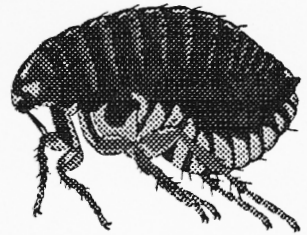


The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

Vol. 3, No. 1

October 1997

Dear Neighbor,

Our neighborhood's self-awareness, along with the dynamism of the CNA, seem to grow every day. From planting new trees to operating a Web site, from spaying feral cats to seeking consensus on issues of neighborhood growth, Cherrywood residents are actively involving themselves in the future of our community. Come to the October general meeting and see for yourself what is going on. There's plenty for everyone to do.

Maplewood Elementary "Halloween Haunt"

Friday, October 24, 1997
6:30-8:30 pm

Games! Fun! Food!
Bring the Kids!
Haunted House!
Face Painting!
Temporary Tattoos!
Cake Walk!
And more!



Volunteer crew to plant trees in November

Would you like to perpetuate and increase Cherrywood's beautiful urban forest? Trees have lifespans, too, and little ones need to grow up to take the old ones' place. Would you like to add a few drought-resistant, long-lived Texas native trees to your yard?

Mike Damal and other members of the Beautification/Clean-up Committee are organizing a tree planting this November!! Mike and his crew (volunteers are welcome) will dig a hole, prepare the soil, plant the tree, and mulch one or two trees per yard for *free* in November! You just have to provide the tree and promise to deep water your baby every week for the first year or two. We hope to have a rainy winter coming, so now is the perfect time for tree planting.

With regard to the actual trees, the CNA may be able to buy them economically in bulk; additionally, the City of Austin's Neighborhoods Program provides free trees for front yards they qualify as "tree needy". If you end up buying your own tree, you should purchase a five to ten gallon specimen. Good choices include bur oak (50'), cedar elm (50'), pecan (60'), Texas or Spanish oak (50'), or chinkapin oak (60').

Whatever the case, the first step is to get on the list of people interested in this planting. Please call Mike Damal at 478-9622.

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

President Buzz Avery 476-1889
 Secretary Jim Walker 499-0526
 Treasurer Stephen Kreger 477-4216
 SAC Chair Sharon Edmonson 423-2337

The Flea

Editor Bennett Donovan 473-2089
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 Distribution Mike McClendon 482-0016
 Advertising Stephen Kreger 477-4216



From the Minutes of the Meeting of July 30

Distribution of *The Flea*

Mike McClendon reported that the CNA currently prints around 1500 copies of *The Flea* and distributes them to all Cherrywood residents and area businesses. He needs maps showing actual dwelling units, since city maps miss garage apartments and recently developed lots. Mike could also use more volunteers for distribution. Please contact him at 482-0016 if you are willing to help.

Adoption of Maplewood Elementary

After hearing presentations from Priscilla Boston and Jack Newman, the CNA voted 40-0-1 to "adopt" Maplewood Elementary. The goal of the program is to demonstrate Cherrywood's commitment to the success of the school and to offer a pool of potential volunteers for occasional school projects.

Creation of a Policy Committee

CNA bylaws require all official CNA decisions to be made at regular meetings. This makes it difficult to act quickly on issues requiring discussion and reflection. A group of residents proposed the creation of a Policy Committee to study issues between meetings and make recommendations to the full membership. It was agreed that the committee should only study issues that could not wait to be addressed, draft written

recommendations, keep meetings open to all residents, and take positions consistent with historical CNA positions. The vote to create such a CNA Policy Committee passed 38 to 1. The committee will start by drafting rules for its own operation. [See related article, p. 6]

Children's Advocacy Center

The Children's Advocacy Center needs more office space. It initially wanted to expand its administrative offices into an SF-2 (zoned Single Family Residence) house across the street from its current facility at 32nd and Robinson. This would have required the house's zoning to change to NO (Neighborhood Office). Because of strong opposition from adjacent neighbors, the CAC withdrew its zoning-change application. Nevertheless, more zoning-change requests will inevitably arise in Cherrywood, and so the overall issue of neighborhood zoning was forwarded to the Policy Committee.

