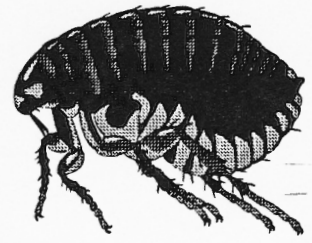


The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association
Vol. 2, No. 3

March 1997

Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

Dear Neighbor,

Austin's growth means change for all of us, and city-related issues affecting Cherrywood seem to get more numerous each day. Among the items appearing in this expanded and diverse issue of *The Flea* are the goals of the city's Sidewalk Task Force, the home occupation ordinance, the UT Master Plan, and light rail. Also, Sharon Edmonson has drafted a survey to determine what really interests Cherrywood residents. Take the time to read, learn, respond, and become involved. Knowledge and participation equal empowerment, and they can equal fun, too.

Goodbye to Alice Williams

After living on Clarkson Avenue for 47 years, Alice Williams has just moved to California to live with her son.

Alice was born in Marble Falls and moved into her house in 1950 after getting married. Back then, neighborhood children would play in the creek behind her house, using sticks to catch crawfish. One year, a family of ducks even took up residence in the unpolluted spring water which once flowed from under 38 1/2 Street.

Delwood shopping center had local businesses in the 1950s and 1960s, just as it does now, but the names were different: Jeanette's Dress Shop, Vaught's Hardware, Moseley's Cafeteria, and the Delwood Motel, which had a pool that neighborhood kids, including Alice's own son, would sneak into on hot summer days.

Alice remembered East Avenue before it was dug up for IH-35; she told me that some of the excavated rubble was dumped in my own backyard to fortify the creek bank.

I was Alice's neighbor for only three years, but I learned a great deal from her about the plants and animals that live in my backyard. I wish I had written down more of what she told me about Cherrywood's past. More than that, I hope my new neighbors will be half as nice as she was.

—Bennett Donovan

UT invites CNA residents to view Master Plan

Dr. Austin Gleeson of the Physics Department will present the UT Master Plan to interested members of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association.

The plan was approved by the Board of Regents in 1996 and includes a 3-D model and future expansion details.

Date and time have not yet been set, but if you would like to attend this informal presentation, call Buzz Avery at 476-1889.

Invitation to Schieffer Neighborhood

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) would like to give you the opportunity to join our neighborhood.

The City is rewriting the rights and privileges of associations. We believe that now is the best time to solidify our position to insure the preservation and continuing self-determination of the area. The CNA has regular meetings, elections, bylaws, and subcommittees for issues.

Come visit our meeting on March 27th and check us out!

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

President Buzz Avery 476-1889
 Vice-President Chuck Herrick 480-0757
 Secretary Jim Walker 499-0526
 Treasurer Stephen Kreger 477-4216

The Flea



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Send your letters to the Editor to 3706
 Clarkson Avenue, Austin, TX 78722, fax
 them to 474-2895, or e-mail them to
 70741.1410@compuserve.com.

Minutes from the January 30 meeting

The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on January 30 in Asbury United Methodist Church. Approximately 40 people attended.

General announcements

1) The CNA now has an E-Mail list for people interested in receiving information on neighborhood issues. Anyone can subscribe to this list by sending their E-Mail address to Jim Walker at jwalk@mail.utexas.edu or to Gordon Bennett at gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

2) People are frustrated with the difficulty of slowing down traffic on Lafayette. The city has so far rejected stop signs and speed humps. Chuck Herrick said he would take a more active role in this issue. Chuck knows what it takes: he got the abandoned, deteriorating house on Robinson torn down last year.

3) The Discovery Incubator is currently being occupied by the mayoral campaign of Max Nofziger and the anti-corruption government watchdog group Priorities First.

Annual election of CNA officers

The annual elections required by the CNA's bylaws were held. All candidates ran

without opposition. Buzz Avery was re-elected President, Chuck Herrick was elected Vice-President, Stephen Kreger was re-elected Treasurer, Jim Walker was re-elected Secretary.

Some people commented that there was not much forewarning about the elections. It was agreed to try to get the word out earlier via *The Flea* next year.

Gordon Bennett brought up the point that our bylaws prescribe two committees: a communications committee and a neighborhood spirit committee. Gordon Bennett will chair the communications committee; Sharon Edmonson will tentatively (depending on whether or not she enjoys it) take charge of the neighborhood spirit committee.

David Lamping resigned from his position as distributor of *The Flea* after a year and a half of excellent work getting the network started. Mike McClendon volunteered to take over distribution and to continue to try to improve it.

