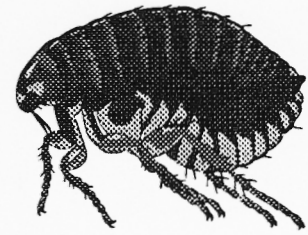


The Flea



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

January 1999

Austin History Center & Austin Public Library

Dear Neighbor,

To use the terminology of the computer age, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association has been "upgraded" with improved bylaws and the formation of a 13-member Steering Committee.

This new structure has not only broadened the pool of neighbors leading CNA but also provides more opportunities for all residents to participate.

Don't sit on the sidelines if you have opinions to express or simply want to find out what's going on. Please attend one or more of the meetings announced in the calendar to the right.

CNA Steering Committee begins work

by Bennett Donovan

The new Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee has met twice since its members were elected at the October General Meeting. The Steering Committee's function (in case you haven't memorized the bylaws yet) is to conduct the business of CNA between General Meetings and to research issues and make recommendations to the membership.

The committee began its duties on November 18 by electing officers. Jim Walker was selected to serve as Chair, Priscilla Boston as Vice-Chair, Rebecca Kohout as Treasurer, and Lisa Carroll as Secretary.

The committee also acted on December 21 to improve the distribution system for *The Flea*. Each of the 13 members of the Steering Committee will now take responsibility for delivering the newsletter to all homes, apartments, and businesses in a specific area. Members will survey their areas to make sure that a sufficient number of issues are printed. A further motion was approved to raise the price of advertising in *The Flea* to \$30 for a business card-sized ad in order to pay for rising printing costs.

The committee's current challenge, one to which a good deal of discussion has been devoted, is to identify important neighborhood issues as a first step toward developing policy options and seeking neighborhood consensus. It is important for CNA to have established

CNA Calendar

General Membership Meeting

Wed. Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m.
Maplewood Elementary

Steering Committee Meeting

Mon. Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
Asbury United
Methodist Church

Steering Committee Meeting

Mon. Mar. 22, 7 p.m.
Asbury United
Methodist Church

policies, since the city is increasingly involving neighborhood associations in the planning process. Crucial issues include (but are not limited to) traffic, zoning, crime, airport redevelopment, Maplewood Elementary, litter, communications with the city, and green space.

Determining various policy alternatives and gauging neighborhood opinion will not happen overnight, but the Steering Committee feels that it is essential to begin the process now. As the city grows around us, we must construct a vision about what we as a neighborhood want in order to protect our interests.

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

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

Steering Committee

Chair	Jim Walker 499-0526
Vice-Chair	Priscilla Boston 478-1867
Secretary	Lisa Carroll 478-5539
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout 477-9560



The Flea

Editor	Bennett Donovan 473-2089
Layout	Mike Conner 474-7012
Advertising	Rebecca Kohout 477-9560



Committees

Nominating	Jim Walker 499-0526
Parks	Girard Kinney 478-5042
Zoning	Mike Damal 478-9622



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
	Marshall Bruni 476-6404
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
Email listserv	Jim Walker 499-0526 jwalk@greenbuilder.com
Web page	Gordon Bennett 477-7195 gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Cherrywood website adds services referrals

by Gordon Bennett

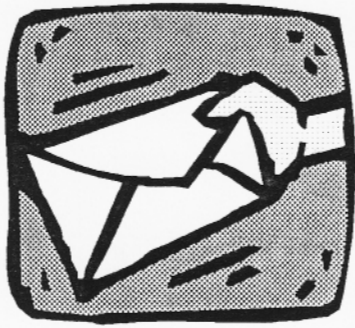
The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's website <http://link.lanic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm> now contains a Recommendations page with 25 reports from families who have had positive experience with local service providers.

The page includes the following categories: air conditioning, appliance repair, auto body shop, auto mechanic, contractor, handyman, electrician, housekeeper, landscaping, painter, plumbing, travel agent, and window installer.

Neighbors are encouraged to add to the list within these categories or add new ones. Anyone know a good window washer? chimney sweep? caterer?