Camping-Ban Ordinance

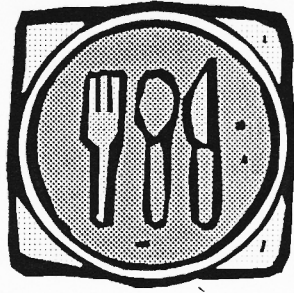
Buzz Avery announced that the CNA's position on the citywide camping ban was being solicited prior to a city council vote on the ban's repeal. It was decided by a 40-0-1 vote to support the efforts of the city's Homeless Task Force to find a comprehensive solution to the problem of homelessness. Then after some lively discussion, CNA members voted 24-8-5 to support the camping ban until the city puts forth an actual plan.

Triangle Development

CNA members were not ready to take an official position on development plans for the Triangle property bounded by Lamar, Guadalupe, and 45th Street. People noted that this was the perfect issue for the Policy Committee.

Girard Kinney then read a letter he had drafted expressing the CNA's disapproval of the overall Triangle development process and its lack of community input in the initial stages. Girard's letter emphasized that neighborhoods such as Cherrywood must be included from the start when redevelopment begins at Mueller Airport. The letter was approved by a 40-0 vote and will be sent on to the City Council.

Neighborhood News Briefs



Restaurant Row Revival

The Manor Road restaurant corridor has undergone significant changes in recent weeks. A group of investors from the West Indies bought Cafe Armageddon and have opened the Calabash Caribbean Restaurant in its place. Next door to the Calabash, Sandia's Taco Shack is rising from the ground, and across the street, the former Discovery Incubator has been purchased by the Colonna Family Partnership and is seeking new tenants. Add this activity to the ongoing presence of Mi Madre's, the East Side Cafe, and the Manor Road Coffeehouse, and you begin to see signs of a veritable dining district.

Keep Your Street Gutters Clean

Felicia Kongeable reminds us all that the glass, metals, plastics, and paper bits in our street gutters wash into storm drains, into the creek, and ultimately into Town Lake. PLEASE keep your gutters clean, particularly after trash pick-up day.

Cleanliness is godliness

Many people pass through Cherrywood, but not without leaving behind reminders. Whether it's UT or Fiesta Shopping Center drawing traffic, trash in streets and front yards is becoming a very common sight.

A couple of things can be done. First, pick up the trash as soon as possible. Folks in the CNA seem to be pretty good at that. Second, confront the troublemakers politely. You can also participate in the Cherrywood "Litter Avengers" regular cleanup on the first Saturday of every month, 10-11 a.m. If you want to clean Manor Road, meet outside the Discovery Incubator; if you prefer to clean 38-1/2 street, go to the Pato's parking lot. The next cleanup is set for November 1. Call Mike Damal at 478-9622 for more information.

Dog walks were also brought up at the last meeting. Walking your dogs is good for both of you. However, please be prepared to clean up their "deposits" in other people's

yards. Everyone is grateful for conscientious owners.

Support Maplewood PTA

The PTA at Maplewood Elementary needs your support. General meetings are held every third Thursday of months when school is in session. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 pm in the Maplewood cafeteria. Child care is available and food will be on sale. An entire year's membership is only \$4. PTA President Andi Miller looks forward to meeting you.

Surf the CNA

Thanks to Gordon Bennett, the CNA is now on the Internet. Anyone can access neighborhood news and demographics, project updates, calendars of meetings and events, useful city phone numbers, lists of officers and project leaders, by-laws, etc. Use Alta Vista, Excite, Yahoo, or MetaCrawler to search for "+cherrywood +neighborhood +association". The URL is <http://link.lanic.utexas.edu/asnic/bennett/cwood/cnastart.html>.

Win a car! Help a kid!

For five dollars you can purchase a raffle ticket at Highland Mall or any Bank One to win a BMW Z3 Roadster (it's a sweet ride!). The raffle, to be held on October 24, benefits the Children's Advocacy Center, which provides a homelike atmosphere where abused children can seek crisis intervention. Other prizes include round-trip tickets for two to any American Airlines destination except Hawaii and a \$1500 shopping spree at Highland Mall.

In memoriam

David Crouch, a neighborhood resident and frequent attendee at CNA meetings, died recently at the age of 28. Interested in issues of safety and crime prevention, he had volunteered for the "Citizens on Patrol" program and was also a member of the Travis County Volunteer Fire Department. Everyone in the CNA extends heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Neighborhood Buzz

January Elections

At the first meeting in 1998, the CNA will elect its officers. Whereas last year everything was done at a single meeting, this year a time has been set aside in this month's agenda to allow campaign speeches. If you're interested in running, make it known to me ASAP so I'll know how much time to allow each speaker. Officers include President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Policy Committee

As discussed and approved at the last CNA meeting, a Policy Committee has been created. Membership is open to all CNA members. Meetings are about twice monthly. If you are interested in being on the notification list, call Buzz Avery, 476-1889. [See related stories on page 2 and page 6.]

