complex and repeated calls to the police did little to slow the activity. After the murder, prostitutes broke into the dead man's apartment and stole several items.

Fed-up, Hebert turned to Brad Kittel, owner of Discovery Investments, for help. She credits him with instigating the positive changes which followed. Kittel put pressure on the apartment's management, and his efforts helped bring about a change in ownership. Albert Stowell, who had a reputation for cleaning up complexes, bought the apartments in June 1995.

Cleaning up Walnut Manor was no easy task. Stowell himself was assaulted twice within weeks of taking over. Still, he persevered. He trimmed trees, added lighting, hired security, and instituted a 10 p.m. curfew. His presence alone persuaded several long-time troublemakers to move out. The efforts paid off. From July to December 1995, APD fielded only 12 calls about the apartments, a drop of 86%. As Hebert put it,

"You could at least open your door and not be afraid of being shot." In January 1996, Chief Watson cited Stowell for his contribution to the community. On that day Walnut Manor became Shady Oaks.

Last April 19, residents of Shady Oaks reported hearing automatic gunfire coming from the complex. The police investigated but made no arrests. For Hebert, the shots served as a nightmarish flashback as well as a clear warning: the struggle against crime requires constant vigilance. Drug dealers, prostitutes, thieves, etc. are always looking for a chink in the armor.

Albert Stowell responded to the gunfire of April 19 by adding a manager, evicting two tenants, and making physical improvements to the complex. For Hebert, who has thought about moving several times, the battle goes on. She is tired of the struggle, but she refuses to see things go back to the way they were.

For those of us who don't live on Manor Road, it is sometimes hard to appreciate the battle for a safe environment which is fought there everyday. As the southern boundary of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, Manor Road factors into the quality of all of our lives. As Trish points out, the CNA should involve itself in pushing for a safer Manor Road and stand behind residents' and business' attempts to improve the area. Simply giving formal backing to residents' concerns, she feels, is one of the most important things a neighborhood association can do.

—Bennett Donovan

### Royal Touch Cleaners



Your neighborhood cleaners

1406 E. 38½ Street

478-2460

# A kinder, cleaner Cherrywood

by Mike Damal

Well-kept neighborhoods are safe, proud, and attractive. The cleanup committee wants Cherrywood to be the cleanest neighborhood in Austin. There are lots of things each of us can do.

For example, you can pick up litter on your own streets when walking, join in the organized cleanups on the first Saturday of each month, call the graffiti hotline when necessary, or notify the management of Delwood center and other businesses when trash accumulates.

I hope everyone can do something at least once a month. Together we are already making a huge difference

## Fiesta/Delwood Center

Delwood Center has improved tremendously but still generates lots of trash, especially on weekends. Ron Buckmaster is manager of Fiesta and has assured the CNA in writing that litter is picked up hourly. After talking with employees, I know that this is hardly the case. Please, if you shop at Fiesta and the parking lot is littered, speak to a manager. Identify yourself from the neighborhood association and demand politely that they clean the lot. Only by maintaining visibility will we get results.

If things deteriorate, call the Delwood property manager, Bernadette Weiss at United Equities Management in Houston at

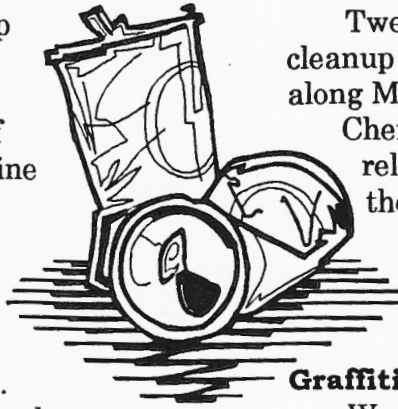
(713) 772-6262. Once again, identify yourself as a member of the CNA and demand an improved effort. The more calls the better!

## Litter Avengers Soar

On the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. neighbors meet in the parking lot at 2012 Manor Road to pick up trash for one hour.

Twelve people participated in our July cleanup and collected almost 20 bags of trash along Manor Road, 38½ Street, and Cherrywood Road. Afterwards, some folks relaxed with iced tea and soft drinks at the Manor Road Coffeehouse.

If you have questions or want to verify the time, call Mike Damal at 478-9622.



## Graffiti and Downed Signs

We have removed graffiti from the Manor Road Garage and will do so again if the need arises. When you see graffiti, don't assume someone is taking care of it. Call the city's Graffiti Hot Line at 473-4125.

## Patriots & parking

Thanks to the patriot who bought all those American flags which adorned our yards on the Fourth of July. They looked great!

Also, the North University neighborhood is entering the second phase of a pilot Resident-Only Permit Parking program. I am keeping a close eye on this, since it might be the solution to the parking problems plaguing the southwest portion of our own neighborhood.