If you need a referral in another category, drop me an e-mail gordon@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Austin History Center & Austin Public Library



Letter to the Editor

Dear *Flea*,

There has been much said and written about the "Smart Growth" policy the city is formulating. It seems to me that most of what I've heard in our neighborhood is from people who want to add duplexes and second residences to any-size lot just to make some money, regardless of what their neighbors think. I think there are a number of people who live in our neighborhood that want it to stay a single-family neighborhood but have been quiet about the issue. I think it is time for these folks to voice their opinion because I think it is very possible that this neighborhood will have many more rental units and the associated problems that come with unplanned increased density. Problems such as more crowded streets, more stress on utilities (i.e., lower water pressure), and more renters means less stability, and possibly more crime.

One reason that is very important to me is that I bought in this neighborhood, in part, because it was a single-family neighborhood. If I wanted to live in a duplex-type neighborhood or in a condo neighborhood, I'd bought in one. Changing the rules in the middle of the game doesn't seem like the right thing to do. Especially so some greedy investors can make money at our expense.

Those of us that want to keep our neighborhood one of single-family residences better speak up now before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Stephen J. Kreger

Send letters to the Editor to 3706 Clarkson Avenue, Austin, TX 78722, faxes to 474-2895, or e-mail to bdonovan1@excite.com.

Renters: it's your neighborhood, too!

by Steve Barney

Doesn't matter if you rent or own. Doesn't matter if you've lived here for a week or for twenty years. If this newsletter was delivered to you, you're a Cherrywood neighborhood resident.

As a member of the Steering Committee and a renter in the so-called "Duplex Nation" adjacent to Maplewood Elementary School, I've taken it upon myself to try to get the renting community more involved.

CNA is unique among neighborhood associations in offering membership to *all* residents over 18, regardless of whether they rent or own.

So, if you're interested in neighborhood issues, ranging from smart growth to crime to trash, let me personally invite you to attend the next general membership meeting on January 27. Renters gotta represent!

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Restaurant review

Follow Your Nose...

by Holly Chacona

...to Hoover's Cooking, the new restaurant opened up at the old Discovery Incubator at 2002 Manor Rd. You can smell the incredible smoked ribs, wings and chicken from our street (30th). Since we first ventured there, we have made it a weekly family outing. Nothing is as comforting as a good neighborhood restaurant, with a familiar menu and familiar faces. After a long day at work and a seemingly longer commute home, thoughts of cooking and/or getting back in the car to drive to a restaurant are equally daunting. Hoover's Cooking is a godsend for the car and kitchen weary.

The menu has something for everyone, on almost any diet or budget. Oh, there will be days when nothing but an order of those hot and tender smoked Aus-Tex Wings (\$4.99) will do. But when health sense prevails, there are tasty alternatives. The (porta)Bella Muffaletta (\$5.99) is uniquely different and absolutely delicious. The mushroom has a rich, smoky perfume and a firm, juicy texture that stands up perfectly to the piquant olive salad and chewy bread. When paired with one of Hoover's "house mates" (one of a selection of 12 different side dishes comes with the sandwich), it provides a big meal and then some, with enough left over for a late-night or next-day snack.

The Charbroiled Catfish (\$7.99, with choice of two house mates) is also a big hit. We've only tried it Cajun style, but it is also offered in Lemon-pepper. Sweet, succulent and spicy, it feels and tastes like more of an indulgence than it really is.

The faint-of-palate can aim for a meat and potatoes dish like Chicken Fried Steak and a gargantuan helping of terrific mashed potatoes and green beans (\$6.99), but I find Hoover's handling of savory spices to be

irresistible. The Jamaican Jerk Chicken (\$7.99) tastes island-born, and my Louisiana-bred husband has no complaint about the New Orleans Muffaletta (\$5.99), though he does always ask for extra olive salad.