Parking Problems

Tired of finding the street in front of your home filled with cars belonging to people unwilling to pay for a parking lot? I'm mainly addressing those folks who live where UT employees and students park their cars during

the day while working or attending class. True, UT doesn't provide enough parking spaces for all its students. Maybe they could try riding the bus or bicycling. UT employees have parking spaces available but must pay a small fee for their use.

The City of Austin has a program available to stop crowded parking on residential streets. Guidelines require a petition signed by 80% of the impacted households and parking spaces must be 75% occupied during peak use. Those satisfying the criteria may purchase an inexpensive parking permit and also receive a tag for visitors. Contact Buzz Avery, 476-1889, if you want to start moving forward on this problem.

Trash Containers

After much debate, the City of Austin has finally adopted a variable rate structure for solid waste disposal. If you haven't noticed, the rate on your 60-gallon trash container has increased to \$14.50 per month. If you're as conscientious as Lee and I and don't create much non-recyclable trash, you can probably get away with the \$11.75 30-gallon container (of course, we don't have any children). To downsize, call 499-3556—there's no charge for the exchange. However, upsizing to the \$17.25 90-gallon container costs \$15.



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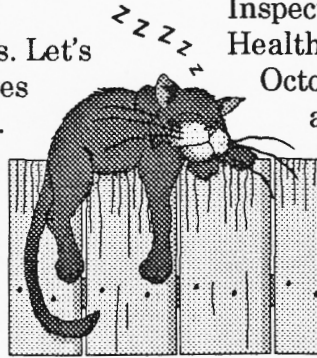
(512) 478-7857 2015 Manor Road

Tuesday - Thursday 11:00am - 10:00pm
Friday & Saturday 11:00am - 11:00pm
Sunday (Brunch Only) 10:30am - 2:00pm
Happy Hour 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Spirit Action Committee Update

Cherrywood Scrapbook

The Cherrywood Scrapbook needs pictures of and information about our neighborhood from people who have lived here for a long time. For example, Bob Roberts (Bob Roberts Photography, 3507 N. IH 35) moved to Cherrywood with his family in 1963 and is going to contact family members in search of old photographs. Let's hope his talents manifested themselves at an early age and run in the family. If you have old photos of Cherrywood for the scrapbook, please call Sharon Edmonson at 473-2337 or Bennett Donovan at 473-2089.



The Frozen Dozen

Twelve activists raised money for SAC activities by participating in Blockbuster's Labor Day Tent Sale. We sold 36 ice cream floats, collected \$6 in donations, and passed out information about SAC meetings and the new Web Site. Volunteer scoopers included Mike Damal, Joan Gruska, Neal Jodeitt, Felicia Kongeable, Cynthia Majors, Mike McClendon, and Karol and David Menhard.

Cat-in-the-Hood Club

Some nice people from CAT-PAC (Cooperative Action to Protect Alley Cats) attended SAC's August meeting, leading to the formation of the Cherrywood Cat-in-the-Hood Club. The club's goal is zero growth in

our neighborhood's feral cat population, and at least one member has extensive trap-spay-release experience. To become a member or sponsor, contact Sharon Edmonson at 473-2337 or Cassie Helton at 454-7461.

Environmental Health

Trashed-out vacant properties and lots with tall weeds easily become rat- and mosquito-infested, posing a health hazard. Austin-Travis County Health Department Inspector Mark Parsons of the Environmental Health Services Division will be at the October 29 general meeting to respond to any questions on community health hazards.

A good example of a trashed-out vacant property in our neighborhood is the northeast corner of Cherrywood and East 34th, across from the park. Park?!! That's right, folks, the property at the northwest corner of that same intersection is a bonafide city park. Check it out, and bring your vision for it to the next SAC meeting for discussion.

SAC Meeting Schedule

All are welcome to attend the Spirit Action Committee meetings in the Maplewood Elementary art room from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the following dates.