—Chuck Herrick, CNA Vice-President

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# July 30 meeting agenda, Maplewood School

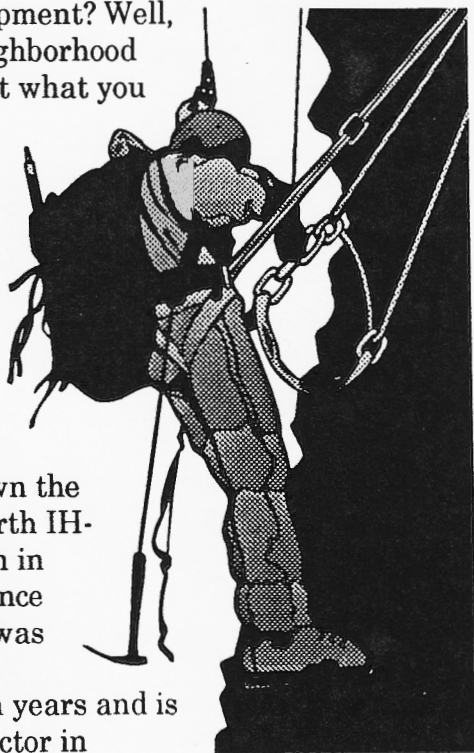
- 1. Ice Cream Social ..... 6:00
- 2. Introductions ..... 6:15
- 3. Amendments and Additions to the Agenda ..... 6:25
- 4. Acknowledgments and Announcements ..... 6:40
- 5. Review of Previous Meeting ..... 6:55
- 6. Review of Interim Actions by CNA ..... 7:05
- 7. Consideration of Creation of CNA Policy Committee ..... 7:15
- 8. Discussion and Action Items ..... 7:35
  - A. Expansion of Child Advocacy Center to 2802 Robinson
  - B. Adoption of Maplewood Elementary by CNA
  - C. UT Overflow Parking onto CNA Residential Streets
  - D. Adoption of Position on Triangle
  - E. Adoption of Position on "No Camping" Ordinance
  - F. Capital Metro's Route Selection and CNA Input
  - G. Creation of a CNA Database of Active Members
- 9. Set Date and Place for Next Meeting ..... 8:35
- 10. Door Prize Drawings ..... 8:40
- 11. Adjourn ..... 8:55

Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

## New business opens up the great outdoors

Need a kayak? A canoe? A tent? But you don't want to have to buy a lot of expensive equipment? Well, there's a new neighborhood business with just what you need.

Austin Outdoor Gear and Guidance (AOGG) rents gear for camping, backpacking, and paddling trips. John and Lori Van Ness own the store at 3411 North IH-35 and have been in business there since February. John was a police officer in Austin for fifteen years and is a certified instructor in



kayaking and PADI SCUBA.

In addition to the rentals, AOGG offers classes in canoeing and kayaking, scuba diving and snorkeling, first aid, and backpacking. They have also begun to offer tours and group outings.

According to John, there are two main reasons to rent outdoor gear. For people who don't camp, backpack, or paddle very often, renting makes a lot more sense than buying something which will rarely be used. For people who intend to buy, renting provides the perfect way to try out different varieties of gear.

AAOG has worked with the Boy Scouts, Junior Olympics, and the "Rock the Boat" program for people with special needs.

John confirms that many Cherrywood residents have already rented from him, and he would love to be able to connect these people to one another. Perhaps the CNA's smaller monthly meetings would be the perfect opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to meet. John will be at the next one in August in case anyone is interested.

—Stephen Kreger, CNA Treasurer

## SAC Committee report

# Neighborhood reconnaissance

by Sharon Edmonson, SAC Chair

## Survey update

In the last issue of *The Flea*, Cherrywood and Schieffer residents were surveyed. Based on the 72 responses, the following topics strike a chord with residents (in order of popularity):

- Neighborhood beautification;
- City of Austin issues (particularly sidewalks and zoning);
- Mueller Airport issues;
- Neighborhood ecology;
- Capital Metro issues (particularly hike-and-bike trails);
- Neighborhood security.

Some issues concerned residents in specific areas. For example, people north of Edgewood expressed interest in traffic control; Maplewood School and children's issues were the top vote-getters east of Cherrywood.

Survey responses included many good suggestions for increasing participation in the CNA, and believe me, we've been plenty busy pursuing virtually all of them! Below are three new ways you can be involved in the CNA.

## Spirit/Action Committee meetings

The Spirit/Action Committee (SAC) is an ongoing committee established to facilitate and support projects and activities that benefit the neighborhood. SAC is not a

committee you join *per se*, but rather an activity you participate in simply by attending SAC meetings whenever possible.

SAC meets at Maplewood School the last Wednesday of months without a general CNA meeting. They are a great way to stay informed and to meet new people, too!

## Community garden anyone?

The recent survey showed that creating a community garden appeals to a fair number of people. A few neighbors have been discussing gardens at the monthly subcommittee meetings.

The next step is to get the word out, see who else may be interested, and do something concrete. If *you* are interested, please call Neil Jodeit at 469-9325 or Lisa Tipps at 322-9620 and/or look for them at the general meeting on Wednesday, July 30.

## Cherrywood neighborhood scrapbook

A new project currently in the planning stages is a Cherrywood Neighborhood Scrapbook to chronicle and preserve our neighborhood's history. This project will require a lot of help and advice from our long-time residents. So start rummaging through those closets and attics for old photos, newspaper clippings, etc. that depict Cherrywood's colorful past, and stay tuned to the next issue of *The Flea* for more details.



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