CNA boundaries

Buzz led a review and analysis of the CNA's boundaries since the city is preparing to formalize neighborhood associations and the areas they cover.

It was agreed that we should continue to include the triangle bounded by 26th Street, Manor Road, and IH-35 (UT property, occupied by a physical plant building). It was also agreed that we should continue to include all the duplexes around Maplewood Elementary. It was further decided that we should extend an invitation to join the CNA to the dormant Schieffer Neighborhood Association, representing the area between 38½ Street, Airport Blvd, Patterson Park, and Cherrywood Road.

Treasurer's report

Stephen Kreger discussed the cost of producing *The Flea*, approximately \$120 dollars per issue. Some of this, but not all, comes from advertising. Stephen passed the hat and collected over \$80 for the Treasury, an excellent collection! Anyone who would like to advertise in or make a donation to *The Flea* should call Stephen at 477-4216.

Mueller Airport debate

A debate, prompted by a small number of residents of our neighborhood, took place on the CNA's position regarding the future of the Mueller Airport site.

Brad Kittell argued that the CNA should support the continuation of general aviation at Mueller after the opening of Bergstrom. He focused primarily on the economic benefits of having an airport nearby and on the huge cost of redevelopment if it closes. He dismissed the idea that small planes make significant noise and pointed out that recently when a plane had to make an emergency landing on the street near Mueller, nobody got hurt.

Girard Kinney and Ginny Ballard argued in favor of total closure of Mueller to all aviation. Among other things, they said that city voters have already approved this, airport noise is hardly limited to large craft (ever heard a national guard helicopter?), and sensitive redevelopment could greatly benefit Cherrywood, the East Side, and Austin as a whole.

After the debate, a motion was made for the CNA to maintain its formal support for the closing of Mueller Airport to *all* aviation. The motion passed by a 30-4 vote. Planning Commissioner Dusty McCormick was in attendance and complimented the CNA on its democratic process.

[At the February 25 meeting of the Planning Commission, McCormick sponsored a resolution to reaffirm the Commission's support for total closure of Mueller and the recommendations of the Airport Redevelopment Task Force. The resolution passed unanimously.]

WILLIAM A. DAILEY, PH.D.
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY SERVICES OF AUSTIN, P. C.
4200 MARATHON, SUITE 205 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78756
TEL (512) 454-7745 FAX (512) 454-7758

Block captains needed for Flea distribution

Are you interested being a block captain? Duties might include serving as a contact person for your area, assisting in distributing *The Flea* or other CNA information, or perhaps organizing a block party during the "National Night Out" safety program held each August. Perhaps you could welcome new neighbors and give them the latest issue of *The Flea*. If you would be willing to serve, please call Mike McClendon at 482-0016.

APD seeks neighborhood volunteers

The Austin Police Department conducts an "academy" each quarter to train neighborhood association members how to spot and report suspicious activity to the police. The training includes eight hours of classroom instruction and ten hours riding with the police. You can apply to attend the next academy by calling 458-6281. Would anyone volunteer to attend the academy and perhaps make a presentation at a future CNA meeting? If so, please call Buzz Avery at 476-1889.

CNA neighbors enjoy fun and food at fall party

Way back on October 19, on a windswept Saturday afternoon, around 60 neighbors gathered at Patterson Park under the majestic oaks for the first official CNA party in many years.

Partygoers socialized and made new friends, enjoyed delectable pot-luck dishes such as Mike McClendon's finger sandwiches and David Lamping's lasagna, and watched face-painted CNA children reveling on the nearby playscape.

General feedback on the event was very positive, although some people expressed disappointment that more new folks did not show up. Let's do better next time!

Special thanks to David Armstrong, Adidi Gowri, Patty Arredondo, David Lamping, and Bennett Donovan for organizing the event.

CNA survey: Your chance to speak

by Sharon Edmonson

Every day I thank my lucky stars I live in Cherrywood. What a great place to be, and what a wonderful time to be here. Surely, Cherrywood is inner-city Austin at its best: bustling, full of energy and life, and definitely on the upswing!

One of the best things about Cherrywood—like Austin—is the diversity of the people who live here. You can be a doctor or lawyer, you can work in construction or state government, you can be a student or retiree. You can rent or own, be rich or poor, young or old, Anglo, African-American or Hispanic. In Cherrywood—like Austin—everyone feels at home.

Traditionally, neighborhood associations protect the integrity of their neighborhoods. Neighborhood associations can also do much more. They can instill community pride and spirit, promote cultural awareness and sensitivity, and bring together residents with similar interests.