- November 19, 1997
- January 7, 1998
- February 25, 1998
- March 25, 1998
- May 27, 1998
- June 24, 1998

—Sharon Edmonson, SAC Chair

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Cherrywood's future: quest for consensus

The newly established CNA Policy Committee has met several times in the last few months. It was formed to develop some general positions on issues which may effect the residents of the CNA and to enable the CNA to react in a timely manner between regular meetings. Every meeting is open to all; time and place are posted in advance on the CNA web page (search for "+cherrywood+neighborhood+association"), or you can call Buzz Avery at 476-1889.

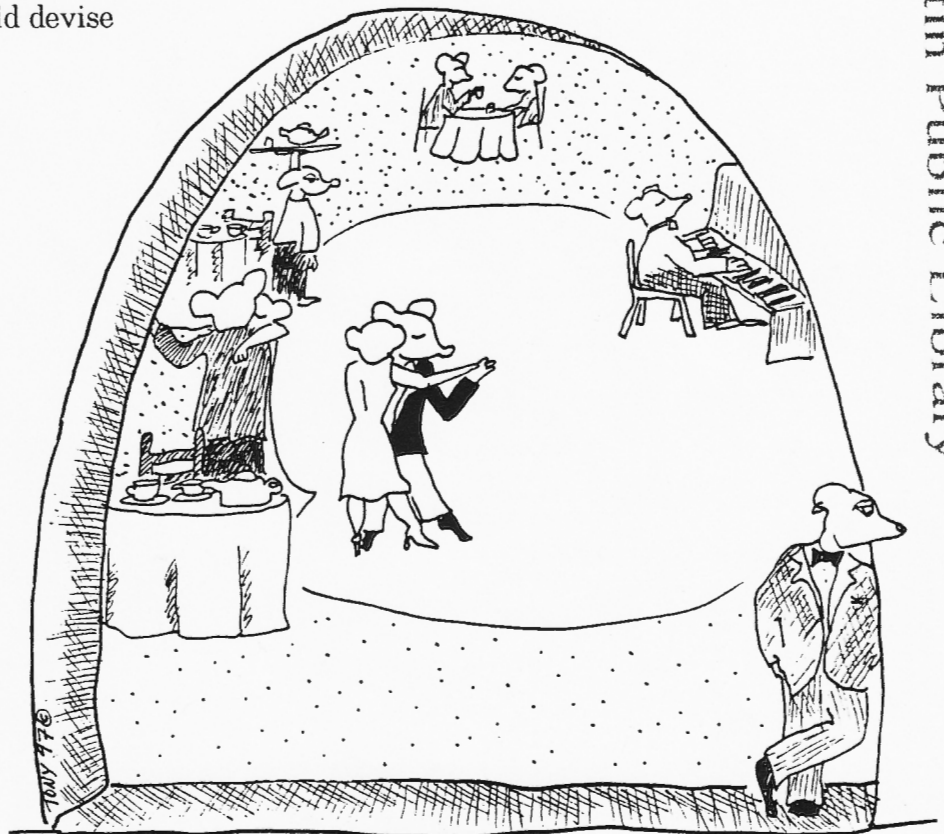
The committee's first issue involves a request for building code variances (i.e. exemptions) which, if granted, would allow the resident to remodel a garage efficiency apartment for rental use. This case invites discussion on the broader issues of infill development, the evolving character of the neighborhood, the renter/owner mix, the precedent the CNA may set by either supporting or not supporting individual variance cases, and whether we should devise a neighborhood plan the city might recognize.

To begin to resolve this complex issue as smoothly as possible, the Policy Committee would like to move from the general to the specific. First, we hope to use 20-30 minutes at the October 29 meeting to get a sense of neighborhood opinion on core assumptions and values (saving specifics like duplex design and number of off-street parking spaces until spring). If you are unable to attend and give your opinion, we would still like to receive your written comments on the questions below. Either bring them to the next Policy Committee meeting, mail them to Jim Walker at 3102 Breeze Terrace, or call him at 499-0526.

1. How do you see the real estate market affecting our neighborhood in the next 10-25 years? Should we be content to let the market take its course, or should the CNA try to exercise some control?
2. What overall advantages and disadvantages do you see for greater population density in Cherrywood?
3. Should the CNA favor any particular approaches to maximize the advantages of greater population density and/or limit the disadvantages of higher density?

