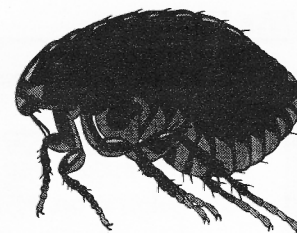


The Flea



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

July 1999

Dear Neighbor,

This edition of *The Flea* marks the end of its fourth year of publication. During this short time, Cherrywood has changed greatly and CNA has evolved to keep pace. This issue includes proposals for concrete policies that reflect hundreds of hours of consensus building. Just a couple of years ago, CNA was a child that wasn't sure what it wanted; now it has grown into adulthood and ranks among Austin's best neighborhood associations in terms of participation and the articulation of residents' desires. We may not always agree, but every neighbor should feel proud to have such an effective association at his or her disposal.

Please note the new "Cherrywood Marketplace" insert in this edition. The generosity of local businesses helps finance many CNA activities; please try to support our local merchants in turn.

A vision for Cherrywood

by Pauline Porter

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association recently attracted the watchful eyes of city leaders and many other neighborhood groups as it embarked on a historic event. On May 1, CNA held its first Vision Retreat. Attendance was excellent and five hours went by quickly as dozens of residents expressed what they wanted for their neighborhood.

With the help of facilitator Pat Grigadean, we first took a broad view of the neighborhood, thinking in terms of what we envision five to ten years in the future. Safety and environmental concerns, both of which contribute directly to quality of life, seemed to be a focus for many residents. All who attended cherished the diversity of neighborhood and cited it as a factor in their decision to live in Cherrywood. Growth and rising home prices were identified as threats to this fragile balance. Participants recognized how important the neighborhood association would be in managing growth.

Energy charged the air as we brainstormed. Issues led to other issues. For example, the desire for safe, walkable streets led to an appreciation for businesses serving the neighborhood (like Hoover's Restaurant)

and not drawing huge loads of traffic from all across town (like a Wal-Mart might).

Ultimately, the following vision statement for CNA was crafted. This vision statement will be presented for adoption at the July 28 General Meeting.

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association is committed to:

- ▶ Safe, walkable streets;
- ▶ Neighborhood-oriented and neighborhood-friendly businesses and services;
- ▶ Preserving and promoting public and private greenspaces;
- ▶ Respecting, recognizing and maintaining ethnic, family, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity;
- ▶ Managing growth while ensuring livable density, a diversity of architectural styles, and a well maintained neighborhood;
- ▶ Achieving a sense of community and security by encouraging responsibility, involvement, and pride among all residents and owners;
- ▶ Healthy and active relationships with other neighborhood groups, civic organizations, and government agencies;
- ▶ A built environment compatible with the above goals.

continued on page 2

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

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

Steering Committee

Officers:

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

Members-at-Large:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mike Aaron 478-7321 | Bennett Donovan 473-2089 |
| Marshall Bruni 476-6404 | Girard Kinney 478-5042 |
| Ali Dailey 476-8914 | Mark Lind 708-1458 |
| Mike Damal 478-9622 | Pauline Porter 320-0717 |



The Flea

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



Committees

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Crime | Mike Aaron 478-7321 |
| Nominating | Ali Dailey 476-8914 |
| Parks | Girard Kinney 478-5042 |
| Traffic | Jim Walker 499-0526 |
| Vision | Pauline Porter 320-0717 |
| Zoning | Mike Damal 478-9622 |



Projects

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Neighborhood Beautification | Mike Damal 478-9622 |
| Recycling and Disposals | Jim Walker 499-0526 |
| Maplewood School | Jack Newman 476-6616 |
| | Marshall Bruni 476-6404 |
| Scrapbook & History | Sharon Edmonson 473-2337 |
| Tree planting | Mike Damal 478-9622 |
| Airport Redevelopment | 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 |

CNA Calendar

General Membership Meeting

Wed. July 28, 6:30 p.m.
Maplewood Elementary

Steering Committee Meeting

Mon. August 16, 7 p.m.
Asbury United Methodist Church

Steering Committee Meeting

Mon. September 20, 7 p.m.
Mims Church
38½ and Basford

continued from page 1

We ran out of time during the first session on May 1 and scheduled a second meeting for June 26 to learn techniques of Interest-Based Collaboration that would serve us in taking future action (see article by Samantha Krukowski).