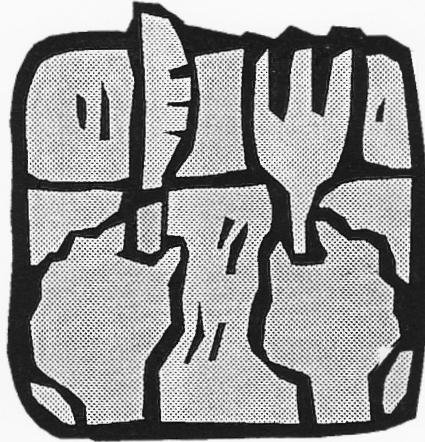
The dinner salad (a house mate, ala carte, \$1.69) is a great foil for the spicy entrees. The raspberry vinaigrette is very tasty and offered on the side so the salad stays cool and crisp and is drenched only to the extent that you drench it.

So far, the entrees have been so satisfying, I have not been able to consider dessert, but the word on the street (again, 30th) is that the Chocolate Icebox Pie (\$2.99) is a not-so-little slice of heaven.

What you must not miss is the pitcher of freshly squeezed Homemade Lemonade (\$1.49). It will furnish your whole vitamin C requirement for the day. But before you drink it, take a moment to lift the whole pitcher up and inhale the fresh lemony bouquet--as heady as any spirit. I know what this beverage does for me on a cold wintry night, I can only imagine what it will do for me on a sweltering day in August.

Hoover's Cooking is a great family place, with interesting food for adults and plenty of choices for even our ardently unadventurous 11-year-old eater. The remarkably inexpensive and alluring children's menu is a godsend for parents. My only recommendation is that they add a box of crayons to the crate of condiments at every table. The white butcher paper that covers the tables is crying out for a bit of pre-prandial creativity. Also, the service, while friendly, is still experiencing some glitches especially when the restaurant is busy. A distraction like Crayolas could be a comfort to those who struggle to deal with delayed gratification.

In short, Hoover's Cooking is a most welcome addition to our neighborhood. The parking is adequate for the time being, but given the generous portions, walking there is advisable! All the menu items are also available for carry-out. Make plans to visit Hoover's soon. I'll probably see you there.



History club uncovers neighborhood past

by Kim Fassiotto

The Old North Central East (O.N.C.E.) Austin History Club has been in existence for several months now and is off to an enthusiastic start! Our mission is to document the history of the area bounded by Manor Road, Robert Mueller Airport, and IH-35, to educate neighbors and the general public about this history, and to promote community spirit and pride in the area.

Our first event, "ONCE Upon a Time..." a Community History Day, was a two-hour open house on November 7 at Asbury United Methodist Church. We exhibited historical information and partook in an enormous cake donated by Fiesta. After meeting many new people, we concluded that the event was a success and are planning to hold another one sometime in the spring.

Our research has turned up many interesting discoveries. We have delved into city and county maps dating from as far back as the 19th century and have linked our neighborhood's origins to influential landowners such as Bascom Giles, Jon Dancy, George Walling, Herman Schieffer, Dave Reed, and others (recognize any street names?). Did you know, for example, that there used to be a pond at the end of Pond Street, now Robinson Ave?

We have also gleaned information from neighborhood homeowners' Abstracts of Title. For instance, Joseph Wright, who was one of Austin's first physicians and was involved in locating the site for the University of Texas,

lived where I-35 and Airport Boulevard currently intersect. We also learned from an old article in the *Austin-American Statesman* that the land occupied by Mueller Airport used to be a peach orchard owned by Nye Patterson (as in Patterson Park) before the city claimed it through eminent domain. We are currently interested in determining whether Bascom Giles' family home located next to St. George's Episcopal Church was originally built there or moved there later.

We have so many questions, and while we may not find answers to all of them, we will definitely have fun trying! We would like to share our knowledge with anybody who is interested and invite everyone to come to our meetings and to contribute historical information. Club meetings are held on the first or second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church. If you would like to be on the Club's mailing list, have any Abstracts of Title to loan, or want to participate in any way, please call Sharon Edmonson at 473-2337, Kim Fassiotto at 482-0291, or Ida Courtney at 478-1522.

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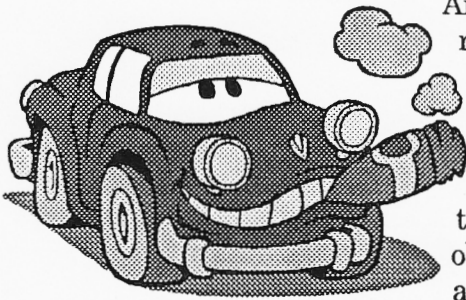
511 West 43rd St. Austin TX 78751 (but we all live in Cherrywood!)

