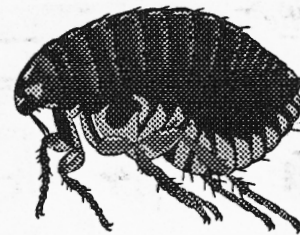


# The Flea



The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association  
Vol. 4, No. 1

October 1998

Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

Dear Neighbor,

At the July 29 General Membership Meeting, CNA members voted overwhelmingly to change the structure of the neighborhood association [minutes available from Secretary Jim Walker (499-0526) or on the website]. As a result, neighbors will be able to elect CNA's new 13-member Steering Committee at the upcoming October 28 meeting. A nominating committee has worked hard over the last two months to recommend a slate of 13 candidates, but nominations from the floor during the meeting will also be welcome. Please come to the October meeting and participate directly in shaping the future of CNA.

## CNA Steering Committee slate ready for vote

by *Jim Walker*

They said it couldn't be done, but with help from the distribution force of *The Flea*, the CNA Nominating Committee accomplished its task of bringing you recommendations for our first-ever Steering Committee.

Co-Chaired by Helen Kent Davis and myself, a team of seven developed and implemented a process to outline the mission of the Nominating Committee, reached out to our neighbors, identified and evaluated interested candidates, and ultimately nominated thirteen fellow CNA residents for your consideration and approval.

Interest in serving on the Steering Committee was greater than we hoped for. A total of 21 candidate forms were received from motivated and qualified CNA residents.

After much review and many Committee meetings, we arrived at a slate of thirteen as called for by the recently adopted CNA By-Laws. The Nominating Committee paid particular attention to its mission of trying to balance the nominees' age, sex, occupation, areas of expertise, and geographic residence within CNA. Other focus issues revolved around ethnicity, potential business conflicts of interest, years living in CNA (and in

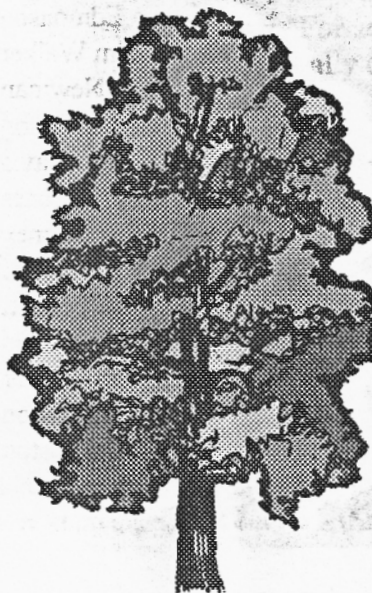
*Continued on p. 3* ➔

## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual tree planting breaks ground

by *Mike Damal*

For the second straight year Cherrywood residents can receive free trees from the city's Neighborwoods program.

Sound like a good deal? Well it gets even better: neighborhood volunteers will plant your tree for you free of charge. We have already found homes for 20 new trees and are looking for more. To qualify, you simply have to place your tree within ten feet of the street and promise to water it for two years. If you're interested, call Steve Barney at 478-3653.



Volunteers will also plant trees that neighbors have bought themselves or will offer assistance and advice on proper planting. Of course, we can always use more volunteers. It's really not that much work and it's a lot of fun. You will always be able to say "I planted that tree!" Call Mike Damal (478-9622) to help out or for more info.

# Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm>

President	Buzz Avery 476-1889
Vice-President	Barbara Mink 477-9094
Secretary	Jim Walker 499-0526
Treasurer	Stephen Kreger 477-4216



## The Flea

Editor	Bennett Donovan 473-2089
Layout	Mike Conner 474-7012
Distribution	Mike McClendon 482-0016
Advertising	Stephen Kreger 477-4216



## Committees

Policy	Buzz Avery 476-1889
Parks	Girard Kinney 478-5042
Association Restructuring	Gordon Bennett 477-7195
	Pauline Porter 322-0717