The Vision Retreat was a resounding success. CNA now has better consensus-building skills and more clarity regarding the wishes of neighborhood residents. Our future is clearly up to us. There are many challenges ahead in the face of growth and redevelopment. We have a great neighborhood to enhance and cherish. The strength and effectiveness of CNA will be determined by what we all put into it.

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

How can we achieve safe, walkable streets?

by *Samantha Krukowski*

A major purpose of the second Vision Retreat on June 26 was to begin to identify some of the obstacles to achieving the goals adopted at the first retreat on May 1. Although examining all eight goals adequately would have been impossible, participants did devote significant time to discussing the first goal on the list: safe, walkable streets.

It wasn't too difficult to identify some of the obstacles to safe, walkable streets in Cherrywood. They are well known to all who live here and include a lack of sidewalks, unleashed dogs, improper signage, poor lighting, the absence of an alternate transportation system, the high volume of through traffic, and traffic speed.

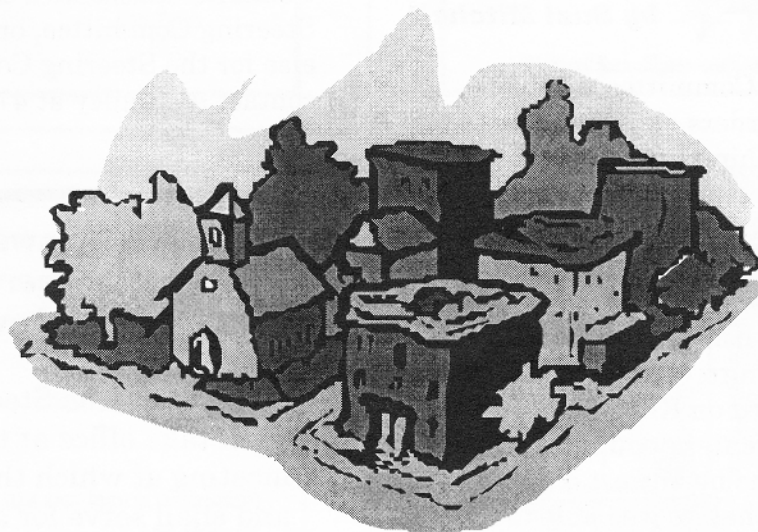
After identifying these obstacles as well as people's personal interests (some people hate traffic noise, for example, others want to be able to play in the streets), the retreat participants broke up into small groups and brainstormed for traffic control ideas from the practical to the ridiculous. Ideas falling into the latter category included stopping all road maintenance to encourage potholes and thus slow traffic speeds, or perhaps sprinkling the streets with pigeon food to create a biological barrier (did anyone ask the pigeons about this?).

Once the laughter had subsided and the ridiculous solutions had been dismissed, a series of plausible and valuable solutions were identified. In abbreviated form, they included:

(1) Drafting a neighborhood traffic plan which

- evaluates current uses and problems
- evaluates specific intersections

- suggests new bus and emergency vehicle routes
- pinpoints places for new signs (slow, caution, no thru traffic, no trucks, etc.) and sign removal
- suggests places for cul-de-sacs, dead-ends, crosswalks, traffic circles, one-way streets, stop signs, speed humps, etc.
- considers bicycle lanes
- considers sidewalks
- suggests limits on truck traffic
- (2) Better supporting bus and bicycle use
- (3) Encouraging greater visibility and involvement by APD in enforcing traffic laws
- (4) Physically marking neighborhood boundaries to raise drivers' awareness that they are entering Cherrywood
- (5) Networking with other neighborhood associations to learn how they have dealt with traffic problems
- (6) Using *The Flea* to communicate traffic issues to neighbors