Austin History Center & Austin Public Library

UT group studies Cherrywood traffic

by Bennett Donovan

Six students from the UT School of Architecture recently completed a class project in which they observed and analyzed



transportation patterns near Maplewood Elementary. Although their report has no binding authority with the City of Austin, it does provide data and recommendations that could serve as ammunition as Cherrywood residents seek to make their streets safer.

In its analysis of transportation patterns, the report reveals several interesting facts. For example, an average of 1194 vehicles per hour travel on 38-1/2 Street past Lafayette during evening rush hour, almost 20 vehicles per minute. 754 vehicles per hour travel past the intersection of 38-1/2 and Maplewood each weekday morning, heavily congesting an area where many students are trying to get to school on foot. A survey of 26 Maplewood parents revealed that more than 33% of the students get to school on foot each day, and yet there are no sidewalks on the south side of 38-1/2 Street.

The report also notes the poor signage in the neighborhood as a whole. The writers state that "...few of the streets are numbered, and many of the streets change names outside of Cherrywood." They also point out that "Capitol Metro stops lack route maps and schedules and are a possible source of rider disorientation," and "Pedestrian signage is often lost in the competition of vehicular, regulatory, and commercial signs." To summarize, not only are there not enough meaningful signs in the neighborhood, but what signs exist are often extraneous and distracting.

The report makes recommendations for improving driver and pedestrian safety in the area. Some of these include building and

widening sidewalks on 38-1/2 Street and Cherrywood Road, marking pavement with high-visibility crosswalks at congested intersections, painting bicycle lanes on 38-1/2 Street, removing outdated signs and trimming foliage near critical signs, installing traffic-calming devices on Clarkson Ave, and outlawing left turns from Lafayette onto 38-1/2 Street during rush hour in order to reduce cut-through traffic.

As Cherrywood neighbors who deal with traffic congestion everyday, there is little in the report that should surprise us. Nevertheless, to have a polished report with statistics and recommendations at our disposal can only help the CNA as it approaches the city for traffic solutions. We owe thanks to Nicole Betti, Jay Carini, Beth Fucci, Andrew Spurgin, Dana Stidham, and Kendall Swinford for choosing to study our community.

Austin History Center & Austin Public Library

In Memoriam

Our neighborhood lost a great and friendly neighbor when T.D. Bell, renowned blues musician and all around good guy, died on January 9, 1999.

He and his wife Vergie (aka Bell) have been a fixture on the 2900 block of La Fayette for quite a long time; you may have seen him tending their lawn and garden or chomping on a fat cigar while tinkering with his car engine on the street.

He will be missed.

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Cat-in-the-hood Club 1998 Annual Report

by Sharon Edmonson

What a difference a year makes! The January '98 issue of *The Flea* reported that the Club's fledgling trap-spay-release efforts had netted two cats. Since that time, 45 additional cats have joined the roster, an astounding rate of one cat every 8.1 days, bringing the total to 47 cats—22 males and 25 females.

This is more than any other neighborhood in the city (no, our efforts are *not* unique) and approximately half the total of UT's high-profile and multi-year "Campus Coalition for Cats" program.

Equally important, our achievements demonstrate what Cherrywood residents—putting aside differences to work together toward a common goal—can accomplish.

As impressive as the numbers may be, the job is not yet finished. More sponsors are needed if we are to attain our ultimate goal of zero population growth among Cherrywood's feral and homeless cats. If you can help, please call Sharon Edmonson (473-2337) or CAT-PAC trapper and honorary Cherrywood resident Cassie Helton (454-7461).



Notes from the Chair

by Jim Walker


There have been some home burglaries in the neighborhood over the holidays. A great way to protect your home at any time of the year is to get to know your neighbors, whether they are owners or renters. If we're all watching out for each other, we'll all be safer. (Dogs are pretty darn good deterrents too).

Several people in the neighborhood have complained to me about unleashed dogs charging out at them as they walk through the neighborhood.