## Projects

Community Gardens	Lisa Tipps 322-9620
Hike and Bike Trail	Cynthia Majors 479-0774
Neighborhood Beautification	Michael McClendon 482-0016
	Mike Damal 478-9622
	Sharon Edmonson 473-2337
Recycling and Disposals	Jim Walker 499-0526
Maplewood School	Jack Newman 476-6616
Scrapbook & History	Sharon Edmonson 473-2337
Speeding & Traffic	Helen & Ben Davis 474-9751
	Cathy Jones 480-8041
Tree planting	Steve Barney 478-3653
	Mike Damal 478-9622
Airport Redevelopment	Gordon Bennett 477-7195
	Priscilla Boston 478-1867
	Jim Walker 499-0526
Cat-In-Hood (feral cat control)	Sharon Edmonson 473-2337
Schieffer Area	Priscilla Boston 478-1867
Email listserv	Jim Walker 499-0526 <a href="mailto:jwalk@greenbuilder.com">jwalk@greenbuilder.com</a>
Web page	Gordon Bennett 477-7195 <a href="mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu">gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu</a>

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Flea:

I noticed the following in the July 1998 issue: "The Texas Department of Transportation is working on plans to widen I-35 into our neighborhood.... We are in the city's preferred growth corridor."

Please publish any information you have about the TxDOT plans and follow their development and deployment.

Much obliged,  
T. David Millican  
Dancy Street

*Traffic is one of Cherrywood's greatest challenges, and many neighbors share your interest in it. Please read Jim Walker's article on TxDOT's plans for I-35 on page 7. The Flea will do its best to report on this and other pressing neighborhood issues regularly.*

Send letters to the Editor to 3706 Clarkson Avenue, Austin, TX 78722, faxes to 474-2895, or e-mail to [conner@texas.net](mailto:conner@texas.net).

**Doug Gorton**



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**PAINTING**

658-4699

"The long way is the short way"

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→ continued from page 1

Austin), and the broad range of excellent responses to the question, "Why do you want to be on the Steering Committee?" [see below].

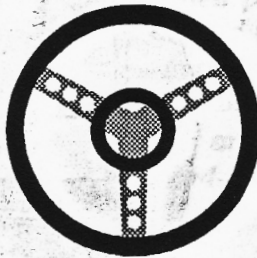
The Nominating Committee believes it is presenting a solid Steering Committee slate which will bring a wide diversity of experience, interests, and passion to CNA.

The CNA By-Laws also allow for Steering Committee nominations from the floor. The nominee must be present to accept the nomination or provide some other means of verifying his or her acceptance.

Below is a brief introduction to each candidate, quoting from the candidate forms. More information about the slate of candidates is available on request from Helen Kent Davis (474-9751) or me (499-0526) and will also be available at the October meeting.

Thanks and please come to the October meeting and vote!

## Candidates' Responses to "Why do you want to be on the Steering Committee?"



**Michael Aaron:** "I believe strongly in the 'If not me, who? If not now, when?' philosophy."

**Steve Barney:** "The residents of the Delwood area and Cherrywood's renting populations could potentially contribute valuable effort and ideas, and I would like to find ways to reach out to them."

**Priscilla Boston:** "I believe it's important to know your neighbors and to build upon shared values."

**Marshall Bruni:** "I believe the success of a neighborhood association is proportional to the efforts contributed by its members."

**Lisa Carroll:** "I am very concerned about the neighborhood and would like to do everything in my power to make it a safe, clean, excellent place to live."

**Ali Dailey:** "I'm interested in maintaining the 'feel' of the neighborhood—the way homes look architecturally, the density of persons living and driving here, the look of the landscape."

**Mike Damal:** "I feel the strength of our organization comes from helping residents and the community at large through concrete actions."

**Bennett Donovan:** "Since I moved into Cherrywood, I have looked for ways to improve the neighborhood—from planting trees, to cleaning the streets on a regular basis, to editing the newsletter."

**Girard Kinney:** "Over the 17 years that I have lived in the neighborhood I have gained a lot of experience in the areas where interests and skills are sought."

**Rebecca Kohout:** "The changes of the airport move will mean we will have an opportunity for an awakening of the area that will need careful planning."

**Mark Lind:** "I recently participated in the Triangle Park design charette and would like to see our neighborhood become as active and self-determining as the neighbors of Triangle Park."