Thanks for helping! Our goal is to end up with a policy, maybe even a plan (which the city might soon solicit anyway), that enjoys a high level of neighborhood consensus. Anything less will mean little.

—Jim Walker and Gordon Bennett



Squeakeasy

Not Your Average "Liveable City"

The national media drones on about Austin's "quality of life". *Outside* names it a "Dream Town"; the *Utne Reader* calls it one of America's 50 most enlightened towns; *Money* puts it in the top ten best managed cities; MTV markets it as the next word in twenty-something hipness.

Austin may appear on lists with towns like Portland, Boston, Boulder, or Madison, but it little resembles these or any other "progressive" cities. The question is: why not?

Southern Gothic. True to Texas, Austin resists yuppified East Coast and glamorized West Coast ideas of style. One can find the self-consciously fashionable, but corn dogs and cars on blocks exist in equal abundance. Like a Flannery O'Connor story, Austin seethes with the grotesque in a uniquely Southern way. Make-up drips off painted sorority moms; Baptists vote Republican for God; state senators packing heat cruise South Congress. Excess wins over understatement in Texas, and although Martha Stewart might complain, Austinites know that "good taste" is a state of denial. Life offers so much more than the tasteful, so we'll just keep celebrating Spam if you don't mind.

Sunstroke and Slackerdom. We live in an oven eight months a year: too hot to hurry, too hot to worry. Combine a perma-sauna with 100,000 college students and you inevitably get a large laid-back population. *Slackus Austinitus* is indigenous, but these

habitually under-achieving have in fact ascended the evolutionary ladder. Conserving energy during the day like the regal lion, the slacker hunts nocturnally at Ken's Donuts; refusing to be crucified on the cross of careerism, it lounges like a born aristocrat. We were all born to take siestas; real Austinites refuse to fight Nature.

Cultural Combo Meal. "Location, location, location!" Austin sits at a geographical and cultural crossroads where the South, the Great Plains, Mexico, and the desert southwest meet. Eating okra under a magnolia, rounding up rattlesnakes, or salsa dancing through the tequila-laden night come naturally here. Try to mix these things in Minneapolis without coming off as a wannabee. Other towns import cultural diversity, Austinites live and breathe it.

Progressive Austin? Despite our well-cultivated self image, we still worship the gas guzzler and the Mike Brady home; strip zone to create sprawling nightmarescapes of fast food, and treat public transportation like welfare for the carless. For every citizen who wants a bike trail, two more shout private property rights; for every organic gardener, twenty more drench their lawns with herbicide. We may be the "People's Republic" of Texas, but that's like winning a beauty contest at a stock show. Perhaps all this is good—progressives here are forced to keep their sense of humor.

By Bennett Donovan with thanks to Steve Barney and Steve Canner, two recent Cherrywood transplants from Portland and Madison, for their insight.

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Agenda for Oct. 29 meeting Maplewood School

- 6:30 Introductions
- 6:35 Appoint Sgt. of Arms (trial basis)
- 6:40 Amendments & additions to agenda
- 6:50 Acknowledgments, announcements, & updates
- 7:00 Spirit Action Committee reports (trees, garden, park, trails, traffic, etc.)
- 7:40 Policy Committee report
- 7:45 January election of officers statement
- 8:00 Discussion and action Items
 - Child care during meetings: should we pay?
 - Ask city for traffic signal at 38-1/2 St & Lafayette: pros & cons
 - Crime report and what to do
- 8:30 Door prizes for those who stayed
- 9:00 Clear the building

Door Prizes

The following businesses will be providing door prizes at the October General Meeting.

- Blockbuster Video (Delwood Center)
- Cross-Allen Auto Parts (2310 Manor Road)
- Fiesta Mart (Delwood Center)
- H-E-B (Hancock Center)
- Musicmania (Delwood Center)
- U-Haul (4021 N. IH 35)
- Van's Auto Parts (3705 N. IH 35)

Child Care Update

We apologize to those who brought children to the last quarterly meeting

expecting child care. Our volunteers canceled at the last minute and we were unable to get anyone else on such short notice.

We would still like to provide child care, but there are problems. For example, if the CNA pays someone to care for the children (as the Maplewood PTA does), it might be liable if problems occur; volunteers, on the other hand, would result in less liability.

I don't know all the intricacies of this issue, but we will discuss it at the general meeting. If you cannot attend, call me with your suggestions at 477-4216.

—Stephen Kreger, Treasurer

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