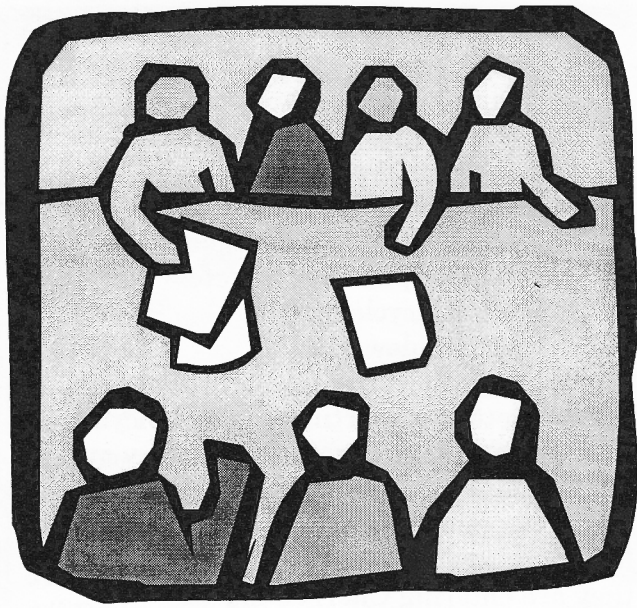
(7)

Encouraging public uses of streets (block parties, parades, etc.)

(8) Awarding prizes and/or incentives to those who follow desired community-building practices

(9) Better publicizing CNA meetings to drum up the support necessary to affect change

In all, it took ten hours of meetings to identify CNA's goals for the neighborhood and to generate options for solutions to just one aspect of one article of the Vision Statement. Those who attended the June 26 retreat agreed that hard work would be necessary to achieve the desired results ultimately, but at very least, mediator Pat Grigadean has taught CNA members a process (Interest-Based Collaboration) which will serve as a valuable tool as we address neighborhood goals in the future.



Two-year terms proposed for Steering Committee members

by Suzi Mitchell

The Nominating Committee will bring two very important orders of business before the general membership at the July 28 meeting: (1) a nominee to fill the vacancy on the Steering Committee created when Steve Barney moved out of the neighborhood in May, and (2) a proposed bylaws change aimed at guaranteeing both continuity and change on the Steering Committee for years to come.

Steve Barney lived on Kirkwood and was a voice for the large renter population of "Duplex Nation" in the northwest corner of CNA. We are happy that he was able to buy a house east of Airport Boulevard, but we will certainly miss him in CNA. According to our bylaws, we need to fill the vacancy created by Steve's absence at the next General Meeting. The Nominating Committee will recommend Joan Gruzka as its nominee to serve in Steve's slot until the October elections. Joan has served Cherrywood in various capacities for some time now. Although she is not interested in running in October, she has volunteered to serve for the three months remaining on Steve's term.

The Nominating Committee has also been thinking of ways to make the Steering

Committee system work as smoothly as possible. Currently, all 13 members of the Steering Committee serve one-year terms which must be filled by elections every October. This not only creates a lot of work for the Nominating Committee which must recommend a slate of 13 candidates each year, it also creates the risk of very high turnover and thus a break in continuity. Our proposed bylaws amendment would change the terms to two-year terms and stagger elections. Under our proposal, six members nominated this coming October would serve until 2001, while seven current members of the Steering Committee would be designated to serve one more year, until October 2000. The terms of office would thus be permanently staggered and balance continuity and change in the future.

Please read the text of the proposed bylaws amendment below. If you would like to know more, serve on the Nominating Committee, become a candidate for the Steering Committee, or nominate someone else for the Steering Committee, please contact Ali Dailey at 476-8914.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment to *Article VI: Steering Committee* (New language shown in italics.)

Members of the Steering Committee shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they were elected, and shall serve for a *one-year-two-year* term. *In even-numbered years, seven members will be elected and six current members will continue to serve out their two-year terms; in odd-numbered years, six members will be elected and seven members will continue to serve out their two-year terms.*

In any year, prior or current service on the Steering Committee does not disqualify a member from nomination.

Cherrywood



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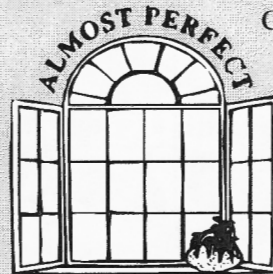
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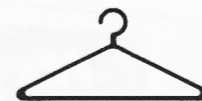
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Home Owner's Update

Hints for Artful Living in Central Texas

Vol. 1 No. 3

Summer 1999

THAT EVERLASTING COMPOST BIN

No need to invest in a fancy, expensive, manufactured compost bin that will fill up in a week. Make your own practical and cost-free bin with five hardwood pallets - the kind you can find discarded around loading docks or at nurseries and home improvement centers.

1. **Collect five pallets that are the same size** - generally either 42 or 48 inches square.