**Pauline Porter:** "I would like to see CNA adopt a clear vision and a focused purpose."

**Jim Walker:** "For some reason I cannot fully understand I really care about grass-roots level planning."

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## Officer Carlos Casas, APD District Rep for Charlie Sector 5

*an interview by Bennett Donovan*

On August 31, 1998, the Austin Police Department (APD) underwent a significant, departmental-wide reorganization aimed at better implementing the techniques of community policing. At the heart of this new approach is improved communication and cooperation between police and neighborhood residents. If whole communities become involved in combatting crime, the thinking goes, neighborhoods should become safer.

Two immediate changes have resulted from APD's reorganization: (1) uniformed officers will now have permanent shifts and patrol the same area each day, and (2) district representative officers will act as permanent liasons between APD and individual neighborhoods.

Cherrywood falls into "Charlie Sector 5" which is bounded by IH-35, 12th Street, and Airport Boulevard. Our district representative is Officer Carlos Casas (926-9932), a thirteen-year veteran of APD. I spoke to Officer Casas on October 1.

**How many officers will be specifically assigned to Cherrywood under the new system?**

Three patrol officers have been assigned to Charlie 5. Each will work a ten-hour day, evening, or night shift, which means that, unless he or she has been called away on an emergency, one patrol officer will be on duty in Charlie 5 at all times. Because we are just beginning to implement this new system, the actual officers have not yet been assigned and I cannot give you their names yet.

**Once they have been assigned to Charlie 5, will these patrol officers be making efforts to meet neighbors?**

Definitely. Charlie 5 will become the territory of these officers, and they will want to get to know it and protect it as best they can. Officers will be attending neighborhood meetings and introducing themselves to

residents as they do their patrols.

Furthermore, the APD Neighborhood Center at Manor and Loyola will be open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 to 4:00. I am usually here, although I do occasionally have to go out on call, but our volunteer administrator Mrs. Bell is here daily from 9:30 to 3:00 to answer questions or take messages. Neighbors should feel free to call us at 926-9932 at any time.

**From the officer's viewpoint, how is community policing different?**

Personally, in my 13 years in APD, I've always wanted to help people and do community policing. The difference now will be that all officers will be meeting more people and getting to know the communities they patrol much better. Individual officers will be concentrating on specific areas and trying to become familiar with their characteristics, and not just those related to crime.

**Will Cherrywood residents be able to notice a difference?**

I hope so. We're not sure yet about instituting walking beats, but daytime patrol units should be more evident. Also, we will be making crime statistics available to the neighborhood association and establishing better overall lines of communication. Most of all, the department's accountability will definitely improve.

**How would you describe your role as district representative?**

I would say that I am a "generalist". I want to get involved in anything and everything. I want to become a part of the community. I want to be someone that anyone can talk to, even if it is just to get something off of his or her chest. As district representative for Charlie 5 and 6, I am the Cherrywood community's first contact for all non-emergency calls.



**What kinds of non-emergency calls should be directed to you?**

To begin with, I would really like to get to know neighbors personally, even if we're not discussing police matters. People should feel free to call me if they simply would like to talk to someone in the police department. Examples of non-emergency police matters which should be reported to me include graffiti, abandoned cars, problems with speeding, burned-out streetlights, illegal dumping and so on, anything which is hurting the quality of life in the neighborhood but which is not an immediate danger. Even if I can't offer help myself, I can serve as a liason between residents and other city departments.

**What kinds of things do you consider emergencies which would merit a "911" call?**

Any situation where a resident would like an officer to respond quickly. This includes life-or-death situations, but it would also cover crimes in progress, fights or loud arguments, suspicious activity, public drinking....

**Suspicious activity and public drinking?**

Yes. Our job is to prevent crime. If you see a suspicious character, you should call 911. We might not be able to pick the person up, but at least we can let them know that they're being watched. The same goes for transients or others who are drinking in public, since they may be a danger to themselves or others.

**Are you aware of any specific crime problems in Cherrywood?**

Burglaries seem to be a problem. I am planning to distribute some surveys to try to

gather more data from neighbors. I am also currently analyzing existing data to get a bead on burglary patterns. For example, if I find that most burglaries are occurring in the mornings and afternoon, that suggests that it is largely a problem of truants, transients, and maybe drug addicts looking for easy opportunities. But ultimately, the neighbors themselves have to tell me what the biggest problems are. I have to respond to community desires in the end.

**Do you have any closing comments?**

The police cannot do everything. People need to look after one another. Residents must be involved to make community policing work. I am at the neighborhood's disposal and am eager to help.