Neighborhood associations can be and do anything they want, limited only by the imagination, resourcefulness, and dedication of their members. And in so doing, they improve the quality of life for everyone.

Cherrywood should be a premier inner-city neighborhood, and the CNA one of Austin's finest neighborhood associations. To be truly effective, however, the CNA must draw upon Cherrywood's greatest strengths: the number and diversity of its residents. We do not have to agree on every issue to work

together. In fact, there is potential strength in diversity of opinions. Just as everyone is welcome in Cherrywood, everyone's opinions, expressed reasonably, courteously, and with respect toward those who disagree, are welcome in the CNA.

The enclosed survey is intended to help the CNA fully realize its potential as a neighborhood association. What do *you* want the CNA to be? What neighborhood issues are *you* most interested in or concerned about?

Individually, we do what we can; collectively, there is no end to what we might be able to accomplish. So even if you have never participated in CNA activities, do this one thing: participate in this survey. Do it right now, for Austin, for community, for neighborhood, for Cherrywood!

Now that you have completed the survey, here are three ways to return it:

- 1) On Saturday, March 22, before noon, place the survey approximately where *The Flea* was delivered to you. Someone should be by to pick up the survey on Saturday afternoon or Sunday;
- 2) Mail your completed survey to:
CNA Survey
c/o Stephen Kreger
P.O. Box 953
Austin, TX 78767; or
- 3) Bring your completed survey to the next CNA Meeting at 7 p.m, March 27, Asbury United Methodist Church.

If you have any questions about the survey or problems returning it, call Sharon Edmonson (473-2337), Neil Jodeit (469-9325), or Stephen Kreger (477-4216). Results will be published in the next issue of *The Flea*.

Moira Dolan MD
Internal Medicine
Connie Ryan RNC, ANP
Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

(512) 494-0515
1209 Parkway
Austin, Texas 78703

Choices for Creative Well Being

Unleash creativity with CNA survey

I would like to expand on Sharon's survey a little bit. Many of the things on it are issue-related, and yet, a neighborhood association can be more than a forum for discussion of crime, airport redevelopment, and parking on Dancy Street.

Examples of what I mean include a neighborhood garden, a babysitting network so parents can trade off sitting duties and thus have an evening out while other parents watch their kids, a singles party or another neighborhood picnic, the neighborhood night-out, etc. My point, and I do have one, is to let your mind run wild. The CNA can be anything we want it to be. We decide.

So please complete the survey and if you have an idea not on the list, just note it in the "other" category or write it anywhere on the sheet. Let's take care of the issues and have some fun. Don't forget that *The Flea* is a venue for neighborhood residents to write about issues and ideas.

Oooops...money. I want to thank those businesses who have advertised in *The Flea* as well as the residents who give when we pass the hat at meetings.

On a personal note (see...another use for *The Flea*), is there anyone who collects baseball or football cards from the late 50s or early 60s or know someone who does? If so, call me at 477-4216 and maybe we can trade/buy/sell or just talk about cards.

Also, I need help soliciting advertising for the newsletter! Call me if you can help.

—Stephen Kreger, Treasurer

Litter Avengers ride!

Fed up with the tide of trash from Fiesta which blows into our streets and yards with every puff of wind, a group of Cherrywood residents has formed a neighborhood clean-up committee headed by Mike Damal of Cherrywood Road.

The committee has sent letters, signed by CNA President Buzz Avery with return receipt requested, imploring both Fiesta and the operator of the Delwood Center, United Equities Management, to intensify their efforts at keeping the shopping center clean.

Currently, the parking lot is cleaned only once an evening. Compare that to the HEB at Hancock Center which cleans its lot *three times an hour!*

The Delwood Center is one of the East Side's leading retail centers and should be a source of pride. The clean-up committee hopes that under steadily increasing neighborhood attention, its owners and tenants will begin to care more about its appearance.

If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Mike at 478-9622.

Not willing to stop at just pressuring businesses, John Gabriel of French Place and I have formed a group within the cleanup committee called the *Cherrywood Litter Avengers*.

The premise is simple, we are tired of litter along Manor Road and 38½ Street, the two streets from which we and most people experience our neighborhood.

The *Litter Avengers* will thus devote one hour, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, on the first Saturday of every month, to cleaning up, and we invite all area residents to help us. We will meet in the parking lot of the Discovery Incubator at 2012 Manor Road and deploy from there at 11:00 a.m. sharp. You might want to bring gloves and a few plastic garbage bags.