2. **Put one pallet down on the ground** to serve as the floor of your bin. (The bin's pallet floor provides the aeration critical to composting. This base will rot after about two years, at which point you can throw another pallet on top of it as a replacement.)

3. **Lash the remaining four pallets together** with old coat hangers, rope or wire. Make sure the front pallet can be easily detached for access.

The finished five-pallet bin holds two cubic yards and is at least twice as large as any model you can buy. Individuals tending large yards and gardens generally need a two-bin system using nine pallets. To camouflage the bin, plant tomatoes, sunflowers or vines around three of the four sides. These plants will enjoy their close proximity to the rich organic matter.

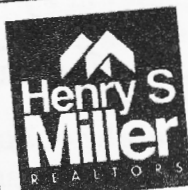
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Clean-Air Acts

If your mower engine has an oil-foam air-cleaner element - as most of them do - check and clean it after every 25 hours of mowing. Do this much sooner if you've been mowing in a dusty area. Simply remove the element from its housing (without knocking dirt into the carburetor), wash it in liquid laundry detergent and water and then wrap it in an old towel and gently wring it dry. Last, pour some engine oil on the foam until it's saturated, squeeze out the excess and reinstall the air cleaner. The air cleaner prevents the engine from drawing in the chaff and dirt particles that can instantly begin to wear and grind away its close-fitting internal metal parts. However, when the air filter becomes dirty and blocked, it can starve the engine of air, causing it to run rich and perform poorly.



Summer Notes!!

July

10-Aug. 14

"Big River" *Zilker Hillside Theater*

17 Splash Party Movie Night:
 "Prince of Egypt"
Deep Eddy Pool

18 Austin Pond Society 5th
 Annual Tour of Ponds

20 1999 Lilith Fair
Southpark Meadows

21 Austin Symphony's Children's
 Day Art Park *Symphony Square*

23 Austin Recreation Center
 Summer Carnival

28 UT Longhorns vs. N. Carolina

August

1-31 Authors and Their Pets
HRHRC, UT

13-15 Second Annual St. Cecilia Jazz
 Festival *First Presbyterian Church*

21-28 Tenth Annual Fall Creek
 Vineyards Grape Stomp

28-29 Texas Fiery Foods Show

September

2-Oct. 24

Old Masters Drawings from the
 Suida-Manning Collection, *UT*

3 3rd Annual KLBj-FM Back to
 School Bash *Auditorium Shores*

4 Labor Day Weekend -
 Twilight Flyer;
 UT Longhorns vs. Stanford

10-12 Swan Lake *Bass Concert Hall*

18 UT Longhorns vs. Rice

25-26 19th Annual Old Pecan Street
 Fall Arts Festival

26 International Children's Festival
Fiesta Gardens

27 6th Annual Victorian Christmas
 on 6th Street

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Peasant's Bowl - black beans and rice
Hot Jumbo Pretzels
Special salads with home-made dressings
Gaby's Veggie Grab with a yummy tofu spread
Meat Lover's Meaty Mo sub sandwich

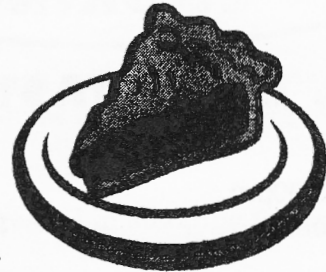
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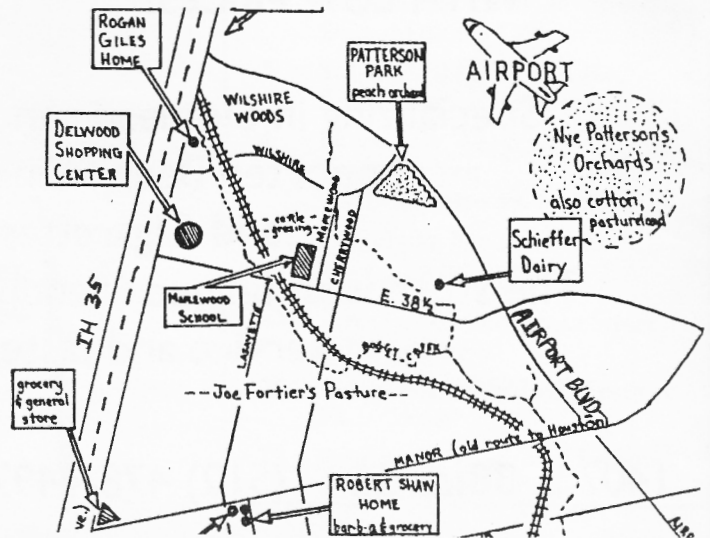
Office: 476-6616 Fax: 478-3512 Mobile: 497-8282

APRIL ISSUE NEIGHBORHOOD QUESTION:

In May, passenger air traffic will move from Robert Mueller
Municipal Airport to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.
Many people in CNA are involved in the redevelopment plans
for the Mueller property. Do you know what principal crop
was grown on this property before it became Robert Mueller
Airport?