*Officer Casas and Officer Sharon Cannon are stationed at 4701 Loyola Lane, Suite #105. Their phone number is 926-9932. The office would love another computer if anyone has one to donate. APD is also looking for volunteers to staff other neighborhood centers, even if only for an hour a day. Call Sgt. Carlos Botello at 494-8330 or fax him at 320-0489.*

**Recycling Reminder**

The blue recycling bins are free! Take your City of Austin utility bill to any Austin Fire Station and request a blue bin.

If you are really into recycling here in Austin and think you might want to be a Block Leader, call Jim Walker at 499-0526 and he'll pass along some good info.

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## Early History of Delwood Center

by Mike Damal

For new residents of Cherrywood, the neon Delwood sign on 38½ Street might look a bit out of character with the rest of Delwood Center.

This sign is actually the only remnant of the original Delwood Center of 1951, which was arguably Austin's first strip mall.

Delwood Center was Bascom Giles's first commercial development. He called it Delwood in honor of his great uncle, James Bascom Norwood, and Del Valle, where Norwood lived. The Giles moved to their homestead just north of Delwood Center in 1924. They used 200 acres there as pasture and sold off other portions, including the land which would become Robert Mueller Airport. By the early 1950s, Giles had developed several residential subdivisions in Cherrywood along with Delwood Center.

Delwood Center had many attractions. The Check Front Grocery was the first grocery in Austin to offer a pharmacy inside. The *Austin American-Statesman* reported on the stylish decor of the new grocery with its "cool shades of chartreuse, dark green, and yellow. These restful colors are enhanced by the use of modern slimline fluorescents." Other large stores in the mall included Winn's variety store and the Capitol Seed House, which sold hardware, sporting goods, and garden items.

The "California influence" of Delwood Center was considered progressive for its time. Architect Carl Stautz took several trips to California to study this new type of community center. Delwood was indeed trend-setting for Austin with its deference to the automobile and twelve acres of parking so that no shopper's car would be more than fifty feet from an awning in case of rain.

Delwood Center was one of the first major commercial projects built away from downtown. It was considered a great convenience not to have to drive downtown and find parking to shop. Today's Delwood

retains little of its original character, but it is still a useful asset to Cherrywood residents, and it still offers plenty of parking.

Information provided by the Old North East Austin History Club—for more information, call Sharon Edmonson at 473-2337

## Tutors needed for Victory program

Help a child learn! The Victory Tutorial program, a free tutoring service offered at select branches of the Austin Public Library and available at the University Hills Branch Library, needs volunteers to tutor students in grades 1-12.

Tutor just one hour a week in the afternoon or early evening, Monday-Thursday. No tutoring or teaching experience is necessary.

Call Loyce Allen at 929-3037 to help a child read better, pass a math class, or prepare for the TAAS test.

**Mueller Airport  
Redevelopment Info**

Please see the CNA web site <http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm> for the latest information on Mueller Airport redevelopment. If you're interested in this major issue, contact Jim Walker (499-0526), Gordon Bennett (477-7195), or Priscilla Boston (478-1867) and they will let you know about upcoming meetings and other pertinent happenings.

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## Traffic in Cherrywood

by Jim Walker

Traffic on I-35 between the river and 51<sup>st</sup> Street can be a nightmare at peak travel times. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has been studying ways to relieve congestion along this stretch of I-35 for a long time. Their plans for improvements and changes to the upper and lower decks will greatly impact CNA residents.

On May 21, TxDOT met informally with residents of Cherrywood, Wilshire Woods, and Delwood II to share six separate plans for improvements to I-35 between Manor Rd. and 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

Pretty much all the alternatives rely on the concurrent provision of light rail services to relieve I-35 congestion. The following scenario seems most probable:

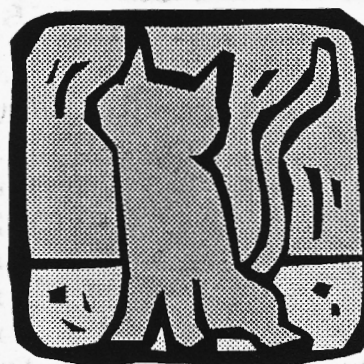
HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes will be added to get people in and out of the Central Business District more quickly. To provide for these lanes, TxDOT will almost certainly add a lane to the upper deck on the east side of I-35. This change will require a wider right-of-way and will greatly impact the periphery of our neighborhood, especially along the northbound I-35 frontage road.