John and I get real satisfaction from beautifying our neighborhood, and we will do this whether anyone joins us or not. By making this a regular, predictable, social event, however, we hope to have even more fun (I found a cool tape measure last time, and John found a brick) and build community spirit.

—Bennett Donovan



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The neighborhood buzz

by Buzz Avery



Citizens Planning Committee and the trickle-down effect

When Jackie Goodman came up with the Citizens'

Planning Committee to work on creating a more compact, livable city, the theory seemed sound. Now after over three years in development, its recommendations are hitting close to home. Some are saying too close. What's all this got to do with the future of Cherrywood Neighborhood? Plenty.

Network of neighborhood associations

The City of Austin is in the process of developing new requirements for neighborhood associations. One of the most important recommendations likely to be approved is the elimination of overlapping association boundaries. This would assure that only one association speaks for each part of the city. However, since boundaries are almost always on streets, properties located on such boundary streets could be subjected to decisions by adjacent associations.

Neighborhood "plans"

Another idea being hotly encouraged is for associations to develop a neighborhood plan. It doesn't have to go to the extent of an NCCD. (We don't want to get into that again). A plan can be much more general, like where businesses, residences, parking, parks, mass transit routes, and schools should be. It can include future goals like trail systems, light rail, or neighborhood security—whatever is appropriate. It could improve our preparation for the ever-expanding UT-System.

CNA boundaries

Some members of the CNA have proposed expanding the boundaries northeast to Airport Boulevard. Currently, the Schieffer Neighborhood Association is in that area. There is already a small overlapping area along Sycamore Drive that must be resolved.

Any changes in boundaries must be done by a vote of the affected parties.

Sidewalk ordinance

Do you want sidewalks crisscrossing the neighborhood? The proposed Sidewalk Ordinance seeks to get more sidewalks into existing neighborhoods. Many believe that sharing streets with cars works just fine, while others want to see more sidewalks. Sidewalks are viewed as a means of increasing pedestrian traffic and community interaction.

Home occupation ordinance

How about allowing businesses to operate out of homes? I'm not just talking home offices for Mary Kay Cosmetics; I'm talking retail businesses. A Home Occupations Ordinance is now being considered after its public hearing on March 20. Hmmm, a neighborhood plan is looking more and more like a good idea.

Detached duplexes

And just where do we stand on detached duplexes? Most folks don't seem to care one way or the other. Of those that do, most favor the idea, some strongly oppose it. A current proposal working its way through city planning would allow detached units on lots that meet all other criteria.

Taking control of our future

The city is moving ahead with its vision of what Austin should be. There's no better time than now to shape our future through the CNA. The more people involved in the process, the better the decisions. Be sure to complete and return the survey. And come to the next meeting on March 27th.

AUSTIN OUTDOOR GEAR AND GUIDANCE



John A. Van Ness



3411 N. IH 35
Austin, Texas 78722
(512) 473-2644 Fax (512)473-2628



Future of passenger rail in our neighborhood

by Michael McClendon

Capital Metro's Board of Directors voted last month to spend between \$5 and \$10 million to study the environmental and engineering feasibility of a passenger rail line that would run through Cherrywood.

Called the "Red Line," the \$183 million construction project would follow existing rail right of way from Leander to downtown Austin. A large part of the cost would be to upgrade the existing track and to build a new parallel track along most (if not all) of the 26-mile route.

Passenger cars going south would cross under IH-35 between Sears and Academy Surplus, then run behind Fiesta and alongside Maplewood elementary before crossing 38½ Street. From there, the cars would wind through residential areas and along Boggy Creek before crossing Manor Road. Approximately 75 homes within the CNA boundary are "on the track," though many are across a street or creek from the track. Some possible destinations to the north include Highland Mall, ACC-Northridge, and IBM.

Tentatively designated rail stations bypass our neighborhood. The closest station is at 45th Street and Airport Boulevard. Perhaps Capital Metro would instead agree to stop at the revitalized Hancock Center. To the south, a station is planned at MLK Blvd, but a stop at Manor Road would seem to serve



existing neighborhoods better, including ours. Perhaps a stop at 38½ Street, proximate to Maplewood Elementary and the Delwood Center, would serve us well.

Critics have some legitimate points. The planned system is not "light," and freight trains would share the rails with passenger cars. It is also diesel-powered, which is less environmentally friendly than electric power would be. Moreover, there is not a tremendous demand for public transportation along this route. Capital Metro acknowledges all of this. An electric system was rejected because it was too expensive and would have required the rerouting of freight trains.