ANSWERS: cotton fields and peach orchards

In doing further research, we discovered more than one correct
answer, so we awarded two gift certificates. **Congratulations
to our winners: Marshall Bruni & Melanie Anfosso. Both
received gift certificates to East Side Cafe! Bon Appetit!**



Call for Potential Steering Committee Members

Do you want to get more involved in the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association? Do you want to be heard and share your skills and talents by serving in the association?

The CNA Nominating Committee, chaired by Ali Dailey, is charged with soliciting and reviewing applications for membership on the 13-member CNA Steering Committee so that it will represent the diversity of the neighborhood.

We would like to create a register of CNA members who may be interested in stepping forward to fill vacancies or to serve a full term on the Steering Committee.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the short questionnaire below if you are interested.

Check the statement that applies to you:

- I want to serve on the Steering Committee. Send me an application.
- I want to be involved in my neighborhood and may be interested in serving in the future. Please add me to the list of potential Steering Committee members.

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _____ Evening phone _____

Other ways to contact you (DP, e-mail, other) _____

Do you rent or own your home?

List two major issues or concerns you have about the neighborhood (optional)

1. _____

2. _____

Thank you for responding. Please mail or fax this to

Ali Dailey
3213 Dancy Street
Austin, TX 78722
fax 454-7758

You may also complete this questionnaire online at
<http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm>.



Zoning committee proposes method for assessing development

by Mike Damal

Using input from the two visioning retreats, CNA's Zoning Committee has formulated a proposal for development guidelines for the neighborhood. The Zoning Committee hopes to promote development along these lines and to require that the guidelines be met in cases involving zoning changes, variances, or conditional use permits. If the guidelines are not met in these last kinds of cases, then CNA would not endorse the development. This wouldn't mean that the project couldn't be done, just that CNA wouldn't formally support it.

I will make a presentation at the July 28 general meeting, followed by a vote to adopt this eight-point plan along with requirements for neighbor notification. If the guidelines are adopted, CNA will use them as a tool for assessing future development. This is a big step for Cherrywood! Details of the plan are available on the website and have been e-mailed to listserv subscribers. If you want more information, just call me at 478-9622. Please get informed and become involved in these issues—they are vital to our future.

Regarding site development, CNA encourages:

1. Architectural compatibility.
 - porches (CNA to approve variances for front porches extending into setbacks)
 - protected traditional front yards with landscaping
 - human-scale development
 - windows to the street
 - environmentally responsible development

- quality construction and building materials
 - a variety of complementary architectural styles and building materials
2. A clean, well-kept property.
 3. No more traffic or parked cars in the street than would be expected from a couple of families living there.
 4. Cars parked out of sight/parking space not in front yard. However, if cars must be parked in front yard, front yard should not exceed 45% impervious cover.
 5. A use of the property that, like a residence, has structures occupied most of the time. (The intent here is not to have storefronts that are vacant for long periods of time, thus creating a "ghost-town" feel.)
 6. Responsible, quiet, non-disruptive, and non-polluting activities at the site.
 7. Involved and caring occupants (whether residents or workers) who want to play an active role as a partner with our neighborhood.
 8. Resolutions which provide positive precedents for similar cases in the future.

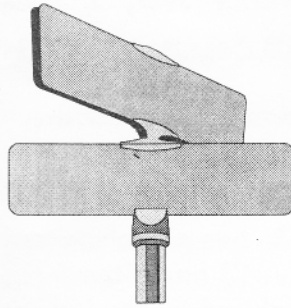
The zoning committee will also be presenting ideas for the required notification and support of neighbors adjacent to proposed changes. These ideas have yet to be finalized, but again, you can call me for the latest information.