To improve traffic flow and safety TxDOT will likely close some or all of the lower deck on- and off-ramps. This would concentrate entering and exiting traffic at MLK or Manor Rd. to the south and at Airport Blvd. or 51<sup>st</sup> Street to the north. An off-ramp to 38½ St. from the upper deck might be added, although this would certainly be a major source of concern for Cherrywood residents. Hopefully

TxDOT will see the need for direct I-35 access to the Mueller Airport site so that traffic headed there doesn't have to cut through our neighborhood.

Obviously, any I-35 improvements will impact CNA, so we all need to stay aware of developments. But remember: this is currently only in the preliminary planning stages. TxDOT is still working on a Major Investment Study (MIS) required by the Texas Legislature.

TxDOT spokesperson Glenn McVey will be making presentations on these and other I-35 improvements to groups such as the Austin Transportation Study. I'll keep the CNA e-mail list updated on future meetings on this issue. If you want to join my ad hoc CNA Traffic Folks list please call 499-0526 or e-mail me at [jwalk@greenbuilder.com](mailto:jwalk@greenbuilder.com).



## Cat-in-the-Hood Club rescues forty felines

by Sharon Edmonson

Lordy, Lordy, we've caught *forty!*

Here are the Cat-in-the-Hood club stats to date: 18 male cats, 22 females, and 8 adoptions. Thanks to the many concerned and compassionate individuals in our neighborhood who have made this project possible. Efforts to stabilize our feral cat population will continue as long as sponsors can be found.

The cost of \$35 per cat covers spaying and neutering, rabies and distemper vaccinations, and an overnight stay at the vet to recuperate.

To pledge, call Sharon Edmonson (473-2337) or Cassie Helton (454-7461).

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## Agenda for Wednesday, October 28, 1998 General Meeting Maplewood Elementary School

- |    |   |      |
|----|---|------|
| 1. | Greetings and refreshments .....  | 6:30 |
| 2. | Begin meeting with introductions .....  | 6:40 |
| 3. | Acknowledgments, announcements, and additions or changes to agenda .....  | 6:45 |
| 4. | Committee reports* .....  | 6:50 |
| 5. | Discussion and action items*  |      |
| A. | Mueller conversion update: Jim Walker and Gordon Bennett .....  | 7:10 |
| B. | Neighborhood communications: <i>The Flea</i> , website, and e-mail .....  | 7:20 |
| C. | Additional issues or business (trash collection, crime control, traffic routes and calming, neighborhood beautification, west 32 <sup>nd</sup> St. changes) ..... | 7:30 |
| 6. | Election of Steering Committee .....  | 8:30 |
| 7. | Set date and place of next meeting .....  | 8:55 |
| 8. | Adjourn .....   | 9:00 |

\*Times are approximate. Please keep comments brief so all wishing to speak can be heard.

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### Neighborhood stars: Sharon and Pauline

In July the General Membership unanimously resolved to express the following heartfelt sentiments: Two years ago CNA re-emerged with new faces and new energy. We needed a volunteer to chair our then-named Neighborhood Spirit Committee, whereupon a very special person stepped forward. **Sharon Edmonson** quickly redefined the notion of volunteerism in Cherrywood through her Spirit-Action Committee.

As a result of Sharon's efforts, "Litter Avengers" pick up truckloads of trash in creeks and public places. "Cat-in-the-Hood" folk spay or neuter homeless animals. And a Neighborhood History Group collects evidence

of our past. The breadth of her activity has been astounding, and she has shown us all just how much we can accomplish.

Another committed neighbor, **Pauline Porter**, had a vision for a more inclusive way to run CNA. Realizing the burden placed on the president, she lobbied for a steering-committee government which would spread responsibility and opportunity to a greater number of residents. Her persistence and ideas paid off, and the upcoming October 28 vote for a 13-member CNA Steering Committee will represent the fruit of her long efforts and a new beginning for CNA.

In the end rules and structures do not give life to an organization; people do. Thank you, Sharon and Pauline, for all you contribute.

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