On the other hand, current self-propelled trains like the Regio-Sprinter pollute very little, and cars running on compressed natural gas may be available soon. While ridership may be low initially, there is much undeveloped land along the route which is not environmentally sensitive.

As it has in other cities, the rail-line should create demand for development along its route. Also, the Red Line is considered a "starter" route, that is, one which demonstrates Austin's commitment to public transportation of this sort. Perhaps then, other more heavily traveled routes, such as from downtown to the new airport, and north from UT, will be federally funded and ultimately connected to the Red Line.

Capital Metro has agreed to have one or more of its planners present its passenger rail plan to the CNA and to answer our questions. How would traffic, schools, and homes be affected? How can we provide input as to whether it should be built, or where the stations will be?

I believe personally that passenger rail will only be a successful transportation alternative if people are willing to walk more often and greater distances. A hike-and-bike trail alongside the rail line, and perhaps a user-friendly crossing under IH-35, would help in this regard. Maybe Capital Metro would include these things in their plans if we ask nicely.

Please bring your questions and opinions to the next meeting!

NEED

ADVERTISING

MEETING!!



March 27 agenda

Meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 27, 1997 at the Asbury United Methodist Church (38½ & Cherrywood)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 6:45-7:00 | Set-up for meeting, get name tags, socialize |
| 7:00-7:30 | New business and Announcements |
| 7:30-8:30 | Citizens' Planning Committee Proposals;
Neighborhood Association Management;
Adopting CNA positions on resolving boundaries,
neighborhood plan, Home Occupation Ordinance,
and Sidewalk Ordinance |
| 8:30-9:00 | Capital Metro Speaker |

Call for articles on Cherrywood's history

At recent CNA meetings, several people have expressed their desire to know more about the history of Cherrywood. More power to them!

The Austin History Center, a truly unique city archive, certainly has lots of old photographs and information about our neighborhood, but we have historical resources of our own: many of Cherrywood's residents have lived here long enough to have seen significant change.

Anyone interested in researching and writing about Cherrywood's history, perhaps even interviewing long-time residents, for publication in *The Flea* is encouraged to do so. Simply contact Bennett Donovan at 473-2089 before you get started.

Tutorial program still needs volunteers

Cherrywood resident Kyra Caspary, Program Specialist for the city's Victory Tutorial Program, is looking for volunteers to tutor students in grades 1-12 at branches of the Austin Public Library.

The program requires just one hour of commitment a week. Call 499-7317 for more information.

New Museum

A world-class art museum will rise by 2001 from the asphalt on the corner of 26th & Red River, within easy walking distance of our blessed urban village.

The \$27 million structure will house the Huntington Collection and give us one more reason to be happy we don't live in suburbia.

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CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (CNA) SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey--your responses are very important! To return the survey, see related article on page 4 or mail it to the address on the reverse side.

MARK THE AREA(S) YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED IN / CONCERNED ABOUT BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE SPACE PROVIDED (examples are given in parentheses):

- 1. CAP Metro Issues (proposed bus lines, commuter rail line, hike-and-bike trail)
- 2. Children's Issues (schools, playgrounds, cooperative child care)
- 3. City of Austin Issues (NCCD's, sidewalks, tree trimming, zoning)
- 4. CNA (organization, participation, communication, coordination, outreach)
- 5. Mueller Airport Issues (redevelopment, land use planning)
- 6. Neighborhood Beautification (organized clean-ups, community gardens)
- 7. Neighborhood Ecology (noise pollution, air quality, run-off, recycling)
- 8. Neighborhood Preservation (Cherrywood history, CNA history)
- 9. Neighborhood Security (street lighting, police patrols)
- 10. Neighborhood Trouble-Shooting (abandoned property, building code violations)
- 11. Neighborhood Social Gatherings (picnics, block parties, happy hours)
- 12. Traffic Control (stop signs, speed limits, speed humps) / Specify streets, intersections:
- 13. University of Texas Issues (on-street parking by employees/students, etc.)
- 14. Other Issues/Interests (Specify):

SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CNA:

NAME OF YOUR STREET (Please!): _____
COMMENTS:

OPTIONAL: Name(s) of person(s) completing this survey (first and/or last):

_____ Phone # _____

Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

Fold Along Dotted Lines and Staple or Seal with Tape (32¢ Stamp Required)

CNA SURVEY
c/o Stephen J. Kreger
P.O. Box 953
Austin, TX 78767