It is illegal to allow your dog to roam free, even if it is only in your front yard. It is not only a nuisance and danger to those of us traveling through the neighborhood, it poses a threat to your own dog's safety due to traffic and dog-catchers.

Please save yourself and your neighbors the potential trouble of having to report your loose canine.


Austin History Center & Austin Public Library



KINNEY & ASSOCIATES
 GIRARD KINNEY, AIA
 OFFICE: 512/472-5572
 FAX: 512/476-9956
 RESIDENCE: 512/478-5042

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Agenda for General Meeting Wednesday, January 27, 1999 Maplewood Elementary School

6:30–6:35 Welcome

6:35–7:00 Announcements

- ▶ Scheduling a zoning education session
- ▶ Airport redevelopment update
- ▶ APD update
- ▶ Neighborhood communications (*The Flea*, CNA website)
- ▶ Y2K preparedness
- ▶ Neighborhood interest groups

7:00–7:10 Approval of minutes from October meeting

7:10–7:30 Committee reports

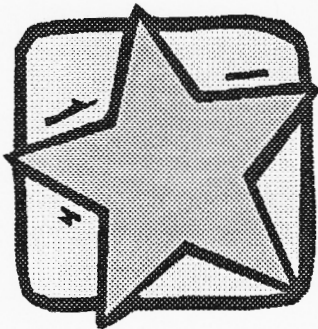
- ▶ Parks
- ▶ Nominating
- ▶ Zoning

7:30–8:15 Action items

- ▶ Zoning cases
 - ▶ 1105 E. 32nd Street
 - ▶ 3715 Robinson Ave
- ▶ Neighborhood visioning process
- ▶ Formation of IH-35 coalition
- ▶ Support for pool at Mueller Redevelopment

8:15 Set next meeting time
Adjourn

Neighborhood stars: the Vickery family



When she lived in Houston, Lisa Vickery began a Christmas Eve tradition that her family (Lanny, Hollen, and Turner) has continued here in Austin for the past

three years: "Free Christmas." It's like a garage sale, but all items are free as long as they are to be given as gifts.

While Lanny cooks Christmas Eve dinner, Lisa is in the driveway wrapping gifts. The

children clean out their rooms (good excuse to make room for Santa!).

Lisa said she liked the reactions when people find out everything is free. "Last year," Lisa said, "a little girl sneaked a pair of earrings to the table for me to wrap. She whispered that they were for her Mom, who was standing nearby. She was so delighted to be able to give something special to her mother, and I knew by the look on her face that it was indeed the thought that counts."

Another year, Lisa was just about to call it a day when a young man in a just-barely-making-it Civic stopped by. "I had a bunch of children's things left, and he took it all," she said. "He told me he thought he wouldn't have anything for his kids that year. I knew right then that this would be an annual event!"



**Austin Police Department
Mobile Neighborhood Center Survey**

The goal of the Austin Police Mobile Neighborhood Center is to assist the community in solving problems/concerns that are important to you. Please answer this brief survey and return the form to the Mobile Neighborhood Center staff. We look forward to working with you on issues/concerns in your neighborhood. Returning this survey is important to us so we can work together to prioritize the issues/concerns in your community.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

APD MOBILE UNIT
WILL BE IN CHERRYWOOD AREA
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20

Austin History Center ☆ Austin Public Library

1. How long have you lived in your current home? _____

2. What is the biggest problem in your neighborhood? _____

3. Do you need help with any of the following:

__ cleaning a vacant lot give address _____

__ removing an abandoned car/truck give address _____

__ boarding a vacant house give address _____

__ other city service give specifics _____

4. Have you or anyone in your family called the police in the last years? If so, what was it regarding:

burglary__	homicide survivor__	robbery__
rape__	suicide survivor__	family violence__
other__	gangs__	youth__

5. Would you like to be a member of a Neighborhood Association? _____

6. Would you like to have a Neighborhood Watch on your block? _____

If you cannot return this survey in person, please mail to the Austin Police Department
~~715 E. 8th st Austin, Texas 78701~~ or call ~~479-9699~~

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