Get your zoning questions answered

Is your lot currently zoned for a duplex? Are garage apartments legal? The answers may surprise you. If you are interested in what kinds of development are currently allowed in Cherrywood (and elsewhere in the city for that matter), please attend a "Zoning 101" seminar at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 3 at Mike Damal's (3011 Cherrywood). The presentation will last 90 minutes and will cover basic zoning and development rules and their enforcement in Cherrywood. Call Mike at 478-9622 with any questions. Remember, a knowledgeable community is an empowered community.

Call for "Adopt-a-Corner" volunteers

CNA is still looking for volunteers to help with the "adopt-a-corner" program in which participants pledge to maintain a specific corner at least once a month. You can do it whenever you like—a quick pick-up of litter, removal of yard signs, and reporting of graffiti and abandoned vehicles is all it takes. Call Mike Damal at 478-9622 to adopt your corner.



Don't forget National Night Out

For several years now, Austin has been a participation leader in National Night Out, an annual event promoting crime prevention, strengthening neighborhood spirit, and improving police-community relations. Last year, 31 million people took part nationwide. Austin's impressive showing reflects our city's grass-roots commitment to strong, safe neighborhoods, the key to urban liveability.

This year the event will take place on Tuesday, August 3. From 7 to 10 p.m., residents are asked to turn on their front porch lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and visiting public safety personnel. Many neighborhoods will host block parties, parades, and anti-drug rallies.

CNA has never organized a major neighborhood-wide event (any volunteers want to take that on for 2000?), but we have seen many neighbors take the initiative and throw parties for residents in their vicinity. All it takes to host such a party is a few flyers, some cold beverages, and a yard in which to gather. Getting to know the people who live around you is not only fun but perhaps the best way to keep the neighborhood safe.

Take part in this event. It strengthens the ties among us and lets those who pass through our neighborhood know that we are united and alert.

All invited to Traffic Committee meeting

With so many traffic issues (IH-35 construction, traffic calming, parking on streets, etc.) affecting or about to affect Cherrywood, it is essential that residents stay informed and vocal. The CNA Traffic Committee has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 27 at Asbury United Methodist Church (call Jim Walker at 499-0526 for exact time). Right now there are 29 residents who have expressed an interest in staying involved in traffic matters. If you would like to join them, come to the meeting or just call Jim to get on the list of those kept up-to-date.

Austin in Motion to give presentation

Austin In Motion (AIM) from Capital Metro will be giving a presentation to the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition on Tuesday July 20, 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church. All are invited to find out what Cap Metro is planning for the future.

Stay in touch online

Wanna know the schedule for the Steering Committee, Old North Central East History Club, Litter Avengers, or other neighborhood groups?

Keep up with local events by following the CNA "Calendar" on the website.

asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm
Organizers can post their meetings by sending pertinent details to the Webmaster, Gordon Bennett, at gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Postings within 24 hours of receipt.

Genuinely Sorry Dept.

The April issue of *The Flea* inadvertently omitted an announcement about the Old North Central East Austin History Club meeting. We regret this oversight.

**Agenda for General Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, 1999
Maplewood Elementary School**

- 6:30 Welcome
- 6:35 Agenda additions, announcements
- 6:45 Officer reports (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary)
- 7:00 Committee reports
 - Vision
 - Nominating
 - Zoning
 - Traffic
 - APD/Crime
 - Parks
 - History
- 7:30 Action items
 - Adoption of vision statement
 - Bylaws amendment
 - Zoning Committee proposal
- 8:30 Adjourn



**Thanks,
neighbors!**

The Vision Committee would like to thank the following people for their financial sponsorship of the Vision Retreats:

- Mike Aaron
- Steve Barney
- Priscilla Boston
- Marshall Bruni
- Lisa Carroll
- Ali Daily
- Mike Damal
- Bennett Donovan
- Girard Kinney
- Sigrid & John Knudsen
- Joan Gruszka
- Kathy Jones
- Mark Lind
- Michael McClendon
- Hannah Neal
- Jack Newman
- John Pace
- Roy Poole
- Pauline Porter
- Pam Schlumpberger
- Danny Ursery
- Jim Walker
- Catherine Wilson

CNA Pet of the Quarter: Nacho



A native Texan, Nacho enjoys summers outside with the neighborhood flora and fauna. He is the proud owner of Flea Editor Bennett Donovan.